Written by Dobber Thursday, 17 May 2007 03:05 - Last Updated Thursday, 17 May 2007 06:10

The Leafs signed Swedish defenseman Anton Stralman to a three-year entry-level contract. They had to sign him or he would go back into the draft. THN's Future Watch has him ranked as the sixth best Leaf prospect (not saying a lot) and he is still two to four years away from an NHL roster spot. It will be a year before he cracks my Top 200 fantasy prospects list.

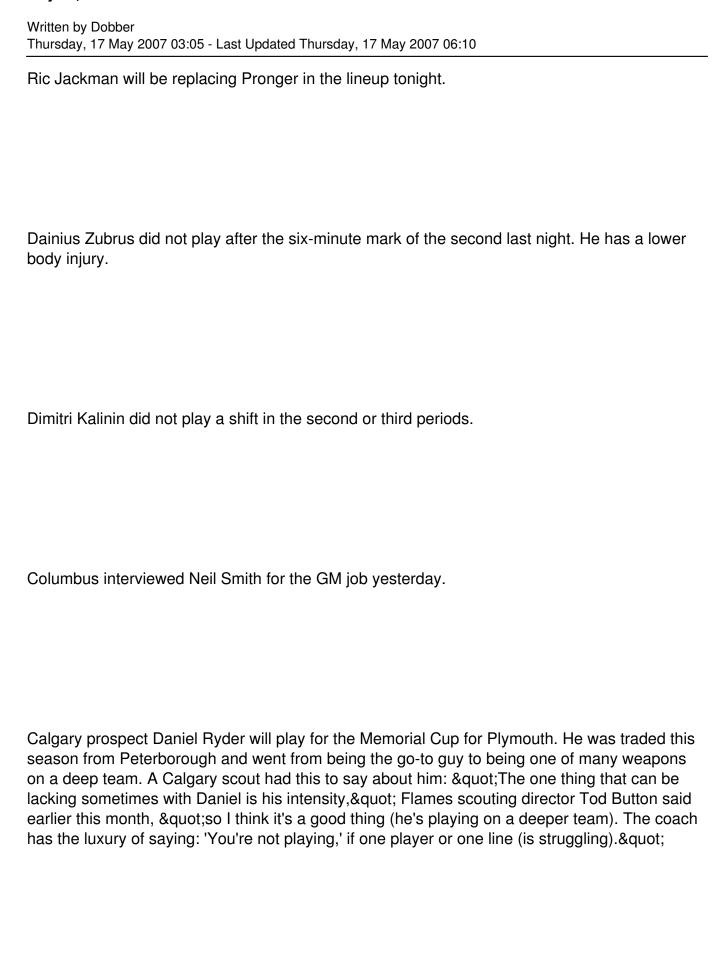
Andrew Ebbett, No. 159 on my fantasy prospects list, signed as a UFA last year with Ottawa. He just signed as a UFA with Anaheim for next year. Another Ryan Shannon/Andy McDonald small late-bloomer type.

Besides Toews and Backstrom signing yesterday, two other prospects signed: the Wild locked up Morten Madsen (174 on the Fantasy Prospect list) and the Stars signed Tom Wandell (324 on the list). Both of them were fifth-round picks in the 2005 entry draft and both needed to be signed by June 1 or they would have gone back into the draft.

The Blue Jackets traded blue line prospect Adam McQuaid to the Bruins for a fifth rounder. McQuaid has limited offensive potential, but should be a steady No. 5 guy in a few years. He was a second round pick in 2005.

Tampa Bay signed Andreas Karlsson, trumpetting it as this great move. Really the guy was a healthy scratch 15 times last year.

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Tampa Bay is also negotiating with Johan Holmqvist on a contract. Holmqvist is looking for a multi-year deal.