This one could throw a wrench into things. According to Renaud Lavoie on Twitter, Evander Kane (RFA, July 1st) doesn't want to negiotate a new contract with the Jets, which probably means he's trying to force a trade from the Jets or he's planning on holding out. Probably not great news for Jets fans.

Just a plug for a fellow Dobberite. If you haven't had a chance to checkout <u>Dean's NHL Mock</u> at THW,

give it a good read. Must read behind the Dobber Prospects Report

The Caps have a <u>league-high 11 draft picks</u> in the upcoming NHL entry draft. Caps GM George McPhee believes that the 2012 draft class is deeper than most. He did highlight that there's more "top quality" defenseman than forwards which might hint that he might be after a blue-liner with picks 11 and/or 16. In the past two drafts, highly touted blue-liners, Cam Fowler and Ryan Murphy, have both dropped down to 12

th overall picks, so the Caps could be in great position to secure their blue-line for the next 15 years if they decide to snag a pair of defenseman with their first round picks.

A thought crossed my mind the other day and I thought I should delve into it a bit deeper.

Written by Ryan Ma Saturday, 16 June 2012 20:52 - Last Updated Sunday, 17 June 2012 02:23 Take a look at the following table and let me know what you think. Career numbers: Player GP G Α Р +/-PIM GWG SOG

Written by Ryan Ma Saturday, 16 June 2012 20:52 - Last Updated Sunday, 17 June 2012 02:23	
SP	
A	
674	
289	
258	
547	
-71	
568	
44	
2278	
12.7	

Written by Ryan Ma

Saturday, 16 June 2012 20:52 - Last Updated Sunday, 17 June 2012 02:23
В
530
205
224
429
+37
664
36
1612
12.7
Per game numbers:

Written by Ryan Ma Saturday, 16 June 2012 20:52 - Last Updated Sunday, 17 June 2012 02:23
Player
GP
G
A
P
+/-
PIM
GWG
SOG
SP
A
674

Written by Saturday,	Ryan Ma 16 June 2012 20:52 - Last	Updated Sunday, 1	7 June 2012 02:23	
0.43				
0.38				
0.81				
-0.1				
0.84				
0.07				
3.38				
12.7				
В				
530				
0.39				

Written by Ryan Ma Saturday, 16 June 2012 20:52 - Last Updated Sunday, 17 June 2012 02:23
0.42
0.81
+0.1
1.25
0.07
3.04
12.7
Now that's a fairly similar comparison isn't it? Yet one player always cops a lot of flak for not "stepping up" or "lacks motivation", while the other is anointed "one of the best players in the world" and would make a "great addition to any team".
Player A = Rick Nash, Player B = Corey Perry. Interesting isn't it?

There have been a lot of naysayers (mostly frustrated poolies), regarding the Nash situation. One of their main arguments is that they feel that he's overpaid for what he brings to a team. I would counter that by saying, he is the team. The reason why Perry gets masked is that he's had Ryan Getzlaf, Bobby Ryan, Scott Neidermayer and Teemu Selanne to cover his production, which meant that he wasn't the only focal point of his team's offense. Nash didn't have that luxury in Columbus.

If he goes to a team with a much better <u>supporting cast</u> (like Carolina, Rangers, SJ, Toronto or Philly), the numbers will skyrocket.

<u>Aaron Portzline</u> of the Columbus Dispatch reports that there have been "significantly more discussions" with other GMs this week regarding Nash. As much as <u>seven</u> teams

have contacted the Jackets about Nash in the last 10 days.

Great trade by Steve Yzerman in the acquisition of Anders Lindback! At first I thought it was a steep price with three solid picks, but after a bit of time for it to digest I thought that was great value since many of those picks were acquired from elsewhere anyways (they didn't have to give up anything on their own part).

