

Historical Breakout Statistics

All of our analysis at Fantasy Hockey Scouts is deeply rooted in history... especially so with the Bible. The NHL changed after the lockout in many ways and one of the best ways is that **younger players and rookies are now making contributions much quicker and at younger ages.**

In the table below we show the number of breakout forwards (exceeding 50 points for the first time), breakout defensemen (exceeding 30 points for the first time) and breakout goalies (won a starting job for the first time) from each of the last three seasons. We compare the historical data to the number of breakouts we expect from the Breakout Bible 2010 and check out how ballsy some of the other guys are (some of the big boys). So as you can see we try to learn from history and **can boldly predict the unexpected cause history tells us to expect the unexpected** whereas some of the other guys either haven't done their research or are too afraid to make any bold predictions... anybody can make up crazy prognostications, hell some of ours will be wrong, but at least be realistic about it.

	Actual 2007/08	Actual 2008/09	Actual 2009/10	Actual Average Last 3 Seasons	The Breakout Bible	Fantasy Hockey Website #1	Fantasy Hockey Mag #2	Fantasy Hockey Mag #3
Forwards:								
Breakouts	18	23	14	18	19	21	18	23
Rookie Breakouts	4	2	2	3	3	4	3	1
Breakouts w/60+ Pts	6	9	3	6	5	8	3	3
Breakouts w/70+ Pts	2	1	1	1	1	2	0	1
Breakouts Avg Pts	57	58	58	58	57	58	56	55
Breakouts Avg PY Pts	35	32	34	34	37	37	34	36
Defensemen:								
Breakouts	11	12	11	11	10	19	12	11
Rookie Breakouts	3	0	2	2	3	7	3	3
Breakouts w/40+ Pts	2	1	3	2	2	4	3	2
Breakouts Avg Pts	37	35	39	37	37	38	36	35
Breakouts Avg PY Pts	21	15	17	18	15	16	15	16
Goalies:								
Breakouts	5	4	6	5	3	3	2	5
Rookie Breakouts	2	3	3	3	0	0	0	2
Breakouts w/30+ Wins	0	1	2	1	1	2	1	0
Breakouts Avg Wins	21	27	30	26	30	30	33	26
Breakouts Avg PY Wins	6	10	9	8	16	16	16	12

So as you can see, **history tells us that we can expect quite a few breakouts this year, probably around 30 to 35** and anywhere from 5 to 10 of those will be from rookies. We can also see that at least a handful of guys will improve from below 50 points to above 60 points (but a few of the other guys are a little too timid to put themselves out there). In addition you can also see that historically players that have breakout seasons will, on average, nearly double their point production (forwards going from mid 30s in points in the prior year to around 60 points in their breakout year).

MONTREAL CANADIENS

Team Overview

Coach Jacques Martin worked his magic in his first year in Montreal as he took a decent offensive team that had averaged 245 goals a season over the first four years after the lockout and cut that down to 210 (26th in the league). Other than a great PP (21.8% - 2nd in the league) and good goaltending (.917 sv% - 5th in the league) the Habs were average or below in pretty much all the other main categories. On defense, PK Subban is putting himself on the team, whether the Habs have a spot for him or not. Up front, there's definitely room for at least one breakout candidate to play in the top 6 and log some PP time.

Historical Breakouts - past 3 seasons

Season	Player	Pos	Team	Points	Prior Year Points	Breakout Year	Rookie?
2007/08	Plekanec	F	Mtl	69	47	3	
2007/08	A.Kostitsyn	F	Mtl	53	11	2	
2007/08	Higgins	F	Mtl	52	38	3	
2007/08	Price	G	Mtl	24W		1	Y
2009/10	Halak	G	Mtl	26W	18W	3	

Future Potential Breakouts

1. **Danny Kristo**, RW, 20 - Solid freshmen season at North Dakota and an impressive showing at the WJCs has us all over this kid.
2. **Alexander Avtsin**, RW, 19 - Played in the KHL last year and was a big-time scorer in the lower Russian leagues... he's coming to North America this year and likely will find himself in the AHL.

Players Not Profiled

- Dustin Boyd**, C, 24 - Was never really given a legit shot in Calgary but with only 31 goals in 210 career NHL games, we're not sure he really deserves one.
- Ben Maxwell**, C, 22 - Another decent season in the AHL last year but not enough progress to indicate that we should really care.
- Aaron Palushaj**, RW, 21 - Big scorer in college, he struggled in first AHL season last year but picked it up after arriving in Hamilton... we're expecting more from him this year.
- Andreas Engqvist**, C, 22 - Really came on during the SEL playoffs last year and then made the Swedish World Championship team, so some nice progress... he'll likely start in the AHL this year.
- David Desharnais**, C, 24 - 101 points in 79 AHL games (regular & playoffs) last year but guys that are 5'7" don't get a lot of breaks.
- Louis Leblanc**, C, 19 - Started well but in the end his freshmen season at Harvard was a disappointment and now he's decided to leave school to play for the Montreal Juniors in the Q.

