

Written by Jeff Angus Friday, 01 February 2013 13:59 - Last Updated Saturday, 02 February 2013 00:53

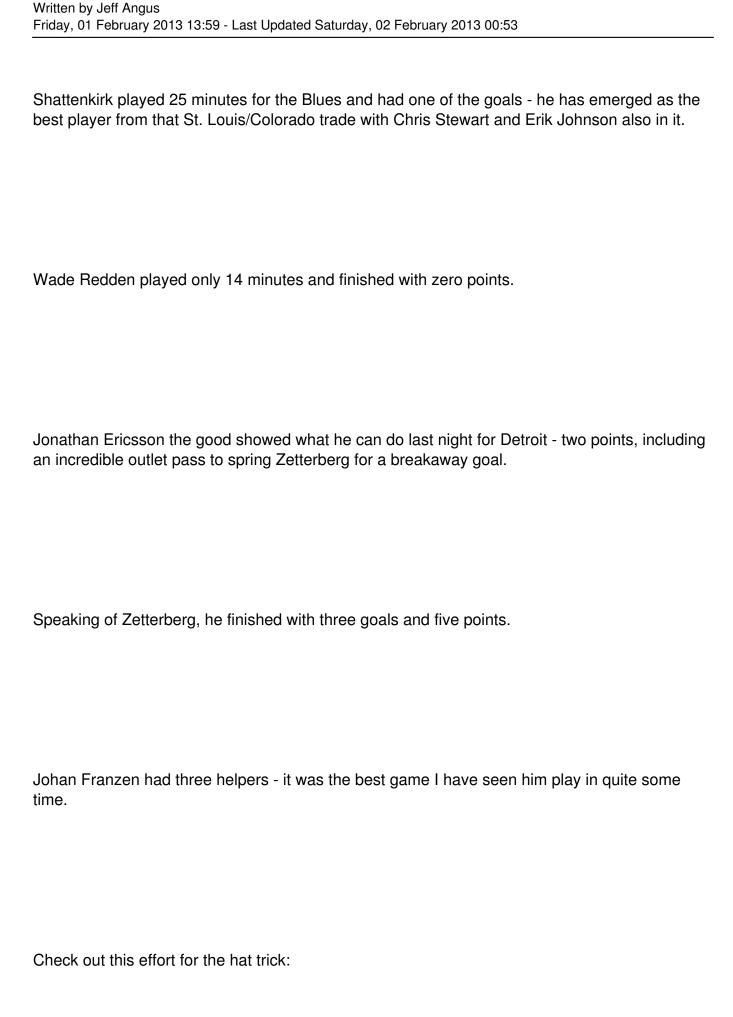
The Gordie Howe hat trick for Dallas defenseman Brenden Dillon last night. I interviewed Dillon last summer and followed his career during his time in Seattle in the WHL - has some offensive upside, and plays a nasty game on the back end. Paired with Robidas on the shut down pairing right now.

