

Drafting Incentives

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The Idea

Different methods for deciding who gets the earliest draft picks lead to different and sometimes conflicting incentives for players and teams. Can we make a system that behaves well and aligns most of the incentives?

Plain Drafting

Plain: Teams with the fewest points get the earliest picks.
Incentives of fans, players, and teams: not aligned.

Plain Drafting with Lotteries

Plain: Teams with the fewest points *probably* get the earliest picks.
Incentives of fans, players, and teams: not aligned.

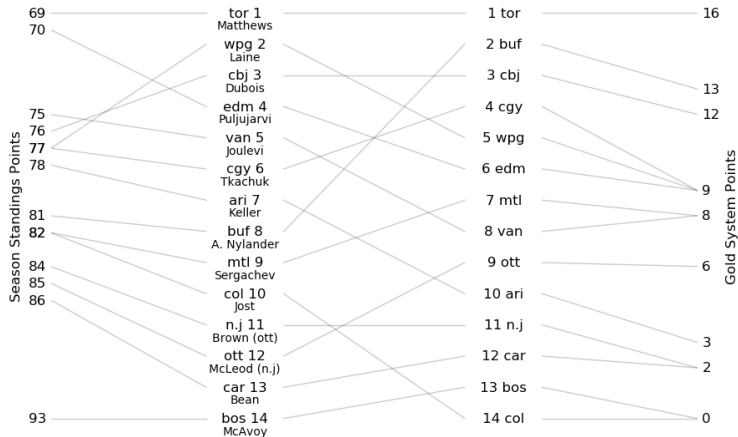
Gold Drafting

Gold: Teams with the most points *after they are eliminated from the playoffs* get the earliest picks.

Always in the team's best interests to win every game.

Gold vs Plain 2015-2016

Gold System Draft order vs Actual, 2015-2016



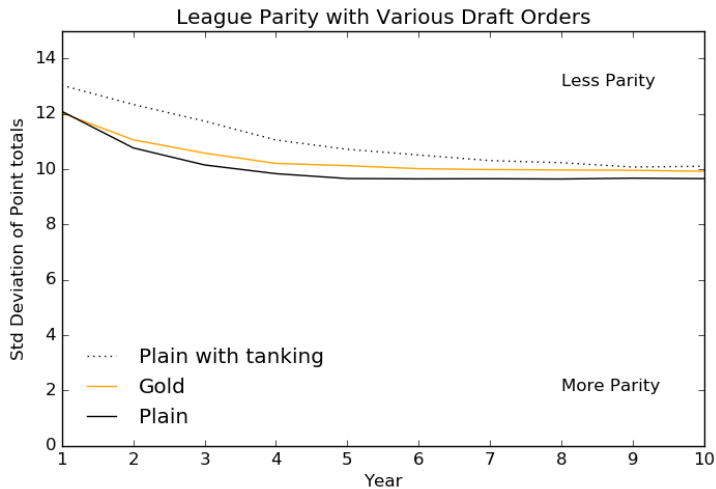
Simulation Harness

Simulate ten seasons with a Bradley-Terry model.

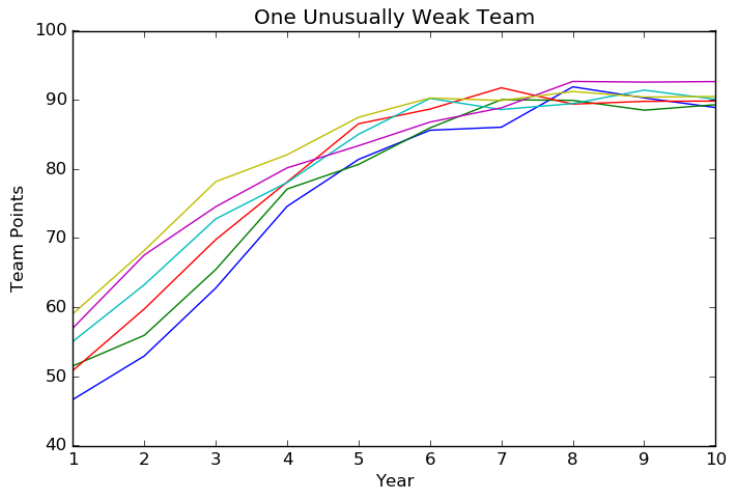
1. Chance of winning determined by difference in team strengths.
2. “Tanking” (at 1%) permanently hurts team strength. (~3rd overall)
3. Draft picks valued according to Matt Cane’s monetary model.
4. Random adjustment each year.

