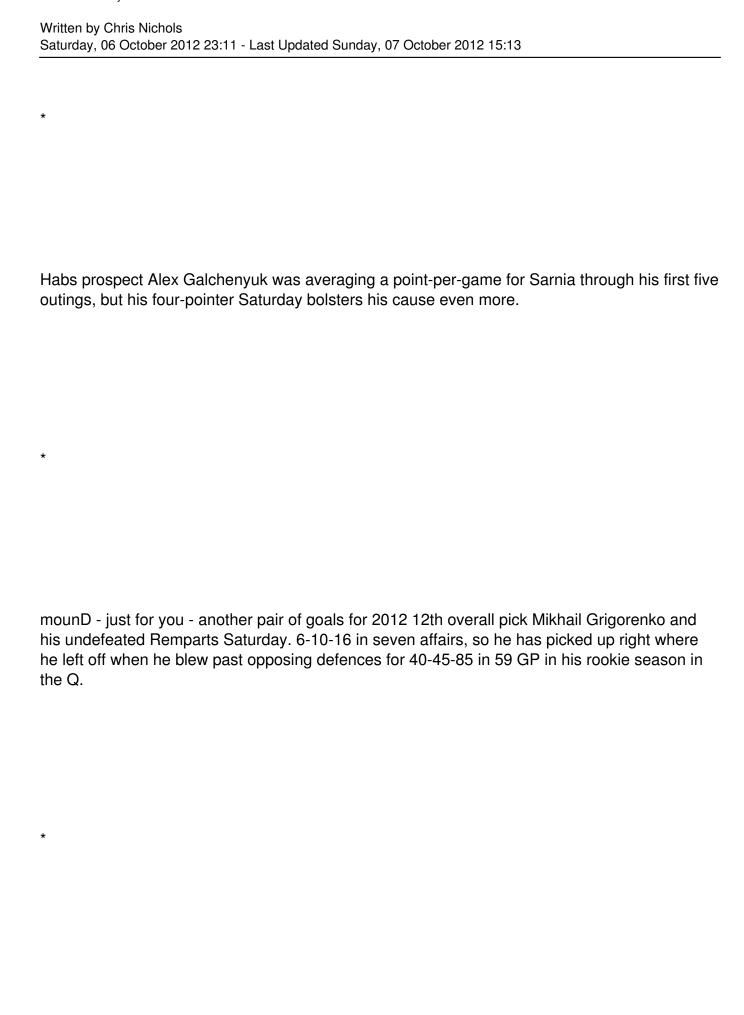


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Written by Chris Nichols Saturday, 06 October 2012 23:11 - Last Updated Sunday, 07 October 2012 15:13
Voracek not be able to fill the spot for whatever reason. Schenn is, at this point, otherwise likely to start with Danny Briere and Wayne Simmonds on the second line. There's really no reason to think Voracek won't be a great fit with Giroux.
*
Alex Ovechkin recorded another goal and an assist in a win for Dynamo Moscow today, bringing his totals to 3-5-8 in seven affairs. #Caps (See his PPG blast below)
*
Matias Strozyk tweeted that Ondrej Pavelec's Liberec suffered a 6-2 loss vs. Pardubice. Pavelec came in at 2-0 (7:28) and went 30/34. He's now 0-5-0, .859, 4.63.
Ouch.