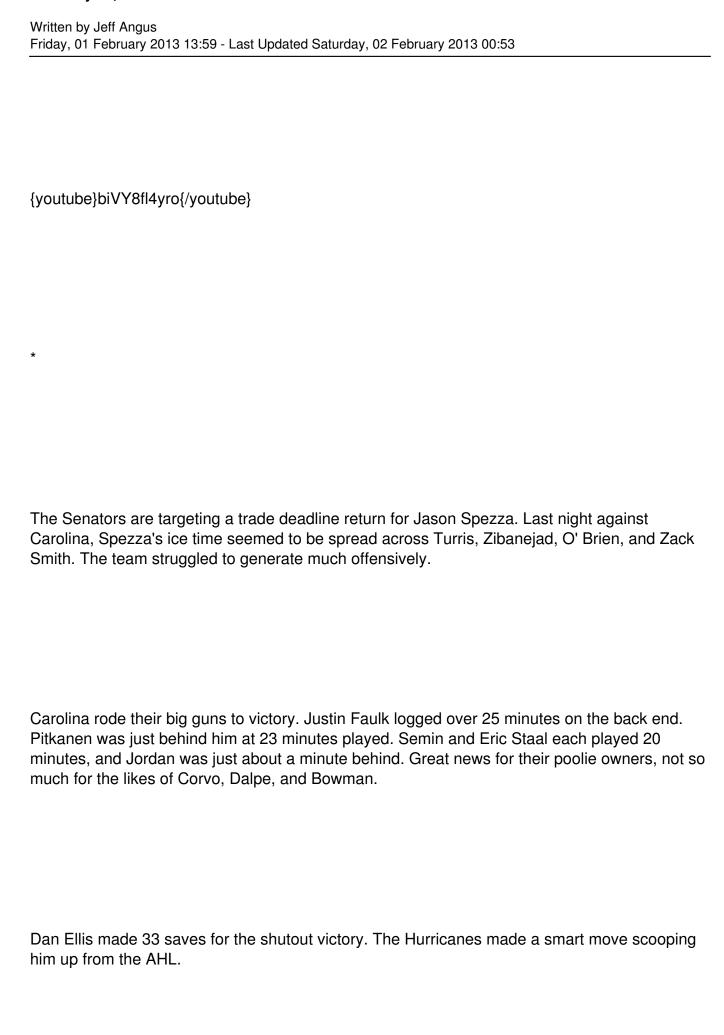
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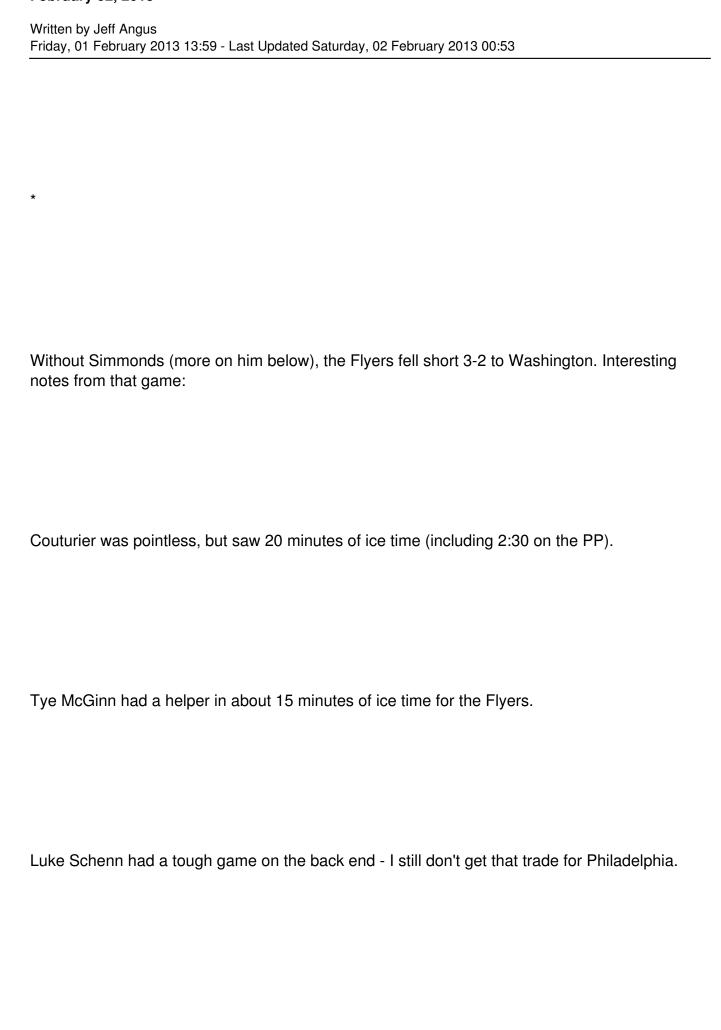
Boston prospect Ryan Spooner is inching closer to NHL duty. He had a goal and three assists last night for the Providence Bruins - Spooner is a dynamic forward - not really sure where he would fit in with the Bruins right now, but he would add a lot in a depth scoring role and on the power play.

