

**July 3, 2007**

Written by Jeff Angus

Tuesday, 03 July 2007 08:18 - Last Updated Tuesday, 03 July 2007 16:10

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The Lightning have signed Brad Lukowich to a three-year deal, bringing him back into the fold.

The Oilers have a beef with the Nylander signing. I'm sure you have all seen it on tsn.ca. My position is that nobody will trust the agent again, it was a shitty thing to do...but obviously the signing will stick. If I'm the NHL, I would do a full investigation and if the agent truly did that, he should have his license removed. [LINK](#)

Curtis Sanford is the new Maytag repairman - i.e. Luongo's backup.

Jason Labarbara signed a two-year contract with the Kings. No word on if it is a one-way deal, but I would imagine so, as Marc Crawford was on the radio today saying that he will go with Cloutier and LaBarbara in net.

The Canucks have signed goalie Curtis Sanford to back-up Roberto Luongo. This is great news as it means the Canucks may even beat the Blues a few times next year! I believe Sanford's career numbers against Vancouver is something to the tune of a sub 2.00 GAA and a .960 save %.

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Now the Kings have added Brad Stuart, giving them Visnovsky, Blake, Preissing, Stuart and Jack Johnson back there. Suddenly, they have a solid Top 5. With Nagy, Handzus, Frolov, Kopitar, Cammalleri, O'Sullivan, Brown up front, this team is stacked...other than between the pipes!

The Wild have signed Eric Belanger to a three-year pact. He'll simply replace White.

Goalie to watch: David Brown, Pittsburgh. Stellar numbers for Notre Dame and he could sneak into the backup role over Sabourin.

The Sens have signed rearguard Brian Lee out of college and he could crack the lineup this season. His fantasy impact will be minimal initially, but he will be pretty solid down the road.

Something went wrong with Lisin's talks with Phoenix, because he signed a deal with Khimik of the RSL. No word on whether or not he can get out of it, but it is looking doubtful he will come over. The Coyotes also bought out Dave Scatchard, making him a UFA. I'm not certain...but didn't they just sign him to a contract a few months ago? If so, that's a great sign that Don Maloney is cleaning house and not caring how the previous regime (and some current bigwigs) look while doing it.

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The Oilers have signed Denis Grebeshkov, so he will be coming over to the NHL after all. With Pitkanen and Tarnstrom in the fold, he will be stuck with second unit PP time.

The Oilers have signed Mathieu Garon. I am still catching up on everything that has happened over the last few days, but my initial impression is that the Oilers did nothing except that one deal, so fans must be disappointed. That said, I like Garon as a backup goalie and can see 30-35 starts from him.

Columbus signed Jiri Novotny. Kind of looks pretty piddly compared to what all the other teams have done...

New Jersey inked Dainius Zubrus to an insane six-year contract. Is it just me, or have the Devils been really stupid with their signings since the lockout? They'll either be buying him out, trading him, or sending him to the minors (or some weaselly move that I haven't thought of) by Year 4 of this deal.

Dobber back in - lots of beer and hottub action...little Internet action. Just need to collect my bearings, but I see Angus kicked some ass keeping this site rolling. Thanks Jeff and Chris!

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Beer's on its way!

The Devils have signed defenseman Karel Rachunek to a one-year, \$1.5 million dollar deal. I hope he isn't being brought in to replace Rafalski...

Vancouver has signed top goalie prospect Cory Schneider. He should be the starter for Manitoba this year. He has big upside, but probably won't reach it in a Vancouver sweater, at least while Roberto Luongo is still around.

The big money teams have already found a way to exploit the cap, with frontloading salaries. Not really a surprise, but interesting nonetheless.

The Bruins are actively shopping Hannu Toivonen and most likely are after a young forward in return. Toivonen was horrible last year but still possesses elite potential. The Bruins appear confident with Fernandez-Thomas, while they continue to groom Tuukka Rask.

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The Canucks have also signed Brad Isbister and Byron Ritchie. Both should compete for fourth-line gigs.