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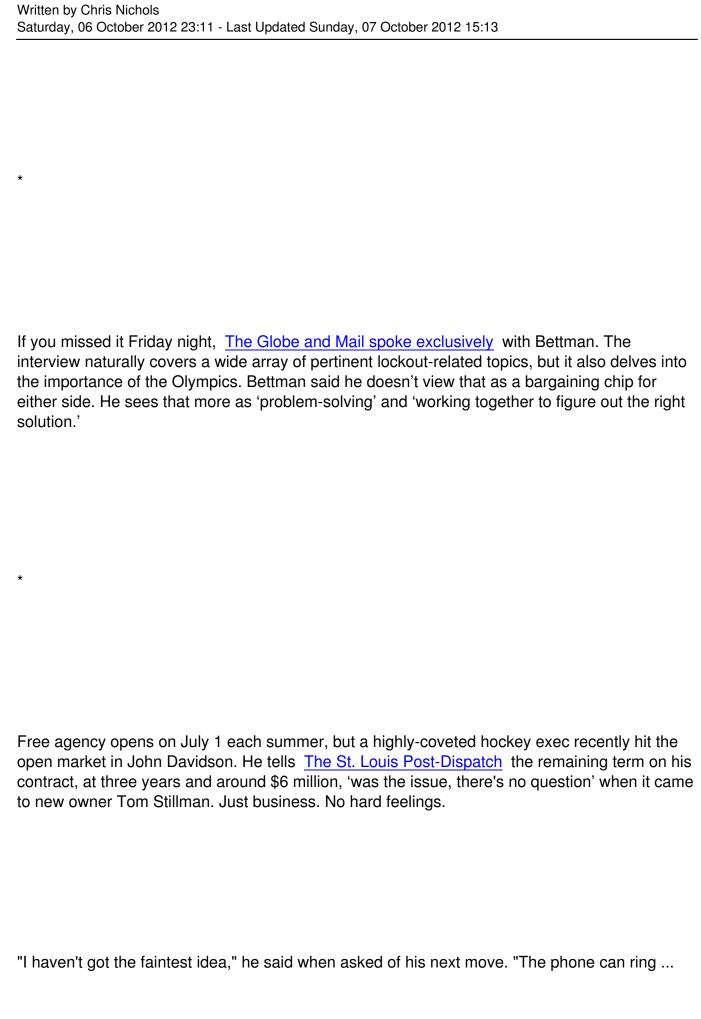
Reinforcing 'Canadian kookiness about hockey' has quickly become a candidate for favourite weekend quote.

<u>The New York Post spoke with</u> ex-Rangers' GM Neil Smith. He believes what a number of people have since said - that NHL Commissioner Bettman's first lockout spoiled the NHL's best chance to overtake the NBA as No. 3 among major sports.

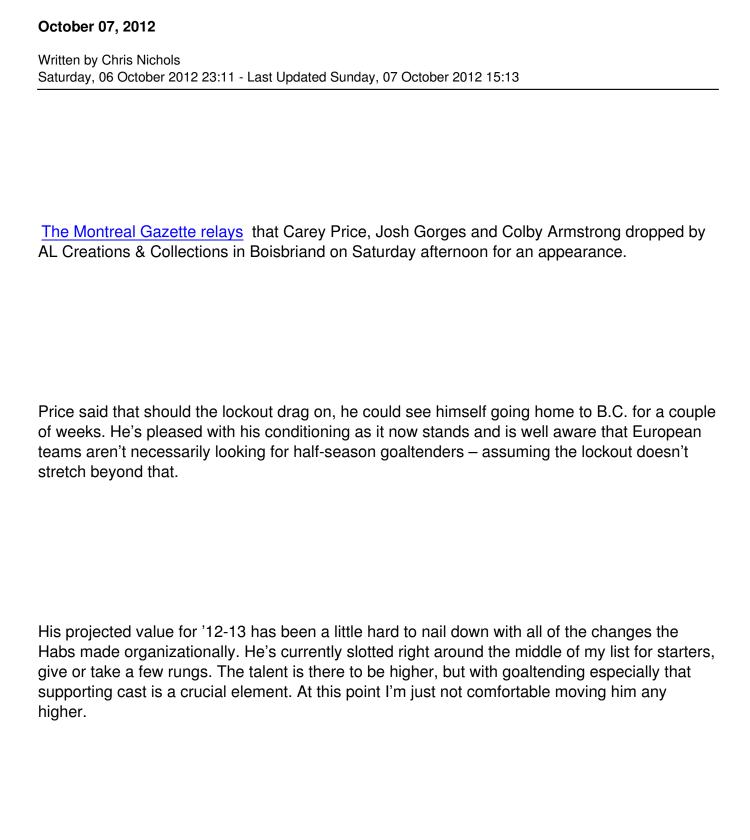
"We were in a great era and this was unthinkable that we would lose games. The NBA was not at its best at the time. We had a real opportunity to gain ground from the No. 4 spot we'd always been, to claw away at becoming No. 3," Smith said. "We had gotten, as a sport, so much momentum in the summer of '94. The No. 1 reason was the Rangers winning the Stanley Cup in the biggest market after such a long drought. That pushed interest in hockey.

