

KHL REVIEW

KHL - SECOND YEAR

Vacations for KHL's players ended in the middle of summer - on July 23 almost all teams opened their training camps. Now, one and half month later, KHL is ready to drop puck for its second season.

This time organization is a little different, all clubs are divided to four division by geographical location, rather than ranking. That will help to save some travel money on huge Russian territories and, hopefully for KHL administration, will aid to establish rivalry between neighboring teams.

Overall, every club is going to meet their divisional opponents four times, and every other team twice, total for 56 matches. Eight best squads in East and West Conference will advance in Gagarin Cup playoff, where best two teams will meet in finals.

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West Conference

Tarasov Division	Kharlamov Division
CSKA Moscow	Lokomotiv Yaroslavl
Spartak Moscow	Atlant Mytyshi
Dynamo Moscow	Torpedo Nizhny Novgorod
SKA Saint Petersburg	Severstal Cherepovets
Dynamo Minsk	HC MVD Balashikha
Dynamo Riga	Vityaz Chekhov

East Conference

Chernyshev Division	Bobrov Division
Ak Bars Kazan	Avangard Omsk
Metallurg Magnitogorsk	Salavat Yulaev Ufa
Traktor Chelyabinsk	Barys Astana
Lada Togliatti	Sibir Novosibirsk
Neftekhimik Nizhnekamsk	Amur Khabarovsk
Avtomobilist Ekaterenburg	Metallurg Novokuznetsk

Salary cap for 2009-2010 stayed on the previous level - maximum 620 million rubles, minimum 200 million, however each team has a right not to count contracts of two players with "Star" status. The parity in KHL is out of question - Salavat Yulaev, SKA, Lokomotiv, Ak Bars are having problems to get under cap, and at the same time Lada and Vityaz just recently found enough financing to reach minimum.

50 BEST PLAYERS KHL

- 1. Alexei Morozov F (Ak Bars)** - since returning from NHL in 2004-05, Alexei right away became the best players in the league and still holding up that position. For last five years he collected 311 points (139+172) in 268 matches for Kazan club. It's not a coincidence, but eminent Morozov scored lonely goal in game 7 Gagarin Cup final last season.
- 2. Kevin Dallman D (Barys)** - in his first season in KHL Canadian has rewritten Russian records for defencemen, and overthrown legendary Vyacheslav Fetisov from pedestal, after scoring 58 points (28+30) in 53 games.
- 3. Jaromir Jagr F (Avangard)** - Czech superstar finished just eighth in KHL in 2008-09 with 53 points (25+28), but you must remember that he was playing for falling apart Siberian club.
- 4. Alexei Yashin F (SKA)** - two years in the row took Lokomotiv to the playoff final, now dreams for better outcome with SKA. By the way, still getting paid more than \$3 millions dollars by New York Islanders
- 5. Sergei Mozyakin F (Atlant)** - 28-years old forward never played in NHL, however has a remarkable carrier in Russia. Last year he was first in regular season with 76 points (34+42) in 56 games.
- 6. Sergei Fedorov F (Metallurg Mg)** - his return to Russia was second biggest news in Russia this summer after Hudler singing. Nobody expect from veteran miracles, but using his unmatchable experience Sergei could still shine.
- 7. Vitaly Kolesnik G (Salavat Yulaev)** - while fighting for starting position in Atlant with Ray Emery in 2008-09, Kazakstanstan netminder stopped 94.5% of all shots in 30 games - the best record in whole KHL.
- 8. Danis Zaripov F (Ak Bars)** - playing together with Morozov helped Danis improve his scoring touch. Last season - 34 goals and shared third place in the league.
- 9. Jan Marek F (Metallurg Mg)** - became a scoring machine in Russia. Shared first place in previous KHL season with 35 goals.
- 10. Alexander Radulov F (Salavat Yulaev)** - made a lot of noise by leaving NHL, but not completely reached expected heights in KHL. Nevertheless, had a lot of potential to be the best, if could deal with his temper.
- 11. Alexander Eremenko G (Salavat Yulaev)** - the most stable goaltender for last few years in Russia, but could not lead rich Ufa club past first round of playoff in 2008-09
- 12. Viktor Kozlov F (Salavat Yulaev)** - had a chance to stay NHL if not for Ufa's crazy money offer.
- 13. Oleg Saprykin F (Dynamo M)** - last season could not much his own record breaking numbers of 2007-08, but even then made a national team and won World championship.
- 14. Vitaly Proshkin D (Salavat Yulaev)** - one of most reliable defenseman in Russia - played for national team on six out of seven last World Championships.
- 15. Ilya Nikulin D (Ak Bars)** - Atlanta Trashers still looking for magic focus to sign skilled defenseman.
- 16. Vitaly Vishnevsky D (Lokomotiv)** - everyone new about Vitaly's physical play. In KHL he also started to generate offence - 21 points (8+13) in 53 matches.
- 17. Martin Prusek G (Dynamo Riga)** - With 8 shutouts, Slovakian netminder was second in the league. With his phenomenal play, Martin totally responsible to taking Riga's club to playoff.
- 18. Georgy Gelashvili G (Lokomotiv)** - First goalie in KHL to win 30 games per season and then made a trip to Gagarin Cup final.
- 19. Karel Rachunek D (Dynamo M)** - 30-years old czech was best in Dynamo Moscow in plus/minus category and best among defencemen with 30 points.
- 20. Yuri Hudler F (Dynamo M)** - after limited role with Detroit Red Wings, will be ready to fulfill his huge contract with Dynamo.
- 21. Alexei Tereshenko (Ak Bars)** - playing in 2008-09 for Salavat Yulaev, shared fifth best record in the league with 58 points (29+29) and earned sport in Russian national team.
- 22. Maxim Sushinski F (SKA)** - keeps rewriting old scoring Soviet records. For last 12 years never had a season with less than 40 points, including playoff (exception 2000-01 when he spend fourth month with Minnesota Wild)

