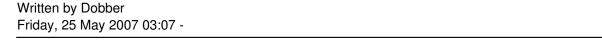


May 25, 2007



Columbus has signed 2005 draftee Kiril Starkov to a three-year entry-level contract. He's about four years away and ranks 294 on my fantasy prospects list.

They couldn't sign him last year, but they succeeded yesterday. The Anaheim Ducks signed rearguard Maxim Kondratiev to a contract. He played last year in Russia where he absolutely racked up the PIMs (142 in 51 games - very out of character for him). He has some offensive potential, but you won't see any of it until the team's Big 3 move on to other things.

Because the Red Wings will likely not re-sign Robert Lang, Valterri Filpulla will likely be their second-line center.

The Oilers may have an interest in trading for Jaroslav Spacek. They played the hell out of him when he was in Edmonton, but Buffalo hardly played him at all despite being their highest paid rearguard.