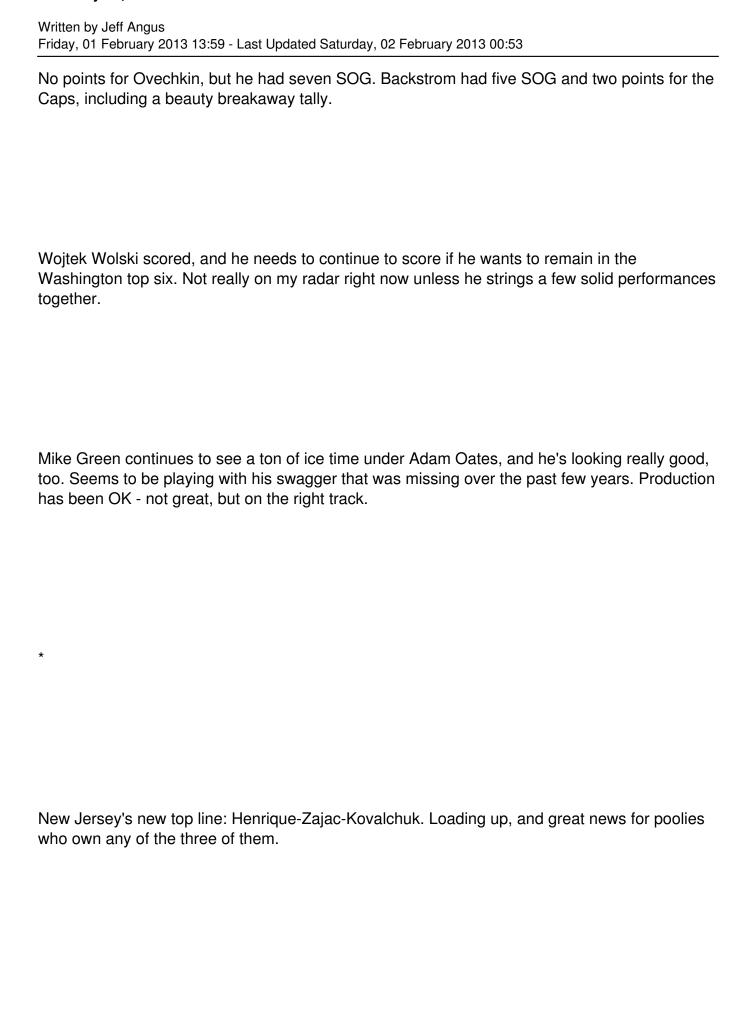
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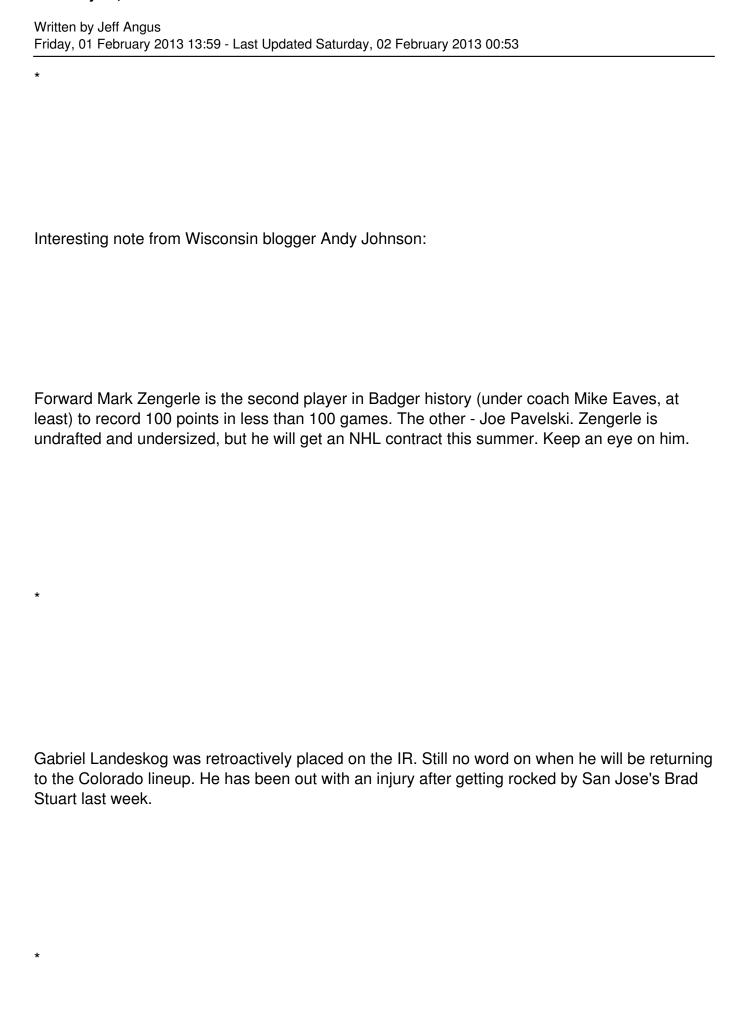
Great multi-cat game from David Backes, who was tossed for a hit to the head on Kent Huskins (bad call). Backes ended with one assist, five SOG, and 12 PIM.

