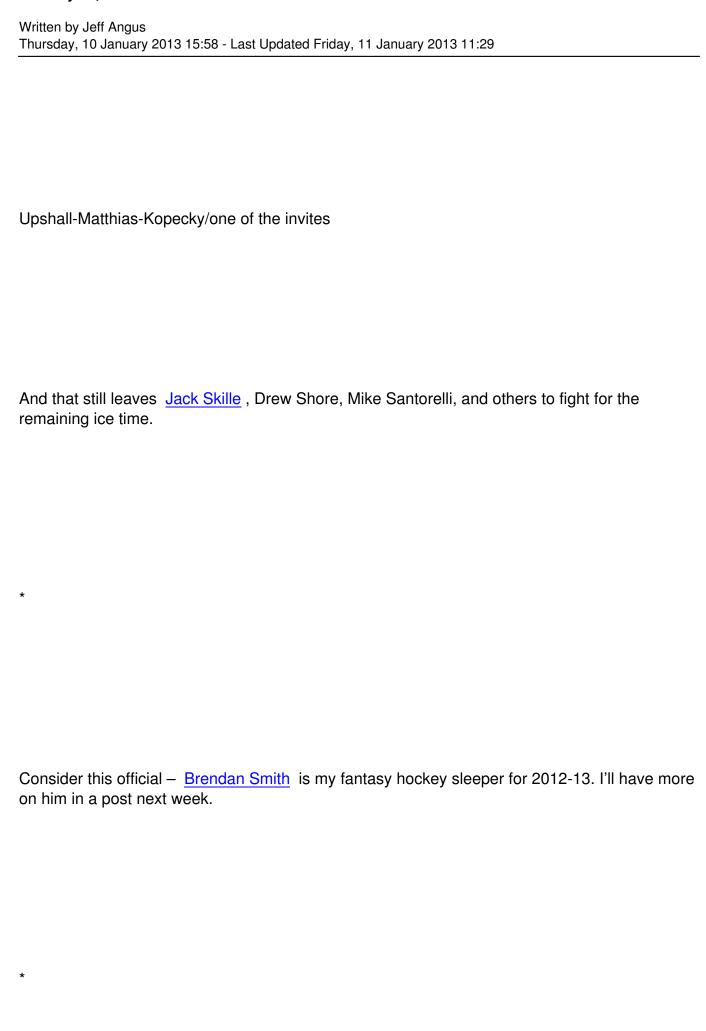
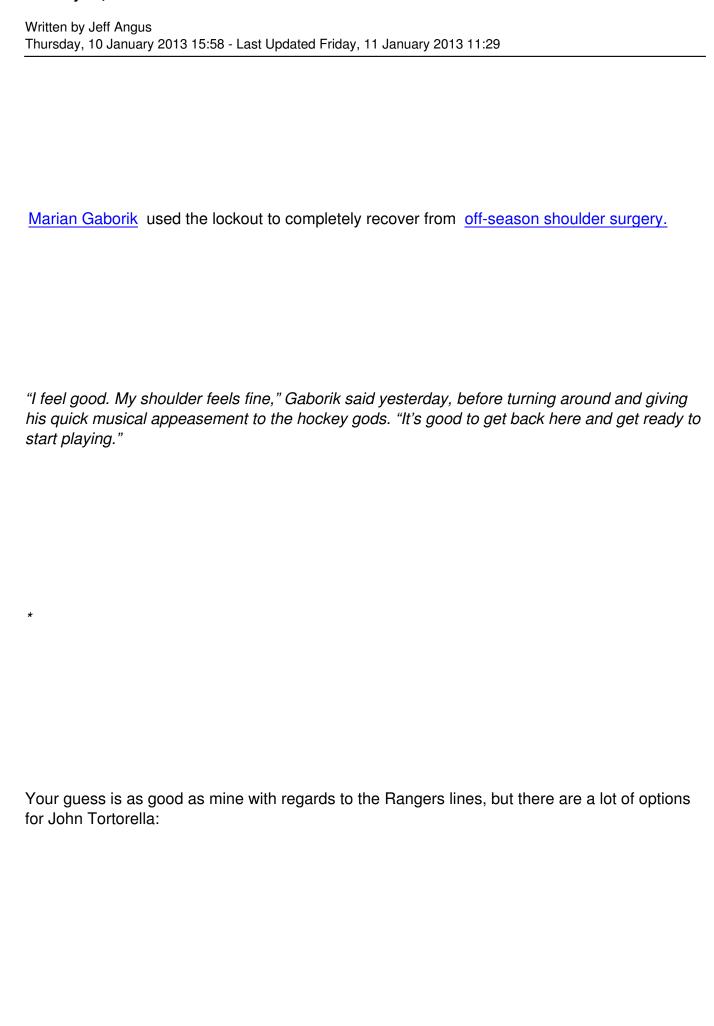


Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 10 January 2013 15:58 - Last Updated Friday, 11 January 2013 11:29
Murray, who was far more physical and had a much better shot, won the Selke Trophy as the league's top defensive player at age 23, something we wouldn't be surprised to see matched by O'Reilly.
*
"When should I pick a goalie?" Without a doubt, that is one of the most common questions I get asked pertaining to fantasy hockey. There is no one answer, but I have tried three different strategies over the years.
1) Draft early. Load up on a superstar goalie and another really good goalie. This means two goalies within the first three rounds. This strategy may cost you some player categories, but it usually gives you top of the league goaltending. The downside is the year-to-year fluctuations that come with goalies (which is what makes the consistent guys like Luongo and Lundqvist so valuable).

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In a shortened season, I'd highly advise to grab two elite goalies. Goaltending is going to be so important this season.
2) Wait until the run on goalies starts, and then join in. The upside to this - you can usually get a good goalie later than if you started the goalie run yourself, but you also may end up with a goalie you don't really have all that much faith in.
3) Ignore goalies until the end of the draft. This may work for some people, but not me. I hate having bad goaltending. I also trust my ability to spot waiver wire bargains at forward and defense way more than my ability to do the same with goaltenders.
*
Say you are picking fifth overall in a one-year league. I'd advise picking Lundqvist (assuming Crosby, Malkin, and Stamkos are gone), grab a forward on the way back, and then go for another goalie in round three. Just an example, of course.

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The Panthers have reportedly extended training camp invites to <u>Alex Kovalev</u> , <u>Marek Svatos</u> and
Andrei Kostitsyn Those three would join an already large collection of forwards in Florida.
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Some potential line combinations:
Versteeg-Weiss-Fleischmann (the top line stays together)
Mueller-Huberdeau-Kovalev/Svatos/Kostistyn (lots of options)





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•	Jeff Angus 10 January 2013 15:58 - Last Updated Friday, 11 January 2013 11:29
Rick Nas	sh - Brad Richards - Carl Hagelin