"We were in an era where we had exciting teams in big, big markets. New York, Chicago had been to the finals and won a [1991] Presidents' Trophy, Mario Lemieux was in his prime, Pittsburgh was a great franchise, and the L.A. Kings and Wayne Gretzky had gone to the [1993] finals against Montreal, which ignited interest in hockey on the West Coast, when also, the Canadiens won a championship which reinforced Canadian kookiness about hockey.

"I don't think there's any doubt that the air got let out of the balloon by the lockout. It's undeniable that the lockout of '94 lessened hockey's chance of climbing the ladder."







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Centre Kyle Turris agreed to a deal with Oulun Karpat in the Finnish Elite League Saturday, <u>according to The Ottawa Sun.</u>

While teammate Erik Karlsson signed a monthly contract with Jokerit, Turris' deal is different. He is committed to play with Karpat for the rest of the season unless the NHL and the NHL Players' Association sign a new CBA.

Turris had 12-17-29 in 49 GP with the Sens, including a four-game stretch near the end of the season where he posted a pair of two-point efforts and also had a four-point outing.

The 23-year-old should continue to see his career blossom in Ottawa as a second-line pivot behind Jason Spezza, especially with Daniel Alfredsson expected to reprise his role as a wing on that unit. I'd love to see Guillaume Latendresse with an extended shot opposite Alfredsson.

One of the positive traits we can learn from athletes, generally speaking, is the single-minded focus they strive for in order to get their job done. They usually have a knack for blocking off outside distractions. Such is the situation in which Marlies goaltender Ben Scrivens finds himself, with the lure of a possible NHL back-up job just a signed CBA away from his reach.

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He was asked by The National Post about his personal goals for '12-13. "It's tough to say," Scrivens said Friday. "Especially with the lockout going on right now, you kind of have to readjust. "I don't think about [the Leafs' job] really at all. Maybe I thought about it during the summer, when there's not much else to do ... [But] the day that the lockout ends, whenever that is, that's when I'll start thinking about what could potentially happen or what is going to happen." He's currently slated to back up James Reimer for the Leafs, although there's still every chance GM Brian Burke could pull the trigger on a trade. He could just as easily sign one of several UFA veteran goaltenders available, which wouldn't cost a roster asset.

There was more than a little build up over the summer when college defenceman Justin Schultz narrowed down his choices of NHL teams for which he wanted to play. He told The Edmonton be's using

his time with the Barons now, during the lockout, to get acclimatized to the difference between the NCAA and the AHL. That should aid in his transition to the NHL.