Parity

Gold drafting does not affect parity.

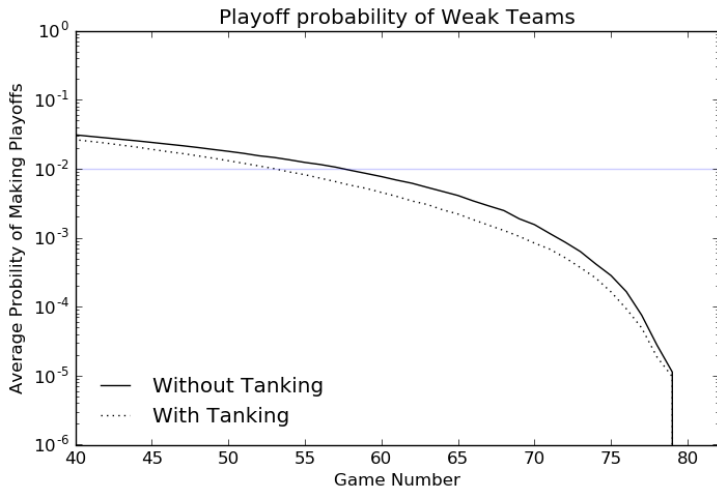


Very Weak Teams



Teams will just tank sooner!

- ▶ Not if they know what's good for 'em.

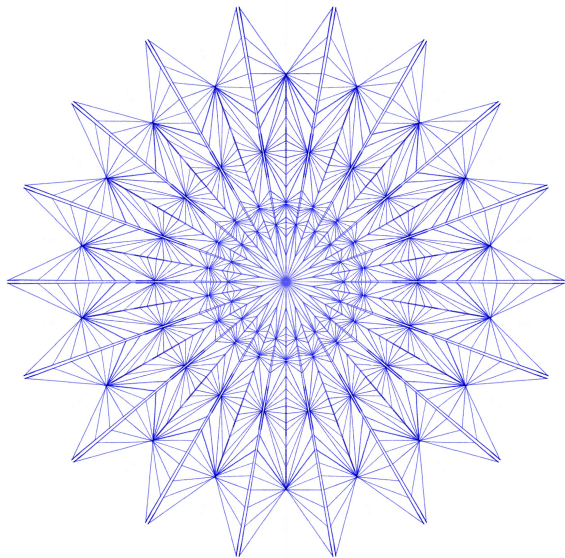


Conclusions

Gold drafting:

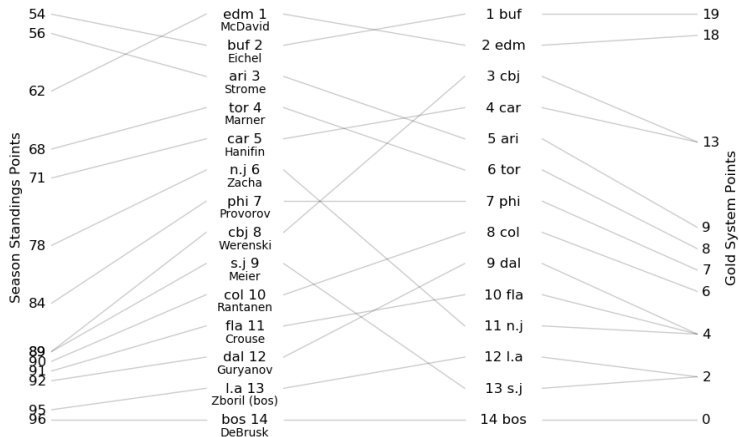
- ▶ Aligns incentives.
- ▶ Makes every team play meaningful hockey all season.
- ▶ Improves parity.
- ▶ Doesn't unduly punish very weak teams.