23. **Pavel Brenld F (Torpedo)** - playing for average team did not prevent Pavel to share best record in KHL in 2008-09 with 35 goals.
24. **Mattias Weinhandl F (Dynamo M)** - Swedish forward stood out during playoff with 16 points (6+10) in 12 contests.
25. **Linus Omark F (Dynamo M)** - 22-years old winger overgrow Swedish championship. Ready to prove himself in KHL before moving to America.
26. **Johan Harju F (Dynamo M)** - last couple years was inseparable with Omark, improving season by season.
27. **Oleg Tverdovsky D (Salavat Yulaev)** - the age and injuries started to take a toll on talented defenseman.
28. **Albert Leschev F (SKA)** - 38-years old veteran refuse to slow down, still can make a perfect pass.
29. **Vasily Koshechkin G (Lada)** - Man among boys, Vasily continues to stay in Togliatti, where because of financial difficulties roster reminds junior hockey team.
30. **Sergei Zinoviev F (Salavat Yulaev)** - great talent, hard personality. Hopefully head coach Bykov knows the road to Zinoviev's heart.
31. **Alexander Korolyuk F (SKA)** - after a slow start for Atlant last year, picked up in the second half. Exploding speed and deadly shot is perfect combination for underachieving SKA.
32. **Oleg Kvasha F (Atlant)** - Experience and size made Oleg very noticeable on any team.
33. **Richard Zednik F (Lokomotiv)** - after 13 years in NHL will have to fill shoes left by Yashin in Yaroslavl.
34. **Robert Esche G (SKA)** - nine shutouts gave him best record in KHL last season
35. **Denis Kulyash D (CSKA)** - still own the hardest slapshot in Russia. Improved skating and lowered his temper.
36. **Martin Gerber G (Atlant)** - could follow the "Emery Route" - one year in KHL and back to NHL.
37. **Petr Cajanek F (SKA)** - Wishing to get back the scoring touch in SKA after only 9 goals in Dynamo Moscow last season.
38. **Daniil Markov D (Dynamo M)** - NHL or KHL, Daniil always will play until last second and won't spare himself or any opponent.
39. **Ilya Proskuryakov G (Metallurg Mg)** - Best rookie of KHL, made Metallurg's season worth of reminder.
40. **Sergei Zubov (SKA)** - former Dallas Star, he couldn't believed himself, that he again in Russia. Must forget about last year injuries and return to previous shape.
41. **Alexander Perezhogin F (Salavat Yulaev)** - 28 goals and 24 assists last season but still not much talk about former Montreal Canadian.
42. **Alexander Svitov F (Avangard)** - having problems with scoring, but remains the heart and soul of Omsk team.
43. **Dmitry Kalinin D (Salavat Yulaev)** - always played much better for Russian national team than in NHL. Having Vyacheslav Bykov as head coach will eased transaction to KHL.
44. **Stanislav Galimov G (Ak Bars)** - young rookie outplayed last season Wade Dubielewicz and will again fight for starting position on the champion squad.
45. **Zbynek Irgl F (Lokomotiv)** - scored a lot playing with Yashin, now must prove that he could do it without him.
46. **Ray Giroux G (SKA)** - moving from Ak Bars to SKA was not the best step for Canadian defenseman carrier.
47. **Andrei Nikolishin F (Traktor)** - Despite being 36 years old, veteran still managed to have a best production among teammates in Chelyabinsk - 39 points (10+29) in 48 contests.
48. **Branko Radivojevic F (Spartak)** - Slovakian forward became a go-to guy in Moscow club.
49. **Niko Kapanen F (Ak Bars)** - Improved in every aspect after coming from NHL.
50. **Andrei Pervyshin D (Ak Bars)** - 24-years old almost double his production in 2008-09 compare to previous seasons - 27 points (6+21) vs 14 (7+7).

