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 Dean's NHL Mock draft over at THW, give it a good read. Must read behind the Dobber Prospects Report .

The Caps have a league-high 11 draft picks 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 12th 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.

Take a look at the following table and let me know what you think.

Career numbers:

Player

GP

G

A

P

+/-

PIM

GWG

SOG

SP

A

674

289

258

547

-71

568

44

2278

12.7

B

530

205

224

429

+37

664

36

1612

12.7

Per game numbers:

Player
GP
G
A
P
+/-
PIM
GWG
SOG
SP
A
674

0.43

0.38

0.81

-0.1

0.84

0.07

3.38

12.7

B

530

0.39

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 supporting cast (like Carolina, Rangers, SJ, Toronto or Philly), the numbers will skyrocket.

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

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.

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				

Vokoun

30-29-8

2.68

.919

08-09

Blues

Mason

27-21-7

2.41

.916

10-11

Lightning/Ducks

Ellis

21-10-7

2.77

.908

And if all else fails, Mathieu Garon didn't exactly have a terrible season with the Lightning. I mean he did finish with a winning record of 23-16-4. His peripheral stats (2.85 GAA and .901 SP) weren't great, but it was enough to at least get the job done with their dynamic offense.

If Lindback can garner an even 50/50 timeshare with Garon and the Lightning get into the playoffs. It's a win of this trade for Yzerman and co.

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 one-year $3 mil contract extension 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

Crombeen –Sobotka - Reaves

Schwartz*

Last summer I had a lengthy debate with a fellow forumer regarding two Blues' players, Berglund and Stewart. One of their main arguments was regarding player skill set, however what they didn't account for in their argument was playing opportunity. Heading into this season, I would once again temper my expectations for Stewart as I don't think he has a solidified a top-six scoring role in St. Louis. There's only so much production you can ask of a player who averages just 15:26 and 1:33 on the PP per contest. I'd look for somewhere around the 35-40 point mark for Stewart, so don't overpay in one-year leagues on draft day. Berglund, if he can carry his post-season momentum into next campaign, should be the player who will have a nice spike in his offensive production next season.

A solution to solve the Coyote financial woes; **make the Stanley Cup Final**! The Devils r aked in more than $30 mil during their 2012 Stanley Cup run. Of course it'll be easier said than done.

Will he/won't he… There's been a lot of misinformation from the Ryan Suter front about him having a list of teams he would like to negotiate with prior to July 1st, but his agent has refuted those reports according to Micheal Russo.

"Also, if you're another team, how do you give up any assets for Suter's rights unless you're given permission to have a conversation with the guy first to see if he's even interested in signing prior to July 1? I say that because my theory remains the same: If Suter's waited this long, why wouldn't he just wait until July 1 to sign with a team? So trading actual assets for a short window to negotiate with Suter/Parise could wind up being fruitless and thus a risk."

I agree with him fully, giving up a seventh round pick might not mean much, but then again the Preds did end up snagging Lindback with a seventh round pick and parlayed that to two seconds and a third a few years later…

SensExtra reports that contract negotiations between the Sens and Erik Karlsson have gone "well" and there aren't any apparent issues of a holdout. It can't really be that hard. Murray: "How much money do you want?." Karlsson: "Seven million a year." Murray: "You're one of the most dynamic blue-liners in the league, done!"

Want to stalk the cup? Follow Phil Pritchard on Twitter as he's the "keeper of the cup". Follow him around as the Cup makes his way around the Kings organization.

Missed the SCF? Here's Puck Daddy's illustrated guide of what happened.

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 final candidates 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 extended qualifying offers 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

probably won't know who they're taking until Thursday night or Friday morning.

First Dominek Hasek and now Alex Kovalev wants to get back into the NHL. Screw those two! I want Wayne Gretzky back in an Oilers uniform. That'll get the young kids listening and respecting the game of hockey.

On the opposite end of the scale referee Stephane Auger has announced his retirement after 13-years and 739 of NHL contests reffed. At least one Canuck will be jumping for joy.

Adam Proteau of THN penned a great piece on the cloak and shadows of the NHL negotiations. I was on the side of the owners, but now I'm torn about which side to side with. A bit of a long read , but pretty eye-opening if you have the time.

Pretty slow news day, if you have any fantasy questions that you want answered post them here
and I'll get to as many as I can.

Should you be so inclined, follow me on Twitter if you think that my article/tweets are useful.

One happy Canuck...

Exactly what I would do if I had a day with the cup.