I do agree with some naysayers that Lindback's a risk because of his lack of NHL experience, but from what I've seen during his "fill in" role back (of nine games) in December of 2010 when Pekka Rinne was out of the Preds lineup with a knee injury, has convinced me that he's solid enough to be a number one in the league.

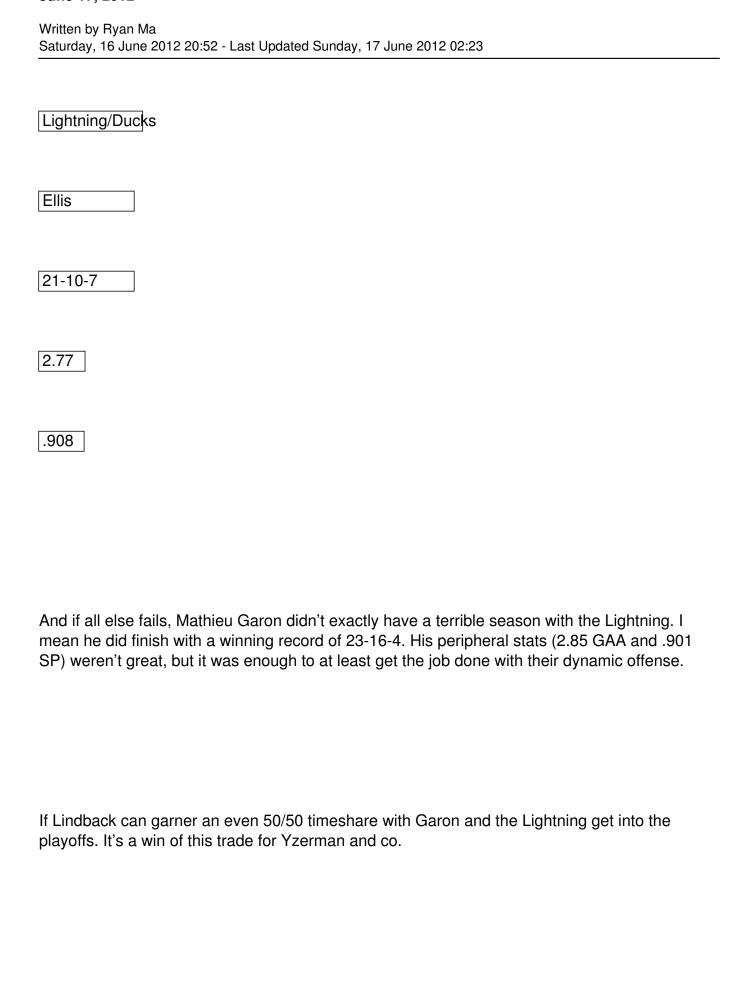
Written by Ryan Ma Saturday, 16 June 2012 20:52 - Last Updated Sunday, 17 June 2012 02:23

Another bright spot is the Mitch Korn (goalie coach of the Preds) factor. Nashville has just been
a factory in terms of churning out quality number one goalies since 1998 and Lindback is the
freshest product off the production line.

freshest product off the production line.
Take a look at the recent products off the Korn production line after leaving the factory.
Year
Team
Name
Record
GAA
SP
07-08
Panthers

Written by Ryan Ma

Saturday, 16 June 2012	20:52 - Last Updated	Sunday, 17 June 20	12 02:23	
Vokoun				
30-29-8				
2.68				
.919				
08-09				
Blues				
Mason				
27-21-7				
2.41				
.916				
10-11				



Magnus Hellberg and Jeremy Smith should battle for the backup gig behind Rinne this campaign. Smith did register a 31-19-2 record along with dazzling 2.17 GAA and a remarkable .922 SP in the AHL this season with the Admirals.

