

March 13, 2012

Written by Dobber

Monday, 12 March 2012 23:24 - Last Updated Tuesday, 13 March 2012 14:03

Alright... something is wrong with the auto-mailer over at the Hockey News. Which might explain why I needed more letters this week. But if you submitted your question through THN.com I did not get it. So if you have one today, please [email it to me](#) and I'll get them that way. This issue will be fixed tomorrow, but I need the questions today so I can actually write the piece! Thanks!

Breaking News: By now you've heard - Sidney Crosby will be back in the lineup Thursday. Comeback Part II! If it was me in charge of the lines, I would keep Malkin's line intact. I would keep Staal's line intact. Those lines are flying. Crosby will give a third-line scoring option like no other team in the NHL. Put me on one wing, and uh Jay Rosehill on the other, and this line still flies. I would suggest Eric Tangradi and Tyler Kennedy. Give it a shot. What do you think?

Edit - just read that he's playing with Cooke and Kennedy. So my idea of keeping the other two lines intact was a good one.

PA Parenteau is [out tonight](#) with an upper body injury. Perhaps Niederreiter will get a look on a scoring line.

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Here's a fresh [Radulov update](#) from Puck Daddy. Nothing new here, but in case you're starved for more info...

Jakub [Voracek is a "maybe"](#) to return to the Flyers tonight.

Tyler Myers could be facing a suspension for [this hit](#) . His hearing is today.

Craig Smith hasn't seen [12 minutes of ice time](#) in over half a month and he was scratched last game. This is to rest him, as he is used to short college seasons. This has paid off, given his play last night (and goal).

The Blues have signed blue-chip prospect Jaden Schwartz to a contract, as he has completed his college season. He'll dress for them tonight. While I wouldn't look for "instant star" kind of impact, I would rule it out. But I'm more in the usual camp with players like this – a point every two games for a couple of years before moving forward.

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I owe \$100 to Hockey Fights Cancer after [losing a preseason bet](#) that Erik Cole would not make it to 50 points this season. Actually, I was called out for saying he would never get there again. It was an easy bet for me to make because a) Cole is a 50 to 55 point player who should miss a handful of games each year thereby making the 50-point mark a little tougher to hit; b) if I lose the bet, money goes to cancer. So there really was no downside.

Cole got two last night, David Desharnais was back in action, and Max Pacioretty continues to roll.

We've all been here - I got into heated discussions with a couple of co-GMs in my league about Pacioretty vs. Couture. I tried to get Couture using Pacioretty, Weiss and a first-round pick. I argued that Pac and Couture are practically even... and the other pieces were such huge bonuses. He wasn't buying it. He later traded Couture in a package that brought him Corey Perry. So I went to the new owner with the same offer. He wasn't buying it either. A month later, we have Pacioretty with more points than either Couture or Perry – and none of the three teams are playoff bound, which is a factor in this particular league. I later used Pacioretty, Jon Quick and Joe Thornton to reel in John Tavares and Tim Thomas, plus smaller pieces involved. Can't complain about how it worked out, but you can bet I'm still rubbing it in on the other two guys. I don't like to let good trash talk opportunities slip by. - *We've all been there, so it's nice when you can trash talk about it later. It could just as easily have gone the other way and then we're the "trash talkee" instead of the "trash talker". Just sharing a story.*

With two last night, including the absolutely dirty goal shown below - Tyler Ennis has 12 points in his last 14 games.

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Jamie McGinn continues to roll – another goal last night, to go with six shots.

Bobby Ryan is going to squeak past 50 points. Barely. So what's a prognosticator to do in the summer? Predict him for 55, and he could get 80. Predict him for 80 and he could get 50 again. Well, you take the cheesy way out and go down the center – 65 points. This is why I let my formula handle things, keeps me from judgment calls that give easy-out answers.

As Semyon Varlamov continues to roll, his stats are slowly falling into place. He's not among the leaders yet, but there's still time for 30 wins, a .920 SP and a 2.50 GAA.

Tomas Vanek was back in the lineup for Buffalo last night, playing 16 minutes but was held pointless.

Andrej [Sekera is out with](#) a serious bout of pneumonia.

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Breaking news – [Columbus is eliminated from the playoffs](#) !

Here is my [Puck Daddy piece](#) from yesterday. And here is my [Hockey News piece](#) . Yes, I have a pretty busy Sunday afternoon/night/Monday morning...

Kyle Palmieri was recalled by the Ducks again. Pointless in just under 14 minutes of ice time.

Here's a good [update on Justin Schultz](#) , and the likelihood that he'll be signed and join the team by early next week.

Corey Perry's streak of 272 consecutive games is at an end. His shoulder injury would need to be pretty serious to get him to miss some hockey, the guy is a warrior.

Cody Hodgson is pointless in eight games for Buffalo. After playing 21 minutes two games ago, he played 11 minutes last night. As I mused in my [trade breakdown](#) – his ice time won't be handed to him on a silver platter. It will be up and down like Tyler Ennis'.

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The Canes have recalled Bobby Sanguinetti. I wouldn't expect a lot from him, but he is running out of chances to make a splash so you never know...

I had this up on the [newsfeed](#) already, but in case you didn't know – Daniel Carcillo has been extended by the Blackhawks for two more years.

Ennis with a sweet little goal here:

{youtube}8OipL7DbEng{/youtube}