

# Bruins Off-Season Recap

By: Michael Cappola written-10/16/2021

Finally an offseason to be happy about for Bruins fans. While past off-seasons have been dismal and disappointing for Cam Neely, Don Sweeney and the rest of the brain trust of the Bruins, this off season did not disappoint. The Bruins saw one of the biggest cap rooms available to the team in a while and with not re-signing Rask(yet) and Krejci(probable to return as well). The Bruins were fast with burning money but also addressing needs. Resigning Taylor Hall was huge. Giving the Bruins a 4th dynamic offensive weapon to fill the hole left by Krejci was huge. They also signed some help in smaller contracts on the back half of the offensive core with Foligno, Haula, and Nosek. They trio are some players with established experience and can have a big locker presence to help that void left by Krejci's departure.

Defensively, the front office heard my calls for resigning Reilly. He's a great second line facilitator to be paired with Carlo who was extended this offseason. Sweeney also brought in another big body defenseman in Derek Forbort. The 6-foot-4 blue liner can help secure up the third pairing with Clifton or help when injuries plague the defense in front of the goalies.

Speaking of the goalies, there is a new starting goalie for the Boston Bruins. Tuukka Rask remains a Free Agent recovering from the hip injury that took him out of the last playoff run, the Bruins decided to move onto a different pairing between the pipes. Jeremy Swayman and Linus Ullmark will be the pair in net. With Ullmark primed to be the starter, Swayman does have the door cracked open for him to take the job. With a career 7-3 record, if he was to build on that and continue that trend, don't be surprised for Bruce Cassidy to give the reins to the kid.

Finally, the biggest move of the Bruins off-season happened less than 72 hours ago with the extension of future captain Charlie McAvoy of 8 years at \$9.5 million AAV. While this might seem like a big price tag, McAvoy has earned every penny of this contract and more. This is a straight steal. While now being the 3rd highest paid Defenseman in the league, McAvoy plays as the best defender in the NHL and no one is close to his game when he's healthy.

Going into this season I see the Bruin's being 2nd, possibly 3rd if Toronto plays well in the regular season before their annual first round exit, in their division and putting up a 100 point campaign and being a real threat in the East to the Lightning's hope of a 3 peat. This should be an exciting season and I'm ready for the ride to start.