WHO ARE THE COACHES?

Our coaches' ranking are based on their latest achievements and experience. Of 24 head coaches, 16 are Russian, two from Canada and Czech Republic, one from Finland, Latvia, Slovakia, and USA. Oldest is Czech tutor from Avtomobilist Ekaterenburg Marek Sykora, who will celebrate his 61st Birthday on November 11, 2009. Youngest one is former NHL tough-guy 35-years old Andrei Nazarov, working with Traktor Chelyabinsk already third season.

#	Name (age)	Team	Notes
1	Vyacheslav Bykov (49)	Salavat Yulaev Ufa	Also head coach of Russian national team that won two last World championship. Has come to Ufa after three season with CSKA.
2	Zinatula Bilyaletdinov (54)	Ak Bars Kazan	Brought two golds to Kazan in last four years
3	Petr Vorobiev (60)	Lada Togliatti	Has a huge experience on every possible level with great record of success, including two Russian national championships in 1993 and 1997.
4	Kari Heikkila (49)	Lokomotiv Yaroslavl	Earned Finnish national title with Karpat in 2004. Last two years took Lokomotiv to finals in Russia
5	Fedor Kanareikin (54)	Atlant Mytyschi	Won a national championship with Metallurg Mg in 2007
6	Milos Rziha (50)	Spartak Moscow	Czech specialist surprisingly helped Spartak to advance to second round of playoff 2008 after beating SKA
7	Vladimir Krikunov (59)	Neftekhimik Nizhnekamsk	Coached Belarus in Olympic Games 2002 and Russia in 2006. Conquer gold medal with Dynamo Moscow in national championship in 2005.
8	Valery Belousov (60)	Metallurg Magnitogorsk	After two national titles with Metallurg Mg in 1999 and 2001, last season made a step back losing in European Championship League final and having a not very impressing record in KHL
9	Glen Hanlon (52)	Dynamo Minsk	Head coach of Byelorussian National Team. . . +49-84-24 with Washington Capitals from 2003 to 2008.
10	Igor Nikitin (36)	Avangard Omsk	Replaced Wayne Fleming late last season and helped to straighten Avangard, beating Salavat Yulaev in first round of playoff
11	Barry Smith (59)	SKA Sankt Peterburg	Former assistant of Scotty Bowmen, still trying team management patience with underachieving performance
12	Julius Supler (58)	Dynamo Riga	Slovakian tutor made Latvian club very competitive in its first season.
13	Sergei Kotov (59)	Dynamo Moscow	Great team lineup will help get over mediocre experience.
14	Oleg Znarok (46)	HC MVD Balashikha	Continue to combine two post at Balashikha and Latvian National Team that will make trip to Vancouver
15	Andrei Nazarov (35)	Traktor Chelyabinsk	Youngest KHL coach still looking for his first win in playoff (0-6)
16	Sergei Nemchinov (45)	CSKA Moscow	After horror in Super series 2007, won two bronze medals with Russian junior teams at World Championship.
17	Andrei Shayanov (41)	Barys Astana	Last spring captured first place in Division I with national Kazakhstan squad.
18	Yevgeni Popikhin (49)	Torpedo Nizhni Novgorod	Lifted team from 20 place in 2007-08 to 11th in 2008-09
19	Andrei Pyatanov (50)	Severstal Cherepovets	During his carrier had coached Dynamo Moscow, Amur, Soviet Wings, Metallurg Nk without reaching any worthy records
20	Marek Sykora (60)	Avtomobilist	Last four years has worked with Czech junior national team.
21	Vladimir Semenov (56)	Sibir	Became Sibir head coach in January 2009 after four years in assistant position in CSKA
22	Anatoly Emelin (44)	Amur	Had a share of success as assistant coach with Lada in early 2000s.
23	Mike Krushelnyski (49)	Vityaz	Three times Stanley Cup champion with Edmonton Oilers in 1980s does not achieve much at coaching.
24	Dmitry Parkhomenko (36)	Metallurg Nk	Third youngest coach in KHL (after Nazarov and Nikitin) will have to have a lot to learn to get Metallurg in playoff

Predictions. Who will be fired first?

