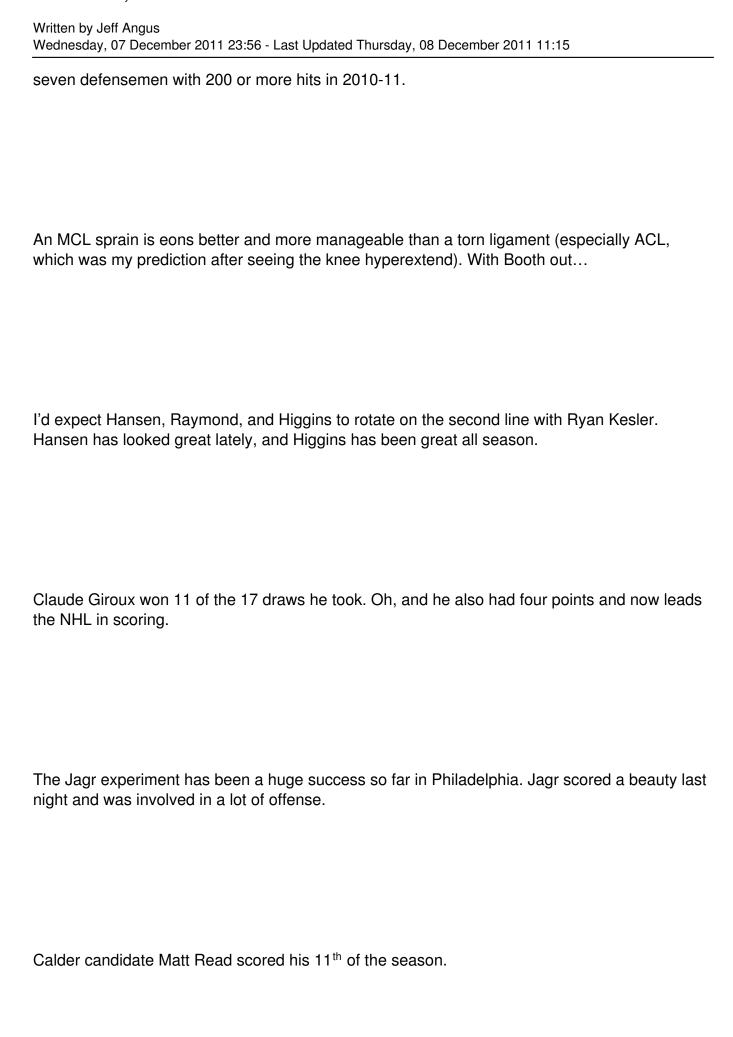
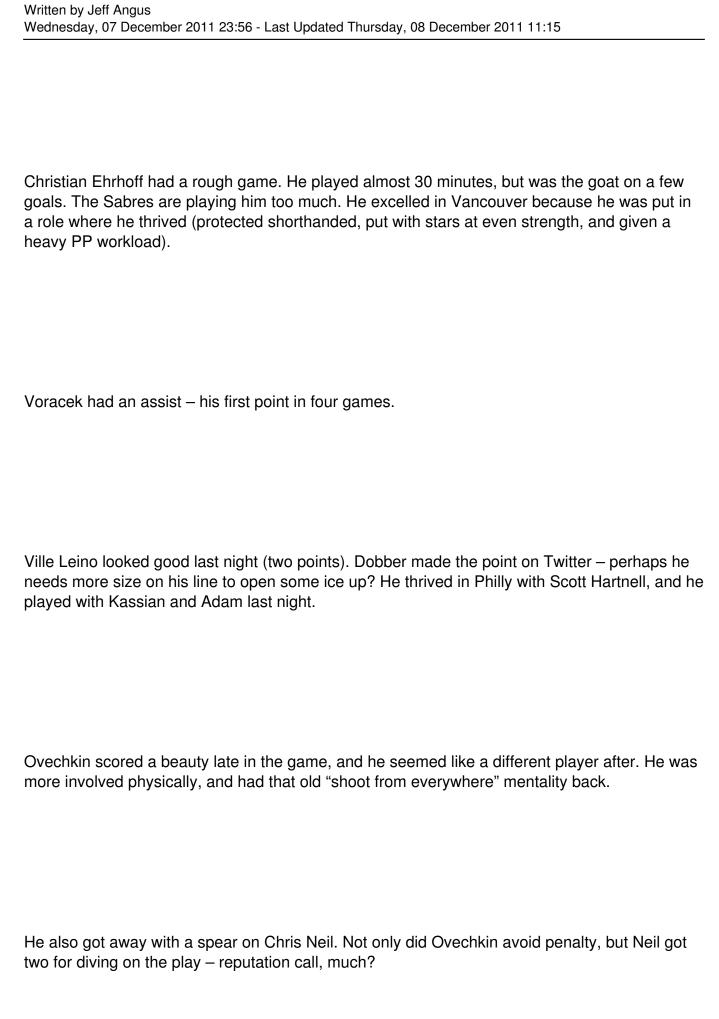
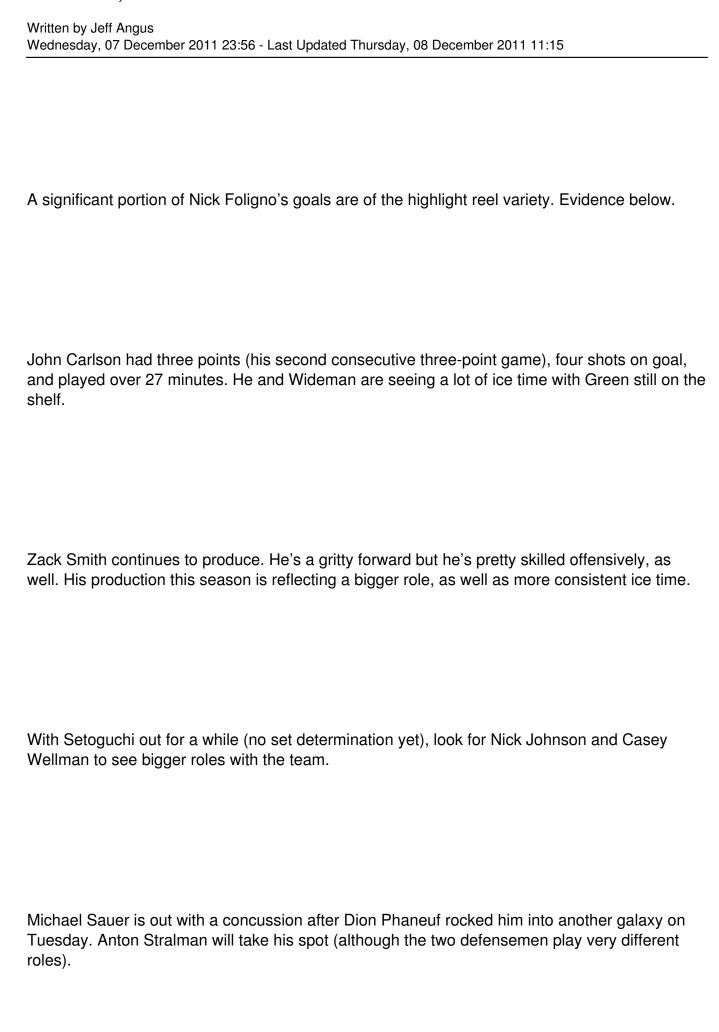
Written by Jeff Angus Wednesday, 07 December 2011 23:56 - Last Updated Thursday, 08 December 2011 11:15
In my latest for the Canucks Army, I take a look at some top four defensemen who could become available at the trade deadline in a few months.
Jeff Skinner could have had six or seven points last night. He absolutely dominated every single shift against the Edmonton defense. He finished with a goal and eight shots in over 17 minutes of ice time.
Devan Dubnyk really struggled, as did the defense in front of him.
Justin Faulk and Jamie McBain both played over 20 minutes, and both saw a steady dose of PP time as well. Faulk doesn't even turn 20 years old until next March.
Tomas Kaberle played more PP time than both (over five minutes), and he recorded two helpers. About as "buy low" as you can get here.

