

## The Men Behind the Mask - Love them or Hate Them

Action! PC Goalie ratings are as much a mystery, as goalie performances are in the NHL. All-Star one year, close to being waived the next.

First let's talk briefly about Goalie Limitations in the MWHL.

Goalie injuries will not be turned on for the Regular season or for the play-offs. Goalies will be limited to their actual number of NHL games played (GP). You must have a minimum of three Goalies on your 30 man Active Roster, your maximum number of goalies is 4. In addition to those games played and roster limits – All of your Active rostered goalies cannot exceed 125 games (This number may be changed), but there will be a limit to Total Goalie games played. The limits are established to ensure that no team can corner the market on 3 or 4 quality goalies and force teams to trade for them at inflated values. Simple we want to keep the sheet of ice we are playing on level.

### **Goalie Ratings:**

Goalies only have one key rating and that is their **Goalie** rating. Range: 10-1. The goalie rating is a bit of a mystery as to how it is derived, but Save Percentage is the predominant stat. A low number of games played will down grade the Goalie Rating.

They also have **Durability** ratings but since the MWHL does not plan to turn Goalie injuries on this rating is not important. You just need to track the goalies games played.

**Sportsmanship** is similar to those the skaters have. It will impact the number of penalties, the severity of penalties and impact the probability of Suspensions. Goalies are also rated for the number of **Consecutive Games** they can play without getting a skill down grade. It will be the bracketed ( ) number in the CONSEC column of the goalie display.

The only other rating worth checking is the goalie's **Passing** rating. Can he move the puck cleanly to the defensemen or even up ice especially on power plays or next year in Overtime 3-on-3 play?

Many veteran coaches feel there are a couple of hidden ratings for goalies. One of those is almost certainly true and that is the Goalie's Save Percentage on Penalty Shots. Good in the NHL on Penalty Shots means Good in the MWHL as well. The other possible hidden rating relates to the number of rebounds allowed. Personally I doubt this rating exists, but some believe it does. You will have to decide.

Goalies in the NHL are often not very consistent from year to year. That also carries over to the MWHL as their ratings will jump around year to year. This suggests two strategies to keep in mind. One, since goalies performance is dependent on the team supporting him, having multiple goalies from the same team could prove a disaster in a down year. Likewise it is thought that getting an age spread in your goalies is also wise. You do not want to have 2 goalies retire in the same season.

A top level Goalie can carry a team for a short period of time – think seven game series. Mediocre Goalies can implode at the times you can least afford it. If you have to play a mediocre or even a weak goalie make sure you pick a non-critical game for them to play in.

