

October 29, 2012

Written by Dobber

Sunday, 28 October 2012 23:52 - Last Updated Monday, 29 October 2012 07:10

Lockout Update: Day 44: There is still a lockout.

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[Fantasy Guide](#) - Fully updated as of October 26. When the season is announced, I will re-jig the projections from Abdelkader through to Zubrus.

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Edmonton prospect Justin Schultz - a defenseman in his rookie-pro season - leads all AHLers in scoring with 12 points in seven games.

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While the players and the media are starting to believe that perhaps Gary Bettman has underestimated Donald Fehr, Bettman continues to just not care what players and media believe. He's at home, sipping his coffee and reading a newspaper. And when January hits, he'll cancel the season. And when January of 2014 hits and the NHLPA still haven't come crawling, he'll shut down the NHL. Do you think he's even given Donald Fehr a second thought? The NHL is a toy to his bosses. While they bring in billions of dollars from Little Caesars, or Biovail, or Rexall Pharmacy, or Ameritel or American Express - you know, their real businesses - they are content to take a couple of years off from their toy. In fact, if shutting down the league in two years and then re-launching a new league in four years is the method to get their way, they're comfortable with that.

Do you think a corporation cares if it has to shut down an office building in Montreal, if it saves millions? So what makes you think the owners care about shutting down a small part of their wealth, i.e. the NHL?

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The players are getting treated unfairly here. And yes, they are getting screwed (and the term "screwed" is used very loosely, when you consider that makings millions of dollars per year is hardly getting screwed). But welcome to the reality of life. People get screwed by their bosses all the time. You need to accept the conditions of working in your industry - as outlined by your boss - or you can go to chef school or business school or a trade school and find yourself a new career. It's a brutal way to put it, but it's reality.

I'm anti-both sides. But if I were to pick a side it would be the players - my anger with the players is a 100...but my anger with the owners is a 1000! That being said, I've accepted reality: You can't strong-arm the owners if they don't care. Stop banking on the owners caring, because they don't. And if they don't care, then threats fall on deaf ears and canceling seasons are brushed aside like an annoying fly.

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I don't think this gets done until the players swallow their pride and accept injustice. Yes, you signed a contract and not one person outside of the NHL believes you don't deserve every cent of that money. It's ridiculous that an owner is giving you contracts and then changing them. But that's the way it is, and the faster you accept it the sooner you can start making money again. I still believe it will happen this year.

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At this point I'm wondering if I should go through my projections and adjust them all for 65 games. It's a lot of work - it's not just a matter of taking a percentage of their current projection. There are injuries to consider, the recovery time, the hot starts, the aging vets, etc.

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Could [James Sheppard](#) be San Jose's third-line center this year? CSN Insider Kevin Kurz [believes so](#)

. At the very least, GM Doug Wilson expect Sheppard to make an impact.

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Here is the roster for [Team Russia](#) at the Super Series. Of note, Andrei Vailevski, Nail Yakupov, Mikhail Grigorenko (in the QMJHL games).

Here is the roster for [Team WHL](#) . Of note, Ryan Murray, Matt Dumba, Griffin Reinhart, Morgan Rielly, [Duncan Siemens](#) and Michael St. Croix.

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[Henrik Zetterberg](#) and Damien Brunner are [meshing well](#) in Switzerland. Wow - this speaks volumes. It gives Brunner a leg up in training camp, as he'll almost certainly be given time on Zetterberg's line to start. And he'll get a couple of games there - plenty of time to make an impression even if it's not enough of one to remain on that line. But enough of one to stick with the big club and occasionally see time there. Europeans generally take a couple of years to get rolling, but he could be on the fast track.

Incidentally, their linemate is [Linus Omark](#) . Brunner leads the Swiss League in points, but Omark is second.

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What you see often in sports is when a high level executive moves from one team to the next, players from his former team tend to get acquired with more frequency than from the 28 other teams in the league. So John Davidson is now with Columbus. Hmmmm... what position on Columbus really sucks? And what position is a strength in St. Louis, to the point of embarrassment it's so ridiculously impressive?

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Yes, I'm saying you should watch for the Columbus goalies to stumble early on and if [Brian Elliott](#) is off to a hot start again, then look for the Jackets to make a play for [Jaroslav Halak](#)

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Toronto's top pick this past summer, defenseman Morgan Rielly, is up to 20 points in 16 games in WHL action. That's good for second among defensemen. So far, that pick at third is looking brilliant.

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Down Goes Brown - [what sport should you watch](#) while the NHL is locked out?

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I know it's a minor thing, but [Ryan Nugent-Hopkins](#) getting knocked out of the game Friday after getting clipped in the mouth - it's not giving me that warm feeling inside about him. The concern is, will he always run into little injuries? He's not a thick, strong guy and apparently he's not avoiding the hits and the stickwork. Far too early to say for sure, but I'd rather stuff like this didn't happen and the impression on his fantasy hockey future was more cut and dried.

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Semyon Varlamov has four shutouts in 11 KHL games this season so far.

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Nail Yakupov has eight goals and 10 points in 11 KHL contests so far.

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Sami Vatanen, who would be a rookie on the Ducks this year, has seven points in five AHL contests so far. What a great start for a player I've often compared to [Tobias Enstrom](#) in terms of potential NHL impact.

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This is funny - a prank pulled on [Paul Bissonnette](#) .

"Who do you play for?"

"Phoenix"

"I have the last game they played, and you're not on the roster."

{youtube}F_etJL8c2ZA{/youtube}