Lockout Update: Day 72: There is still a lockout.

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My THN column profiles Marcus Foligno and it's right here .

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This conflict is very emotional for people. Myself included, obviously. And the pro-union vs. anti-union discussion takes some to new heights of emotion. I didn't want to get into such a discussion, but my wording below clearly got me there. I didn't mean for that to happen and I regret it. So I would like to clarify some things.

1. My discussion of my circumstance - that is my own circumstance and what I would do. I was speaking from the heart. I know it's not for everyone. I didn't need to have that in my rant. I wrote that part last Thursday based on emotion, but it wasn't needed to make my point.

2. I use the words "anti-union". That term refers to the NHLPA union, not unions in general. I would have been Ted Lindsay's right-hand man back in the day. Fought to the last breath for what I believe in. Because in that circumstance, and in millions of other circumstances around the world, fighting as a collective brought a greater good. However, there are some circumstances where I think it brings negatives. It hurts the people it should help. And in the case of the NHLPA, I believe - me, my opinion - that they are hurting their players. I feel that they will come to an agreement in a month... or in seven months. But they will come to one. And the difference between the deal they sign then, versus one they could sign now *will not compensate* the players for the amount of money they will lose by the delay. So I am anti "this" union, **not** anti "all" unions.

3. My closest friend is a teacher currently in a union battling for what is fair. My wife is in a union that just averted a strike. So please, anyone in a union, stop jumping on my back. Relax. I want what is best for everyone and wish nobody malice. Take a look at your 2011 tax statement. Your 2012 tax statement will probably be very similar. Well, mine won't even be close. So give me some emotional leeway, I beg you. And please see other points of view in any online discussion before getting personal. Occasionally things are said innocently, or just plain came out wrong.

I'll stick to hockey more going forward, as I should have in the first place.

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On Black Friday I felt the impact of the lockout directly for the first time. Some software that I wanted to buy for the website was on sale and I was unable to take advantage. I had been waiting for the lockout to end, so I can sell some guides then improve some areas of the site. Ah, well.

In the meantime, you can support the site by pre-ordering the **2012-13 Fantasy Goalie Guide** for just $6.99
right here
. Justin Goldman and I have been working away at this thing for a month now, it's out December 3. It profiles the political landscape of each team's goaltending system - every goalie, plus a goalie by goalie profile of talent. Combined, the two pieces of information give you as clear an idea of where each goalie stands as it can get. In fantasy hockey, it's the toughest position to figure out. And I think my read of the situation, as far as a team's internal pressure for Goalie X to succeed, combined with Goldman's ridiculously accurate breakdown of actual talent, is a combo that is unparalleled. This product is unique, the first of its kind.

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In case you missed it Thursday, Puck Daddy had a " Things we're thankful for in hockey " piece, and I have a little blurb in there. It's unfortunate that I'm writing about wishing for the game…more than the actual game.

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I shouldn't say "game". I should say "NHL". Because the game lives on, right? I was at the Oshawa Generals game on Friday. Took my daughter Avery. She turns four next month. This was her first hockey game. Instead of the NHL grabbing such a precious memory, the OHL got dibs. How many other four-year-old precious memories have the NHL missed out on?

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The last time there was a lockout, the NHL wanted **X**. The union wanted **B**. Eventually they negotiated and agreed on
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- much closer to the owners initial offer than the union. But seven years later, the finances of the game were still broken. So now the owners want
X
and this time they're not going any lower than
W
. And the players are getting angry, not to mention confused.

"Why won't you meet us at **M**?" they exclaim, angrily. Then they concede - "Fine, meet as at **Q**! *What*
? Why not?"

Now the players are pissed. They went from **B** all the way to **Q** and wonder why the owners aren't budging from **W**. But the answer is simple - the last time the owners moved too far away from where they felt the

business needed to be, things were still broken and now there's another lockout. The union claims that the other sports' business models are not the same as hockey. But … the owners wouldn't be willing to give up billions to get a similar deal as NBA and NFL.

