

May 17, 2012

Written by Jeff Angus

Wednesday, 16 May 2012 22:07 - Last Updated Thursday, 17 May 2012 15:16

What went wrong with Ryan Parent's development? Once a star on Canada's junior team alongside Marc Staal, Parent will likely be out of the NHL/AHL after this summer. I wrote about how the Canucks, Preds, and Flyers all overlooked some key warning signs. [Read it here.](#)

[Jason Garrison](#) was on Vancouver radio, and the White Rock (suburb of Vancouver) native said it would be "a dream come true" to suit up for the Canucks, but he is going to focus on trying to get an extension done with Florida, first.

I can't see the Panthers being able to give Garrison what he wants – they already have a lot of money invested in their back end, and they are pretty close to the cap. [Kris Versteeg](#) needs a new contract, too.

Tampa Bay has expressed interest in bringing their 2006 1st round pick, goaltender, Riku Helenius, back to North America. He has spent the last few years playing in Sweden and Finland.

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One would think Tampa Bay isn't looking for another band-aid solution – perhaps they think Helenius could split the duty with a new goalie, or perhaps he could fill in as a back up behind a more established starter.

The Panthers assistant GM wants [Jacob Markstrom](#) to [spend another year in the AHL](#).

“While Mike didn't definitively say who he and GM Dale Tallon were definitely bringing back, he did say that he would like goalie [Jacob Markstrom](#) to have one more full season in the AHL because he hasn't had that yet due to knee injuries in the past two seasons. Tallon told me recently that he's a huge [Scott Clemmensen](#) fan and that the door was still open for the soon-to-be 35-year old free agent to return. So if 1 and 1 equal 2, I'd say there's an excellent chance that the Panthers will again go with [Jose Theodore](#) and Clem in the net next season.”

[Marian Gaborik](#) was benched in the third period by John Tortorella.

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These aren't your Devils of the 90's or 00's. New Jersey looked tenacious and offensively-charged last night – [Ilya Kovalchuk](#) , in particular, was bringing it. Particularly impressive considering he is playing with a sore low back (I know, I know, most guys are injured in some way at point in the season).

[Bryce Salvador](#) had nine points all regular season – after two last night, he now has eight in the postseason. How many playoff pools is he in?

[Derek Stepan](#) played over 23 minutes – the Rangers leaned heavily in a few players. Callahan saw close to 25 minutes.

Chris Kreider now has four goals in the playoffs, and he had three shots on goal in the playoffs.

Finished up my top 50 prospects list for the upcoming Prospects Report. Was hard work putting together, especially trying to balance upside/bust potential as well as forwards/defensemen. We also included 2012 eligible players. Mikael Granlund was my top ranked player.

[Check out my new blog: Angus Certified.](#) It won't take away from my work at DobberHockey or DobberSports at all, but wanted a place to build my writing portfolio, and to branch off into other topics a bit (fitness, nutrition, other sports, non-fantasy hockey related issues). If you like it, feel

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[My latest for the site – the hypocrisy of hockey regarding headshots.](#) I got about halfway into my brainstorming process before realizing I was tackling an issue far greater than one column (or five, for that matter). Weighed in with my thoughts as to what is wrong, as well as provided some suggestions as to how to fix it.

I am working on a piece regarding PIM in fantasy hockey. Are you for or against using it as a statistical measure? Weigh in with your thoughts. Here are some of the pros and cons:

Pros:

More predictable than stats like GWG, so there is value in analysis

Allows for a wider variety of players to be relevant

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Another stat to track, makes leagues more interesting

Can find ways to make it more valuable (reward only "aggression" related penalties)

Consistently measured, unlike hits and blocked shots

Cons:

An inherently negative measure becomes positive

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Cheap misconducts can be the difference between winning and losing pools

Hits are a more valuable measure of aggression/toughness

We now know that Evgeni Kuznetsov is staying in Russia for at least another year or two. What we don't know is what Vladimir Tarasenko will do next year. One would think he only comes over if he is playing in the NHL... would he be able to crack the Blues roster?

If Tarasenko does come over, would he allow the Blues to shop one of their young forwards? Presumably [TJ Oshie](#) isn't going anywhere, but who knows. The Blues have a great young core in place and Tarasenko is likely ready for a top six role (although the team could balance things out among three lines).

Blues GM Doug Armstrong is over watching the World Championships and is going to try to leave with the groundwork in place to see Tarasenko sign an NHL deal this summer.

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Leafs and Oilers fans didn't have a ton to cheer about this season, but their AHL affiliates are set to face off in the AHL Western Conference Final. Notable players to watch:

Jerry D'Amigo, who has had an impressive run for the Marlies. He should skate on their top line with [Nazem Kadri](#) and [Matt Frattin](#) .

Kadri looks a lot better than he did at any point last season – he'll get a shot to play with the Leafs at training camp, and I'd bet on him earning a spot. He creates so much offensively and would help a lot on the power play.

[Carter Ashton](#) hasn't done a whole lot and is stuck in more of a depth/supporting role with the Marlies right now.

[Jake Gardiner](#) has been a rock on the back end for the Marlies – he was great (at times) for the Leafs last season, and is using that experience to dominate at a lower level.

[Arctic Ice Hockey takes a look at some interesting postseason stats.](#)

“16.4% - [Sean Couturier](#) 's offensive zone start percentage through his team's 11 playoff games. Again, a handful of other players have more extreme numbers, including [Manny Malhotra](#) 's 7% (in 5 games) and Couturier's linemate Max Talbot's 11.7%, but to put up a number like 16.4% offensive zone starts as a rookie in the playoffs is nothing short of spectacular. It shows what an incredible amount of confidence the Flyers' coaching staff has in him too.”

Ridiculous the kind of defensive minutes the Flyers gave to a 19-year-old. And even more amazing he was able to produce any sort of offense.

The Lightning, among other teams, are interested in Swiss scoring star Damien Brunner. Brunner, 26, starred for Zug of the Swiss top league, with 60 points in 45 games.

He has spent his entire career in Switzerland.

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The Caps won't be getting Kuznetsov any time soon, but another young Russian prospect could be on the way. [Stanislav Galiev](#) has played a large role for the dominant Saint John Sea Dogs, earning CHL Player of the Week honors recently.

He recorded 34 points in only 17 postseason games for the Dogs, and placed high on my top 50 prospects list.

I guess they don't get NHL highlights in Latvia:

{youtube}RdKjFlfIL8Y{/youtube}