

Written by Jeff Angus

Kevin Porter also had two points. Porter is the guy who laid out Jake Gardiner with a hard hit behind the net last weekend.
For Lake Erie, rookie Mike Sgarbossa had three points and is moving up quickly in the AHL scoring race. His rookie season has been very, very impressive. He was always a prolific scorer in the OHL, but many wondered if he could translate that over to pro hockey.
Stefan Elliott had two points from the back end.
A few names from the past - Bill Thomas (former Phoenix forward) had three points, and defenseman Thomas Pock (a one-time Rangers prospect) had a goal.
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Thursday, 13 December 2012 19:50 - Last Updated Friday, 14 December 2012 10:56

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Canucks prospect Darren Archibald has been playing really well in the AHL after spending the first few months of the season in the ECHL. He scored twice last night for the Wolves and has been one of their best forwards since getting the call up a few weeks ago.
Archibald would likely have been in the AHL all season if not for the lockout - there were too many bodies in Chicago.
Eddie Lack remains out of the lineup with a hip injury.
Jordan Schroeder added an assist, Chris Tanev had two, but Zack Kassian was pointless.
For Hamilton, Nathan Bealieu and Michael Bournival each scored goals.
Brendan Gallagher finished with a team high five shots on goal as well.



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Defencemen Mathew Dumba, Frank Corrado and Ryan Sproul, forwards Hunter Shinkaruk, Tom Wilson, Mark McNeill and Daniel Catenacci and goaltender Laurent Brossoit were the eight players released from the team on Thursday.
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Corrado has played great all season and stood out for the right reasons, but the team opted to go with the dynamic ability of Ryan Murphy (Canada's head coach Steve Sprott coaches Murphy in Kitchener).
The final roster can be viewed at TSN here.
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Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 13 December 2012 19:50 - Last Updated Friday, 14 December 2012 10:56 Nathan MacKinnon and Jonathan Drouin are both draft-eligible players, and both made it to team Canada. They play on the same line together in Halifax, as well. Will Canada put them on the same line? It would seem like the logical decision, but the team may not want to have two 17 year olds on the ice at the same time. One would assume Nugent-Hopkins will form the top unit with Scheifele and Huberdeau on his wings, and that the Niagara duo of Brett Ritchie and Ryan Strome would make up the second scoring line. Would Canada opt for three scoring lines and then a "grind line" centered by Boone Jenner Brett Ritchie's stock has risen faster than most prospects this season, and for good reason.

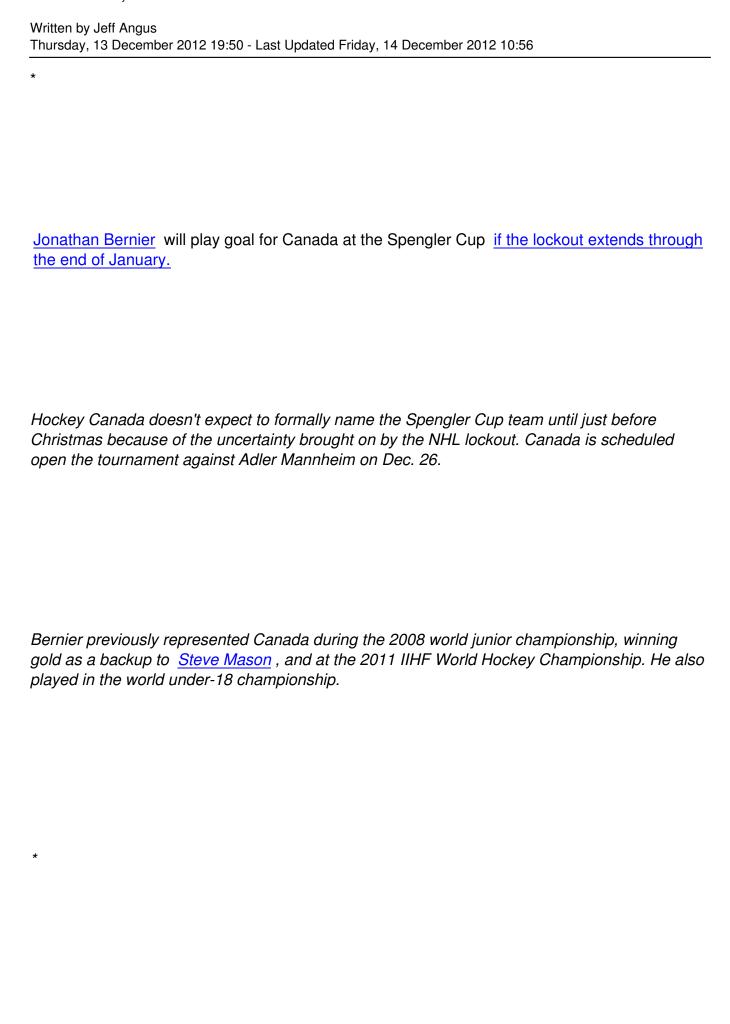
TSN analyst Ray Ferraro was effusive of his praise of Ritchie after the game and said that there's no reason that the big winger won't be on the top two lines in the upcoming tournament.

