Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 21 March 2013 17:58 - Last Updated Friday, 22 March 2013 10:06
The latest Free Roll from Draft Street happens on Saturday at 2pm - Free to enter your team, takes about five minutes to pick your 10 players - and then pit them against the rest of Dobber Nation to win your share of \$300. Details Here!
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Mark Giordano has been a huge offensive disappointment this season. He had a goal and a helper last night against the Preds, but he has failed to live up to expectations (offensively) in 2013.
One reason for his drop in offense? <u>Dennis Wideman</u> . Giordano plays 2:17 on the PP per game (and 2:43 on the PK). Last year, he played 3:21 on the PP per game. Wideman has come in and taken his PP ice time (and then some).
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Keith Ballard played left wing last night, and he actually looked pretty good, too. The Canucks have a ton of injuries up front, and they didn't have any spare forwards lying around.
Pinizzotto would have played, but he has the flu. Higgins and Kassian both have minor back injuries. Kesler and Booth are out for a while.
Booth has an ankle sprain, and it doesn't sound like a good one. I wouldn't expect him back any time soon. Many times, a sprain is worse than a break (less of a "clean" recovery).
Alex Edler smoked Mike Smith behind the net, and was given five and a game for it. Smith stayed in the game for a bit, but then left.
It was a pretty reckless play on Edler's part – he is the furthest thing from a dirty player, so I'm not really sure what he was thinking.

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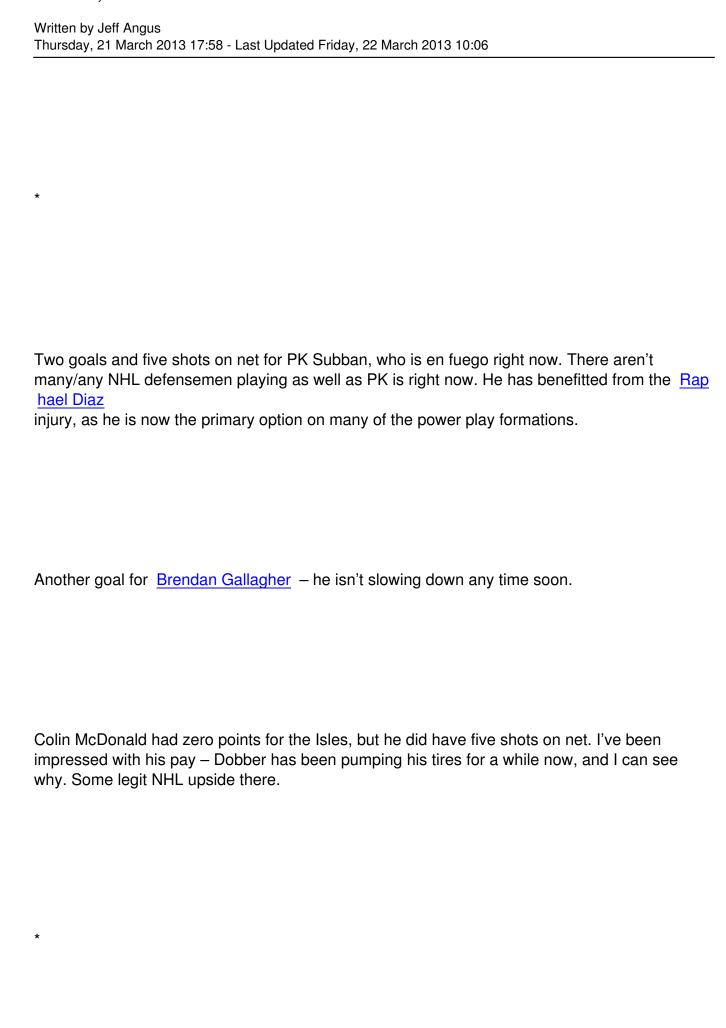
Thursday, 21 March 2013 17:58 - Last Updated Friday, 22 March 2013 10:06 Jordan Schroeder had an excellent game – after hitting the rookie wall during his first call up, he looks much better after some time down in the AHL. Hansen and Raymond were both very good on his wings – there isn't a faster line in hockey. Kari Lehtonen showed why he is one of the best goalies in hockey last night – Lehtonen posted a dominant 40-save shutout in LA. Alex Goligoski had a helper, and over a full 82 game season he projects to having over 40 assists (but still no goals). His play has been better as of late – I'd expect his numbers to really take off if and when the Stars can find an ideal defensive partner to put alongside him.