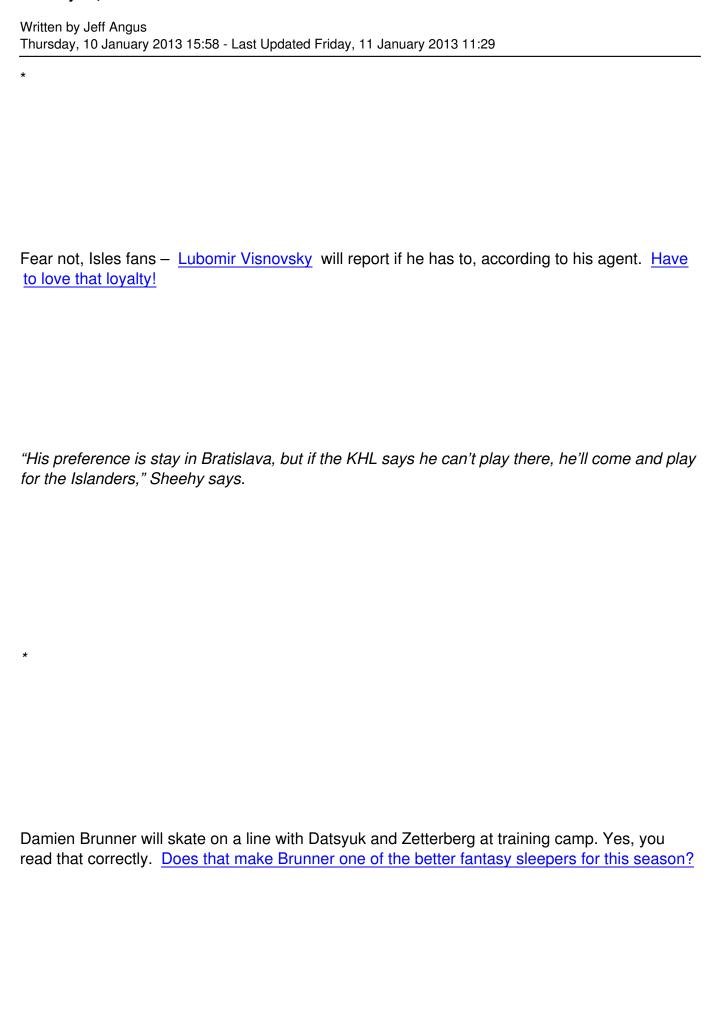
Chris Kreider – <u>Derek Stepan</u> – <u>Marian Gaborik</u>

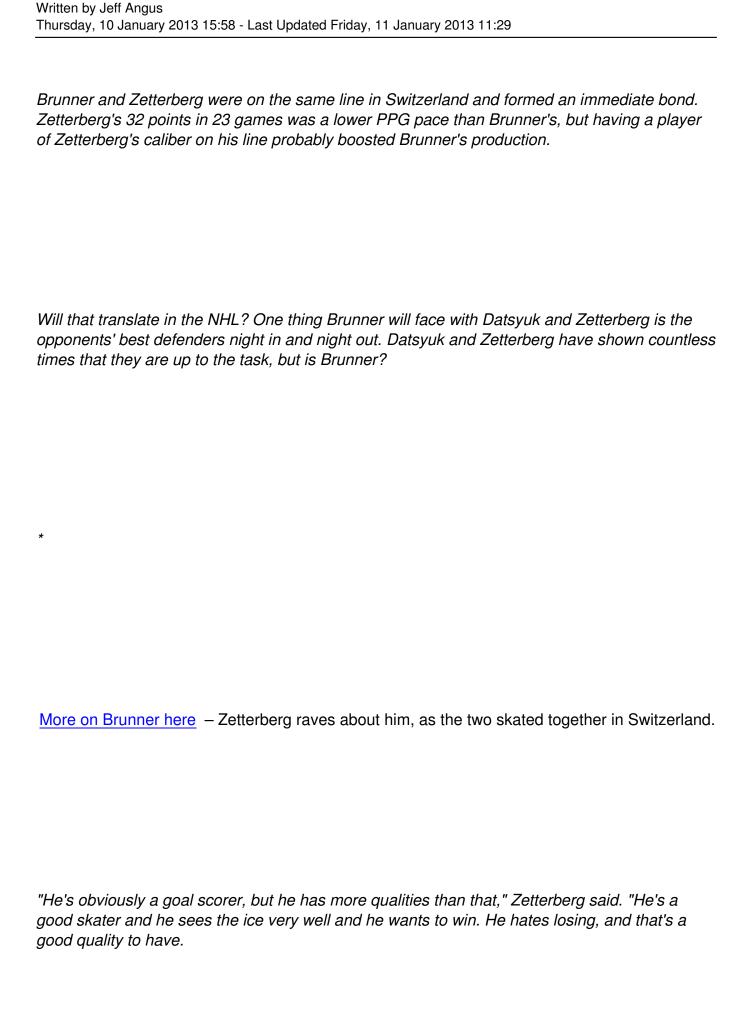
<u>Taylor Pyatt</u> – <u>Brian Boyle</u> – <u>Ryan Callahan</u>

