

December 4, 2012

Written by Dobber

Monday, 03 December 2012 22:14 - Last Updated Tuesday, 04 December 2012 12:40

Lockout Update: Day 80: Woo hoo! We hit the big 8-0! (Morons)

Oh, and there is still a lockout.

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Yesterday I released the Fantasy Goalie Guide - everything you want to know about goaltending with regards to fantasy hockey, is all here. I put up some screen shots so you can see exactly what you'll be getting - and I'll tell you this much, anyone in your league reads this guide they get a huge edge in the goaltending categories. [Buy it here \(screenshots here as well\)](#) for just \$6.99, which is really chump change for a magazine that you'll enjoy far more than that Sports Illustrated you were thinking of buying.

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Update: per several sources, 18 players will attend today's meeting. Here they are (per Bruce Garrioch):

Craig Adams (PIT), David Backes (STL), Mike Cammalleri (CGY), Sidney Crosby (PIT), BJ Crombeen (STL), Mathieu Darche (UFA), Shane Doan (PHO), Ron Hainsey (WPG), Shawn Horcoff (EDM), Jamal Mayers (CHI), Manny Malhotra (VAN), Andy McDonald (STL), Ryan Miller (BUF), George Parros (ANA), Brad Richards (NYR), Martin St. Louis (TB), Jonathan Toews (CHI), Kevin Westgarth (LA)

Happy to see the outspoken Miller there, as well as the unhappy St. Louis. Crosby and Toews are also great additions.

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I made one mistake in yesterday's note about today's big NHL owners vs. players meeting today - Bill Daly and Steve Fehr will be in attendance. So in other words, it's the same F'n thing. Honestly, I thought some constructive discussion would happen with none of the head non-hockey nerds in the room. And instead, we have two key ones. Sitting right there. You know the discussion will be dominated by Daly, Fehr and Jeremy Jacobs. While the other men in the room subtly slide their chairs to the far end of the table and try not to be noticed. Ridiculous.

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Oh, and that guy who broke the news about [Phil Kessel](#)'s cancer some years back broke the following [news](#) :

"WBZ's Steve Burton reports that NHL talks have made great progress behind closed doors and it looks like the season will be salvaged."

"WBZ's Steve Burton reports that a deal to save the NHL season could be announced tomorrow of Wednesday."

Burton is a player in the Boston news circles, but he seems to be the only one in the world with this information. Bigger hockey sources were quick to bunk this.

That being said, if Burton is tight with Jeremy Jacobs, we all know that Jacobs just needs to snap his fingers and the lockout is over. So maybe he's onto something...

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[Curtis McElhinney](#) picked up his fifth shutout of the season Sunday, tying a club record for

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Springfield. Between he and [Barry Brust](#), the career minor leaguers are making a splash in the goaltending world. Both Brust and McElhinney are behind one true goaltender at the moment, too. Because after

[Miikka Kiprusoff](#)

is...well,

[Henrik Karlsson](#)

and a slumping

[Leland Irving](#)

. So Brust has little in the way of competition there. And after

[Sergei Bobrovsky](#)

is...well,

[Steve Mason](#)

. So it's almost on a platter for McElhinney. Hmm...

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Danny Paille has signed to play in Finland. That makes it 12 Bruins overseas, plus two probably Boston players in the AHL.

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[Alex Ovechkin](#) will " [certainly](#) " return to the NHL as soon as possible. He was just joking around with that KHL stuff earlier.

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I think Ottawa made a huge mistake not letting [Mika Zibanejad](#) play in the upcoming WJC. Sweden is the defending gold medal champion and he is their best player. The tournament is going to be the best of the best in that age group (unless the lockout ends). I wonder, and this is a conspiracy theory for sure, if the Sens are purposely making a Canadian gold medal win that much easier? I don't want to win that way.

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WJC not a good learning experience? Not competitive enough? This year? Yeah right.

Sweden will be without Zibanejad, but also Jonas Brodin and Oscar Klefbom, who are out with injuries. [Here](#) are the players who will be there, including Sebastian Collberg, Filip Forsberg, Victor Rask, Rickard Rackell and Oscar Dansk.

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Here is [Team Canada's](#) invited roster.

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[Tim Kennedy](#) was last week's AHL player of the week. [Jordan Eberle](#) was the AHL player of the month. Pittsburgh goaltender

[Jeff Zatkoff](#)

(yes - profiled in the Fantasy Goalie Report) was the AHL goalie of the month. And of course - Justin Schultz was the AHL rookie of the month.

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Interesting stuff [texted to Buffalo beat writer](#) John Vogl by Sabres' goalie [Ryan Miller](#) :

"I am confused by the hard line on contracting," Miller wrote. "My only guess is Gary wants to limit General Managers so he won't have anymore loophole type surprises in this CBA. I understand that position to the extent you don't want contracts to cripple a team, but they are really taking away team building as a skill. Skilled GMs will have to identify how to balance a budget instead of building a well balanced winner."

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“What I haven't heard anyone talking about is the fact that under the NHL proposal the NHL becomes a 2 tier salary league. The middle class is gone and that means shorter careers and in my opinion mediocre hockey.”

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[Gabriel Landeskog](#) has [left his team](#) in Sweden to return to North America. He just wants to wait out the rest of the lockout here.

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Whooaaa - [Trevor Gillies](#) vs. "Nasty" Mirasty:

{youtube}QPw0rDa0KFg{/youtube}