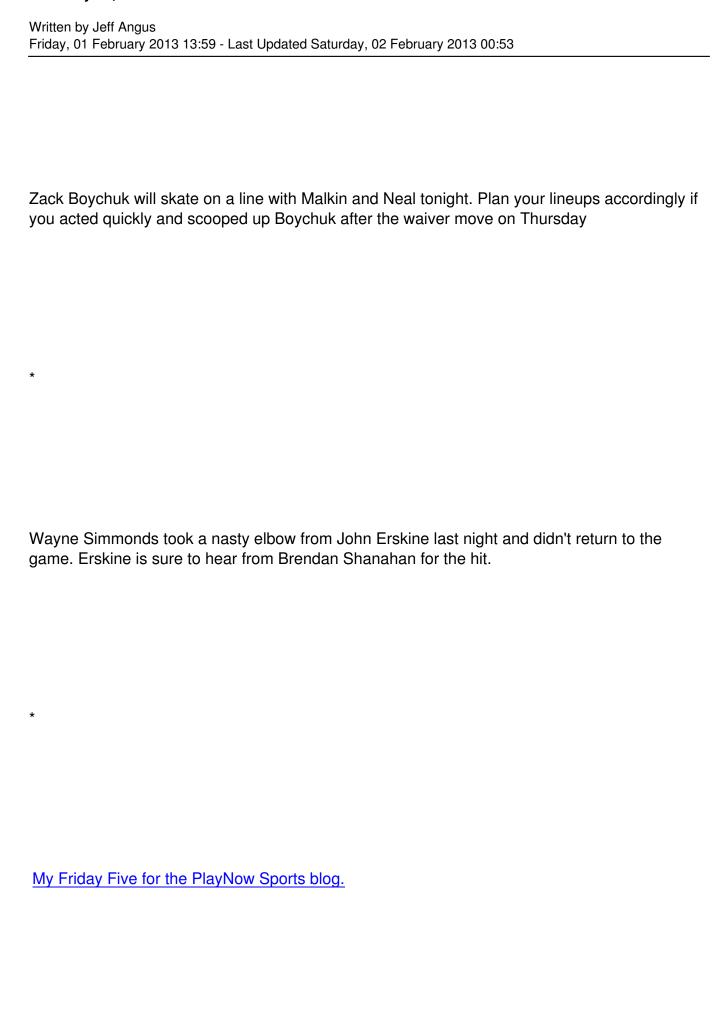












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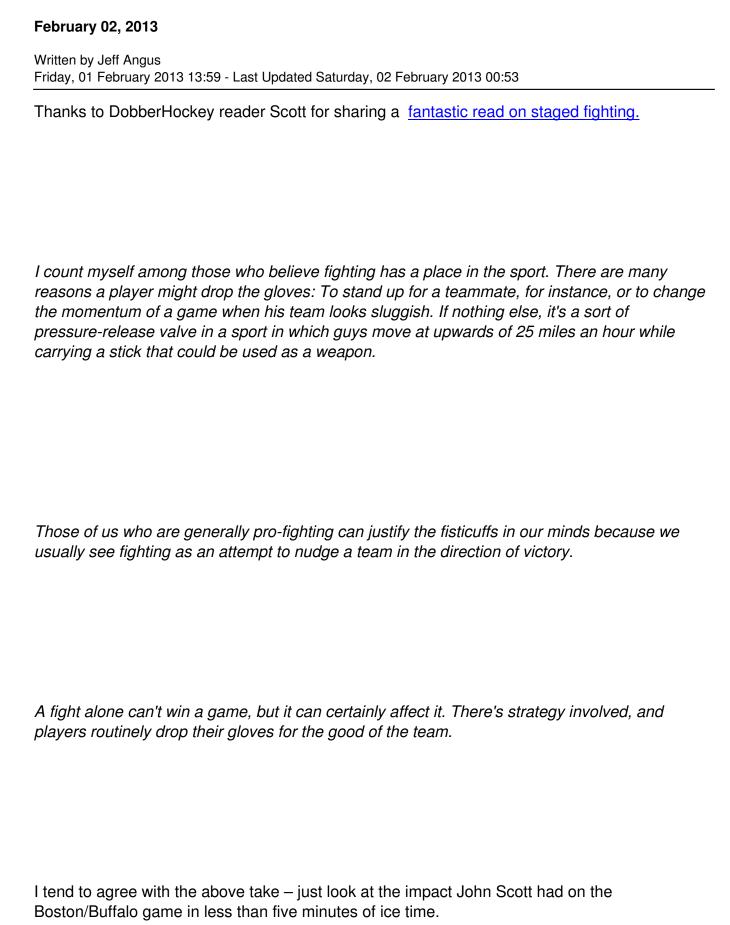
There were some rumours during the lockout that Edmonton had expressed interest in Roberto Luongo, but Dubnyk has quieted those trade winds – for now. The Oilers would love nothing more than for him to emerge as a bona fide starting goaltender. He would be able to grow and develop with the young core, and his reasonable salary cap hit would give GM Steve Tambellini some flexibility when it comes time to re-sign the likes of Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Justin Schultz.

