

August 26, 2012

Written by Chris Nichols

Saturday, 25 August 2012 23:54 -

This is, hopefully, a first for DH writership. A Ramblings posted from an admitted overnight hospital bed after a wild day that included a serious chest pain-induced, doctor's office-insisted 911 call; followed by an ambulance ride (with several doses of nitro spray and a paramedic who wasn't a hockey fan) that surely has the neighborhood talking and an afternoon and evening filled with drawn blood, urine samples and a multitude of tests.

First, the good news. The USADA has officially dropped the fantasy writer doping charges. So glad to be done with that charade. They've been after me for years – claiming those consecutive nights of in-season live blogging couldn't be achieved without performance-enhancing drugs. Not only were they dead-wrong, but they really had no jurisdiction on the case. Weird. I wonder if that's the first time that's happened with that agency?

Secondly, there really is no bad news. Not yet, anyway. All of that first paragraph seriously happened. I'm writing from a hospital bed right now. No substantial change in how my chest feels, but every single test has come back clean. Everything is basically normal. Except for the whole 'left side of the chest feels like I was kicked by a horse' thing.

Sure, I could have skipped Ramblings this week. But where's the fun in that? As long as the

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fingers are willing and the heart continues to beat, the show must go on. #gamer
#donottrythisathome

[A story out of Russia](#) suggests that if (when?) there is a lockout, Dynamo will try to get Alex Ovechkin. Dynamo general manager Andrey Safronov said, "We will talk with Ovechkin. It will be up to the head coach." Ovechkin spent four seasons with the team before beginning his NHL journey and let's go out on a limb and guess that if the only thing standing between Ovechkin and a spot on Dynamo's roster were the coach saying yes, the coach would say HELL YES! Count on a ravenous Ovi wherever he plays.

Speaking of the Caps, the team's web site [has an interview](#) with Michal Neuvirth where he clears the air on that recent Czech site disaster. Basically, he says things were severely lost in translation. What a surprise. Neuvirth said "there was some misunderstanding" and that the Czech Web site "change my meaning a lot. . . . I was talking about the boys in a good way. In case you missed it, [these were my thoughts](#) in defending Neuvirth when that story first broke. I haven't actually been able to watch the Neuvirth video yet. Hospital WiFi apparently is like hotel WiFi - awful.

Not a shocker here, but with Nicklas Lidstrom gone the Wings are going to need increased efforts across the board on D. Included in that bunch will be Kyle Quincey, who sees an opportunity to [play a bigger role](#) with the team. The guy definitely has offensive skills and passing last year's total of 26 points (split between the Avs and Wings) should be reasonable. Considering he only had three points in 18 starts with the Wings, it's all but guaranteed he'll pass that particular pace in Detroit. As of today, the Wings would seemingly use Niklas Kronwall and Ian White on PP1. Quincey would then man the second unit, but don't discount his ability to sneak in with the first group.

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It's all about hockey now for Taylor Fedun and he couldn't be happier to have [femur rehab behind him](#). He was back on skates (gingerly) in February and now basically begins back at Square One in terms of proving himself with the Oilers. While that may be true, the guy has already proven he has heart. Tough road to come back from something like that, but he's done it.

We've seen mostly all positive in terms of the NHL's return to Winnipeg and a new report indicates the area should be fine to support both the NHL and CFL [for years and years to come](#).

Loved this quote from that article: "Everybody in the country knows you guys feel much better about yourselves right now. There's a nice glow over Winnipeg when you fly over it."

Twitter has actually been an excellent forum to soak up the enthusiasm Winnipeg's return brought last season. From players to reporters to fans in attendance, virtually every single home game had a plethora of excited tweets where you could really feel the passion, regardless of how far away you were. Let's hope it's not January before we hear the 'Peg's vocal cheers again.

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There was really nothing else pressing I saw cruising through my news sources and the nurse has to put in a new IV... so that'll end this particular Ramblings. Since most of my other posts are two or three times longer than the suggested length, this should be cool for tonight. Cut me some slack on this one, k?

From where will next week's post originate? Stay tuned...

Twitter: [@Nichols_NHLPool](#) *NHL news, analysis & fantasy takes with minimal inane babble.*

Weekday [Hockey Hearsay blogs](#) on Sportsnet.ca, 12 months a year.

Fresh Ramblings each Sunday.