Lockout Update: Day 39: There is still a lockout.

*

Fantasy Guide - **UPDATED as of today** - Tropp, Luongo, Ellis, Rask and more - and don't forget that when the season is announced, I will re-jig the projections from Abdelkader through to Zubrus.

*

Tuukka Rask left yesterday's Czech League contest after the first period with a groin injury. The same groin injury that cost him a month or so back in the spring. He's potentially the top fantasy goalie in the year ahead - but he's also potentially a fantasy team killer. If something like this dogs him for three months, forget about it - the season may only be three months long!

Apparently, the injury was "minor" and he may not miss time. Still…

A sly GM with room on the bench and Anton Khudobin on the wire will grab him. Worthy of a bench spot until you see how the Rask situation pans out. Even if he heals, and returns to action things like this could happen at any time. Especially with a shorter training camp.

*

Vancouver's first-round pick Brendan Gaunce suffered a separated shoulder in OHL action. It will keep him out for a month .

*

Speaking of prospects and shoulders - it's time to pull the plug on Calvin de Haan. He suffered the third shoulder injury of his career and this one will take him out of action for the entire 2012-13 season. Far too risky to sit on my keeper league squad, despite the upside. I would let someone else take the chance.

*

Danny Briere and Claude Giroux have combined for 21 points in, uh, four German Elite League games.

*

Jakub Voracek hopes to return to practice this week. He has been out with a knee injury. So there you go fantasy owners - no harm done.

*

How did NBC let the NHL weasel $180 million for this year even with a lockout? Granted, they get a year tacked onto the end of the deal - free - but still. With the interest that the NHL garners from $180 million over the lifetime of the agreement, the NHL will have made $180 million in interest. So they get their money regardless. Just a dumb arrangement on the part of NBC.

*

Elliotte Friedman's 30 thoughts right here . My favorite:

Was talking to a retired player on the weekend, and I said I thought the players should have started the process sooner. His reply: "If [the players] started sooner, they wouldn't have received $200 million [in new contracts] in the 48 hours before the lockout." I didn't have an answer for that one.

And here's another good one, that holds some fantasy relevance:

Then there's Justin Schultz. Oklahoma City tracks individual player plus/minus for scoring chances. "After Friday night's game [a 5-2 win over San Antonio], assistant coaches Gerry Fleming and Rocky Thompson said Justin was a plus-10," head coach Todd Nelson said. "Then they said, 'We've never seen that before.' I haven't either."

*

Patrick Kane is off to Switzerland . He'll join Tyler Seguin with EHC Biel.

*

The other Kane - Evander - has been criticized by his Dinamo Minsk's coach for not being fit, was suspended for one game for a headshot. He has zero points in five games.

*

Rangers' prospect Chris Kreider has been suspended by the AHL for one game for a boarding incident last week.

*

Jason Garrison is still battling his groin injury , but aims to be ready November 2 if there is a season. Probably has nothing to worry about.

*

Sergei Kostitsyn clarified his comments from the other day.

“The question the Russian reporter asked was if I will live in America after the end of my career,” Kostitsyn said. “I said probably not because my friends and family live here in Belarus.”

“I just want to say I really enjoy America and Nashville,” he added.

*

Cool - Alexei Morozov picked up his 1000th KHL/Russian League point yesterday .

*

The NHLPA has requested a meeting for today, but per Helene Elliott:

Bill Daly: "At this point there is nothing to meet about. The union has rejected our proposal from last Tuesday and they have indicated they aren't making a new one. Back to the drawing board."

So the dummies won't sit down and talk. Posturing.

*

Not overly funny, but amusing enough to watch in its entirety (or maybe I was just bored). Sad that this was done in LA. You know, where they won the Stanley Cup?

{youtube}6Ya7Hm0bhQw{/youtube}