Lockout Update Day 86: there is still a lockout.

*

Here is a column that sums up what I've been trying to say for weeks. Nothing against the players at all, but the situation is what it is. I like what the columnist uses as an example, in terms of how the owners have the leverage with hockey, whereas the owners of GM or Ford has very little leverage. And the owners of other sports do not have the same leverage as they do in hockey, because ESPN actually cares about the other sports. And I also liked his interview with a labor expert, notably:

What would you do now?

“If I was an owner, I’d hold pat.”

And if you were working for the PA?

“Try to negotiate on some small issues, to save face. Take what you can and live to fight another day.”

*

A lot of people emphasize how Gary Bettman has "met his match" with Donald Fehr, who has the experience and intelligence to make a lot of leeway. They say this as if Bob Goodenow was nothing. But let's not forget - if the players remained united behind Goodenow, there would have been a second season missed… but the players would have succeeded in avoiding a salary cap. It wasn't Goodenow's lack of skills or intellect that proved his downfall, it was lack of unity behind him.

*

Wojtek Wolski finished off his tenure in Poland, tallying two assists in five games. Not a lot of action, consider he was there for a few weeks. He played the last two games with a groin injury.

*

For those of you who own San Jose Sharks, here is a nice rundown of what all the players have been doing so far this season. Includes
Ryane Clowe
,
Logan Couture
,
TJ Galiardi
,
Martin Havlat
(wife recently had a baby) and
Patrick Marleau
among many others.

*

In case you missed this last week - Ryan O'Reilly signed a KHL contract. Big deal, right? Actually it is - the contract is for two years and he has no current NHL deal in place. Fortunately he has an out clause, but this will definitely be leverage when negotiating his NHL deal. Look at the wording of Metallurg's statement:

It has been agreed by mutual consent that if Ryan is offered a contract on more lucrative terms in the National Hockey League, Metallurg will not interfere in that contract being concluded.

This implies, to me anyway, that the Avalanche would need to offer "more lucrative terms". If they don't, then he can't get out of his KHL contract.

*

Colin McDonald was named Bridgeport's team captain late last week and he responded with a four-point game Sunday. He has nine in his last nine games. He's 28 and should be written off. Or…should he? Keep in mind, this is a team that gave Matt Moulson and PA Parenteau a real shot. McDonald had 42 goals in 2010-11 with Oklahoma City. With the quality of prospects on the way for the Islanders, the odds are pretty slim. Infinitesimal even. But in the immortal words of Lloyd Christmas:

{youtube}KX5jNnDMfxA{/youtube}

*

Speaking of Islanders prospects, Nino Niederreiter picked up two more points Sunday. He has 24 in 23 on the campaign now.

*

Ryan Ellis has four points in eight games this season for the Admirals. He is still getting his timing back after being sidelined for so long with a broken wrist.

*

KHL Players of the Month for November:

Forward - Artem Anisimov (12 points, plus-9, nine games)

Defenseman - Victor Hedman (10 points, plus-10, nine games)

Rookie - Viktor Antipin (seven points, plus-1, nine games)

*

Hey, Jon Sim is back! A tryout deal with the AHL's Rampage.

*

In his ramblings, Jeff Angus has been giving you excerpts on the goalie profiles we have in the Fantasy Goalie Guide, but other elements of the guide that should be noted are:
- A political overview of every player. Nearly a full page for each team is dedicated to the entire system of goalies and how easy their path is (or difficult) to the No.1 NHL job based on organizational hopes and expectations. Every bit as key as the talent itself.

- A whole bunch of lists. You love rankings. We got 'em.

Buy it here .

*

Mikhail Grabovski has 20 points in 24 KHL contests so far. Sergei Kostitsyn - an astonishing 27 in 21, which is an even better pace than
Ilya Kovalchuk
(32 in 26).

*

Tyler Myers injured his ankle in action in Austria, but is expected to only be sidelined a week.

*

There is no shortage of fans trying to gather support for a boycott of sorts. For a way to punish the two idiot parties in this dispute. One way is to pressure the sponsors. It's hard to boycott the sponsors completely, but if hockey fans were to dial down their business even a little, it will impact the bottom line. The sponsors will see it, if thousands spend even 10% less on these guys. Go to Burger King instead of McDonalds (US only) sometimes. Use your MasterCard or Amex instead of your Visa (Canada only) sometimes. Skip Tim Hortons once in awhile and grab an inferior cup of coffee somewhere else. Coke instead of Pepsi, anywhere else instead of Canadian Tire, etc. You can't give these giants up completely. Not all of them. That's a lot to ask and would take a lot of discipline. But if fans dialed it back a little, these sponsors will notice. And then they'll twist the screws they already have on the NHL even harder. Then perhaps that deal that the league would have considered taking but then decided against it…perhaps they take that deal instead. Here is a list of sponsors from last season.

*

This is another good one that is gathering steam, thanks to Bob MacKenzie's Twitter push yesterday. Like this on Facebook , see the video for "the pledge":

{youtube}eRYvUUV20TU{/youtube}

Between the two initiatives above, if I get even 500 of you to try each, then it will be noticed. But if 500 of you try each - and then get 500 friends to do the same (who get 500 more)…then it makes a splash.