

# Scouting Your Competition

## A Hockey Coaching Tool from Greg Siller of Pro Learning Systems

Scouting is the process of gathering information about an opponent by observing a practice or game against another team. The *Siller Scouting Worksheet* has been designed to enable scouts (coaches, players, parents) to capture sufficient data about their opponents to help evaluate that team. Data gathered in the *Scouting Worksheet* covers all major aspects of your opponents' play; offense, defense, goaltending, strategies, strengths, weaknesses, and overall observations.

Scouting the opposition should be done as close to your game date as possible since recent trends are the most meaningful for your teams' preparation. Careful planning for upcoming practices and games gives coaches and players a sense of whether they are currently ready for the challenge. By incorporating scouting information in your practices, you can focus on and plan to take advantage of your opponents' weaknesses and leverage your teams' strengths.

The following examples contain a completed and blank worksheet. Use these tools to their fullest extent to improve your teams' ability to compete effectively.

SILLER SCOUTING WORKSHEET		
<b>Scouted By:</b> Greg Siller	<b>Team #1:</b> <i>Wings</i>	<b>Location:</b> <i>Iceoplex</i>
<b>Date:</b> 10/3/2011	<b>Team #2:</b> <i>Renegades</i>	<b>Score:</b> 6 - 3
Attributes	Team #1	Team #2
Style at start	High tempo	Moderate pace
Face-off strategies and effectiveness	Basic line-ups. #14 and #27 are the best. Win about 60% of face-offs.	#18 wins most face-offs. He moves puck back to defense and breaks.
Goaltending style and effectiveness	Stand-up style. Excellent glove, weak on low stick side. Covers rebounds.	Goes down a lot. Excellent on low shots. Weak on high shots. Gives up rebounds.
Defensemen	#2 plays-the-puck. #8 and #3 are solid and move the puck well.	The team is weak on defense except for #44. He is very good all around.
Forwards	#14 and #55 are best forwards.	#18 and #17 are best forwards.
Defensive Zone Play	Play mostly zone defense. #8 and #3 set up effective breakout. Some backchecking.	Man-to-man defense. #44 sets up effective breakout. Others are average. Some backchecking.
Offensive Zone Play	#55 very good forechecker. #3 moves in from point on many plays.	#17 is a good forechecker. #44 always ready to move in from point.
Description of goals	2 low stick side. 2 low glove side. 1 wrap around power play. 1 five-hole.	All three goals scored up high. 2 on blocker side. 1 on glove side.
Power play strategies and effectiveness	#14/55/27/8/3 play on most power plays. Patient. 1 goal in 4 chances.	#18/17/44/23/6 played on both power plays. Had many shots. 0 goals in 2 chances.
Penalty killing strategies and effectiveness	#55/8/3 comprise basic penalty killing unit. No goals while penalized.	#18/17/44 comprise basic penalty killing unit. Aggressive. Scored 1 shorthanded goal.
Best Players	#14/55/27/8/3	#18/17/44/23/6
Strengths	Penalty killing. Speed.	Forechecking. 4th man in.
Weaknesses	Breakout, Backchecking.	Power play. Defense.
General comments	Can beat team #1 by slowing pace of game and controlling #14 and #55. Shoot low, stick side.	Can beat team #2 by covering #18 on offense and avoiding #44 on defense. Take advantage of rebounds.

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>Team #2:</b>	<b>Score:</b>
<b>Attributes</b>	<b>Team #1:</b>	<b>Team #2:</b>
Style at Start of Game		
Face-off Strategies and Effectiveness		
Goaltending Style and Effectiveness		
Defensemen Assessment		
Forward Assessment		
Defensive Zone Play		
Offensive Zone Play		
Description of Goals		
Power play Strategies and Effectiveness		
Penalty killing Strategies and Effectiveness		
Best Players		
Strengths		
Weaknesses		
General Comments		