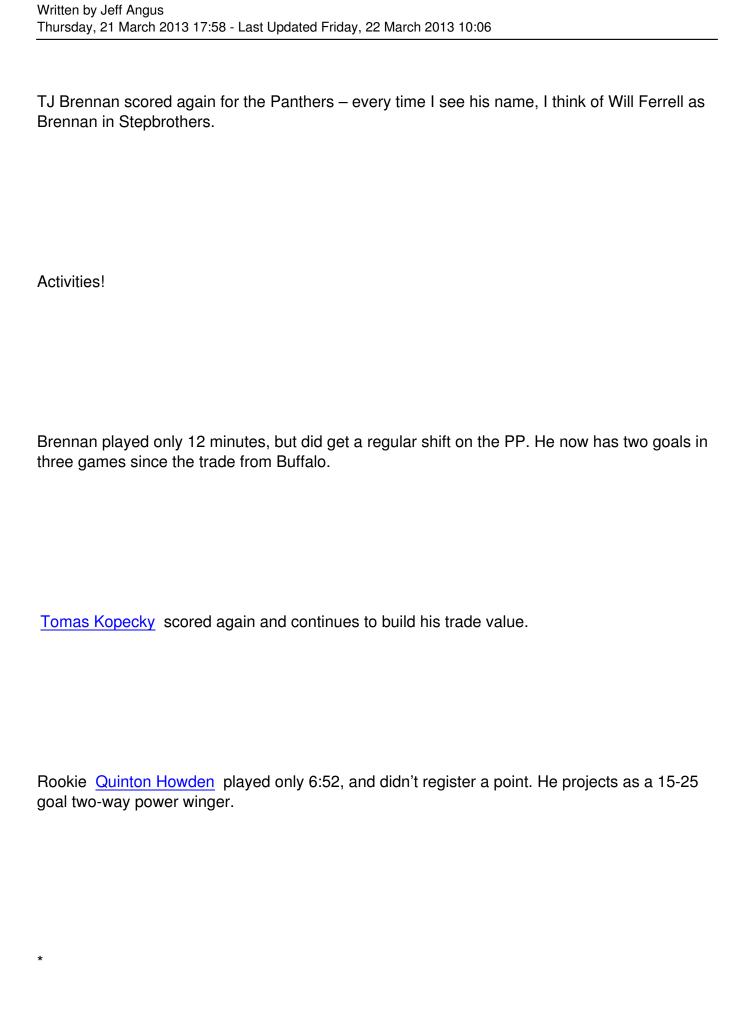
Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 21 March 2013 17:58 - Last Updated Friday, 22 March 2013 10:06 Dobber's latest for Puck Daddy. Under the duds category: Pekka Rinne, Nashville Predators (0-2-0, 5.23 GAA, 0.803 SV%, yanked twice) Nothing kills a good fantasy team more than a stud Top 3 goalie crapping the bed for four

