

FANTASY SCOUTING REPORT

Pittsburgh Penguins

2008/09 Team Statistics		
Overall League Standing	8th	
Record	45-28-10	
Goals (rank)	258	(6)
Shots /game (rank)	29	(18)
Goals Against (rank)	233	(17)
Shots Against /game (rank)	30.3	(17)
PP% (rank)	17.2%	(20)
PIMs (rank)	1106	(14)

Team Scouting Report

Only a few minor changes, as you would expect, from the Stanley Cup champs. Miro Satan and Petr Sykora both will be playing elsewhere. As will Rob Scuderi and Hal Gill. The Penguins will get a full year out of Bill Guerin and Chris Kunitz but otherwise, it's business as usual for the Pens. The Pens are built around their two superstars, Sid and Geno. Only bad health could slow these two down. The Penguins strategy for building a winner has worked well so far but has left the farm system pretty depleted. Most of their home grown talent has graduated to the NHL and other than Eric Tangradi and Luca Caputi there isn't much help on the way (or available for another deal). So the Penguins are going to need some of their young secondary stars to step it up a few notches. Expect guys like Kris Letang, Alex Goligoski and Jordan Staal to be given a bit more responsibility and their success could determine the fate of the Pens season.

Top Breakout Candidate



Kunitz' 53 pts looks like nothing special until you see he picked up 16 in 18 gms as Crosby's winger. Chance at 70 pts.

Potential Breakdown



A bit of a stretch as he's Crosby's winger, but he'll turn 39 this year he has to slow down eventually.

Projected Line Combos

LW	C	RW
Kunitz	Crosby	Guerin
Fedotenko	Malkin	Kennedy
Cooke	Staal	Talbot
Dupuis	Adams	Rupp
Godard	Jeffrey	Conner

Projected Defense Pairings

D		D	
Orpik	Gonchar		
Letang	Eaton		
Goligoski	McKee		
Lovejoy	Strait		

Projected PP Units

1st Unit		
Malkin	Crosby	Guerin
Goligoski	Gonchar	

2nd Unit		
Malkin	Crosby	Staal
Letang	Gonchar	

Rank	Player	Pos	Inj?	2008/09 NHL Stats										FHS Projected 2009/10 Stats								
				GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	PIMs	PPP	Shots	Per82	Ice	PP-Ice	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	PIMs	PPP	Shots
1	Crosby, Sidney	C		77	33	70	103	3	76	40	238	110	21:57	5:22	77	35	76	111	15	62	41	284
2	Malkin, Evgeni	C/LW		82	35	78	113	17	80	41	290	113	22:31	5:33	81	42	68	110	22	79	43	279
3	Kunitz, Chris	LW		82	23	30	53	12	71	12	178	53	16:26	2:15	82	27	33	60	13	73	15	186
4	Gonchar, Sergei	D	?	25	6	13	19	6	26	13	71	62	25:11	6:15	74	11	46	57	5	63	40	173
5	Guerin, Bill	RW		78	21	27	48	-12	81	18	226	50	16:40	3:55	76	23	26	49	-9	72	13	213
6	Staal, Jordan	C/LW		82	22	27	49	5	37	6	166	49	19:51	2:19	82	21	24	45	5	47	9	176
7	Goligoski, Alex	D		45	6	14	20	5	16	8	61	36	18:18	4:00	74	8	34	42	3	26	16	95
8	Letang, Kris	D		74	10	23	33	-7	24	11	138	37	21:09	3:35	78	11	28	39	-2	33	7	133
9	Fedotenko, Ruslan	LW	?	65	16	23	39	18	44	4	117	49	14:06	1:27	75	17	21	38	7	43	10	141
10	Kennedy, Tyler	C/RW		67	15	20	35	15	30	2	171	43	13:46	1:20	75	17	19	36	10	41	3	167
11	Talbot, Maxime	C/RW		75	12	10	22	-9	63	1	102	24	14:08	0:18	64	13	15	28	0	54	2	98
12	Cooke, Matt	LW		76	13	18	31	0	101	1	86	33	14:13	0:29	77	11	16	27	2	94	0	100

Rank	Goalie	Pos	Inj?	2008/09 NHL Stats										FHS Projected 2009/10 Stats					
				GP	GS	W	L	OTL	GAA	SV%	SA/60	SO	GP	W	GAA	SV%	SO		
1	Fleury, Marc-Andre	G	?	62	61	35	18	7	2.67	.912	30.0	4			66	39	2.56	.914	5
2	Johnson, Brent	G		21	19	12	6	2	2.81	.908	31.0	0			20	9	2.77	.904	0