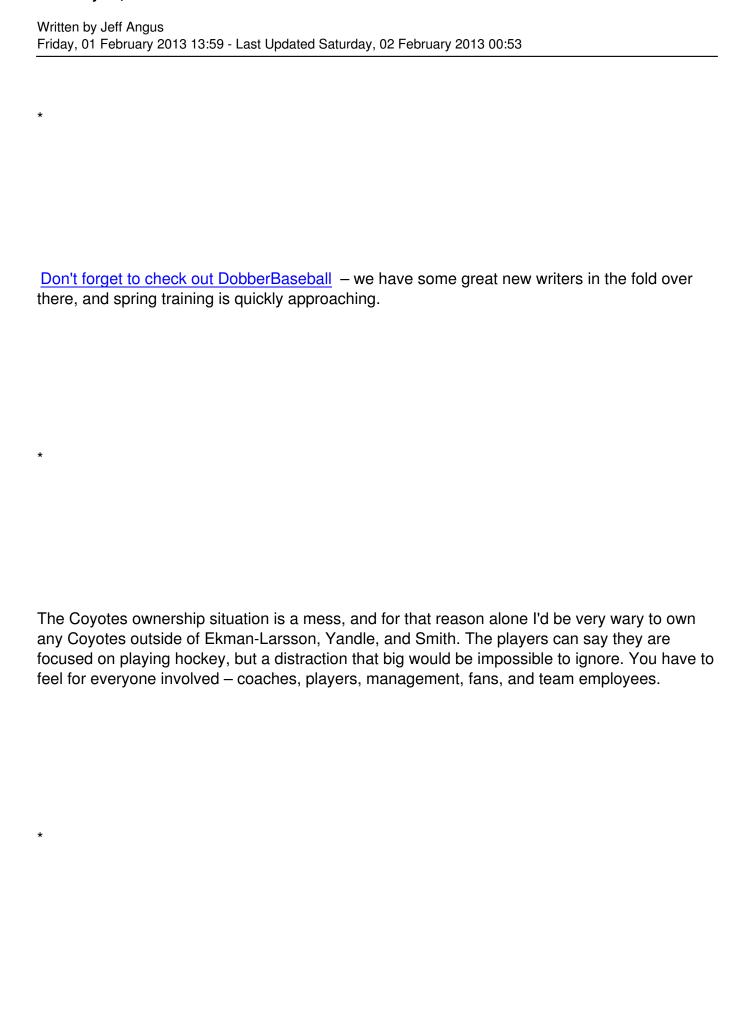
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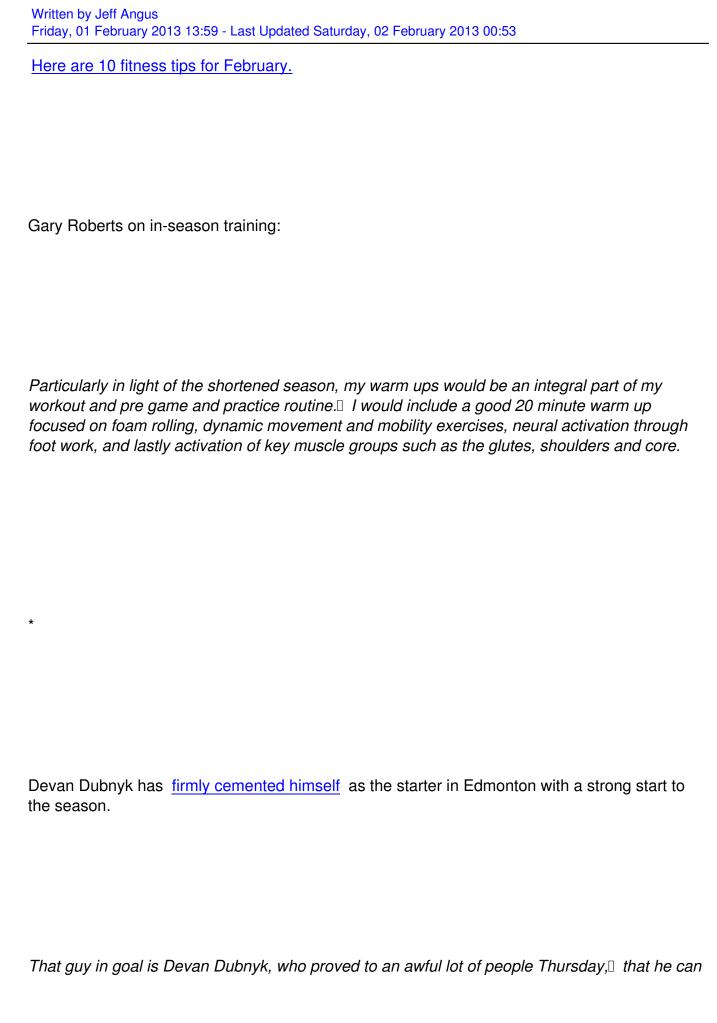
First of the season for Backstrom - nice move on the breakaway:

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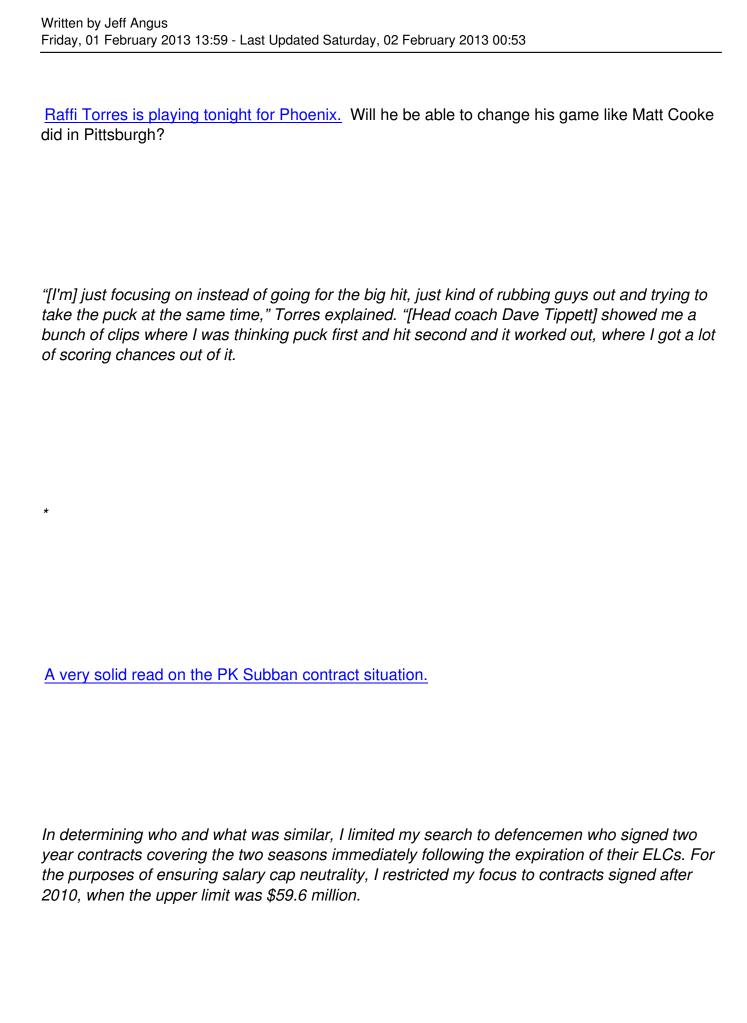
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be a starting NHL goalie. I know it's only seven games into this 48-game season but Thursday's game with the unbeaten Sharks (7-0) was an acid test for Dubnyk because he had beaten the Phoenix Coyotes 2-1 in overtime one night earlier and was probably tired. Dubnyk stared down one of the best teams in the league on short rest and was stunningly good, early and late, before Michal Handzus worked his shootout magic for the Sharks. Handzus is 18 for 34 lifetime on shootouts. The Zamboni might be faster in five-on-five situations but Zeus might be the best shootout player ever with his ridiculously long reach.

