

2022-23 Season Review – Chicago Blackhawks

Standings

Chicago Blackhawks							League	
Season	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Rank	PlyOff
2021-22	28	42	12	68	213	289	27	No
2022-23	26	49	7	59	202	299	30	No
Change	-2	+7	-5	-9	-11	-10	-3	

Team Record by Game Type

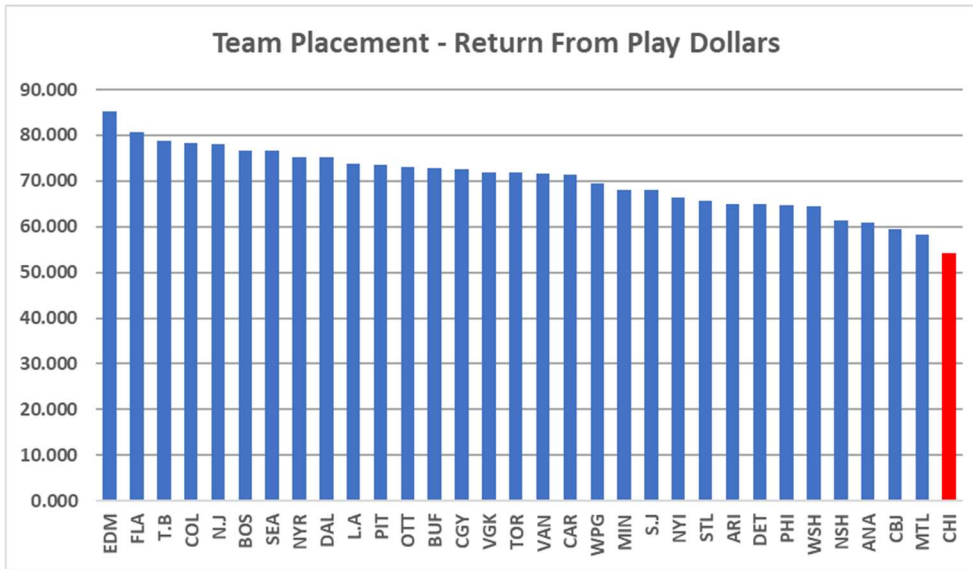
Game Type	GP	Record	Point %
OT/SO	15	8 - 0 - 7	0.767
Best 10-Game Streak	10	7 - 3 - 0	0.700
1-Goal Margin (Excluding overtime games)	11	6 - 5 - 0	0.545
Conceding Exactly 3 Goals	24	11 - 11 - 2	0.500
Vs. Non-Playoff Team	39	17 - 18 - 4	0.487
Home Games	41	14 - 23 - 4	0.390
All Games	82	26 - 49 - 7	0.360
Scoring Exactly 3 Goals	13	3 - 7 - 3	0.346
Away Games	41	12 - 26 - 3	0.329
Defensive Battles (fewer than 4 goals in a game)	11	3 - 7 - 1	0.318
Vs. Playoff Team	43	9 - 31 - 3	0.244
2-Goal Margin	18	4 - 14 - 0	0.222
Fire-wagon Hockey (More than 8 goals in a game)	12	2 - 9 - 1	0.208
Blowouts	6	1 - 5 - 0	0.167
Worst 10-Game Streak	10	1 - 9 - 0	0.100

Talent Distribution

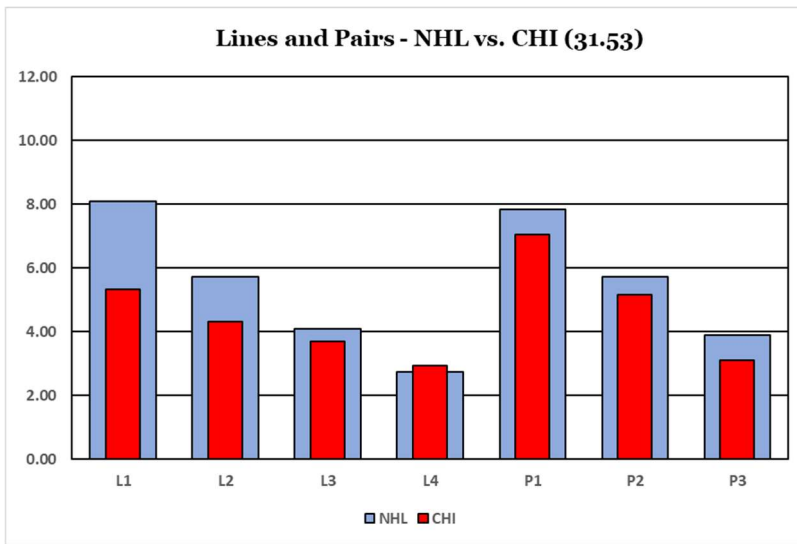
Count by Category			PR% by Age Group			PR% by Draft Status		
PR Category	Fwd	Def	Age Group	NHL PR%	Team PR%	Draft Status	NHL PR%	Team PR%
PR-Elite	0	0	18 to 23	18%	17%	Drafted by Current Team	48%	18%
PR-Star	0	1	24 to 28	45%	51%	Drafted by Other Team	41%	71%
PR-First5	0	1	29 to 33	29%	21%	Undrafted	10%	11%
PR-Regular	5	2	34+	8%	11%			
PR-Fringe	9	2						
PR-CallUp	10	8						

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Return From Play



Lines and Pairs



L1	Jason Dickinson	Taylor Raddysh	Andreas Athanasiou
L2	Max Domi	Jonathan Toews	Tyler Johnson
L3	Philipp Kurashev	Patrick Kane	Jujhar Khaira
L4	Sam Lafferty	Boris Katchouk	MacKenzie Entwistle
P1	Seth Jones		Connor Murphy
P2	Caleb Jones		Jake McCabe
P3	Jack Johnson		Jarred Tinordi

