Overview

● Background
● Setting Realistic and Ideal Protection Lists
● Roster-Picking Strategies
● Team Projection Models
● What to Expect in Real Life
● Q&A
Background

- Vegas Golden Knights granted a franchise June 22, 2016
- George McPhee named GM June 13, 2016
- Expansion draft will occur June 20
- Official protection lists are published June 17
- Will draft 3rd* in the NHL Draft June 23-24
- Team will begin play in the 2017-18 season in the Pacific division
Protection Lists

- Protect 7 forwards, 3 defensemen, 1 goalie or 8 skaters and 1 goalie
- Must protect players with (unwaived) NMCs
- Don't need to protect 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} year players
- Long-term injured players not included at all
- Must expose at least one defenseman, two forwards with minimum games, plus a goalie who are all under contract
- Used Cap Friendly to facilitate this
Protection Lists

- Wanted choices to be ideal, but realistic
- Lists reviewed by TSN's Frank Seravalli, and former NHL front office execs Frank Provenzano and Bob Teofilo
- Made some judgments about NMCs
- A lot can happen between now and then with trades
Protection Lists

- Atlantic: Derek Braid, David Johnson, Grace Harrison, Derrick Simpson
- Metropolitan: Sydney Stype, David Wilson, Alex Diaz-Papkovitch, Steve May
- Central: Carolyn Wilke, Will Scouch, Sean Tierney, Mitch Cole
- Pacific: Josh Lutz, Andrew Kerrison, Shirley Mills, Ben Saltiel
Interesting Choices

• Waived: Kevin Bieksa, Marc-Andre Fleury
• Exposed: Brouwer, Brown, Cammalleri, Jack Johnson, Steen
• Exposed UFAs: Bishop, Oshie, Thornton
• Protected: Plekanec
• Judgment Calls: Pickard over Varlamov, Brodin over Dumba, De Haan over Hamonic, Martin over Braun
Roster Selection

● Select exactly one player per team
● 14 forwards, 9 defensemen, 3 goalies, 4 open
● At least 20 players already under contract
● Sum of contracts must be between 60% and 100% of the salary cap
● Not allowed to buy out players
Mock Rosters

- Used Cap Friendly, which added a feature to auto-load our selections
- No instructions, pick whichever team is best.
- One roster per division group, plus Vollman, Schuckers
- Pundits like Darren Pang, Steve Kouleas, Scott Cullen, Steve Simmons
Popular Choices

- Josh Manson, Anaheim
- Trevor van Riemsdyk, Chicago
- Matt Dumba, Minnesota
- Paul Byron, Montreal
- Vladimir Namestnikov, Tampa Bay
- No agreement in Arizona, Boston, Buffalo, Calgary, Edmonton, Los Angeles, NY Islanders, St. Louis, Toronto, Vancouver
Lots of Cap Space

- Average cap space of over $23M
- Range of $12.8M to $35.1M
- Average of 7.6 unsigned players
- Range of 6 to 12

- Also, several players who can be traded prior to the draft or at the NHL trade deadline
Projection Models

- How good will these teams be in year 1 and going forward?
- What will their strengths and weaknesses be?
- What is the impact of various roster selection strategies?
- Models by Micah Blake McCurdy, Matt Cane, Emmanuel Perry, Don't Tell Me About Heart, Mark McConnell and Jordan Peck. Thanks!
- How are projection models built?
Forecast

• Vegas will probably not finish last
• The team will have great difficulty scoring
• Vegas should be solid defensively
• Goaltending could make the difference, and there is potential for excellence
• Add in the impact of draft picks, free agents (like Shipyachov), and trades
• The playoffs are a slim possibility
# Vegas in the Standings

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Thank you

Questions?
Comments?