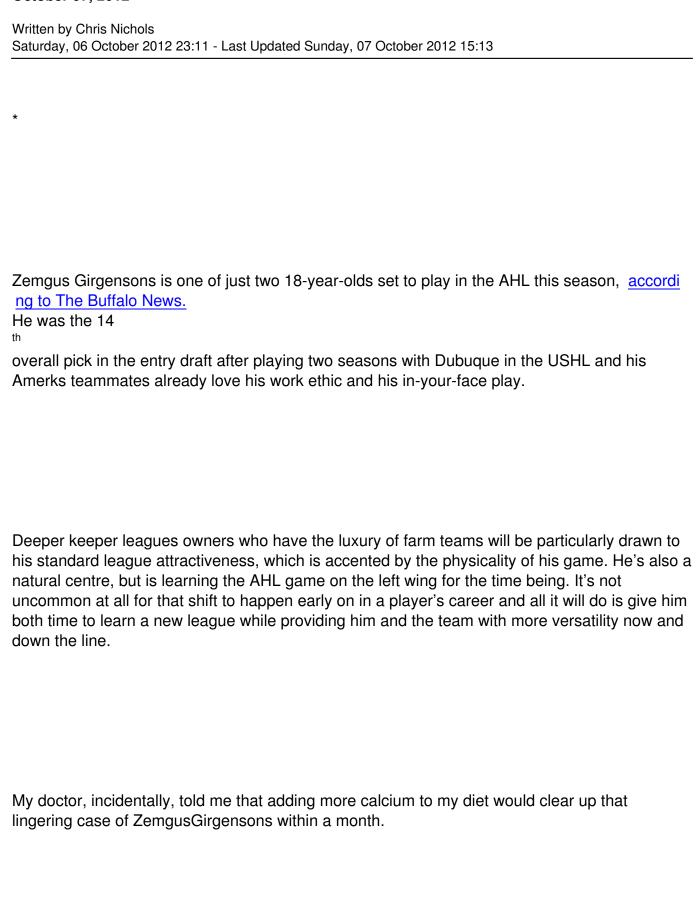


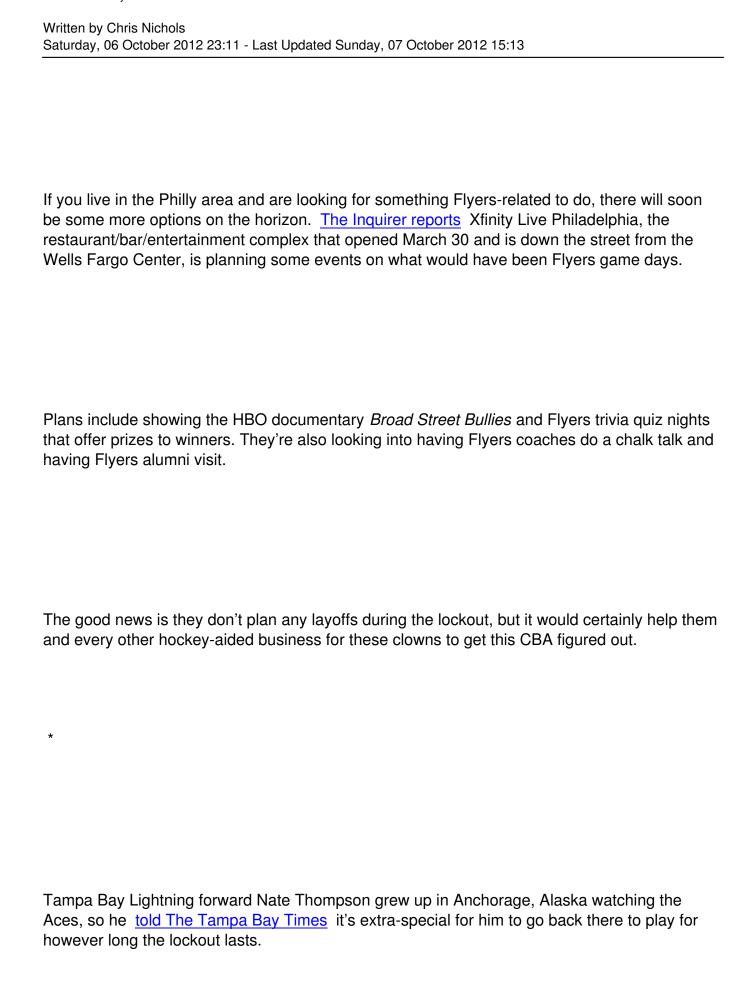
Goaltender Yann Danis said he can tell from watching Schultz that the rearguard is a 'skilled player' and that he has 'lived up to' the hype so far.

Schultz and Ryan Whitney should be primed to load the first unit power play gun for the arsenal of young Oilers stars up front, which should make each defenceman a worthwhile option for poolies in any format when the season finally gets underway. Whether Whitney can stay healthy or not is another question altogether, but when it comes to Schultz – he'll be in a position to succeed and that's all you can ask for in the beginning.

