

## The State of the Playoff Run: Are the Blues Really in it?

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Saturday, 28 February 2009

Last Updated Saturday, 28 February 2009

The Blues are 3 points out of the Western Conference playoffs right now with 21 games remaining. Common sense says they're in this, but let's take closer look at the numbers to see how well they have to play from here on in order to play their first post-season hockey in 5 years.

Based on the Standings Based Projection of the est1967.com standings, The Blues currently project to finish the season with 84 points, 4 points behind Dallas for the 8th seed. To get to 89 points, the Blues would need to go 13-7-1 in the final 21 to make the playoffs. That's possible.

What's notable though is that while the Blues currently project to 84 points, they are playing at a -2, meaning they are 2 points behind where they should be. The Stars are on pace for 88 points at a +1, meaning they're actually better than than they should be.

The numbers say the Blues are VERY much in this thing. The key to this season will be the final 8 games, where the Blues play the Columbus Blue Jackets 3 times, and the Blues also have a 5 game road trip including games at Chicago, Detroit and Dallas.

Can Chris Mason continue is Vezina-level play? Can the Blues produce enough offense if Mason isn't playing like an all-world netminder? Will the defense hold together, especially with the status of Carlo Colaiacovo still not disclosed?

In reality, as far as the Blues are concerned the Playoffs have already begun. Enjoy it, Blues fans.