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Agentspeak (I am making it into one word):
"I don't think it's fair to have any sort of time frame when he's going to be 100 per cent and cleared to play. I don't have a crystal ball and it's certainly months away, it's not weeks away. It's several months away."
Translates to
"He's not healthy, because if he was healthy, he wouldn't be getting paid."
If I am a betting man and a season starts in January, expect Kesler to be ready to go.
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December 14, 2012 Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 13 December 2012 19:50 - Last Updated Friday, 14 December 2012 10:56 An anonymous NHL governor passed along a balanced proposal to ESPN's Scott Burnside. W orth the read. The ownership source acknowledged that leaving out the buyout element as part of the transition to a new CBA would be the least contentious way to bridge the gap at least as it relates to the owners' concerns about funding the transition. The buyouts were introduced by the players' association last week, the timing of which annoyed the owners -- not to mention the fact the buyouts as the players suggested would be outside the hockey-revenue pie, a significant problem for the owners. Like father, like son. Claude's son Brendan earned an eight-game suspension for this hit: {youtube}XEGANreTxcA{/youtube}

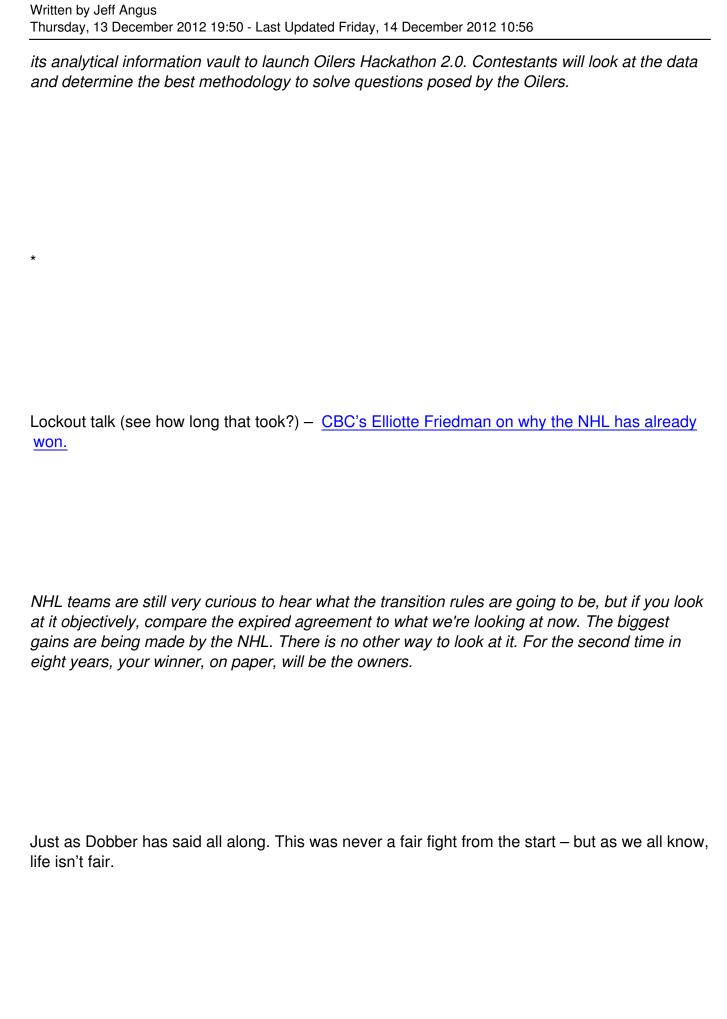


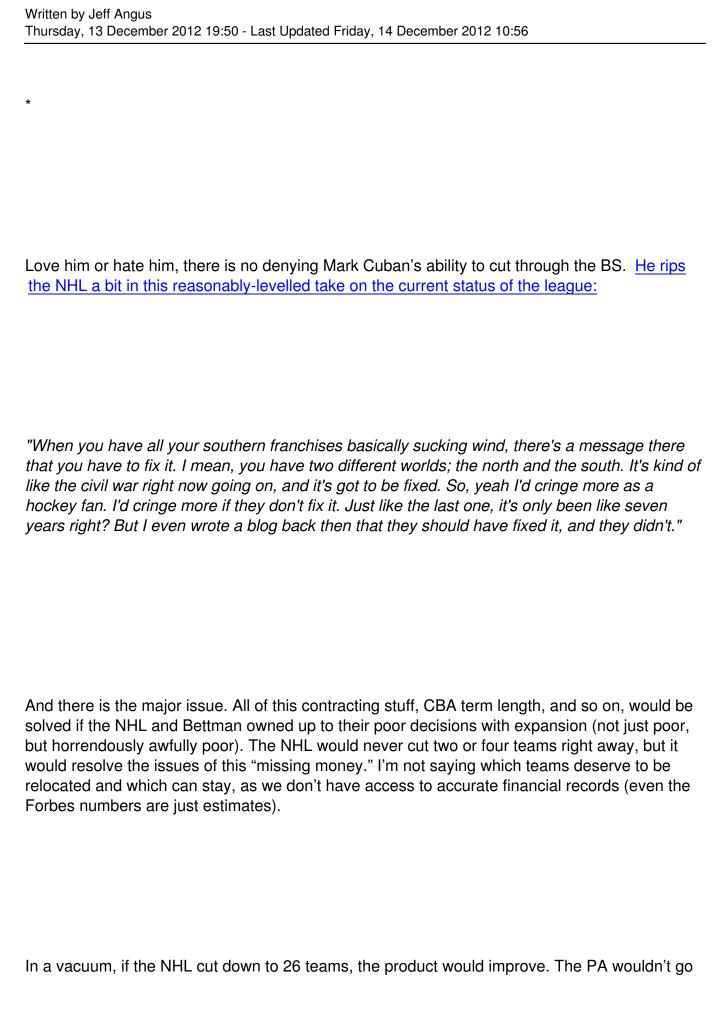
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Cody Hodgson has been out for over a month with a broken hand, but he will make his return to the Rochester lineup soon (likely Saturday).
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Some very cool NHL wallpapers — not made by me, but I really like the minimalist theme.
*