Thanks!



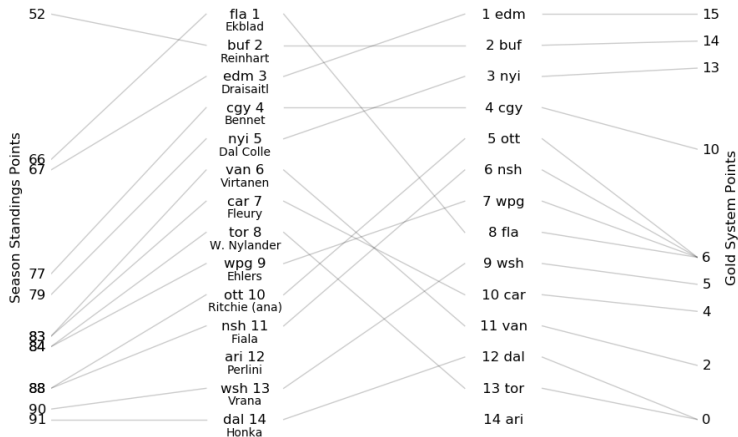
Gold vs Plain 2014-2015

Gold System Draft order vs Actual, 2014-2015



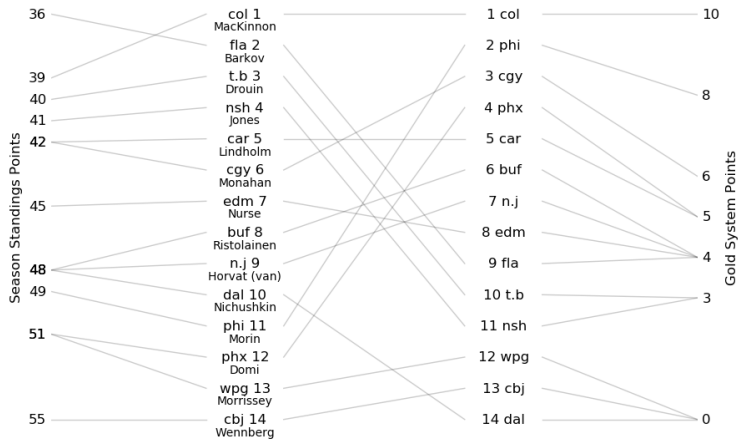
Gold vs Plain 2013-2014

Gold System Draft order vs Actual, 2013-2014



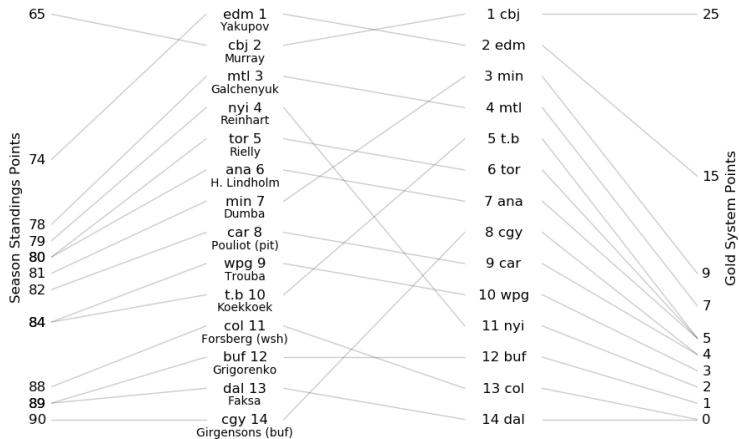
Gold vs Plain 2012-2013

Gold System Draft order vs Actual, 2012-2013



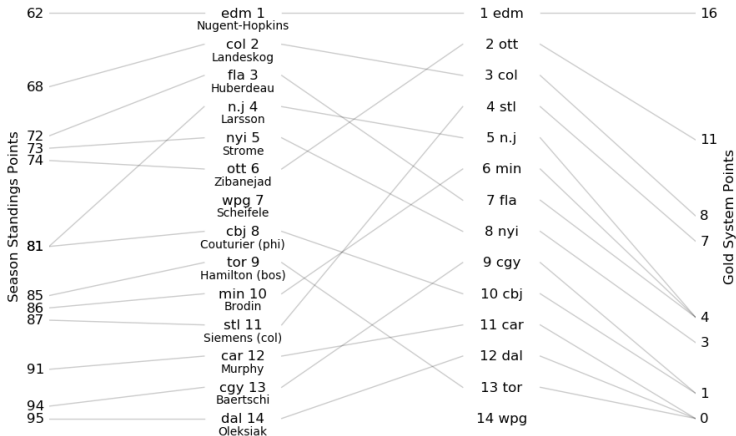
Gold vs Plain 2011-2012

