

DobberBaseball's Fantasy Guide is out, you can pick it up [here](#) .

Mike Comrie, who recently underwent hip surgery for the third time in two years, has announced his retirement.

In a minor deal, the Jets have traded Riley Holzapfel to the Ducks for Maxime Macenaur.

Pierre-Marc Bouchard is [still suffering](#) from the effects of another concussion. In the one league that I had him in, I gave him away as a throw-in because dropping the points from my (rebuilding) roster and sinking for a better draft pick was more important to me than his future value. We're all pulling for PMB to get better - concussions are taking too many good players out of the mix.

Today's Studs and Duds can be found [here](#) . Yesterday's [here](#) .

John Carlson's slump appears to be over. After just two points in 17 games he has three in his last three.

Plus/minus stud Ryan McDonagh is proving to be a bit of a surprise offensively. He could finish the year with nine goals and 30 points, which would beat my expectation of him for this year by half. His fifth goal of the season Sunday puts him four ahead of Scott Gomez, the man he was traded for. He's gonna have 120 shots by the end of the season, too.

Alex Ovechkin has 22 shots in his last four games, which is the Ovy we know.

Troy Brouwer, who has been Ovechkin's linemate for the last few games, is pointless in his last six. This is a golden opportunity for him and he's not taking advantage. Not sure how long the coach will continue to give him this chance.

I had been preaching patience with Tomas Fleischmann, who had been in a horrific slump. The reason for the patience, as we see now, is that he goes through this all the time. Very lengthy hot streaks and equally long slumps. Like a more extreme Kristian Huselius. Flash has eight points in his last eight games. In one of my keepers, a guy traded Fleischmann and Justin Williams last week and acquired Matt Moulson. Talk about buying high and selling low – not that grabbing Moulson could ever be a bad thing. But had he waited a week he may have got

Moulson for Fleischmann and a draft pick instead of the extra player. Panic move, but I'm sure there were thousands of similar ones when it comes to Fleischmann. Try and remember – he's making a trillion dollars a year, so he'll always get 19 minutes of ice time and first PP billing no matter what. Pointless in 20? Doesn't matter, he'll still get the prime linemates and prime time.

The showcasing of Evgeni Nabokov ended early Sunday, as he got the hook after giving up four goals on 11 shots.

Marcel Goc has 13 points in the last 16 games that he played.

So what do you think of our new “[newsfeed](#)”? We're not out to break any news, or even break it down. But I thought it would be a great way to gather the information so you can quickly reference it if you were away for a couple of days. Or perhaps you want to research a player two years from now – how handy would it be to quickly see everything that happened to that player over the past two years (you can filter by player). I have put a quick link to this feed, and other great free features, up top if you hover over the “Free Features” in the menu.

In last Thursday's column, I took a look at how [scoring is down in the NHL](#) and how you should change your thinking. Still a relevant read if you want to take a look.

Brenden Morrow is out for [at least two more weeks](#) and Steve Ott owners couldn't be happier. Ott has six points in his last seven games and always sees a production jump when Morrow is hurt.

While Kevin Shattenkirk continues to struggle, Alex Pietrangelo is flying. In his last 17 games he has 18 points thanks to three Sunday.

After a drought that saw him manage just three points in 10 games and had some question his value in fantasy hockey, Loui Eriksson has three points in two games.

Alex Goligoski has 14 points in his last 15 games.

After getting the monkey off his back Saturday with his first goal of the season, Andrei Loktionov followed up with another one yesterday. He's become an interesting fantasy option now that his confidence is back.

He's no Sam Gagner, but Evgeni Malkin has seven points in his last two games. Actually, he fired a shot at the empty net Sunday with two seconds left, from the blue line, but hit the post. Missed the hat trick by that much. Chris Kunitz also has seven points in two games, Kris Letang has six.

I like the threat that Cal O'Reilly brings to Pittsburgh's third line, but that can only go on for so long before he needs to start producing. He's looked good offensively with Dustin Jeffrey and Steve Sullivan, but has just one point to show for it in his last five games. They were on the ice for three tough goals Saturday, but I blame the coach for constantly putting out the Engelland pairing with that line. You put your weakest D pairing with your strongest forwards, in my opinion. Anyway, O'Reilly's ice time was down to 9:48 as we slowly watch that fade to five minutes...and then press box. The only thing that can stop it is, you guessed it, a goal/assist.

Lubomir Visnovsky was kicked out of the game last night, allowing Bobby Ryan to see a lot of PP action. He scored on the power play, and then assisted on another power play goal. Did that catch the attention of Bruce Boudreau?

James Wisniewski has been back for two games for the Jackets now and has three points (and plus-2) to show for it.

Linus Omark (ankle) returned to AHL action on the weekend for the first time in three months. He had two points in the game.

The Sabres have sent Luke Adam down and have recalled Zack Kassian. Adam was pointless in his last 20.

Here's a [Nicklas Backstrom interview](#) . Basically, he's not ready to skate yet but is making progress.

Jimmy Howard is [targeting Friday](#) for a return to game action.

After going pointless in 11 games, Mike Knuble has been scratched for the last two.

Andy McDonald played 16 minutes in his return to action and picked up an assist. He saw a ton of PP time, but there was plenty of PP time to go around. I'll wait and see what the distribution of PP time will be like when the team only has a couple of power plays.

Here is the Visnovsky incident that led to his getting kicked out – fight with Brassard, jersey not tied down. Why would he tie it down? His first career fight!

{youtube}XLC8ecDHO2I{/youtube}