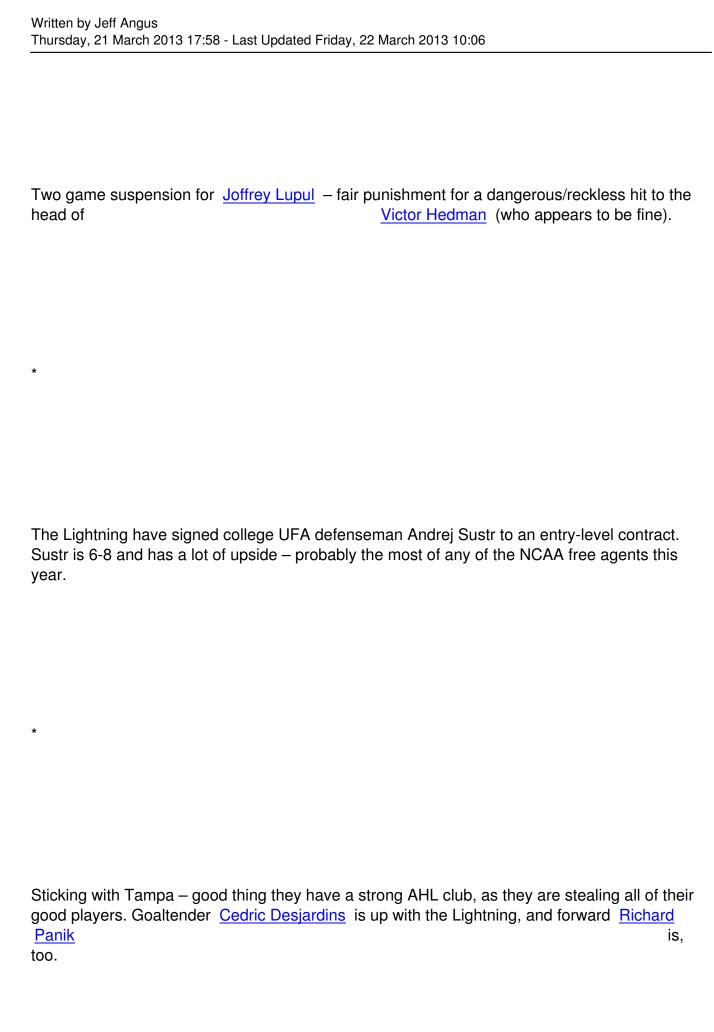
games. Because you don't even see it coming. There you are walking down the street and whistling a happy tune, when 'splat' - four seagulls fly by and drop some of the white stuff on you. Rinne had allowed one goal in three games...pushing a lot of fantasy teams to the top of

their league. Why on earth would you bench him after that? But then...this.

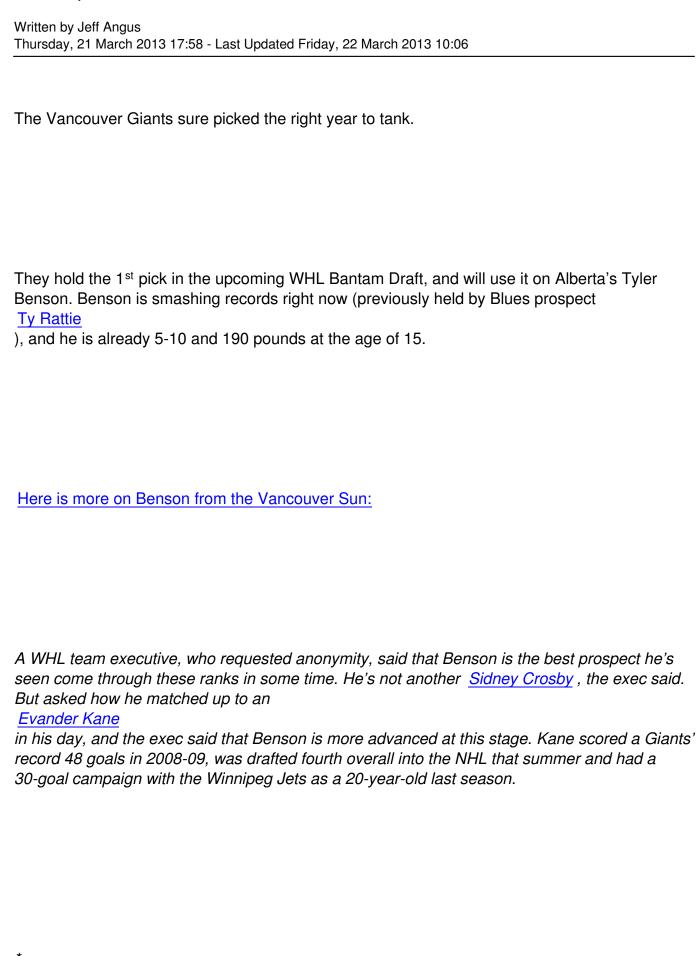








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Desjardins is up because Anders Lindback suffered a high ankle sprain. One of the worst injuries for a goalie to suffer – they take forever to heal.
When the Lightning acquired Desjardins in February it was rationalized explicitly with the thought that the team was more comfortable with Desjardins than with either Dustin Tokarski or Riku Helenius in the case of injury to Lindback or Mathieu Garon . And when Garon went down earlier this month, Desjardins was, in fact, the go-to guy.
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Here is a look at some potentially available defensemen at the deadline. I wrote it from a Canuck perspective but the same could be said for most contending/playoff teams.





Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 21 March 2013 17:58 - Last Updated Friday, 22 March 2013 10:06 Bobrovsky has been exactly that this season – a stud. Who out there has been rewarded with patiently holding on to him? Did any of our readers see this breakout season coming? An interesting read from the Washington Post – Ovechkin's move to right wing is finally paying off. It wasn't pretty at first. Ovechkin had no goals and just 11 shots as the Caps went 0-3 before the Great Eight convinced Coach Adam Oates to temporarily end the experiment and move him back to left wing. Washington then went 1-2-1, Ovechkin had just two goals (both power-play tallies) and the move back to right wing was made permanent.

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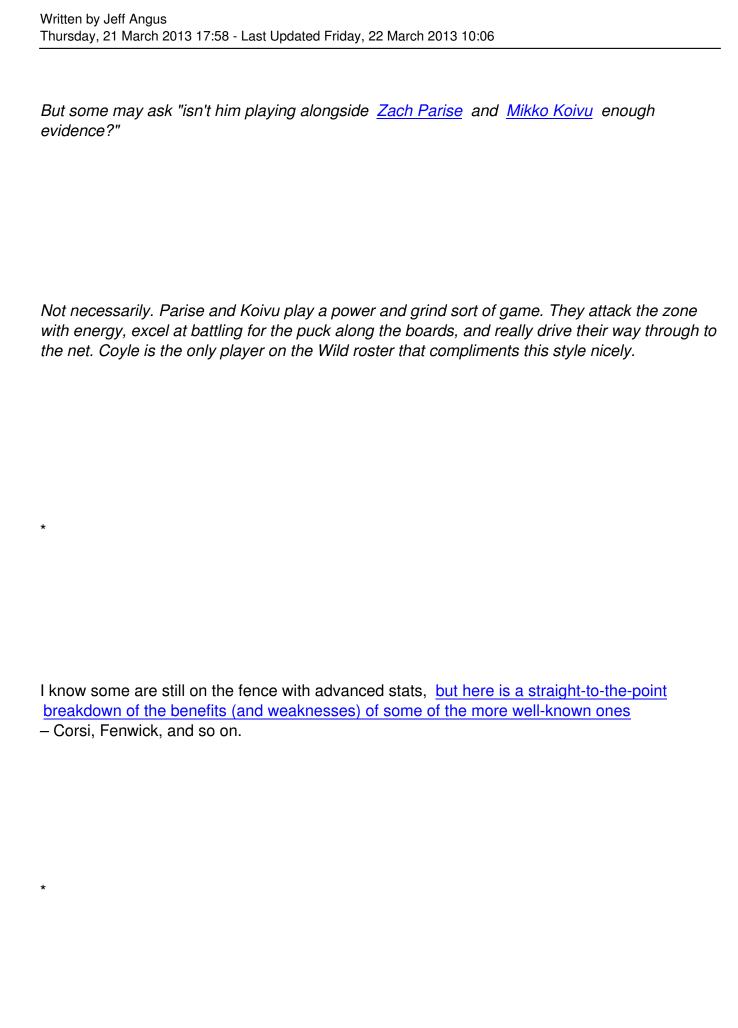
What is the problem with the Dallas defense? From a fantasy perspective, <u>Lehtonen owners</u> will want to read this.

At times this season, he has had the forwards from the Stars zone coverage playing much lower than one would typically expect. This aided the defensemen in coverage, gave them ample outlets for transition passes, and, unfortunately, led to opposing defensemen getting consistent uncontested shots on the Stars' net. One quick pass from down low back to the point, and the Stars' entire defensive scheme would go to hell.

*

Is Charlie Coyle already a <u>top line NHL forward?</u> A very interesting read from Hockey Wilderness:

While Coyle is a talented prospect that show flashes of dominance, he lacks ability to finish off his plays, which is a prerequisite for any top line forward. Not only do top line forwards need to start the play, they need the ability to come away with the puck and make a play that creates a scoring chance. Coyle has been inconsistent in that department.



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Marty Brodeur "scored" his third career NHL goal last night. I'll get the video up soon, but I am sure you can find it over at Youtube as well. Not quite like his other two, though...

Do any leagues out there reward goaltenders for offensive contributions (goals, as an example)? 10 points? 20?

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