Written by Jeff Angus Wednesday, 07 December 2011 23:56 - Last Updated Thursday, 08 December 2011 11:15 Amazing how much can change in a few months. Back in the spring, Gragnani was playing a huge role as an offensive catalyst down the stretch and in round one for the Sabres. He has been a defensive nightmare this season, and his turnover in OT last night was the cherry on top. A fresh start or a demotion would do him some good. Buffalo is relying on some youth (Brayden McNabb is up with the team too) because of some injuries, most notably to Tyler Myers. The Crosby news is extremely concerning to me. He passed baseline tests, but the team is sitting him out for two games. This isn't merely precautionary. Precautionary would be having him sit out practice. These are important games that count towards the standings. After watching the hit on Tuesday night, 4-6 weeks with an MCL sprain is great news for David Booth and the Canucks. Kevin Porter hung his leg out and Booth's knee buckled in a very ugly way.

Montreal wrecking ball defenseman Alexei Emelin is on pace for over 300 hits. To put that total in perspective, Luke Schenn led all NHL defensemen with 251 hits last season. There were only







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Mikael Samuelsson is likely playing for the Panthers tonight (put your hand up if you had completely forgotten about him).
Vintage #68:
{youtube}7oT4SUKhgwc{/youtube}
Foligno's goal from last night:
{youtube}A7K7CGTInaM{/youtube}