Breakout Candidates

PK Subban

TOP 50 RANKING: #4

D, 21, 6-0, 207

2007 draft, 43rd overall

Key Stats History - 3-Year

Season	Age	Team	League	Regular Season					Playoffs				
				GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
2007-08	18	Belleville	OHL	58	8	38	46	100	21	8	15	23	28
2007-08	18	Canada	WJC	7	0	0	0	2					
2008-09	19	Belleville	OHL	56	14	62	76	94	17	3	12	15	22
2008-09	19	Canada	WJC	6	3	6	9	6					
2009-10	20	Hamilton	AHL	77	18	35	53	82	7	3	7	10	6
2009-10	20	Montreal	NHL	2	0	2	2	2	14	1	7	8	6

Scouting Report: The smooth skating defenseman also has great puck skills, a hard shot and a good feel for the game. He's well built and strong but not huge. He can sometimes get caught trying to do too much.

Style of Play: Dynamic offensive dman who loves to handle & carry the puck, he plays with a lot of energy & enthusiasm... we think of him as a wild horse that we'd like to hope will never be tamed.

Comparable Players: A combination of Sandis Ozolinsh & Dion Phaneuf.

Positive Signs: Was an all-around stat monster in the OHL and continued that last year in the AHL with 53 points, plus-46, 82 PIMs & 188 shots. He was 3rd in AHL scoring by both dmen & rookies.

Negative Signs: The only negative we see with him is the team/coach as we're not sure Subban's style is really in sync with Jacques Martin's (see: boring) so it's possible that Martin tries to take it slow with Subban and that could limit his opportunities.

Outlook for This Season: The Canadiens have six dmen on one-way deals but the departures of Paul Mara & MA Bergeron will open up a spot for Subban on the blueline. Subban was seeing over 22 mpg in the playoffs but that was when the Habs had a bunch of injuries and we're not sure that's what Martin has in mind for this season. Bergeron's departure opens up a spot on the top PP unit and that's a spot where Subban should thrive this year as the Habs have pretty consistently had one of the top PP units (2nd in the league last year) and Subban's skills & right-handed shot should be a nice complement to Andrei Markov. We're very bullish on Subban's chances for this year but keep in mind that in the five seasons since the lockout only three rookie dmen have eclipsed the 40 point barrier (Myers, Carle & Phaneuf), so it's no easy feat... we think Subban can do it and like him for 40-45 points.

Short-Term Outlook: Montreal has four 30-something veteran dmen who will be UFAs in the next two years (Markov (31), Gill (35), Hamrik (36) & Spacek (36)) and while Markov should be retained, the other could be let go and this should coincide perfectly with Subban's ascension to the top of the Habs dmen depth chart within the next few years.

Long-Term Outlook: We currently have Subban rated as the #1 dman prospect in fantasy hockey right now and we think he has all the tools to go on and become one of the best all-around fantasy dmen in the league by contributing in all the main categories.

Lars Eller

C, 21, 6-1, 192

Trade with St. Louis 2010

Outlook: The key piece of the trade that sent the Habs starting goalie to the Blues... Eller is a fine prospect and Habs fans will soon see that they got a good player in this deal. He's progressed nicely over the past two years as he was the leading U-20 scorer in the SEL in 2008/09 and then was 2nd in rookie scoring in the AHL last year (18+39=57 in 70 games). Could be the #3C this year or may be called on as a scoring line winger. There doesn't seem to be much talk about him but we think he could be one of the better rookies in the league this year... but he's just outside our top 50 breakout candidates.

Benoit Pouliot

LW, 24, 6-3, 199

Trade with Minnesota 2009

Outlook: Former 4th overall pick of the Wild back in 2005 came over in the deal for Latendresse in November and went on a tear with 14+8=22 in his first 29 games with the Habs but then he regressed back to his usual level and had 1+3=4 in his last 28 games (regular & playoffs)... we're not really surprised as this is a guy that's had trouble keeping up in the AHL. We'd be pretty shocked if he could put together a solid effort over a full season... prepare to be underwhelmed.

Max Pacioretty

LW, 21, 6-1, 192

2007 draft, 22nd overall

Outlook: Made the team out of training camp last year but started slow (three points in his first 20 games) and was eventually sent down for good in January. He has the size and skills to be a nice complement on a scoring line but that may not be in the cards for this season as he's probably best served by starting the year in the AHL and working his way up.

Yannick Weber

D, 22, 5-11, 197

2007 draft, 37th overall

Outlook: His second season in the AHL was not as good as his first but he's still proven to be a decent point producing dman and should get called up when someone goes down injured. Next year is looking more promising as the Habs only have two dmen signed beyond this season.