

November 25, 2011

Written by Jeff Angus

Thursday, 24 November 2011 23:43 - Last Updated Friday, 25 November 2011 13:43

The Flames have claimed Blake Comeau off of waivers. I think he's worth taking a flyer on - very streaky, fairly one-dimensional, and this team desperately needs offensive punch. Throw in the "I'm on a new team" hot factor, and this guy could and should make a bit of a splash. - Dobber

Kyle Turris projections.... He'll definitely need a conditioning stint and then some more time to get into game shape. The Coyotes have been making due up front without him.

Fourth consecutive start for Cory Schneider tonight, and yes, Roberto Luongo is healthy. Luongo likely to start in San Jose tomorrow evening.

To me, the most important number for fantasy hockey is power play ice time. Among Phoenix centers, Hanzal is at about 3:30 per game and Langkow 2:30 per game. If Turris can get into shape quickly, there is no reason why he won't be on the top unit for the Coyotes. His teammates won't hold a grudge (players realize this is a business), but I am not sure if the coaches/management will feel the same way.

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Regardless, Turriss was actually starting to play well down the stretch last year. His agent really screwed up the past few months, and Turriss did too because he listened to him.

Don't forget to set your lineups - with American Thanksgiving, there are some early Friday games.

Thanks for the support during the recent blogging contest at the Province. The DobberHockey community stepped up in a big way with votes, comments, and overall positive support for myself. I really appreciate it.

I didn't end up winning, but the exposure I gained through the contest was great. I think/guess the paper was going more for Kurtenblog replacements and less for a hockey writer. Either way, kudos to those who won, including my buddies Wyatt and Cam.

The latest DobberNation will be posted later on today.

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Thanks to Bobby Atwall and the [FanZoo](#) team for setting up my interview with Alex Burrows. I'll hopefully get a few more player interviews throughout the rest of the season. I wonder if any of them play fantasy hockey?

The Sabres have recalled Zack Kassian.

Ryan Whitney is playing tonight. His return couldn't come any faster as the Oilers defense is currently decimated by injuries. Whitney will get lots and lots and lots of ice time.

Michal Rozsival is inching closer to a return. He's missed the entire season with a concussion. In other news, I completely forgot he was still in the league. Whoops. I guess that is what happens when you get traded for Wojtek Wolski.

The Sharks had an interesting second line against Chicago on Wednesday night - Couture centered Clowe and Havalt. Pavelski played right wing on the top unit.

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Like Buster Bluth, it looks as if Fleischmann is going to be all right after the Deveaux hit.

I think it is going to become a question of when and not if Sam Gagner is traded out of Edmonton. Less and less is he looking like a long term fit there.

Thanks to TSN, Sportsnet, the Score, and every other TV station that covers hockey, I know that James Reimer will be out for the next week or so with his concussion recovery.

Brenden Morrow is out for the next week or so. He's been battling injuries for most of the season, and he could probably use the time off. Dallas has been carried offensively by Benn, Eriksson, and Riberio this season anyway.

The Rangers have recalled forwards Carl Hagelin and John Mitchell (aka the most useless forward in the league during his tenure in Toronto). Hagelin is a speedster while Mitchell leads the Whale in scoring. These moves were likely done with Andre Deveaux facing a long suspension from the Fleischmann head shot.

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Jason Brough takes a look at some [interesting numbers](#) over at NBC. Couturier is averaging 3:30 per game on the PK – insane for a rookie forward. Versteeg is scoring on 20 percent of his shots. Not a sustainable pace, but you already knew that.

20 Blue Jackets have scored at least one goal this season. I'm not sure whether that statistic is impressive or not....

My column yesterday for the Canucks Army regarding drafting goaltenders was heavily influenced by Justin Goldman. [Check it out here.](#)

A fantasy prospect back on my radar is defenseman Kevin Connauton. Connauton was a junior scoring sensation, but he had a tough first pro season last year in Manitoba. This year with the Chicago Wolves, he's playing a lot better. His improved play has coincided with the return to the lineup of Chris Tanev (Connauton was previously lining up with Nolan Baumgartner).

Connauton is still an adventure defensively at times, but his offensive upside is huge. He's a game breaker with his skating and offensive abilities, and he definitely isn't lacking in confidence, either. He's likely a year away from making an impact, but his great start to 2011-12 has put him back on my radar.

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The Calgary Flames need to blow it up. A weak forward group, a shallow defensive core, and an aging star goaltender is not a recipe for success. I'd keep Bartschi, Backlund, Brodie, and Giordano. After that, everyone else is fair game. Iginla, Kiprusoff, Glencross, Tanguay, Bourque, etc. Bouwmeester, too, but I'm not sure there are many teams interested in a defensive defenseman making close to \$7 million per season.

My 15 Points to Consider for December are in the planning stages – have a thought you want me to analyze? Comment away!

Biekša is questionable tonight with a sore hip flexor. I don't get how media outlets are reporting: "Kevin Biekša questionable with a hip flexor." Frankly, I'd be concerned if he didn't have one. The hip flexor is a group of muscles that flex the hip. It isn't a condition, situation, or injury.

This goal is pretty, those jerseys sure aren't:

{youtube}tO7AMObn_WU{/youtube}