

**May 10, 2012**

Written by Jeff Angus

Wednesday, 09 May 2012 22:22 - Last Updated Wednesday, 09 May 2012 22:56

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Jerry D'Amigo is having an impressive AHL postseason for the Toronto Marlies.

D'Amigo scored six goals in seven games two years ago for the USA as they went on to win Gold at the World Juniors in Saskatoon. He hasn't gotten a lot of attention since then (surprising, since he is a pretty good prospect and one in the Toronto system).

He had only 15 regular season goals, but he has used his speed – his best asset – to score six goals in nine playoff games (not including last night's contest). He projects as a second/third line winger – and a good one at that.

My Part II of the Canucks top 10 prospects over at the Canucks Army was posted yesterday – [here it is](#)

. From a fantasy perspective, Harvard defenseman Patrick McNally is an intriguing prospect. He was a big part of one of the best power play units in the entire NCAA. Great skater, sees the ice really well.

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Was on CapGeek figuring out what an Ilya Bryzgalov buyout would look like, and stumbled across [this piece on the Wall Street Journal](#). The New York Mets will be paying Bobby Bonilla about \$1.2 million until 2036 because of a 2001 buyout. Ouch!

Bryzgalov was far from the goat in the NJ series – the only really stinker of a goal was the one he gave up to [David Clarkson](#) in the last game. However, after one year, Philadelphia's return on investment for what they gave him is looking pretty bad.

It is a shame for the Flyers and GM Paul Holmgren, considering how well their other moves worked out. It is a huge gamble for any contending team to move a core asset, and the Flyers traded their Captain and arguably most dangerous goal scorer. I was completely dumbfounded at the time (as most of us were). The Carter trade made some sense, but the Richards one came out of left field.

It also showed the faith that the organization had in Claude Giroux as a center (Giroux started off as a RW in the NHL).

[Sean Couturier](#) is going to win a number of Selke trophies. [Jakub Voracek](#) is already a top-six mainstay and will be a point-per-game guy in a few years with the way he sees the ice and protects the puck.

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[Wayne Simmonds](#) almost scored 30 (fantasy owners loved this), and his effort and intensity quickly endeared himself to Flyer fans. [Brayden Schenn](#) had some ups and downs, but dominated against NHL competition at times, and showed why he will be a solid second line center behind [Claude Giroux](#) for the next decade.

The Flyers have a terrific core of forwards to build around. They just need to retool a banged up defense, and figure out how to get Bryzgalov headed in the right direction. Easier said than done, I suppose.

I am in the process of setting up a blog (won't interfere with DobberHockey), where I want to write about hockey from more of a business/law standpoint, and also write fitness and nutrition-related columns. I'm looking for some basic graphic and computer help to design a logo, as well as for some page feedback. If you are willing and able to lend an ear, fire me an e-mail at angus at dobberhockey.com. Would really appreciate any help!

My top 10 LW list is done – will be posted in the coming days. Just finalizing a few rankings and compiling the honorable mentions list (I guess it isn't quite done yet, then...).

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An interesting/funny note from a reader – I should make a list with and without Dale Hunter as the coach. It sounds like Hunter is going to return to run the London Knights regardless of what happens this spring, but he has had a significantly negative impact on Ovechkin's fantasy value (it all starts with ice time).

On the ice, it is hard to argue right now with what Hunter has done. Ovechkin, the team Captain, is totally and completely bought in. He was blocking shots, throwing hits, and doing everything in his power to win the game last night. Oh, and he scored a goal, too.

[Saku Koivu](#) is back for one more year with the Ducks - \$3 million cap hit. A wrench in the short-term aspirations of [Peter Holland](#), but he could come in and learn a lot from playing behind Koivu.

[Ryan Kesler](#) is done for six months because of a torn shoulder labrum (same injury/surgery as [Taylor Hall](#)). Kesler will hopefully learn from the mistake he made last season when rushing back from a torn labrum (that one was in his hip).

A torn labrum is a serious procedure and an extensive recovery. Can't really 'sell high' on him after a poor statistical season and now this, but I wouldn't 'buy low' either. This could impact his

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offensive upside. He is a hard worker, but didn't have his usual skating speed/power or shooting accuracy this season (again, shoulder could be a culprit for the second one).

Who centers the second line in his absence? [Jordan Schroeder](#) could come in and temporarily fill the void with a strong camp. Max Lapierre is a really sound two-way guy but shouldn't be a regular in any team's top six. A deep club up the middle is suddenly a whole lot thinner.

[Zbynek Michalek](#) underwent hip surgery, but should be healthy for training camp. No word on if he aggravated it digging out so many pucks from behind Fleury during the Flyers series.

Does an extended Devils run do something to sway [Zach Parise](#) to stick around? Maybe. Parise is uber-competitive, and seeing the success the team is having, he could want to remain a big part of what they have built. He has seemed apprehensive about sticking around in the past whenever discussing the issue with the media. It will be interesting to see how his situation plays out – he is going to get a lot of money thrown his way this summer. Imagine being able to land a franchise forward who doesn't turn 28 until late July?

For Elliotte Friedman's 30 Thoughts from yesterday – [right here](#) . My thoughts on a few of his:

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*"Thought of that conversation when Stewart was a healthy scratch for the second time in the playoffs, Game 2 against Los Angeles. As the Blues packed up, he told NHL.com's Lou Korac, "This is probably the biggest summer of my career." Yes, it is, if he wants to prove the Avalanche wrong."*

Regarding [Chris Stewart](#) – I agree. I acquired him earlier this year in a keeper – thought I was buying low. He looked like crap before the trade, and he looked like crap after. He was so dominant last season after coming over from Colorado, and big things were expected for this season. For whatever reason (training, effort level, consistency), he fell flat on his face in 2011-12.

*"21. A little insight into the McDonagh trade: Right around the 2009 draft, it's believed the Canadiens struck out for the second time on [Vincent Lecavalier](#). (There was disagreement in Tampa about whether or not it really made sense to deal him.) Glen Sather saw an opening and let Montreal know [Scott Gomez](#) was available. He pointed out, correctly, that there wasn't much out there and the Canadiens could not go without trying to fill the No. 1 centre position. They were in a weak spot and Sather exploited it."*

I know I have angered a few Montreal fans for continuing to beat the dead horse that is the Gomez trade. This above line from Friedman is analogous to a car salesman trying to sub in a Ford Focus for an Audi (I would have gone Ferrari, but Lecavalier isn't *that* good).

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**“23.** Clark explained how the Rangers (and presumably every other team) keep an updated list of about four/five players from all other organizations they'd target in a deal. "We're not talking about guys like [Steven] Stamkos," he said. "Everybody wants him. It's about prospects or lesser-known players. You watch everyone else's like you watch your own." That way, when Sather needs an answer, he gets one quickly.”

Found this interesting. I do this in my hockey pools (not the same, I know), and the Canucks did it when shopping [Cody Hodgson](#) .

*“28. Really couldn't find a ton of info on Roman Cervenka, the free-agent centre the Flames signed out of the KHL. Even though his salary is reported as \$3.775 million US, three-quarters of that is bonuses. (His base is \$925,000.) Calgary would be more than happy to pay all of that, because it means he has a great season. It caught people by surprise, because there wasn't a ton of interest. Maybe the Flames know something others don't.”*

Yeah, they know how bad their current center ice position is. I like the move the more I read about it – risk free, some reward if Cervenka can adjust to the North American ice surface (he was far from special at the Olympics in Vancouver two years ago).

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Pavel Bure is back! Sort of...

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