Gold System Draft order vs Actual, 2011-2012



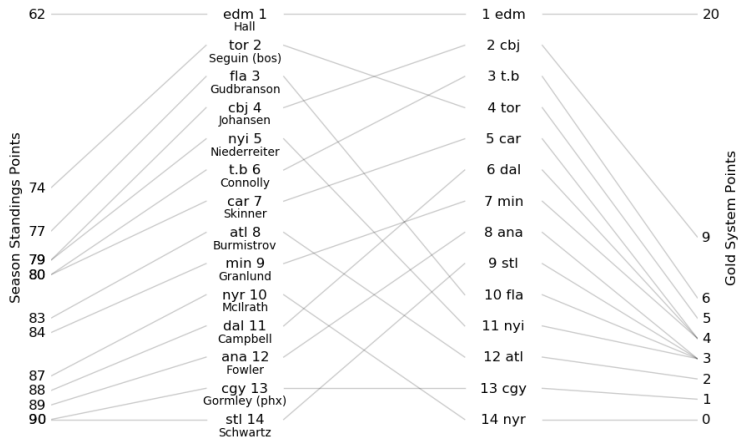
Gold vs Plain 2010-2011

Gold System Draft order vs Actual, 2010-2011



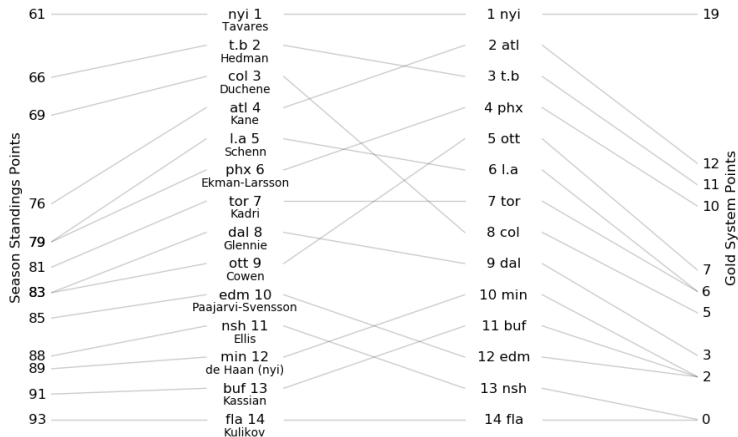
Gold vs Plain 2009-2010

Gold System Draft order vs Actual, 2009-2010



Gold vs Plain 2008-2009

Gold System Draft order vs Actual, 2008-2009



Gold vs Plain 2007-2008

Gold System Draft order vs Actual, 2007-2008