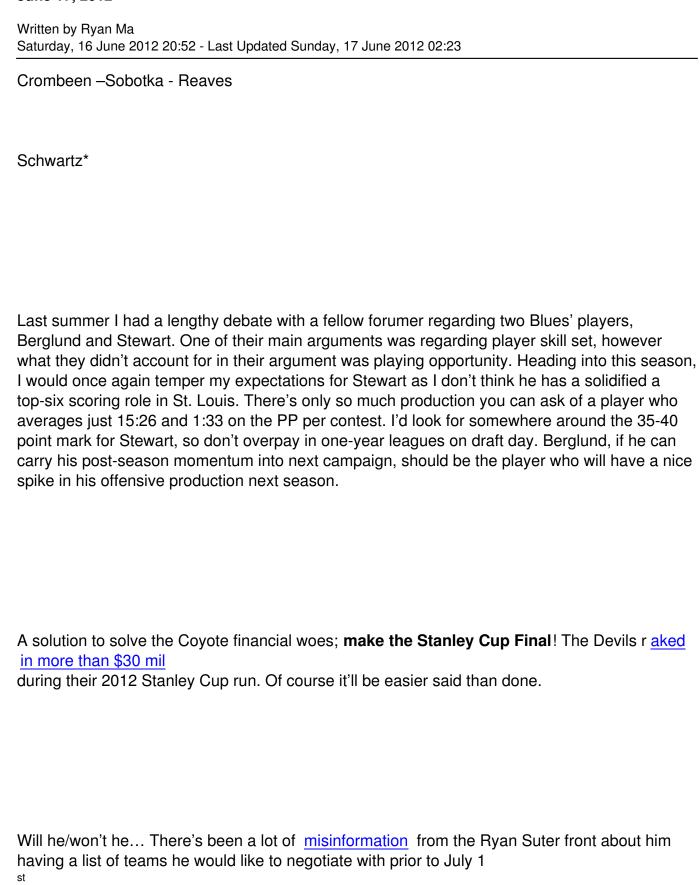
Chris Stewart re-signed a <u>one-year \$3 mil contract extension</u> with the Blues. In the last couple of weeks, there's been quite a bit of debate regarding contracts with the whole David Jones situation here on DobberHockey. This is probably the type of contract that I would have liked to have seen from Jones. One-year deal to "prove his worth", then offer him an extension if it pans out. If he doesn't, then you have an out clause. Where the Avs have shot themselves in the foot is offering a four-year contract at a relatively high market price. If Jones gets injured (again), or underperforms, that contract becomes an albatross contract while eating up a fair amount of cap space and there's not a lot the Avs can do about it. On the flip side, he pots 35-40 goals and it's a steal of a contract for the Avs.

Moving onto the Stewart front.