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The Goalie Guide

#1: Marc-Andre Fleury











#2: Brent Johnson
 #3: John Curry
 Future: Marc-Andre Fleury

One of the better young netminders in the NHL, Fleury, is the definite #1 in Pittsburgh. He does have a tendency to go on bad stretches but his numbers always look great in the end. Another 35 wins (if not 40+), a 2.50 gaa and a .915 sv% should be expected for Fleury, which is not too shabby at all. The Penguins lost a couple of defensive d-men (Hal Gill and Rob Scuderi) so Fleury owners need to hope that new addition Jay McKee and the improvements of youngsters Kris Letang and Alex Goligoski are enough to off-set the losses. We think they are, after all this is Hal Gill we're talking about here. The Penguins could have easily went with John Curry as their backup but they brought in the solid Brent Johnson instead. Johnson will only play ~15 games this year but could handle the load if Fleury gets injured.

Top Fantasy Prospects - five names to know with <10 games NHL experience

#1	Eric Tangradi, F, 20	Big power forward who has a scoring touch as well. High ceiling but he'll need a year or two in the AHL after a great year in the OHL (88 pts in 55 gms).
#2	Luca Caputi, F, 21	Loads of scoring skills (111 pts in 66 gms in final OHL season) but needs to work on strength and defense. Played 5 NHL games last year.
#3	Casey Pierro-Zabotel, F, 20	He teamed up with Evander Kane in the WHL last year and put up 115 pts in 72 games. Needs to work on D in AHL.
#4	John Curry, G, 25	Picked up 2 wins in 3 NHL games last year and has big AHL numbers. Ready for NHL job but won't get it in Pittsburgh...barring injury.
#5	Alex Grant, D, 20	4th year in junior produced best numbers (50 pts in 60 gms). He can bang, hit & fight. Looks like he's ready to be tested in AHL.

Player Notes

Evgeni Malkin, C	 If you're in a points only league he'll probably be the most valuable guy in your pool. His third year in the league was a monster one...113 points (1st in the league), a +17, 80 PIMs 41 PPP, and 290 shots. Not much to say here...draft and enjoy.
Sidney Crosby, C	 It's hard to say Crosby could be undervalued this year (he'll be the 3rd overall pick in most drafts) but this will be the 1st year he's has some decent wingers (Guerin & especially Kunitz). He picked up 24 pts in 17 gms with the pair to end the season (that's 115 over 82 gms). Expect Sid to be in a dog fight with Geno & Ovie for the scoring title.
Chris Kunitz, W	 Kunitz is a pretty easy breakout pick on the Pens...which is saying a lot because there are a lot of breakouts on this team. He's been a serviceably fantasy player (60 and 50 pts before last year's 53) but this year he takes a major leap forward...thanks to Crosby. We think he should be good for 60+ pts.
Ruslan Fedotenko, W	 Like Kunitz, his value comes from his centerman (Malkin). It's a bit of a gamble to draft a player for this reason but it's worth the risk here. Rusty finished with 39 pts in 65 gms which means he could get close to 50 if he were able to play a full season. With Satan and Sykora gone somebody has to pick up the slack...Rusty could be the guy.
Jordan Staal, C	 We've never been a big fans of Staal fantasy-wise. We've always believed the hype wasn't matching his value...so far we've been right (seasons of 42, 28 and 49 pts). He's still got lots of potential (he was a 2nd overall pick for a reason) but he needs to get on a scoring line (unlikely) and some more PP minutes (avg of 2:19 last year) for him to be fulfill his promise.
Tyler Kennedy, W	 Kennedy is our pick to replace Sykora as Malkin's RW. The sparkplug picked up 35 pts in 67 gms playing mostly on the 3rd line so there is a bit of scoring touch here. His competition for the plum assignment are Max Talbot and Matt Cooke, so Kennedy won't have to do much to hang onto the job. If he, Malkin & Fedotenko show some chemistry he could break 40.
Sergei Gonchar, D	 After two 65+ pt seasons, Gonch cost a few owners a very high pick and then a lot of stress when it was announced he would miss the first 5.5 months due to shoulder surgery. When he came back he played at a 65 pt pace and helped turn around the Pens. Assuming the 35 y.o. can avoid injury, he should be considered one of the top fantasy d-men out there.
Kris Letang, D Alex Goligoski, D	 Two guys who have nice breakout potential. With no Ryan Whitney around Letang and A-Go will be given more PP minutes which should help to increase their points (33 pts in 74 gms and 20 pts in 45 gms respectively). While Letang should see a bump in his points, we think Goligoski has the potential to really explode.