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Team Leaders – Stapled To The Bench Categories

Category	Name	Rating
Most Productive	Seth Jones	PR-Star
Most Valuable	Seth Jones	VR-Star
Best Center	Jonathan Toews	#3-Center
Most Disruptive	Connor Murphy	DX-A
Best Power Player	Max Domi	PX-C
Best Penalty Killer	Colin Blackwell	KX-A+

Team Leaders – On-Ice Situations

CHI - Team Leaders in Various On-Ice Situations		
Most Time 5v5	Most Time Power Play	Most Time Penalty Kill
Connor Murphy	Taylor Raddysh	Connor Murphy
Seth Jones	Seth Jones	Jason Dickinson
Caleb Jones	Max Domi	Seth Jones
Andreas Athanasiou	Patrick Kane	Jack Johnson
Taylor Raddysh	Andreas Athanasiou	Jake McCabe
Most Time 3v3	Most Used Off. Zone FO	Most Used Def. Zone FO
Patrick Kane	Patrick Kane	Connor Murphy
Seth Jones	Seth Jones	Jack Johnson
Caleb Jones	Max Domi	Jason Dickinson
Andreas Athanasiou	Andreas Athanasiou	Taylor Raddysh
Max Domi	Caleb Jones	Jake McCabe

Team Essay – Return From Play

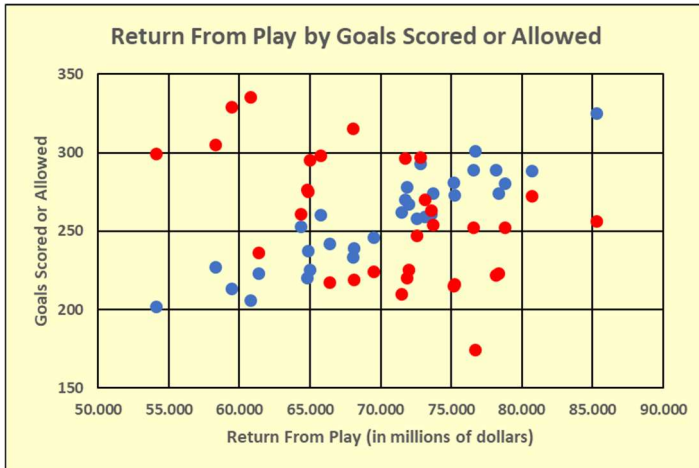
This essay doesn't have much to do with Chicago, really. I noticed something about Return From Play (RFP) while looking for something to say about Chicago. As you can see from the RFP chart earlier in this article, Chicago had the lowest RFP in the league, meaning they got the least productive play from their skaters of any team in the league. So let us talk a little about RFP and Productivity Rating (PR), from which RFP is generated.

RFP was created because it put the abstract numbers of PR-Scores into the relatable numbers of NHL salary dollars. It struck me as more meaningful to say the team played like its salary was \$54,210,000 than its PR-Score total was 102.47. If you know anything about NHL team salary rules, you know that \$54 million is a low total and you could sense that a team with that salary would have poor results. If you knew a lot about PR-Score, knowing that the team total PR-Score was 102.47 would be meaningless by itself: you'd need to know the PR-Scores of the other teams to get useful context.

As I was looking at 2022-23 RFP data at the team level, I wondered how tightly it was related to goals scored and goals allowed at the team level. A scatter chart is just the thing to

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show how related goals were to RFP, and it is shown below. The blue dots are goals for and the red dots are goals against.



The blue dots are in a line from the bottom left of the chart to the top right: as goals for increases, so does RFP. The red dots are scattered randomly all over the chart, as if a painter was sloppy with his paintbrush. This chart shows us that goals allowed have little to no impact on PR-Score and RFP.

Now let’s look at two teams who scored similar amounts of goals but allowed vastly different amounts of goals: Carolina and Pittsburgh. Carolina scored one more goal than Pittsburgh, but the Penguins allowed 53 more goals against. Carolina easily made the playoffs, Pittsburgh missed the playoffs, and yet Pittsburgh has a higher RFP.

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts	Return From Play
Carolina	52	21	9	262	210	113	\$71.490
Pittsburgh	40	31	11	261	263	91	\$73.585

As William Hughs (the prime minister of Australia from 1915 to 1923) might say, “That ain’t right, dog.”

Can PR score be improved? It isn’t particularly difficult to play with the PR-Score formula, with the minor issue that I didn’t keep GF and GA at the player level in my copy of the data (as I decided not to use plus/minus). The results of an improved formula are easy to project. The players on Chicago would all get lower PR-Scores (because Chicago gave up more goals than they scored) and the players on Boston and Edmonton would all get higher PR-Scores. The rich would get richer, the poor would get poorer.

It is a quandary for me, as I don’t want to update fifteen seasons of data and throw out dozens of articles that use the current version of PR-Score, VR-Score or RFP. I also don’t want to use a lesser PR-Score when a better version could be had. Another drawback to

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investigating the PR-Score formula is that it would take a lot of my time, time that could be spent more productively on the golf course.

Chicago was a bad team in 2022-23, and their players' PR-Scores reflect that, and the team's RFP reflects that. While somewhat flawed, the PR calculations generally work. They don't produce perfect ratings (as shown in the Carolina-Pittsburgh discussion), but I never thought they produced perfect ratings.

It is said that close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades; I believe that close also counts rating systems for players of major professional sports. PR-Score is accurate enough for hockey players, WAR (wins above replacement) is accurate enough for baseball players and QBR (quarterback rating) is accurate enough in football quarterbacks. None of those ratings are fingerprint-perfect, but all are close enough that their ratings are acceptable.