An update on the goaltending in the Tampa Bay system, from their goalie coach Frantz Jean:
About Tokarski: "He came in in tremendous shape. He's really matured and takes ownership of his game. When he feels there's an issue that needs to be addressed, he addresses it right away. I like where he is at physically and mentally."

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About Helenius: "I like the improvement I've seen since the start of training camp. His battle level is really high right now. We're doing baby steps with him, but the improvement is there every week."
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The Oilers are holding an interesting contest, asking fans to share their analytical insights with the team.
The details:
Edmonton Oilers fans and analytics experts have a chance to become insiders with the team, help the team win games and capture some cool prizes in a unique contest. The club is opening





Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 13 December 2012 19:50 - Last Updated Friday, 14 December 2012 10:56 for it as they lose close to 100 jobs, and the league wouldn't either, or at least Bettman and company wouldn't. But the hockey would be better, there would be less teams bleeding money, and both sides would be better off financially. On that same grain... here's a great read on stopping sports welfare. "It's like this magic alchemy where we take all this public money and it morphs into private profit," says Dave Zirin, author of "Bad Sports: How Owners are Ruining the Games We Love." "The most egregious example of this is the Seattle Sonics going from the 14th biggest [media] market in the country to Oklahoma City, a market that is No. 45. Why did that move make sense? One place offered corporate welfare and another didn't. The NBA punished a city for not giving them hundreds of millions of dollars."