Pick up the Fantasy Guide here , if you haven't yet. I'll update it until the puck drops, even if it's January. **UPDATED** today as well as the Draft List, with the Meszaros injury and Ryan Ma's "Projections" article.

Is there a funnier hockey website than Down Goes Brown? In reaction to the letter that Rick Nash wrote to Columbus fans in their local newspaper, DGB dug up some beauties from other NHLers over the years. I stuck Chara's at the bottom here, but take a look here at some of the others. The Iginla one is classic.

Angus here - my latest for Defending Big D - a look at the Dallas defense (hint - a work in progress).

Jeff Skinner has signed an extension with Carolina. Bob McKenzie says it is for six years at around $5.725 million per year. Young star player, second contract. Happens more and more frequently now, that kind of money.

Andrej Meszaros suffered a torn Achilles tendon while training last week in Slovakia and he had surgery Tuesday. He is out for 3-8 months. The official word is “indefinite”, but I’ve seen these take six months, and I’ve seen them take three.
Teemu Selanne
had this in 1994 and only missed 30 games, with some summer time added. So Carle has moved on, Pronger and Meszaros are out. That puts him back in the lineup between November and February. I really feel comfortable about
Braydon Coburn
getting back up into the 30s this season.
**As noted in the comments below, the term "eight months" has been bandied about in Philadelphia.*

Coburn has been a 20-point player for four years now, but prior to that he had 36 points. With other offensive options, he was leaned on for more of a defensive role. But after Kimmo Timonen , the Flyers will be leaning on Coburn.
Erik Gustafsson
isn’t ready. I also think the Flyers go for a cheaper solution in
Pavel Kubina
. Something short-term and a familiar face, though he wasn’t impressive in Philly.

Here is my THN offseason report for Nashville and Los Angeles.

Richard Park has signed to play in the Swiss league for the next two years.

Former Isles prospect Corey Trivino pleaded guilty to assault/battery charges from an incident last year. He gets probation and must be drug and alcohol free.

Current Flames prospect Michael Ferland has been charged with assault.

How good will the Oilers be? Well, they have a player who is coming off a 76-point season, and yet he's only the fourth best player under the age of 25 on that team.

Ales Kotalik has signed an extension and will remain in the Czech League this season.

Without further ado, from Down Goes Brown , a letter to Ottawa fans from Zdeno Chara in 2006:

Ottawa Citizen, July 3, 2006

A message to Ottawa Senator fans from

Zdeno Chara

Dear Senator fans,

As you know, I recently signed as a free agent with the Boston Bruins. While I had initially hoped to resign in Ottawa, it quickly became apparent that the team would have to choose between me and Wade Redden. In the end, and after careful consideration, they chose to resign Wade.

{youtube}bozWTCalz5s{youtube} Brayden Coburn vs. Steve Downie …