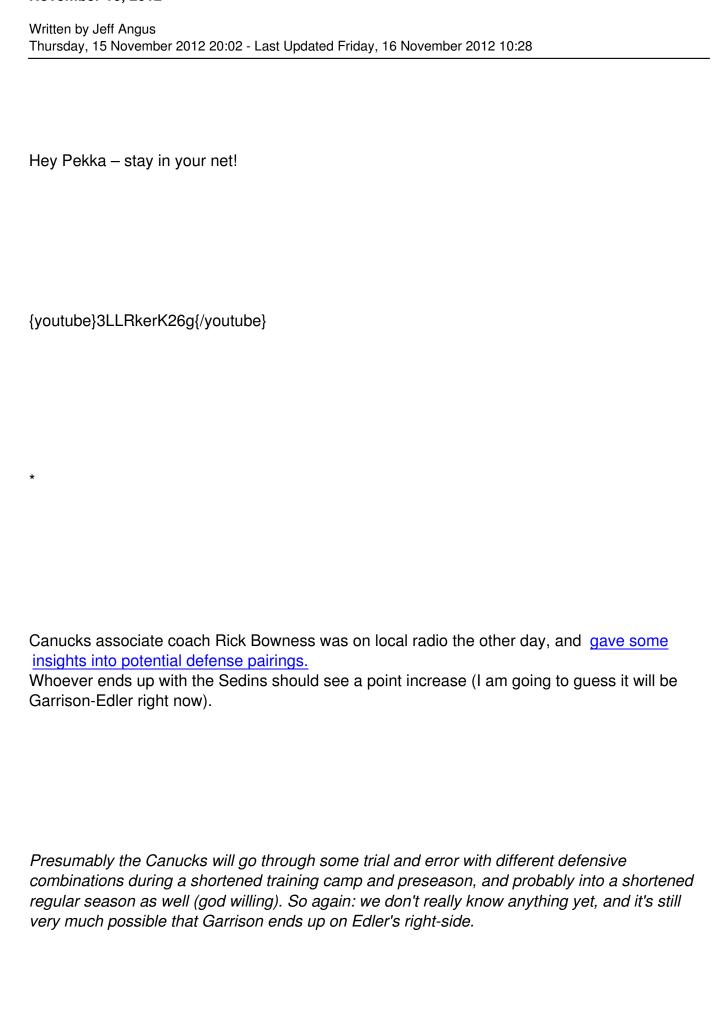
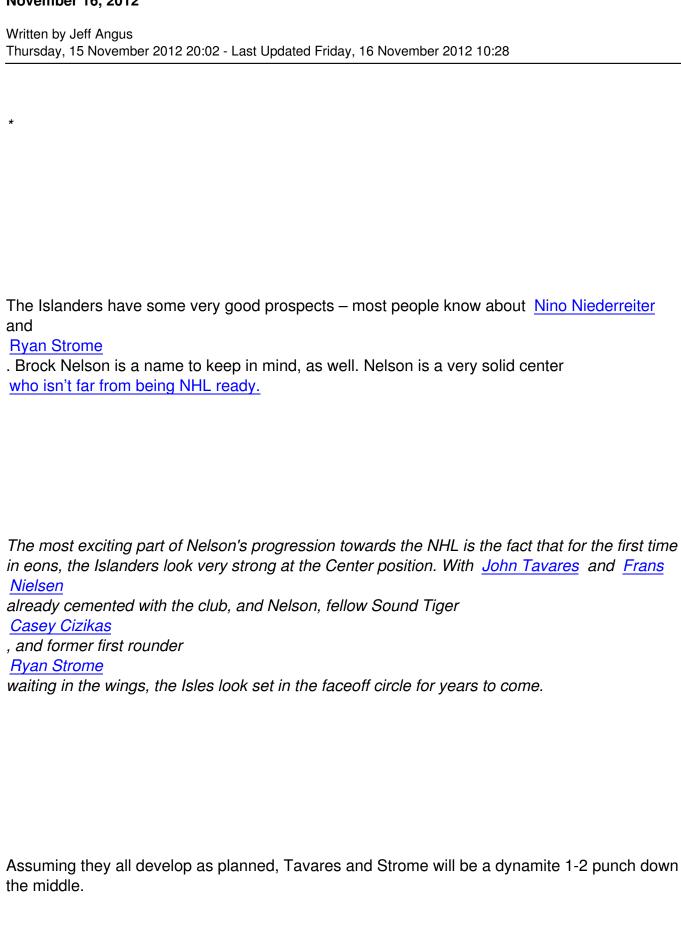


Written by Jeff Angus

I like Smith as a decent sleeper prospect, but the Stars for the most part have all struggled. It shouldn't be much of a surprise – there are a lot of new faces in Texas this year coming from different leagues, and they simply have to learn the system and learn how to perform like a pro every game. Do the NHL fans even care? A solid piece from the Columbus Dispatch, regardless of your stance on the lockout. Go ahead and take the rest of the year to argue over who is going to pay for the lockout. Take two years. It is apparent that the league is bent on a path to irrelevance and, at this point, fans are willing to cooperate. Most of us could care less every day. Mission accomplished.

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Written by Jeff Angus

Frans Nielsen has developed into a second line center, but he will likely slide into a Jordan Staal -like role on the third line. That leaves Cizikas and Nelson, both of whom possess upside well beyond that of a fourth line center. An abundance of good centers is a problem that the Islanders have not faced in quite some time. Good news out of Hamilton - Montreal prospect Blake Geoffrion is out of the hospital following surgery to repair a cracked skull.

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Thursday, 15 November 2012 20:02 - Last Updated Friday, 16 November 2012 10:28 Me and Pat LaFontaine agree on one thing – the NHL simply can't afford another full season meltdown. "I'm fairly optimistic that we'll see hockey. I hope before Christmas, but I think worst-case scenario – I'm an optimistic person – I see at least a half a season." Vancouver Giants winger and Detroit prospect Marek Tvrdon is out for the season with a blood clot in his shoulder - this has been a season to forget for the G-men, and Tvrdon was their only true star forward. The good news - he is expected to make a full recovery for next season (likely in the AHL).

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If you want to know almost everything there is to know about <u>Jordan Staal</u> 's on ice performance, read <u>this comprehensive post from Shutdown Line</u> .
So what did I learn from all this? Overall, not much since it is only one game but I'm excited to see what conclusions we can make about <u>Jordan Staal</u> and many other players after I get more games tracked here. If there is one thing I did learn from this game it is that Staal's defensive strengths is as good as advertised. It would also be nice if he shot the puck more, but that's just a personal opinion.
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Tampa Bay prospect Richard Panik is getting more comfortable in the AHL. He shouldn't get too comfortable, though, as the Lightning could be calling in the near (far?) future.
I like his motivation tactics too:

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"Last year, it was like crazy. We had so many meetings about it," Panik recalled. "Every time he'd show one of my turnovers, it was pretty bad."
At home, Panik came up with the idea to establish a turnover jar, dropping in a dollar every time he made a miscue.
"It was a lot (of money)," Panik said. "I had to fill it up full."
*
If you are Edmonton GM Steve Tambellini, do you allow Ryan Nugent-Hopkins to play for Canada at the WJC (assuming the NHL isn't back)?

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