*

DobberHockey member Jason Banks wants to invite you out for some free hockey at the ACC in Toronto tonight at 7:30pm.

This is a great opportunity to bring your family to a hockey game at ACC for very cheap price and show your support to a developing league of excellent hockey in need of great support. I have been a season pass holder for this league the past 2 years and very much reccomend that others look into, take part in and enjoy this brand of hockey. WWW.CWHL.CA for more information.This is a great opportunity to bring your family to a hockey game at ACC for very cheap price and show your support to a developing league of excellent hockey in need of great support. I have been a season pass holder for this league the past 2 years and very much reccomend that others look into, take part in and enjoy this brand of hockey.
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for more information.

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Is Ed Snider the only hope to save the lockout?

Put simply: Snider and the rest of the NHL's owners were promised a big win by Bettman, with player concessions on revenue division and contracting rights. The best they'll get now is a small win in revenue split - coupled with a demoralized fan base and all-important corporate sponsors that are ready to quit.

*

Here are Brendan Ross's thoughts on the Subway Series.

Scheifele was a force in the faceoff dot winning virtually every matchup he faced, and was probably the most complete player on the ice, showing why he is considered NHL-ready. Strome factored in on both OHL goals (1 goal, 1 assist, plus-2) and earned Player of the Game honours for Team OHL, as he was buzzing the entire game, using his speed and slick hands to control the play.

*

Morgan Rielly really impressed me during the recent Subway Series – his skating and mobility were as advertised, and he made smart decisions with and without the puck. You can see why the Leafs were so high on him – he has the ability to take games over with his skating and offensive ability from the back end.

*

Evander Kane has left the KHL – apparently he and Dynamo Minsk agreed mutually to part ways. It is never mutual, but in this case, they are telling us that it was. I don't buy it – Kane didn't adjust to the KHL – he was suspended for a head shot, and he was called out by his own coach for a lack of fitness.

Kane is a young kid and has a lot of upside, but his off-ice reputation isn't stellar right now, and this doesn't help it out at all. He got in trouble last season with some business dealings in the Winnipeg area. This likely won't affect him in the long run, but it should be a small (very small) red flag. Keep this kind of stuff in mind.

*

Tell us who the best goaltender of all-time is (in your opinion) for a chance to win an autographed Loui Eriksson photo. Contest details are here.

*

Some beauties from the KHL:

{youtube}LA3dAbmwrnM{/youtube}

*

Here is a thorough scouting report on Matt Dumba – will his lack of hockey sense hold him back?

Sounds a bit like a young Ed Jovanovski to me.

*

High praise from one of the most respected men in junior hockey, coach Brian Kilrea:

*On Sens pick Cody Ceci: "He'll be one of the top defencemen in the NHL... If you like Drew Doughty
, you're gonna love Ceci."*

*

I have no clue what he is saying, but here is a video of Jaromir Jagr working out:

{youtube}2f0g_eGlT1U{/youtube}

*

Jonathan Toews wasn't 100% during the playoffs last year.

The Blackhawks captain wasn't 100 percent healed in July. Or October. In fact, it wasn't until late last week that Toews was convinced he's completely over the concussion that caused him to miss the final two months of the 2011-12 regular season before he returned in the postseason against the Coyotes.

This concussion issue isn't going away any time soon – the league, teams, and players have to take accountability for proper reporting and treatment – being "brave" is one thing, but being stupid is another. Players risk serious long term injury by playing with a concussion. And there is no such thing as a "minor" concussion. A concussion is brain trauma. What is minor about that?

*

Bill Simmons isn't everybody's cup of tea, but he does reach a market that most hockey writers don't. I am glad he spent some time going over the absolute ridiculousness of the current lockout.

It's the ultimate team sport, and really, that's the best thing about hockey — there's a guaranteed level of entertainment night after night after night that transcends star power. Everyone skates hard, everyone throws their bodies around, everyone plays well together, everyone gives a crap. It's a blue-collar game that happens to be tailor-made for the ADD generation. That's why kids love going to hockey games so much, and that's why my daughter is so bitter right now (fast-forward to the last minute of this podcast). Throw in what hockey means to Canada (where they love hockey like we love football, basketball and baseball combined), some of the NHL's American hotbeds (Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Philly, Los Angeles, etc.) and the underrated fact that hockey players are the least entitled professional athletes on the planet … and it's almost impossible to screw this up, right?

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I'll have some AHL/CHL updates throughout the afternoon.