Hey, before I started DobberHockey, I went from a retail store manager to an inventory analyst in an office. Then I went to a similar job in another office for more money. And then I took an inventory planner job at another office for more money. Each time I moved was because I wasn't happy with the offer I got. I wanted more money to do what I was doing where I was doing it. I considered factors such as the commute, the co-workers, the breaks, the pressure for overtime and the pay. I don't need a union to get more for me, I am capable of doing it myself. I market myself, and I have a low tolerance for being unappreciated.

What I'm saying is, the players need to sign the offer given and back to work. Those players who don't want to work under the conditions in the offer need to market themselves to other companies. The KHL, the SEL, the AHL, etc. If they don't like those options, then they need to go to law school, or medical school, or chef school, or a trade school and work another career. If the situation is better elsewhere, then go elsewhere. Nobody is forcing you to play for a share of a piddly 50 percent of $3 billion.

I'm anti-union, BUT **pro-player**. I want the players to make as much as they can, and I'm explaining what I would do if I were a player in order to make me - the player - as rich as possible. Missing a season, or even half a season, reduces the dollars in your account at the end of your career.

Sorry for the rant.

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Clarification *- I resent being labeled pro-owner. I'm not. Owners are responsible for the lockout and thus my livelihood. In fact, if there was a personal hate scale of 1 to 10 (10 being 'despise/loathe'), owners would be firmly in place at 10. Union is at 9.5. Players are at a 2. Players are being taken advantage of by both sides.*

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I didn't know this, but I guess Freddie Meyer has retired as a player and is now an assistant coach with Manchester of the AHL.

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Ben Bishop is getting hung out to dry by Binghamton - and that's great news for Bishop owners. The guy has faced 165 shots in just four games. The more rubber a goalie sees, the better his game gets - or so goes the theory. His SV% is 0.927.

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Interesting stats for the Charlotte Checkers:

Zach Boychuk 18 games, 17 points

Justin Faulk 15 and 16

Zac Dalpe 17 and 14

Drayson Bowman 18 and 14, with 11 of those 14 as goals

Nowhere to be seen in the Top 10 - Jeremy Welsh, who has just six points. If he can't produce in the AHL this year, then it's unreasonable to expect anything in the NHL this year. I had been

asked about him a lot over the summer, and my answer pretty much stated that. But what's surprising is the fact that he only has six PIM - a number which should be much higher.

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So who is the top scorer in major junior hockey? Mikhail Grigorenko? Nope, he has 43 points, second in the Q. Ryan Strome? Nope, 51 points, tops in the OHL. JC Lipon, who plays for Kamloops of the WHL and has 53 points. He was passed over in the draft. Twice. But he's about four games away from getting to the 65-point mark, which matches last year's totals. This year's Tanner Pearson. Here's some more info on him.

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No matter what Roman Hamrlik said about the union, what Troy Brouwer said about his teammates was worse. Teammates before union-mates, buddy. That's your family. When the CBA is settled, will it be Donald Fehr watching your back out there on the ice? Nope, it will be that guy you just insulted. Brouwer was too harsh, and his words needed to be said directly to his teammates over the phone, and not through the media.

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Tyler Toffoli has six points in his last three games, including a hat trick. He had seven points in 14 games prior to that.

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San Jose goalie prospect Alex Stalock gave up six goals on 36 shots last night. Four of those points were thanks to JT Brown, a Tampa prospect. Brown has eight points in his last six contests for Syracuse.

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Ryan Nugent-Hopkins was held off the scoresheet, but Jordan Eberle, Taylor Hall and Magnus Paajarvi combined for eight points. Oh, and Justin Schultz picked up three more points and was plus-4. Schultz and Eberle are making the AHL their bitch.

Dan Ellis gave up six goals before getting the hook. I'm sure many goalies are getting the hook when they play OKC

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Joe Colborne has now gone six games without a point. Meanwhile, Matt Frattin has five goals in five games for the Marlies.

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Don't forget to click 'next' below and read Chris Nichols' awesome ramblings from yesterday. The guy really brings it week in and week out.

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Larsson and Zucker combine on this OT goal for Houston - five seconds in…

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