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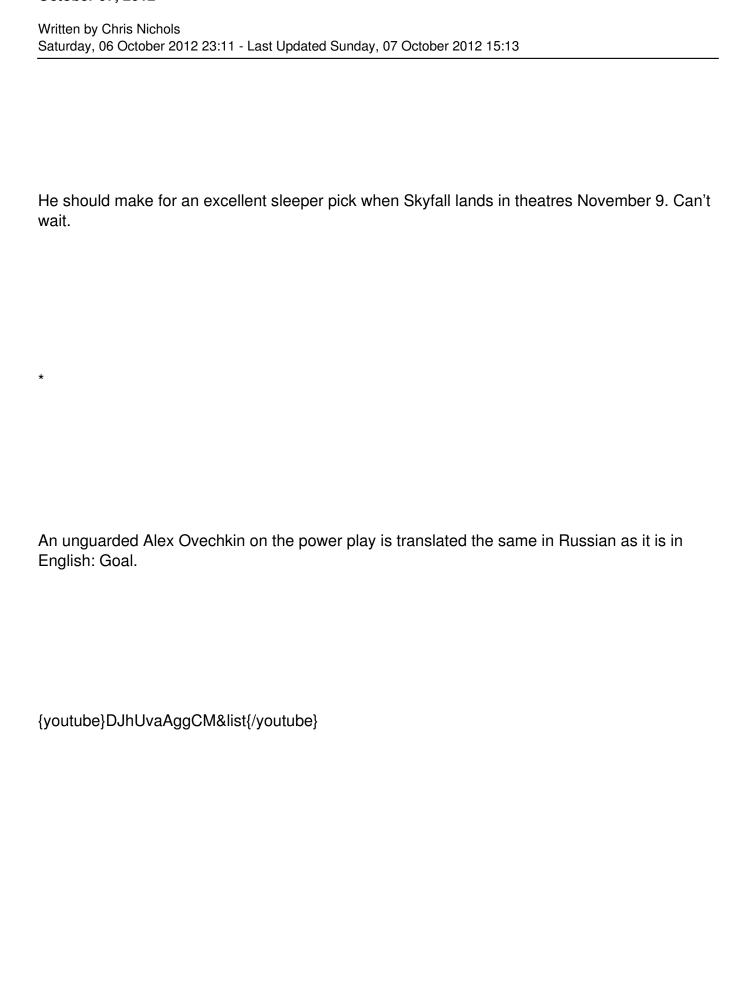
Success in professional sports is often about a sense of commitment from an individual player as much as anything else and <a href="The Winnipeg Sun indicates">The Winnipeg Sun indicates</a> St. John's IceCaps defenceman Julian Melchiori paid the price with Gary Roberts' gruelling workouts over the summer. The result was slimming down from 221 pounds to 210, while also going for quicker feet to adapt from the junior to pro game transition. The organizational brass seems impressed with the improvements, so good on him for digging in and getting it done. He had 2-17-19 in 35 games with Kitchener and then another 0-17-17 in 26 contests once he was traded to Oshawa.





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"For me it's important. I grew up here, and it's a pretty tight-knit community, especially the hockey community. Maybe I can help a young guy on the way while I'm doing this." Scott Gomez, who is practicing but not playing with the Aces, offered this: "It makes it fun again. You appreciate where you're at. And like I told Nate, the people back in Alaska, you can't put into words how appreciative they are for the local boys to give back to the community. You find the love again." If you're just itching to get a poolie fix while we wait for the NHL to begin, you may want to consider starting a movie death league. The New York Post relays that a British newspaper did a tally and James Bond has knocked off 352 dastardly villains in service of the gueen. Most impressive is his 16 kills-per-flick ratio, including the legendary extermination of 47 ruthless souls in GoldenEye. Daniel Craig, who is, IMO, a pretty solid 007, has actually brought the eradications-per-picture rate down with only 27 slayings in his two films. Will he improve on that number? Yes. Call it a hunch.





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