Pick up the 2012 DobberHockey Prospects report right here.

The report is **OUT NOW!! (May need to refresh your downloads page)**

Dobber here - there is an issue with some long-time readers regarding the new shop in that there have been "old" items in your cart that you paid for instead of the "new" item (Keeper Pack). This, we believe, has been fixed now. But just double check the products in your cart before you buy. Anyone who did accidentally get an older package - please email me at dobber @ DobberHockey .com and let me know that you require a refund. You will need to purchase the new one still - I'll refund the mis-purchase. *To reiterate - the issue has been fixed going forward. But a handful of readers who bought the 2011 Keeper Pack last year, may have accidentally bought it again this year instead of the 2012 one.*
Sorry for this.

An example scouting report from our 2009 report - Claude Giroux:

As expected, Philly's tremendous depth (and a rather ordinary camp) kept Giroux off the team when training camp ended, but by the end of December he was on the roster for good. He often got second-line minutes, though was usually a winger on the third line. Because of Philly's depth, they will continue to roll the top three lines as if each were a second line – that is 16 to 18 minutes of ice time and playing whichever line is hot at the time. Giroux showed some chemistry with Daniel Briere and had a couple of very hot spurts.

He also led the team in points (tied with Mike Richards) in the playoffs. Sharing so much power-play time may hold Giroux to 60 points this campaign, but a player of his elite offensive skill can only be held down for so long.

Upside: Paul Kariya (45-50-95, 60 PIM)
Certainty (NHLer; Upside): 100%; 60%

In Nick Lidstrom's 20 season career, he never missed the playoffs. So many impressive statistics and watching the Wings rebuild their defense this summer will be an interesting situation to follow.

Extensive scouting reports on hundreds of prospects, and a ton of analysis on the 2012 draft class as well.

With Jonathan Bernier a sought after commodity this summer, don't forget about Nashville's Anders Lindback. There definitely are teams out there who would love to add him in a 1A/1B role and see what he can do with 30-40 starts.

Wrote a piece on the 10 best contracts in the league (not including rookie deals). Had fun compiling the list. Any glaring omissions? Thoughts? Number 1:

' Claude Giroux may not be the best hockey player in the world, as he was referred to by Flyers head coach Peter Laviolette. However, he isn't far off. He is the heart and soul of the Flyers, and has increased his point totals each season since cracking the Flyers roster in 2008. Giroux finished his rookie campaign with 27 points. In the next three years, he produced 47, 76, and 93 points, respectively.

He has 55 points in 50 career NHL postseason games. Among all active players, his 1.1 points-per-game mark in the playoffs ranks him fourth behind only Crosby, Malkin, and Ovechkin. Among all players in league history, he ranks 15th, ahead of Pavel Bure, Joe Sakic , Bobby Hull, and Phil Esposito, among others.'

The Calder Cup kicks off tonight with Norfolk and Toronto facing off.

The Marlies have been carried by goaltender Ben Scrivens , and stellar play from forwards Jerry D'Amigo, Matt Frattin (out for the series), and Phillipe Dupuis.

Another forgotten Toronto prospect playing well – Nicolas Deschamps , who the Leafs acquired from Anaheim last year. He has 12 points in 13 games.

An intriguing prospect on the Norfolk/Tampa Bay side – Harvard forward and AHL rookie Alex Killorn, who has 11 points in 13 playoff games.

Nazem Kadri hasn't practiced with the team and there is no word whether he will be ready or not for game 1 tonight. He has 10 points in 11 playoff games for the Marlies.

According to a report from ESPN, Tim Thomas could sit next season out. The move would free up $5 million in cap space for the Bruins (although Thomas is only slated to earn $3 million in actual salary).

Weird how things change in a year – at this time in 2011 Thomas was leading his team to a Cup and on his way to a Conn Smythe Trophy. I wonder if there is more to the story? Does the political incident factor in at all?

Bob Hartley to Calgary, which means the Montreal job likely comes down to Marc Crawford or Michel Therrien.

Hartley's got a tough road ahead of him – the Flames have a really bad roster, an aging core, and a prospect group that is thin. Sven Bartschi is a stud, but there isn't much beyond him.

The latest rumors have Roberto Luongo going to Toronto. Who would the Canucks get back? I doubt they take Komisarek, but one would think the Leafs would move salary back.
Colby Armstrong
? JM Liles?

I wonder which young guy the Canucks will target. Kadri? Frattin? A draft pick?

An interesting look at the top NHL defensive pairings , with some advanced stats thrown in:

'The toughest job in hockey went to two pairings: Dan Girardi and Ryan McDonagh in New York, and Chris Butler and Jay Bouwmeester in Calgary, but with very different results. Both teams, either by design or necessity, relied more heavily on their top pairing than on their other defensemen, one of whom was someone who had never before even played in a top-four role (seeif you can guess who!). The results practically speak for themselves, and the Rangers finished tied for 2nd overall and the Flames missed the play-offs.'

A Washington blog takes a look at Mike Green 's 2011-12 season:

'Unfortunately, we didn't get to see Mike Green at his best and in one piece very often. With Green in the lineup, the Caps jumped out to a blazing 7-0 start, but he was quickly sidelined with an ankle injury, and then a groin injury, and a subsequent abdominal injury. After surgery, Green was able to return to the ice and stay there, but he never seemed to regain his scoring touch. Regardless, this season was less about
Mike Green
versus NHL than it was about
Mike Green
versus his body, and we were glad he was able to get back into playing shape near the end of the year.'

Columbus first round pick from 2004 (8th overall) Alexandre Picard leads the AHL in postseason scoring – he had 25 points in 42 regular season games for the Admirals, and has 15 points in 14 postseason contests.

Frattin has 10 goals through 13 games, but as mentioned he is done for the series.

D'amigo is right behind him with eight goals, while Dupuis has 13 points in 13 games.

The Admirals have a ton of talent from top to bottom, and they have two great goaltenders in Dustin Tokarski
and
Jaroslav Janus
.

Three more trade targets for the Canucks – Brett Connolly , Eric Tangradi , and Peter

Holland .

My blog, Angus Certified, is blocked on a few different office protectors for being “cult-related.” I knew hockey was popular, but….?

More seriously, does anyone with more technical savvy than myself have any knowledge to pass along?

Happy birthday to one of DobberHockey’s hardest workers, Gates Imbeau. Have a good one, buddy!

The curious case of Kirill Kabanov – recapping his up-and-down CHL career.

'He would never suit up with the Armada, though, as he was loaned to the Swedish Elite League shortly after being cut from Islanders training camp once again. Except he never played in Sweden, either. The Armada flipped his rights to Shawinigan, where, after all this, Kabanov would have a chance to compete for the Memorial Cup.

And compete he did. Kabanov had solid, if unspectacular, numbers all year with the Cataractes, but most importantly he continued to show that he can buy in to the team concept. Over three years in the QMJHL, Kabanov has transitioned from a seemingly self-centered, individualistic hockey player with maturity issues into a player who has proven to be a good teammate, someone who can be an important cog of a successful team.'

Only CBC can make me like the Killers – an amazing video, as we have come to expect:

{youtube}ahSYxgTrCXY{/youtube}