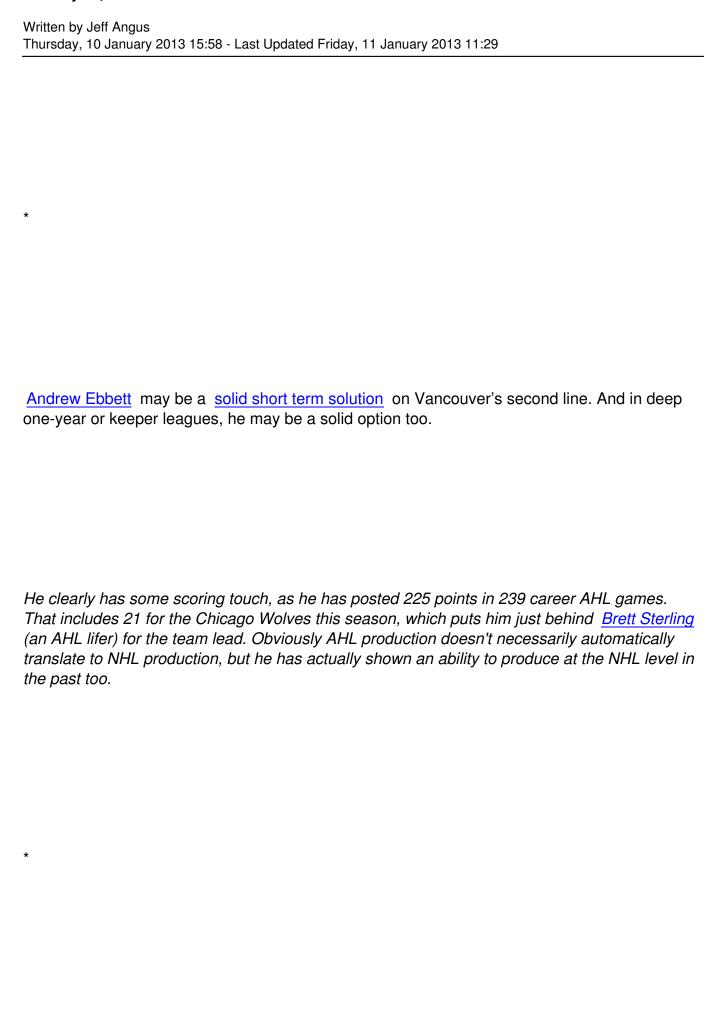
Pretty nice looking top nine right there.

Will Alex Galchenyuk make it beyond game six? The NHL has shortened the time that a

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prospect can play in the league before getting sent back down from 10 games (during a regular season) to six games (during the condensed season).
I think Galchenyuk will make Montreal's roster in some capacity. How about you?
*
Keith Ballard and Paul Martin kept busy during the lockout:
{youtube}leQZMJrYHy4{/youtube}