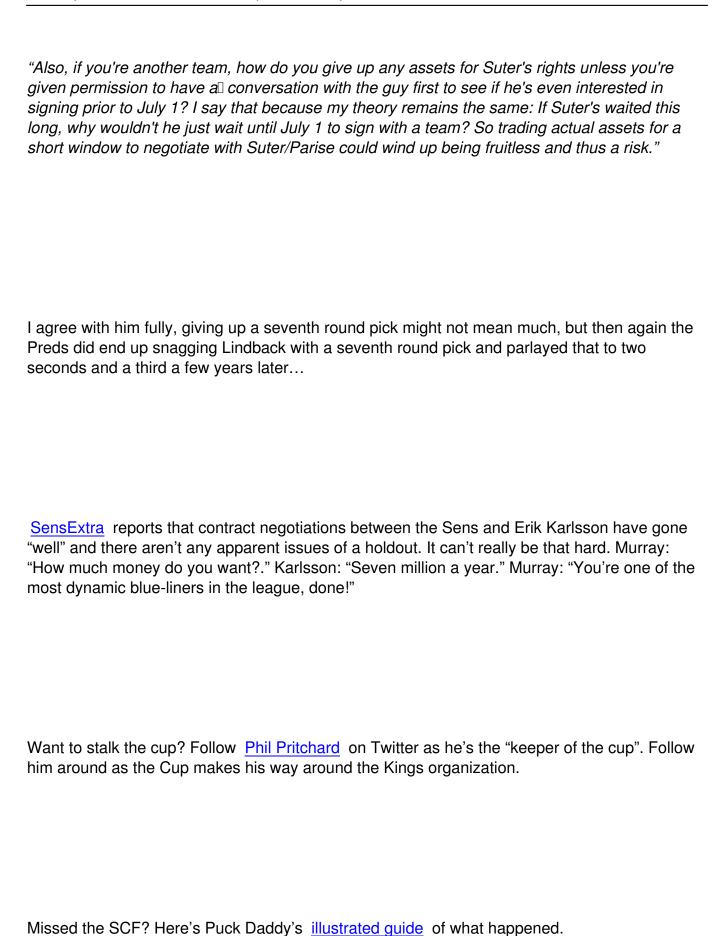
Berglund – McDonald – Steen

Backes - Oshie* - Perron*

D'Agostini – Tarasenko* – Stewart



, but his agent has refuted those reports according to Micheal Russo.



It appears that there's still some interest in Alex Radulov as a "couple" of teams have called to inquire about trading for his negotiating rights.

In the same column, it seems that Jordin Tootoo and Dave Poille aren't close to a new deal. Tootoo had a cap-hit of \$1.25 mil last campaign, but was injured near the end of the season and didn't get much chance to suit up during the playoffs. He heads into UFA status on July 1st. He did register 30 points and 151 hits last campaign, which ranked amongst the top-50, but I don't think there will be very many teams willing to offer him anything more than \$2 mil a season.

George Johnson of the Calgary Herald thinks that the Flames' Jay Bouwmeester is the most likely vet to be dealt at the entry draft and that the rest of the "core" will stay. I don't really see it happening. JBo is a rock on defense and a huge minute's chewer, which is exactly what the Flames need. Calgary management have been adamant about not doing a full scale rebuild, so moving away one piece won't solve any of their problems. Plus it's not like they're in massive cap trouble as they have about \$20 mil available for next season. If he is on the move, I know a city about three hours north of Calgary who could use a big minute's chewer like JBo to solidify their blue-line.

I wrote a little bit about Jon Cooper's success in last week's ramblings. It appears that he and Mike Havelid have been narrowed down as the <u>final candidates</u> for Washington's vacant head coaching position.

Quite a ballsy move by Sheldon Souray to reject a one-year \$3 mil deal with the Stars, but also keep in mind that he's still going to get additional pay of \$1.5 mil by the Oilers from his buyout from a few years ago. He finished 2011-12 with 21 points, +11 rating, 73 PIM along with 179 SOG all while averaging 20:27 in 64 contests for the Stars. I'm guessing it's the contract length was the kicker.

The Sharks would be a great fit for him. He'd get a top-four role and garner some pretty big minutes on a pretty offensive team. With Dan Boyle and M.A. Vlasic as the top pairing, Brent Burns and Souray on the second pairing, that then allows Douglas Murray and Jason Demers form the bottom pairing. It puts less pressure on Boyle and Burns in PK situations and allows your defensive types like Murray, Vlasic and Souray to do their job, while easing the pedal off of Boyle and Burns. San Jose had a solid one (Boyle 25:34), two (Burns 22:32) and three (Vlasic 23:09) but were overplayed, and where they got owned was their four (Demers -8), five (Braun -2) and six (Murray +3/White -5). Adding Souray for say \$3.5 mil over two years could be a sensible option to ease the pressure and provide some relief of pressure in their top-four.

I'm not sure if Angus or Dobber covered it, but the Caps have <u>extended qualifying offers</u> to Mike Green (\$5 mil), John Carlson (\$826k), Jay Beagle ((\$577k) and Mathieu Perreault (\$577k). Green is a great "buy-low" candidate after a couple of poor injury-riddled seasons. I'd look for a bounce back season from him.

Mark Spector of Sportsnet opines that the Oilers won't trade their first overall pick, and they

