Written by Jeff Angus Monday, 19 January 2009 05:01 - Last Updated Monday, 19 January 2009 11:02



Eric Maltais first approached me with regards to joining the Industry Experts League he was running in the summer of 2008. I jumped at the opportunity to join a league featuring writers and bloggers from the likes of TSN, Yahoo, Rotoworld, Rotowire, McKeen's Hockey; in other words the cream of the crop with regards to fantasy hockey on the internet. Maltais won the league last year, so I wanted to make sure that DobberHockey was going to be well represented in this league once again.

After floundering in the middle of the pack for the better part of the first 25 games, I have slowly climbed away from the pack and got as high as first place. Through January 14, I am sitting in third place; five back of the fantasyhockey.com representative, and three and a half back from Rocky of NHL.com. Maltais was near the top of the league for a while but has slipped a bit back to fifth place, although he is still very much in the thick of things as the stretch run begins.

## Fantasy Hockey Industry Experts League: Mid-Season Update

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The league has unlimited moves and I have made 45 up to this point, good for the second most in the league. A maximum games played level obviously exists as well, which adds an additional element of difficulty. Unlike the Dobber Experts League, the Industry Experts League features daily line changes.

On the trade front, there have been a few minor deals made over the past few weeks. Gus from McKeen's acquired Erik Cole at the end of December, sending Christian Ehrhoff to Fanball – Flowers. Cole has been red hot the past three weeks and he is currently making Gus look like a genius with this move. Maltais and Nick from Sports Forecaster made a deal in mid December. Maltais received Pierre-Marc Bouchard and John-Michael Liles (a fan of the hyphenated first name I suppose), sending away Martin Havlat and Fedor Tyutin. Maltais was definitely selling high on the injury-prone Havlat, but Bouchard has been a huge disappointment thus far.

The most recent significant trade in this league occurred in early November, as Sergei Fedorov, Jakub Voracek, Andrew Brunette, and Jeff Drouin-Deslauriers were exchanged for Nikolai Kulemin, Dan Cleary, Fabian Brunnstrom, and Cristobal Huet. At this point the trade basically breaks down as Fedorov/Voracek/Brunette for Cleary and Huet. It was made between NHL.com and fantasyhockey.com, which is significant because those two sit as second and first respectively in league standings.

The lack of trading is not reflective on the league activity though, as there are lots of daily roster additions and a quick frenzy to add the latest call-up or trade bait.

I am welcoming back Roberto Luongo (my first round pick) with open arms, as I am lagging behind in the wins category. I made a few offers for goalies (Turco and Fleury), but was unable to pry a goalie away without giving one up, which I just couldn't afford to do.

Full Standings Through January 14

	Offense					Goaltending					
Rank	Team	<u>G</u>	<u>A</u> <u>+/-</u>	<u>PIM</u>	PPP	SOG	W	<u>GAA</u>	SV%	<u>2</u>	
1	fantasyhockey.com	Ev	217	319	100	482	209	1885	38	2.43	0.913
2	NHL.com All-Stars	21	7 306	5 9	506	204	191	6 44	2.4	5 0.9	15
3	DobberHockey - Ar	<u>igus</u>	186	333	71	695	181	1810	26	2.41	0.923
4	Rotoworld 181	343	27	631	192	1717	50	2.53	0.914		
5	<b>DobberHockey Mal</b>	<u>tais</u>	159	326	-38	589	200	1728	48	2.51	0.917

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6
    TSN.ca
               191
                      316
                               8
                                   569
                                          189
                                               1741
                                                        49
                                                             2.68 0.907
 7
    Rotowire - Levine
                                                                 25
                        211
                               346
                                      -21
                                            569
                                                   218
                                                        1911
                                                                      2.92 0.901
 8
    Sports Forecaster
                        187
                               291
                                       90
                                             499
                                                   147
                                                         1810
                                                                 36
                                                                       2.6 0.908
 9
    Fanball - Flowers
                        176
                               320
                                            724
                                                   164
                                                        1652
                                                                 37
                                                                      2.87 0.904
                                       92
10
    Y! Romig
                194
                       287
                              -10
                                     468
                                           201
                                                 1719
                                                         44
                                                              2.72 0.905
11
     Rotowire - Topper
                         172
                               291
                                       46
                                             481
                                                    178 1770
                                                                 34
                                                                      2.75 0.909
12
    mckeenshockey.com
                           167
                                  293
                                         -34
                                               469
                                                      176 1701
                                                                    41
                                                                         2.73 0.904
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Looking at the numbers (which every fantasy hockey junkie loves to do), there are a few interesting things to note.

- Levine sits dead last in every single goalie category, but thanks to impressive offensive totals currently sits in seventh place.
- If I have any chance at winning this pool, I need to get some wins. I am still picking my games carefully, as I want to keep my first place hold on both GAA and SV%. Luongo's return will no doubt help me, as I was running with Bryzgalov and whoever the hot hand was (Craig Anderson, Brian Elliot, and countless others) in his absence
- Maltais is dead last in goals but near the top in assists. Might be time to get some players to bury all those passes!
- It will be interesting to see if a few more deals get made with some large disparities forming across all of the categories

The Experts are:

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Eric Maltais - Dobber Hockey

Jeff Angus - Dobber Hockey

Ray Flowers - Fanball

Scott Cullen - TSN

Ian Gooding - FantasyHockey.com

Jan Levine - Rotowire

John Topper - Rotowire

Gus Katsaros - McKeens Hockey

Matt Romig – Yahoo! Sports

Michael Finewax - Rotoworld

Nicolas Chabot - The Sports Forecaster

Rocky Bonnano - NHL.com