Logan Couture with some 'Kaepernicking' after his goal against Edmonton on Thursday evening:

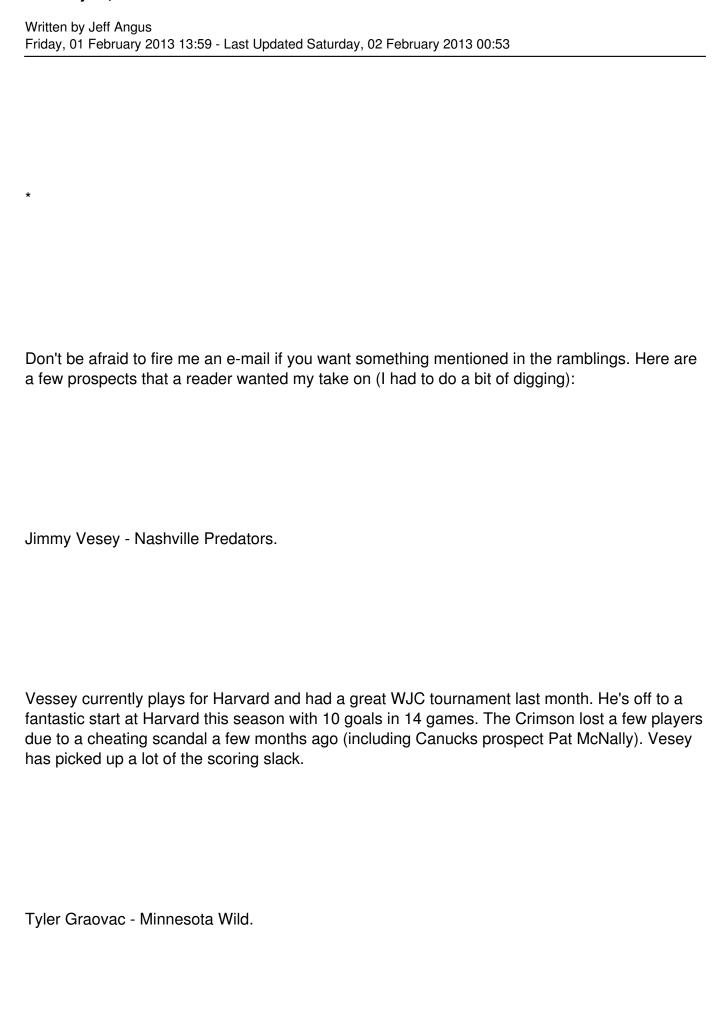
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Here are the top 5 most expensive contracts of this type by AAV. Subban's contract tops the list:
P.K. Subban (Montreal Canadiens): 2 years/\$5.75M (\$2.875 AAV)
Erik Johnson (St. Louis Blues): 2 years/\$5.2M (\$2.6 AAV)
Michael Del Zotto (New York Rangers): 2 years/\$5.1M (\$2.55 AAV)
Dimitri Kulikov (Florida Panthers): 2 years/\$5M (\$2.5 AAV)
Zach Bogosian (Winnipeg Jets): 2 years/\$5M (\$2.5 AAV)
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Dustin Byfuglien missed his second straight game with a lower body injury last night for the Jets.



February 02, 2013 Written by Jeff Angus Friday, 01 February 2013 13:59 - Last Updated Saturday, 02 February 2013 00:53 Graovic is having a fantastic season in the OHL - he was recently traded from Ottawa to Belleville, and he has 24 goals in 39 games split between the two teams. Minnesota has a ton of quality forward prospects (Granlund, Zucker, Phillips, Coyle), and they can be very patient with players like Graovac. Here is some more information on him - a very intriguing prospect. Artur Gavrus - New Jersey Devils. Gavrus spent last season in the OHL with Owen Sound, but he decided at the beginning of 2012-13 to remain in Belarus to play. He had a change of heart at the end of December, reporting to Owen Sound. He has no points in seven games with the Attack this season - a far cry from the 15 goals and 37 points he had in 45 games last year. He's currently day-to-day with an upper body injury.

Have a great hockey-filled weekend.

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