Perron's Potential Return Could Doom Blackhawks

Written by Jeff Ponder Wednesday, 30 November 2011 06:41

Is there such a thing as reporter's intuition? I sure hope so.

St. Louis Blues beat writer Jeremy Rutherford tweeted Monday that David Perron could be ready for Saturday's contest against the Chicago Blackhawks. Here are Rutherford's tweets about Perron:

" @ Potato 33 : @ jprutherford is [Perron] in [Washington] with team?' ... Yes, but not playing. I think if you have tix to Sat game, you might see No. 57."

"It's purely a guess on [Perron] being in lineup Saturday. But it makes sense ... couple more good practices, last line change at home, etc."

So there you have it; Rutherford is giving hope to Blues Nation that David Perron could be ready for Saturday.

What does this mean for the Blues' opponents?

In 19 career games against the Blackhawks, Perron has amassed 8 goals, 5 assists and 13 points while accumulating an astounding 43 shots-on-goal in that time. That may not be eye-popping numbers to you, but let's take a closer look at what he did just before his knockout blow from Joe Thornton on November 4 of last season.

If you remember, the Blues played in back-to-back games against the Blackhawks in games five and six to start the 2010-11 season. In these two games, Perron scored 4 goals and recorded a plus-4. He also had 8 shots-on-goal.

Let's dig a little deeper.

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In the last 5 games he played against the Blackhawks (spanning back to February 6, 2010), Perron has netted 5 goals and 1 assist.

5 goals in 5 games is not too shabby.

In fact, Perron has only scored more points against one other team in his career. He has 1 more point (14) in the same amount of games (19) against the Columbus Blue Jackets. He has, however, taken the most shots against the Blackhawks than any other NHL team by a wide margin.

You want it plain and simple? Perron always had a knack of getting open against the Blackhawks. He always registered shots and was constantly controlling the puck when playing against Chicago. Despite the Blackhawks having a strong defense, Perron found ways to exploit it.

It will be tough for Perron to continue his pace if he plays Saturday. He will have limited ice-time and will be playing in his first NHL game since November 4, 2010. I do not expect Perron to come on as strong as he has in the past 5 games. However, I would expect a revived and spirited effort since he will be juiced to be back on the Scottrade Center rink.

If Perron does pick up where he left off, expect Scottrade Center to be rocking all night long.

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