

Sports Slants- continued

If you figure it out, there's a possibility of playing 6I games in the playoffs next season, as compared to the maximum 49 this season.

Another point I should make before listing my projected standings and playoffs is that the opening series will involve the best of the top eight clubs against the worst of the top eight; Series B will pit the second best of the eight contenders against the seventh best; Series C will involve the third best against the sixth best and finally, Series D, will have the fourth best against the fifth best. All are best-of-three series, remember!

After these four short series, the division winners will get involved against the opening round winners.

Maybe you'll understand better if I just list how (or approximately how) I think the teams will wind up the schedule.

Here goes:

FINAL STANDINGS

Division I		Division II	
1. Philadelphia	93	1. Montreal	116
2. N.Y. Rangers	91	2. Los Angeles	84
3. Atlanta	80	3. Detroit	75
4. N.Y. Islanders	60	4. Pittsburgh	70
		5. Washington	42

  

Division III		Division IV	
1. Chicago	95	1. Boston	110
2. Minnesota	92	2. Toronto	100
3. St. Louis	76	3. Buffalo	90
4. Vancouver	65	4. California	59
5. Kansas City	44		

Four division winners get bye into quarter-finals -- Division I - Philadelphia; Division II - Montreal; Division III - Chicago; Division IV - Boston.

PLAYOFFS

- Series A - Toronto vs Detroit (2 of three)
- Series B - Minnesota vs St. Louis (2 of three)
- Series C - N.Y. Rangers vs Atlanta (2 of three)
- Series D - Buffalo vs Los Angeles (2 of three)

Say the winners of the first four series are Toronto, Minnesota, Rangers and Buffalo, the quarter final series (all 4 out of 7) would go like this:

- Series E - Montreal vs Buffalo
- Series F - Boston vs Rangers
- Series G - Chicago vs Minnesota
- Series H - Philadelphia vs Toronto

Now say the following four teams survive the quarter-finals: Montreal, Boston, Minnesota and

Toronto. Then the semi-finals would go like this:

- Series I - Montreal vs Minnesota
- Series J - Boston vs Toronto

And, finally, imagine Montreal eliminating Minnesota and the Maple Leafs getting by the Bruins in a seven-game thriller.

Presto! An all-Canadian Stanley Cup final. That hasn't happened since Canada's centennial year (1967), with the Leafs taking the Cup in an exciting final.

It's not very likely things will pan out just as I've listed them, but at least you NHL fans have an idea of what to expect during the 1974-75 season.

LEGION BOWLING

Standings to January 11th: Bombardiers 40; Spitfires 38; Irish Regiment 34; Corvettes 27; Cameron Highlanders 23.

Games over 200:

Pat Jones 211; L. Belliveau 216; E. Kettle 204; M. Pluta 241; T. Velanoff 256, 221, 201; B. Moon 223, 221; A. Daley 221, 223; June Schritt 221; N. Chopty 232, 257.

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