Lockout Update: Day 73: There is still a lockout.

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First, the NHL news. The league and the union have decided to go to a mediator . They did this, I believe, three times during the last lockout. The second time was in early February and when that one failed Gary Bettman canceled the season. The first time, was around this time eight years ago. This will get them talking and on the bright side, the gap isn't as big as last time.

Mediation did not work in football and basketball, but the NHL gives it a go - a column by James Mirtle.

The initial mediator assigned, Guy Serota, was removed from the position mere hours after being given the job. His Twitter account was hacked and the hacker said some controversial things. To avoid any confusion or perceived bias, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service just took him off the case. You can read more on that situation here .

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I love Donald Fehr's spin on Roman Hamrlik 's criticism of himself and the union:

"Democracy can be messy…we don't believe in censoring anybody. Different than the owners."

Well played, sir. Exactly how I'd react.

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Taylor Hall is the AHL player of the week . He had a goal and nine points in three games. He is the second OKC player to win this award. Justin Schultz won it as well.

Schultz, by the way, is on a seven-game points streak (13 points - yes 13 points).

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Tampa prospect Richard Panik is on a 10-game points streak, with 13 points in that span.

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After a modest start, Columbus rearguard David Savard has 10 points in his last seven games.

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With Barry Brust giving up a total of three goals in five games for Abbotsford, Leland Irving is having a hard time getting into any games. Irving has played just three times this month - I had expected him to possibly steal the backup job in Calgary, but if he can worm his way onto the ice for Abbotsford I don't see how that can happen.

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Jacob Markstrom has turned things around. He's not winning…but his play has rebounded. After giving up 12 goals on 90 shots to start the year (0.867), he's given up 17 goals on 178

shots since (0.904). Not great, but not as bad. And his last two games he's allowed four goals on 58 shots.

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For those watching for potential free agent bargains in the KHL, Patrick Thoresen has 28 points in 28 games for SKA. Our old pal Aleksey Morozov has 22 in 29 for Ak Bars.

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Sergei Kostitsyn has really found his groove in the KHL, posting 21 points in 17 games. If he can ride that wave of confidence back to Nashville, he could find that elusive 60-point barrier that so many skilled Nashville guys miss out on. I have him in one keeper. Was souring on him, but this makes me feel a little better. I know points don't translate, but I believe confidence does.

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Here's an update on what Peter Mueller has been up to. Hint: not much, just working out.

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KHL weekly awards were announced, with the only real "known" name being Nicklas Backstrom . He won the "best attacker" award.

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Mark Parrish has retired . So that's two in the past week - Spacek was the other one.

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My Hockey News article investigates Marcus Foligno 's sudden transformation into a potential top sixer.

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Magnitogorsk highlights from four days ago, including Gonchar, Kulemin, Cal O'Reilly and Malkin…

{youtube}z1T5OxemJLQ{/youtube}

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Yesterday I clarified some statements later in the day, because I had some pretty passionate pro-union readers upset. They had misunderstood my stance on some issues. I straightened it with those who contacted me in person, but in case you read the ramblings in the morning but didn't check back in, you can take a look at the statement here . One of my most controversial ramblings, with a good 35 passionately written comments underneath.

It's finally come to this! Owners vs. Players, and now… Fantasy Hockey Addict vs. Fantasy Hockey Addict. Now we have infighting at DobberHockey! Please - think of the children!