

May 11, 2012

Written by Jeff Angus

Thursday, 10 May 2012 21:15 - Last Updated Saturday, 12 May 2012 00:45

Saturday's ramblings will be up around 11am EST.

Haven't had time to share my thoughts on game six between the Caps and Rangers yet. Well... here they are:

I have been impressed with Anton Stralman. He isn't contributing a lot offensively, but his defensive game and physicality have both surprised me (in good ways).

The Caps are a different team with and without Nick Backstrom. I know, duh, he is one of their best players, but he is the only pure playmaker they have in their lineup. When he's going, so are his wingers.

Ovechkin scored a goal and played less than 16 minutes. Ice time continues to be interesting with him, but I can't argue with Dale Hunter. Whatever he is doing is working. The team is totally behind him at this point.

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It also goes to show how differently a team plays when they have confidence in their goaltender. They believe Holtby will make the saves when they need him to, and he has.

Who in the CHL can stop the Saint John Sea Dogs? They won 8-0 over Rimouski last night. Wings prospect Tomas Jurco had five points. Caps prospect Stanislav Galiev also had five points.

The Sea Dogs swept Rimouski to win their second consecutive QMJHL title.

Minnesota prospect Zack Phillips had two points, a plus-six rating, and won 14 of 20 faceoffs.

The Sea Dogs have been in my ramblings a lot, and for good reason. They are stacked full of potential NHL stars.

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Montreal prospect Nathan Beaulieu had two assists and finished with a plus-5 rating.

No NHL games last night. Still found lots to ramble about, though.

Nashville may not re-sign [Ryan Suter](#) , but they are going to go down swinging. They shelled out serious cash to keep [Pekka Rinne](#) around for the long term, and they have built a solid group of players that consistently challenges in the postseason.

If I were a betting man, I think Suter moves on, but I wouldn't say the chances of him re-signing are zero.

It sounds like the Carolina Hurricanes will be a team to watch this season – some good young players, a good goalie, and a ton of cap space.

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Is [Jordan Schroeder](#) ready to fill in for [Ryan Kesler](#) ? [Thomas Drance takes a look.](#)

“Throwing Schroeder into the fire, and playing him in the top-six this October - assuming he's able to win the job out of training camp - would be breaking with the clubs patient approach. But, when you consider how thin the UFA crop at centre is this summer (the only borderline "top-six" centremen on the market are: [Jokinen](#), [Hecht](#), [Stoll](#), [Langkow](#), [Kelly](#), [Arnott](#), [Morrison](#)), and that the teams only in-house options are [Maxim Lapierre](#) and maybe [Andrew Ebbett](#) if he's re-signed; Gillis and company may not have many options.”

If you want to be entertained, check out the latest [Patrick Kane](#) party saga on [Deadspin](#) . A PR nightmare for the Blackhawks (once again).

[The OHL All-Star Teams were announced yesterday.](#)

[Dougie Hamilton](#) was arguably the best skater in the league – he's a lock to make the Bruins next year. [Brandon Saad](#) should find his way onto Chicago's roster, too.

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Will be interesting to see how long [Ryan Murphy](#) takes – the ‘Canes have some other young studs (most notably [Justin Faulk](#)), and may look to create room for Murphy (by moving Jamie McBain, for example).

An interesting stat from Scott Cullen – [Bobby Ryan](#) is the only NHL player to have 30 or more goals and a positive plus minus in each of the past four seasons.

[What can be expected](#) from [Devan Dubnyk](#) next season? He deserves a crack at the starting gig.

“Before the season began, I looked at how goaltenders with a similar track record to Devan Dubnyk in their 22-24 year-old seasons performed at age 25 . On average, those goaltenders played in 37 games, faced 978 shots, and posted a save percentage of .906, which seemed like a reasonable line in the sand for Dubnyk heading into the 2011-12 season.

Devan Dubnyk

bested all of those numbers, playing in 47 games, facing 1,380 shots, and registering a save percentage of .914. It was a very successful season for the young netminder, and with a new contract on the horizon, it both the Oilers and Dubnyk's agent need to take a close look at what they should expect from Dubnyk going forward. After the jump, that's exactly what we'll do.”

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Friend of the website, [Rhys Richards, takes a look](#) at Detroit defensive prospect Ryan Sproul.

“Sproul scored 23 goals for the Soo, the most of any of the nominees. Of those 23 goals, Sproul scored eight on the power play, which was third most on the team. The budding prospect known for his heavy shot added 31 assists. Sproul was the only defenseman to end the season in the top ten of scoring for the Greyhounds. He tied [Ryan Murphy](#) for third in scoring by defenseman in the league.

More importantly, he improved his plus-minus to plus-16, a full plus-26 better than the negative-15 he posted last season. That statistic is that much more impressive considering the Greyhounds last place finish in the West Division and second to last in the Western Conference of the OHL.”

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[Jaromir Jagr](#) sounds like he will return for another NHL season, but he was non-committal about returning to Philadelphia. Where else could he go? Who else would want him?

[A good read](#) on Florida defensive prospect [Alex Petrovic](#) . Definitely has fantasy upside, as he has been excelling on the PP down in the AHL for San Antonio.

“Petrovic has either scored or assisted on nearly half of the 13 Rampage power-play tallies in the playoffs. Through his success, he has been able to gain the trust of head coach Chuck Weber and the rest of the San Antonio coaching staff.

“Alex’s best attribute for us so far has been his ability to make plays with the puck and his puck poise,” said Weber. “His ability to make plays with his eyes is pretty special.”

Wade Arnott, the agent for [Zach Parise](#) , said that the surprising Cup run by the Devils could help Parise’s chances of re-signing.

I am sure fantasy owners are hoping that Parise goes elsewhere, as [Ilya Kovalchuk](#) took away some of his prime offensive minutes this past regular season.

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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@dobberhockey.com. Would really appreciate any help!