Lockout Update: Day 51: There is still a lockout - but hope rises again.

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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. Expect an update this week.

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Speaking of Fantasy Guides and lockouts, I took another look at my CBA projections and I'm thrilled with what I have there. On August 1st I projected a lockout that would last into November and that the season would start on November 23. That's now looking like a possibility.

You see? I could be hockeyyinsiderrrrr. All it takes is a great mind for reading and interpreting situations, and a bit of luck.

Bill Daly and Steve Fehr spoke several times Saturday - at length - about core economic issues (please don't make me speak or type those words after November). The gap between the two sides is very small and I'm at the point now where I would bet a small amount of money on a tentative agreement being reached within a week.

I hope I didn't curse the situation by being too positive. Things can certainly turn sour and a season cancelation is definitely possible. But my read on the situation is positive.

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An agreement would be great news for fans and poolies alike. But it would be huge for the livelihoods of NHL staffers, hotdog vendors, waitresses, restaurant owners and thousands of unrecognized people. And what kind of impact did it have on Dobber Sports? Well, here are the page views:

October, 2011 - 6,198,509

October, 2012 - 2,658,778

Yeah. That much. And the ironic thing is - the content that I've had up on DobberHockey has been better than ever. The additions of Rick Roos, Eric Daoust and Terry Campkin with their columns, the return of Russ Miller have been nothing but quality. Angus has added a mailbag and the ramblings have been as strong as ever. People just aren't interested in going to a fantasy hockey site right now.

So those of you who are hanging in there - thank you. I mean that. You're keeping the site alive. And I hope the rest of gang comes back when a CBA is reached.

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I was very disappointed to see Houston's (Minnesota's) two injuries Friday. I have Mikael Granlund in a league in which I just finished a short rebuild (two years). I have the makings of a Top 3 team, but as with anytime you just complete a rebuild - depth is an issue. So losing your potential rookie of the year for what will probably be four weeks (or the first week or two of my projected season) hurts.

And then Jonas Brodin is a prospect defenseman I coveted in another keeper league and was very happy to draft him late in the draft. His broken clavicle will probably take 6-8 weeks to heal, which takes him out for the first three or four weeks of my projected season and may mean that he doesn't make the team at all. Very disappointed. I love getting a look at my prospects at the NHL level and always hate it when I have to wait a year on one when I expected to see him full time right away.

The rest of Angus' Saturday ramblings can be found here .

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And Chris Nichols had another solid ramblings yesterday - his Sunday ramblings have become a must read in all of hockey, let alone fantasy hockey. He does a great job going over AHL and CHL action - I had missed Ryan Strome 's five-point game on the weekend and it was Nichols who brought that to my attention.

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With 10 goals in nine AHL games so far, Roman Horak has caught my attention enough to write today's Hockey News column on the Calgary Flames' situation up the middle. And how he's suddenly on the radar. Look out for that piece in the afternoon.

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Tim Erixon had four points and was plus-6 yesterday for Springfield (AHL). Prior to that he went seven games without a point.

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Recent European and AHL signees added to the lockout tracker include Taylor Hall , Jamie McBain
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Tomas Vokoun
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David Desharnais
and
Radim Vrbata
. You can always checkout the tracker via the menu along the top, and in this tracker you will find quick links to each of their stats this year.

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In case you missed Thursday's big announcement, you can find it here . A new tool for fantasy hockey, to shake away some of the boring CBA stuff!

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Here's an interesting look by The Hockey Writers at attendance before and after the last lockout , by team. Written by DobberBaseball writer Fred Poulin.

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Tomas Kopecky suffered a shoulder injury in Slovakia and is on his way back to North America. As we creep closer to what we hope will be NHL's training camp, we start to pay attention to our players overseas (and in the AHL)…and hope they don't screw us with a cheesy injury!

Not that anyone on earth owned Kopecky…

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Hell, you don't even need to play in another league to get hurt. Just look at Darren Helm - a fractured cheekbone during an informal practice!

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Did you guys see this ? Jeremy Roenick wants to beat up a guy in Toronto - with his consent - and was going to Twitter for advice on how not to get sued if he goes through with it. Interesting stuff…

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Alexander Radulov suffered a knee injury and he could be out for months…or at the very least, weeks. Too bad we don't care. Us fantasy owners care only for the points we could get, not the players who screwed us by fleeing.

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Jakub Voracek was back in (KHL) game action on the weekend. He had missed time with a knee injury.

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Some KHL highlights, check out Zdeno Chara hammering Miro Satan at 53 second mark:

{youtube}zDDzsOSATAQ{/youtube}