Lockout Update: Day 53: There is still a lockout - but hope begins to soar.

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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 - I'm holding off, awaiting word. I really do think we'll have good news soon. In the meantime, I'm finalizing the Fantasy Baseball Prospects Report that is out on Friday. I have four very strong experts working on it with me, and the content in there is remarkable. Almost too much information, you won't be able to read it all.

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The NHL and NHLPA met yesterday at 3pm. At around 7:30, they released a statement saying that they would resume discussions Wednesday and that no further comment would be given. That's pretty promising, but wait - there's more. At around 8:30, it was discovered that the NHL and the PA were still in discussions and that the statement was released prematurely. That's even more promising. Fingers crossed, gang. Negotiations lasted over seven hours and will resume Wednesday.

By the way, if another two days of hard negotiations get this done - so say Thursday - then you're looking at a 75-game season. Call it 72 to 76.

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The KHL offensive player of the month for October was Ilya Kovalchuk, who had nine goals and 12 assists in 13 games. He was also plus-10. Rookie of the month was Nail Yakupov, who had 14 points in 11 games.

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Geez, I'm so excited about the CBA progress I can't stay focused looking at the news. And furthermore…the news is almost non-existent. It's like hockey journalists and bloggers everywhere are holding their breath. Instead of digging up injury tidbits…they're waiting for the CBA news.

Some European leagues have shut down for a couple of weeks. And there was only one game in the AHL. And it was a 2-1 contest, with both Chicago (Vancouver farm) goals scored by a non-fantasy relevant guy. Though I guess Charlotte scoring only one goal is interesting in the sense that Zac Dalpe has just two points in his last six games.

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Jeff Angus does a thorough review and analysis on the drafting of Scott Glennie by Dallas, and the ensuing development.

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Here's an update on Mikael Granlund - lateral right ankle sprain, out two to four weeks. He's in a walking boot.

Here's an update on Jonas Brodin - eight weeks minimum with that broken clavicle. That takes him to New Year's Day. Ouch.

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This is great - rather than touch the puck and take the TMOI penalty, Sekera jumps into the

opponent's bench:

{youtube}OO5IGMVbw-I{/youtube}