Written by Dobber Monday, 01 October 2012 22:50 - Last Updated Tuesday, 02 October 2012 10:11

Lockout Update: Day 17 - There is still a lockout.

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Fantasy Guide - The guide was last updated...Sept. 26.

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Contest - I'm going to audit somebody's fantasy squad. How to enter? Tweet me (@DobberHockey) the funniest name you can think of for a fantasy team (doesn't have to be yours). Use the hashtag #FantasyHockey. If you make me laugh, you automatically have a shot. I'll pick the funniest team name (my opinion) and contact you to get your team and league info. You don't have to just "Tweet" - you can also post the funniest team name on our Facebook page

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By now you've heard that Toronto rearguard Cody Franson has signed a deal with Brynas of the SEL for what may be the entire season, regardless of the CBA situation. The team seems to indicate that this is the case, while his agent hints at there being an out clause. Regardless, I think he is a quality defenseman if used properly and in the right role. With minimal ice time and PP time, he produced as well as could be expected - unfortunately for Franson, both Toronto and Nashville were deep in the position and role that he plays. Put him on a team in need of that toolbox, and he'd be a 50-point QB.

Calgary, Colorado, Dallas, Florida, Minnesota, Montreal, New Jersey, Islanders and Philadelphia are each teams that would be good fits.

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On a side note, I just have to shake my head at Leafs fans. They always need a scapegoat.

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The two sides - do I need to specify the NHL and NHLPA anymore? I digress - the two sides are set to meet again today, but will once again avoid the elephant in the room that is the "core economic issues". But at least things seem to be positive. The Great One is certain that the lockout will be settled before the New Year.

I did find interesting that New Jersey politicians are <u>getting involved</u> in this. The NBA's Nets moved to Brooklyn, so Newark is already reeling from that, just months after basking in the desperately-needed cash flow that came thanks to the Devils making it to the Final.

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Philly's rookie stud from last season Matt Read has signed to play in the Swedish second league. Jeff, Gates and I have all the moves covered in our Lockout Tracker, with most stats linked for easy reference. You can always access the tracker via the menu along the top. I can't believe how long this list is, just scroll down that page and see how long it takes to scroll. It seems like the entire NHLPA has found other jobs.

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Exciting announcement coming this week about a new - well, I'll wait until the press release for that one. But I'll be teaming up with one of the best to put together a product that will be released in early December.

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If any bloggers are reading this, and you're going to the Blogs with Balls conference later in the week here in Toronto, I'll see you there. I think Puck Daddy may have something at a pub downtown Thursday night or Friday night, and if so I'll be there as well - hopefully I'll get to meet some of you. I'll keep you posted on the deets.

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<u>Vladimir Sobotka</u> currently 16th in Czech League with eight points in five games. Unfortunately for him, the scoring-line roles in St. Louis are already full - complete with a full slate of backup options. Throw in the fact that Sobotka is a very good checker...and that's his NHL role, barring about 10 injuries to St. Louis forwards.

Drafted Sobotka five years ago? Sometimes it's not the fault of your analysis. You picked a good player with potential. But if a player is pigeonholed in a checking spot, then that's it. No way to know that in advance.

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If I owned an NHL team (yeah right), I would not want my name on the Cup. It's ridiculous. Put 23 player names on there, plus the coach and his two or three assistants, plus the GM and his one or two assistants. That's it. This 53 names nonsense is stupid. Andrei Loktionov isn't on there, but four of the equipment staff are? The

owner's wife is on there

? I heard a dog was engraved on there once? Come on.

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It looks like <u>Thomas Vanek</u> will play hockey in <u>Austria</u>. Look for that announcement sometime soon.

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Japer's Rink - Top 25 under 25, for the Washington Capitals. Link here . Interesting read, and who better to get their take from than the premier Capitals blog?

An interesting article in the latest Hockey News, It was about her

An interesting article in the latest Hockey News. It was about how the lockout essentially ended the NHL career of Marty Murray. He had been a fringe player, but had finally found his niche and became a regular. But before he could get any momentum with that, the season was cancelled. And right now, most of the media has covered Krys Barch's Twitter rant. This is the stuff that will help influence the Union to bend a little more (because the owners aren't bending). I want to see more stuff about the fringe players who are fighting for a job.

And while they're at it, can they (and by 'they' I mean the hockey media) do some stories on poor fringe KHL and Swiss League players who are currently out of a job right now so <u>Joe</u> Thornton

and

Alex Ovechkin

can play? This stuff needs to be brought to light. I wish I had some ideas about how to guilt the NHL owners into caving...but they don't really have hearts, so impossible to guilt.

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Speaking of The Hockey News, <u>here</u> is my column yesterday on what to do in your league in the event of a lockout (i.e. "now").

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KHL action - Sergei Bobrovsky picked up the win, and two assists, in SKA St. P's win over Ak

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Bars Kazan. Vladimir Tarasenko scored twice.

In other games, <u>Evgeni Malkin</u> 's team went head to head against <u>Pavel Datsyuk</u> 's team, but the two superstars were pointless in a 2-1 contest (for Datsyuk's CSKA)...

Alex Ovechkin

picked up two points in a 5-1 win...

Erik Christensen

, who is in the KHL for the full season, has six goals in his last four games for Lev Prague.

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KHL action, the Bobrovsky win - nearly eight minutes of highlights here, sans commentary:

{youtube}GM3fUHtIqVM{/youtube}