

October 27, 2012

Written by Jeff Angus

Friday, 26 October 2012 10:45 - Last Updated Saturday, 27 October 2012 12:10

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[Here is my interview with Andy O'Brien](#) , who has been training Sidney Crosby for over 10 years. O'Brien also worked for the Florida Panthers for five years, and trains a number of other high profile hockey players.

On Crosby:

His vision is very special, specifically his ability to track moving objects, but I think the characteristic that stands out the most is his lack of complacency. □ In 12 year of working with him, he's never missed a workout, and he's never given anything less than his best effort. □ He has a remarkable way of bringing his "A" game on a daily basis, which requires tremendous focus, determination, and mental toughness. □ He's extremely bright and very serious about his performance. □ He's also a fierce competitor, and takes advantage of his ability to intimidate his competition.

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The NHL has cancelled the entire November schedule. The reason they wiped out an entire month's worth of games compared to a week or two is to allow teams to recoup some of the lost revenues by rebooking arena dates.

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James Mirtle has been one of a few voices of reason during the lockout – here is his latest on [how close the two sides really are to a deal](#).

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Florida goalie prospect Dov Grumet-Morris allowed only one goal on 43 shots on Thursday night against the Rockford Ice Hogs. Grumet-Morris has allowed only three goals in three games – he is sharing the San Antonio crease with [Jacob Markstrom](#) .

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The only Rockford goal was scored by potential Blackhawk [Brandon Pirri](#) .

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Hockey's Future with a very general look at the Dallas Stars [prospect pool](#). On the right wing depth chart:

The Stars boast an embarrassment of riches at the right wing position in their pipeline. Alex Chiasson, a playmaking winger from Quebec and Boston University, will turn pro this year and should quickly become a major part of the Texas offense. He already has pro size and once he adjusts to the speed of the game, it will not be long before he cracks the Dallas lineup. Reilly Smith, a veteran of three NHL games and three seasons at Miami University, is a noted finisher who readily finds open spaces in the defense. How quickly he will be able to make the adjustment to the professional level remains to be seen. The former Redhawk captain did need an adjustment period at the collegiate level before he took off and became an elite NCAA player.

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[Interesting story here](#) – former Dallas Stars prospect [Yared Hagos](#) has become a world class marathon runner.

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Brett Hull wishes the city of Buffalo a Happy Halloween in only a way he can. [Trust me, this picture is worth the click.](#)

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NHL.com has compiled a list of the [top draft-eligible prospects in the WHL.](#)

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Shea Theodore, D, Seattle -- The Thunderbirds are off to a solid start, and Theodore, a 6-1.75, 182-pound blueliner, is one reason. After posting 35 points in 69 games as a WHL rookie last season, he's upped his production with three goals and three assists in 10 games. After the minus-36 he turned in last season, he is a minus-4 in 2012-13. He earned an A grade in Central Scouting's preliminary players to watch list.

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I forgot to write about this, but I made a trade last week in my H2H keeper league. I moved [Kimm Timonen](#) for Ryan McDonagh (I also received a minor pick upgrade in the process). Our league counts hits (a category that McDonagh wins), but I am losing a lot in terms of assists and power play points.

The primary reason for making this deal – Timonen's age. He is a rock solid veteran but I wonder how many years of 40-50 points he has left in the tank? McDonagh won't ever be an elite point producer (he is too good defensively to be given an exclusive offensive role), but he should get 30-35 points at the very least, regardless of role or responsibility on the New York back end.

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Jason Gregor speculates what happens with the 2013 Draft [if the entire season is wiped out.](#)

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[Taylor Hall](#) hopes to get cleared soon (as in next week) so [he can suit up for Oklahoma City.](#)
On his ailing shoulder:

"It feels good. It's felt good for a long time. I'm sure I could have started the season in the NHL. I just haven't been cleared yet. That's up to the doctor Monday. I'm pretty hopeful I will be."

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The KHL [has cancelled the games](#) that they had planned to play in Brooklyn this coming January.

“Meeting the wishes of thousands of Russian hockey fans, considering the interests of the teams Dynamo Moscow and SKA and due to the lack of certainty with the NHL lockout length, the KHL decided to change the dates of games between the teams scheduled for January 19 and 20,” the league said in a statement.

According to the KHL’s revised schedule, the two games will now be played in Russia.

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[A solid read on the merits behind some new advanced metrics](#) like zone starts, and quality of

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competition. I know that not everyone is a fan of using these numbers (it is foolish to blatantly ignore numbers, but I digress). I have tried to incorporate them into my analysis along with watching hockey and forming my opinions that way.

The numbers rarely tell the whole story, but they do a great job of filling in the missing pieces, or explaining the previously unexplainable.

The first step in developing a method to analyze these statistics is coming up with a few statistics that offensive zone start rate and quality of competition have the most direct effect on. There is little doubt that these two metrics have some kind of effect on goals and points, but there are many other variables that play into that kind of analysis, like shooting percentage, making the results a bit cloudy. The statistic that offensive zone start rate and CorsiRelQOC most directly affect is shot differential.

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