In 2008-09 first coach's firing in KHL came just two weeks after season started (Gersonsky, Avangard). This year, in our opinion, in dangers to be a first victim are Dmitriy Parkhomenko (Metallurg Nk), Anatoly Emelin (Amur), Mike Krushelnyski (Vityaz), Barry Smith (SKA), and Sergei Nemchinov (CSKA)

WHERE THEY ARE PLAYING

Arenas of Continental Hockey League

#	City	Name	Team	Capacity
1	Saint Petersburg	Ice Palace	SKA	11439
2	Omsk	Arena-Omsk	Avangard	10318
3	Riga	Arena-Riga	Dynamo R	10300
4	Yaroslavl	Arena-2000	Lokomotiv	9070
5	Kazan	Tatneft-Arena	Ak Bars	8774
6	Moscow	Lyuzhniki	Dynamo M	8512
7	Ufa	Ufa-Arena	Salavat Yulaev	8250
8	Novokuznetsk	Sport Palace of Metallurgists	Metallurg, Nk	7533
9	Magnitogorsk	Arena Metallurg	Metallurg, Mg	7500
	Chelyabinsk	Ice Arena Traktor	Traktor	7500
11	Novosibirsk	Musical-Sport complex Sibir	Sibir	7384
12	Khabarovsk	Platinum-Arena	Amur	7100
13	Mytyshi	Ice Palace Arena-Mytyshi	Atlant	6434
14	Cherepovets	Municipal Ice Palace	Severstal	6044
15	Balashikha	Municipal Arena Balashikha	HC MVD	6000
16	Nizhni Novgorod	Sport Palace of Trade Unions	Torpedo	5600
	Moscow	Sport Ice Palace CSKA	CSKA	5600
18	Moscow	Sport Palace Sokolniki	Spartak	5530
19	Nizhnekamsk	Ice Palace	Neftekhimik	5500
20	Ekaterenburg**	Cultural-entertaining complex Uralets	Avtomobilist	4756
21	Astana	Sport Palace Kazakhstan	Barys	4079
22	Chekhov	Sport Palace Vityaz	Vityaz	3300
23	Minsk*	Sport Palace	Dynamo Minsk	3000
24	Togliatti	Sport Palace Volgar	Lada	2900

* - Minsk is in the process of building of new ice arena for World Championship 2014, that will have a capacity of 15000 seats.

** - Being reconstructed for additional capacity.

By KHL rules, the minimum capacity of home arena for any team is 5500 seats. However, the league never informed that law, just keep threatening Lada Togliatti of expelling. There are also some exceptions - for city with population less then 100000 people, the arena also could be less the minimum number. This rules is applied to Vityaz from small Moscow region city Chekhov.

INTERVIEW

04.09.2009

Dmitry Parkhomenko: We all have got tired of migration of hockey players

This summer the head coach of "Metallurgist" Novokuznetsk Dmitry Parkhomenko also had to perform functions of the general manager. He was responsible for a signing players for main "Metallurg", and also for junior team "Kuznetsk bears".

Parkhomenko was able to save most of the players from last season and, as result, they helped "Metallurg" to win its first tournament in six years, taking first place at Belosokhov's Memorial in Novosibirsk.

36-years Parkhomenko, thirds youngest coach in KHL, answered a few questions for league website.

- Dmitry, this summer was different for you team comparing to last years. It was quiet, this time "Metallurg" did not lose two dozens players and accordingly did not sign 20 new guys. What happened on the transfer market?

- There were enough free agents, but those lads were too expensive for our club. Also, we had many guys with contracts for the next season. In my opinion, everyone is very tired by annual players migration, when 15 new people were coming to the team, and same number are leaving each summer. At the end, we invited to Novokuznetsk goalie Alexander Viykhin, defencemen Artem Ternavsky and Irzhi Marushak. We also have a few players on temporary deals and will make evaluation on each individual after preseason games.

- What do you think about KHL changing format of regular season, moving teams to four divisions by geographical location?

- I think, during economic crisis this is valid decision. Now the teams will play more against opponents from nearest cities and save money on traveling.

- Did you received from club administration the main target for "Metallurg" for upcoming season?

- Officially it will be dome a few days before the season starts. For now we continue to prepare for our first game against Sibir Novosibirsk on September 11.

Facts from KHL Review: In 2008-09 Metallurg Novokuznetsk had a great start, however slowly team slipped in standing and finished 21 place with +17(5)-31-8 record, 24 points behind playoff zone. Parkhomenko took over head coach position in May, replacing legendary Boris Mikhailov, who decided not to extend his contract.

Prediction from KHL Review: Metallurg did not improve its line-up and basically did not have any chances to make playoff this year. As well, Parkhomenko is main candidate to become first fired coach in KHL in 2009-2010.

