Marian Hossa was the victim of a dirty hit by Raffi Torres . He was carried off on a stretcher and taken to hospital in an ambulance. The hit was late, targeted the head, left the ice… and it was charging. As a repeat offender, Mr. Torres is probably looking at many many games for this. Clip below. Hossa was later released from hospital and anticipates a “full recovery”.

The Red Wings will probably get eliminated by the Predators and it’s a shame. One of two series that I think would fit better in the second or third round – not the first. These are the third and fourth best teams in the Conference, but seeded as four and five. On the other side, Pittsburgh and Philly are second and third but seeded four and five. It’s just a shame that the GM’s have put together these teams, the coaches have done their job, the teams are deep and talented – but two of them are out in seven or fewer.

The Wings fired 41 shots at Rinne, the Preds fired 17 at Howard. Jimmy Howard has faced 91 shots in the series and stopped 80 of them. It’s not Fleury-bad, but it’s not great either.

Shea Weber and Ryan Suter combined for 62 minutes of ice time in a game that ended in regulation. Ryan Ellis played just five minutes.

Gustav Nyquist saw just six minutes. Not sure how I feel about that. The Nyquist owner in me wishes he got a chance – would 16 minutes and time on a line with a superstar give the Red Wings another goal or two? Or would they have been worse off, as well as stunt his development?

James Neal got suspended for one game. It was for the hit on Claude Giroux which was the more obvious one, not the hit on Couturier which I thought lacked intent. The Pens will be without Neal, Adams and Asham as well (
Arron Asham
got four games). I think you'll see
Joe Vitale
,
Dustin Jeffrey
and perhaps
Eric Tangradi
draw in. Instead of Tangradi, a long shot idea is Steve MacIntyre. Wouldn't that be something?

Nicklas Lidstrom is not really a shooter, these days averaging about two shots per game. But you can tell he's really trying to push his team over the top – 10 shots in his last two games.

The Devils take a 3-0 lead, Jose Theodore gets pulled, Scott Clemmensen shuts the door. The Panthers score three to tie it,
Martin Brodeur
gets pulled,
Johan Hedberg
lets in one goal… takes the loss. Word is that Brodeur will get the start next game.

Sean Bergenheim , he of nine goals in 16 playoff games last year, has four points in three games this year.

Nothing against Peter Harrold , and this NJ-FLA series admittedly is one of two that I haven't seen a second of (the Blues-Sharks is the other one), but … is he really the better option right now over Adam Larsson ?

Nicklas Backstrom has been suspended for one game. Devastating blow to the Caps. We've seen how well they did without Backstrom in the lineup.

What's a funnier non-story? Karl Alzner 's crybaby tease on Milan Lucic , Crosby's "I don't like them
" answer to reporter's silly question, or
Todd Bertuzzi
's (not really) taking a
ping-pong table
away from the Nashville Predators?

Brad Richardson has miraculously returned already from his appendix removal – and he'll be back in the lineup for the Kings in place of Andrei Loktionov .

The Flyers have called up their Black Aces, including Erik Gustafsson and as noted yesterday, Michael Leighton .

As I'm sure you've heard by now from dozens of media sources, Daniel Sedin is looking quite promising for a return to the lineup for Game 4. It obviously changes the dynamic in a huge way, but is it too late? He's a "game-time decision".

Rostislav Klesla picked the right day to become that fourth overall pick that the Blue Jackets wanted in 2000. The former OHL point-per-game defenseman has been solid defensively, but injuries stunted his offensive development at the pro level. But he took a break from all that with three points last night, giving him four in the postseason. He had 13 in 65 regular season games.

Michael Frolik scored his 19th goal in his last 151 games last night. Well done sir.

Mike Smith did indeed play last night, and played well. He stopped 35 of 37 shots for the W.

Fans and media are extremely hard on Brendan Shanahan – and rightfully so, given the crazy inconsistency. But a couple of points need to be made here. One, we knew when he got the job that we would probably, within a few months, hate him and complain about the inconsistent rulings. So don't act surprised. Two, I don't think any of us know the politics going on in the background. The behind-the-scenes phone calls from NBC and TSN execs, the Gary Bettman opinion, the gray area where you're on the fence about a one-game suspension or zero games…and you make the decision, but after sleeping on it you realize your mistake that you can't take back. It must be hell. Has to be hell. You couldn't pay me enough to take that job – and if you ever did stupidly offer to pay me enough… then we'd be talking millions and I would basically work one day, pocket a day's salary, then quit. I just hope that when Shanahan leaves the position, everyone who liked him before he got the job will still like him and respect him after he leaves it.

Sign up for the F5an Z5oo Auction page in the next 48 hours for a chance to ***win $100*** *towards their online store. To enter, simply sign up for their auction site and put DH (for DobberHockey) at the end of your username. An example: angusDH. The Fan Zoo will be running live auctions every day for the rest of the postseason. Check their daily auctions out here. This DobberHockey exclusive* ***contest runs until tonight at midnight EST****. Just looking out for you guys, and when they threw a hundred bucks at me to give to one of you…then who am I to turn that down on your behalf?*

Don't forget - as per today's headline story - this site, all my sites, will shut down for about an hour tonight at midnight. For details, read the "Changes Coming" piece.

The Torres hit on Hossa:

{youtube}eSb5ihzciWg{/youtube}