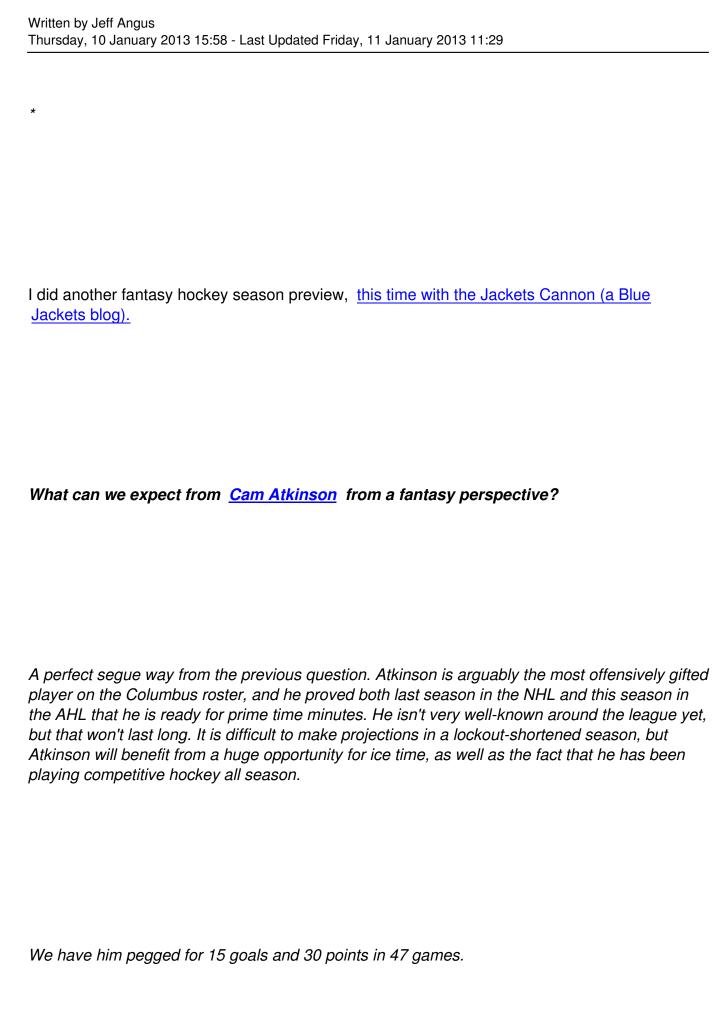
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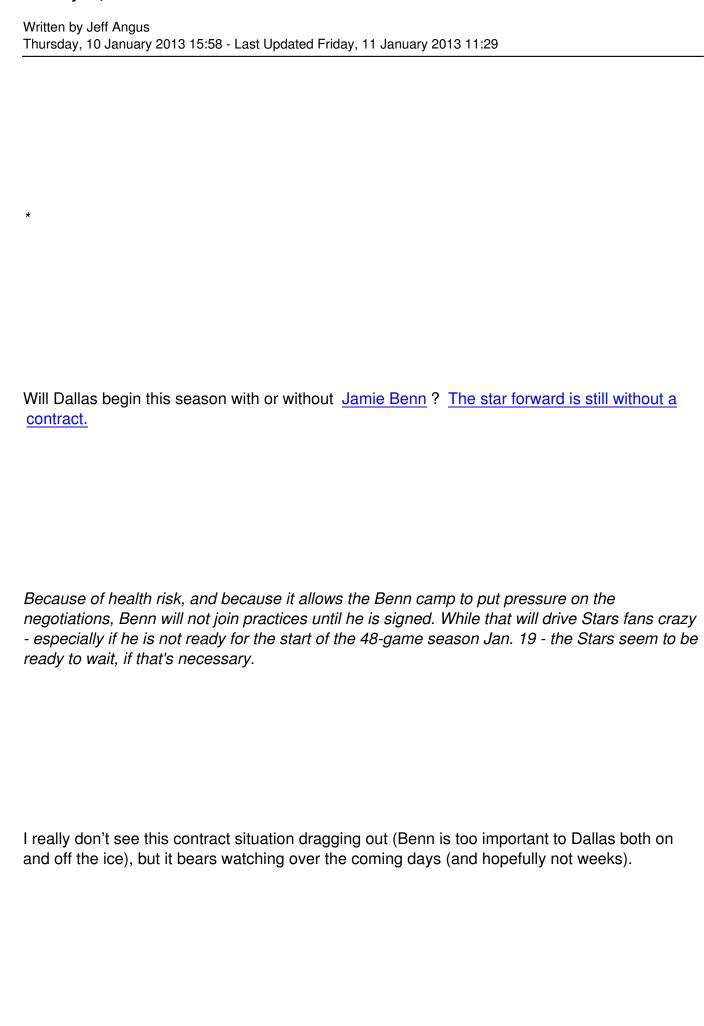
<u>It's a start – the Penguins offer free concession items and half-off merchandise for the first four home games of 2013.</u>

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A look at the Toronto Maple Leafs as they head into the 2013 season with a new GM at the helm. This is a really comprehensive look at how Toronto stacks up at every position. An excerpt:

