Lockout Update Day 88: there is still a lockout.

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The NHL has agreed to the NHLPA's request to have a Federal mediator join their talks today in their undisclosed location. I like that the media doesn't know where it is. But I'll speculate that it will be held somewhere on a hill - and the NHL will die on it over the contract-length issue.

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Jonathan Huberdeau , who may have already played his last QMJHL game, has been suspended for four games due to an altercation with a linesman. Video on this is below.

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In case you missed it - I wrote this piece for The Hockey News on the impact of fantasy hockey on the NHL and vice versa - and their respective bottom line.

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The KHL named their players of the week. They name four each week, and as is often the case none of them are NHLers. Jan Laco for best goalie, Igor Skorokhodov for best attacker. Viktor Antipin is an interesting one - he was named best defenseman and also best rookie. Antipin is 20 - just turned last week actually - and he's undrafted. Wouldn't shock me to see him go in the seventh round in the summer NHL draft. Just teams taking a flyer, but I doubt they would tear him away from Russia.

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OKC Barons: The Best Thing to Happen to Justin Schultz . I wholeheartedly agree with THW's Carl Maloney on that one. The Oilers would have rushed him for sure. Now he's had time to dominate as a pro, get the confidence sky-high. Makes a huge difference.

Schultz, by the way, just keeps on trucking. Two more points for him - both assists - in last night's contest. Still leading the AHL. We'll let last night's minus-3 slide…

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Chicago prospect Philip Danault was the QMJHL player of the week. He's on pace for close to 90 points in that league and is a strong candidate to make Team Canada for the WJC. Danault is up to 144 on the Fantasy Prospects rankings, as he projects to be a tweener in that second/third line range. Could go either way. He's also at least two years away, probably three. He turns 20 in two months, so be careful about overrating this year's junior stats.

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Justin Braun suffered a broken bone in his hand while playing in Finland and is on his way home.

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Filip Kuba has finished off his contrat in the Czech League. Or at least he's decided to leave, wanting to be back with his family and believing that the lockout's end is near .

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Dallas prospect Matej Stransky is going nutty for Saskatoon of the WHL. He has five goals and 10 points in his last three games, including three last night. He's also a plus-9 in that span. He sits at 145 on the fantasy prospects list but will find himself higher next month for sure.

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The Fantasy Goalie Guide - "Hey, what else are you gonna read?" Buy it here. I think I'll adopt that as my slogan, until the lockout ends. The thing in quotes, not the buy-it-here part. Although…

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Alright, here's a suggestion/plug. The Best of Down Goes Brown. The most enjoyable hockey book I've ever read. Because of his 70+ chapters, each one of them made me laugh out loud at least once. And that includes the 20 or so that I had already read on his site. And now that I'm done the book, it's sitting in the bathroom of my man cave. And in my opinion, that the ultimate honor. Strongly recommended. Perfect gift for hockey fans. But the paperback here , or the Kindle here .

And while I'm at it, Washington Capitals fans will enjoy this offering by Ted Starkey - Red Rising: The Washington Capitals Story. I'm only halfway through this one, but it's a thorough account of the Caps and their climb from the NHL's basement up to the top - led by you know who. You can pick that up here .

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Huberdeau taking down the linesman:

{youtube}klpatuTmn6A{/youtube}

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Chara hhhhhhhammers Satan! Check out 56 seconds in:

{youtube}2jhSNNwf8n{/youtube}