

The Bruins are on Fire

By Jesse Almeida 12/03/22

If you were to say at the beginning of the season that the Boston Bruins even without Brad Marchand, Charlie McAvoy, Matt Grzelcyk, and with a new head coach that the Bruins would start off as the best team in the NHL, people would think that you are out of your mind. However, that is now a reality. Not only are the Boston Bruins the best team in the NHL right now, but they have also had the best start in Boston Bruins history. This was done mostly without Marchand, McAvoy, and Grzelcyk. Along with that this was done with a new head coach. The Boston Bruins are now having a similar season as the Celtics did last year.

What has really caused this start is the change made from the head coaching. Many people had their heads scratching at the news of Bruce Cassidy being fired last offseason. People were wondering why Cassidy was fired. Cam Neely and Don Sweeney came out and said that Cassidy was fired due to the lack of development within the organization. Neely and Sweeney were more talking about the young players vs the veterans. With the Bruins starting off at 19-3 with 38 Points in the standings under Jim Montgomery, it is clear that the Bruins made the right call. You could go as far as saying that every player was done with Bruce Cassidy and started to tune him out. This year, all 4 lines have clicked and have made a contribution to each and every win this season. The players are saying that they trust Montgomery and the trust has never been higher in the coaching staff. The Bruins are playing at a quicker pace, more physical, and more natural compared to last year. By natural, that just means they are making the right play every time instead of rushing it. Last year the B's looked slow, soft, and tried to over do it. Even despite the Bruins finishing 51-26-5 with 107 Points, the Bruins did not look like a great team compared to past years. A new voice in the locker room turned out to be the right decision and has brought this group back together.

Along with a coaching change, there have been additions to the team that have fit the Bruins game plan perfectly. The first move that was a solid move was acquiring Pavel Zacha. The Bruins traded for Zacha from the New Jersey Devils in exchange for Erik Haula. People loved the move of acquiring Zacha and his game has supported that. Zacha currently has 15 points with 3 goals 12 assists and a plus/minus rating of 5 on the third line. For the Devils, Haula has been on a decent start with 11 points on 10 assists and a plus minus rating of 9. Pavel Zacha who is only 25 versus Haula who is 31 going on 32 and most likely hit his peak. Zacha has

shown that he has a lot of upside and is a key part of the B's now and going forward. Zacha has had many down years in New Jersey, however so far he has shown to be a solid fit in Boston. A pick up from the Bruins that turned out to look like an underrated was A.J. Greer. The 4th line right winger has 3 goals, 4 assists, 7 points, and a plus minus rating of 2. The 25 year old has battled injuries and was given the chance to prove himself and he has done well in his role this year. The biggest addition if you want to call it an addition is David Krejci returning. Krejci has been what the Bruins missed all year last year. A playmaking second line center who makes the offense flow at all times. Krejci's presence has made the second line look crisp, natural, and faster than last season, and his production proves that. David Krejci this year has 8 goals on 10 assists totalling 18 points with a plus minus of 2.

So far, the Boston Bruins are not fooling around this season. They are legit, they are a force and they are here. The Boston Bruins are having a phenomenal season so far as they already broke the NHL record with 13 straight home wins to start the season. No team has ever done that before. If the Bruins keep up this pace for the entire season, who is going to stop them? The answer is, no one.

Information from:

[Pavel Zacha Stats and News | NHL.com](#)

[Erik Haula Stats and News | NHL.com](#)

[A.J. Greer Stats and News | NHL.com](#)

[David Krejci Stats and News | NHL.com](#)