The other great hope at center was <u>Joe Colborne</u> who was picked up from Boston in the Kaberle trade. At the time I didn't know much about Colborne but when I looked at his numbers I was underwhelmed but lots of people thought he had a ton of potential so I kept an optimistic view of him. But two years later and he is struggling big time with the Marlies and his status as a prospect center for the top 2 lines is all but gone. The only hope for Colborne now is he can learn to play defense and become a big, strong, defensive third line center not unlike what <u>Manny Malhotra</u> has done with his career but that is probably being too optimistic.







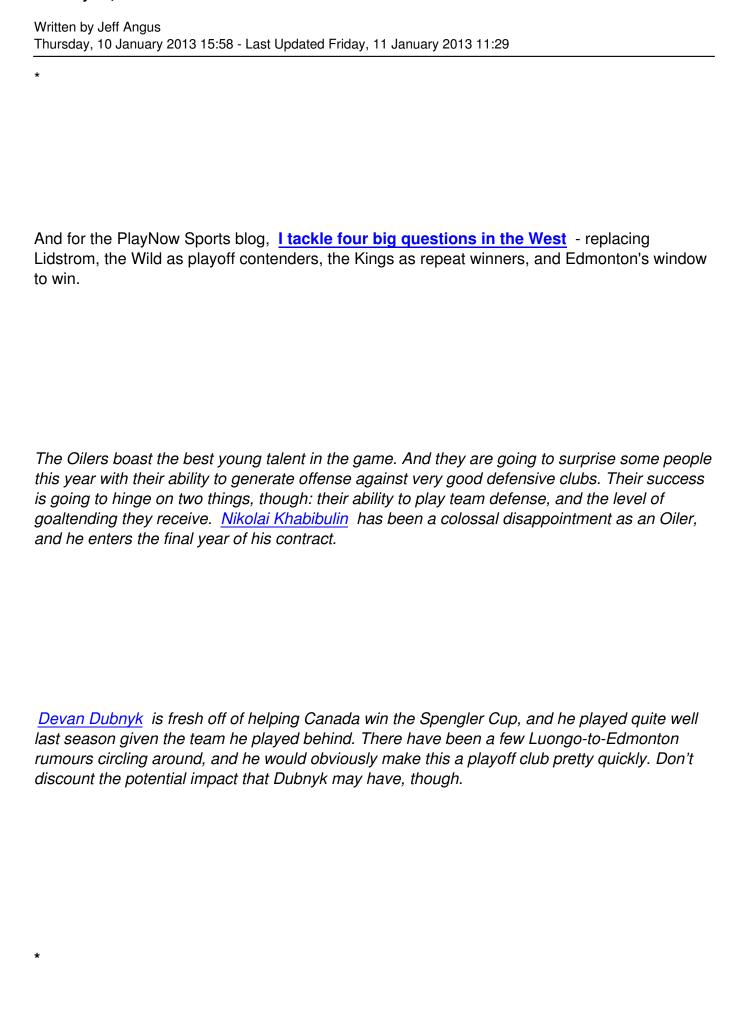
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In terms of overall playing style, the two men are quite similar in their philosophies. Nonis is also familiar with Randy Carlyle, who he hired to coach the Manitoba Moose a few years ago. Nonis is more soft-spoken and a bit more patient than Burke, as well. He made reference to this patience during his press conference, and I wonder if it was a subtle way of saying he wouldn't have made the Phil Kessel trade?

*

I take some Canucks-related questions in <u>this mailbag edition</u> of my Canucks Army weekly piece. My thoughts on Luongo, the second line, and the overall expectations for the team in 2013.

Fans are entering the season with a "Cup or bust" mentality, and I don't blame them. The Canucks are a talented team at all three positions, they have experience in big games, and they will be playing a lot of games against the weakest division in hockey in 2013. So many factors go into postseason success (namely health and goaltending), but Vancouver should be considered a cup favourite once again.



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