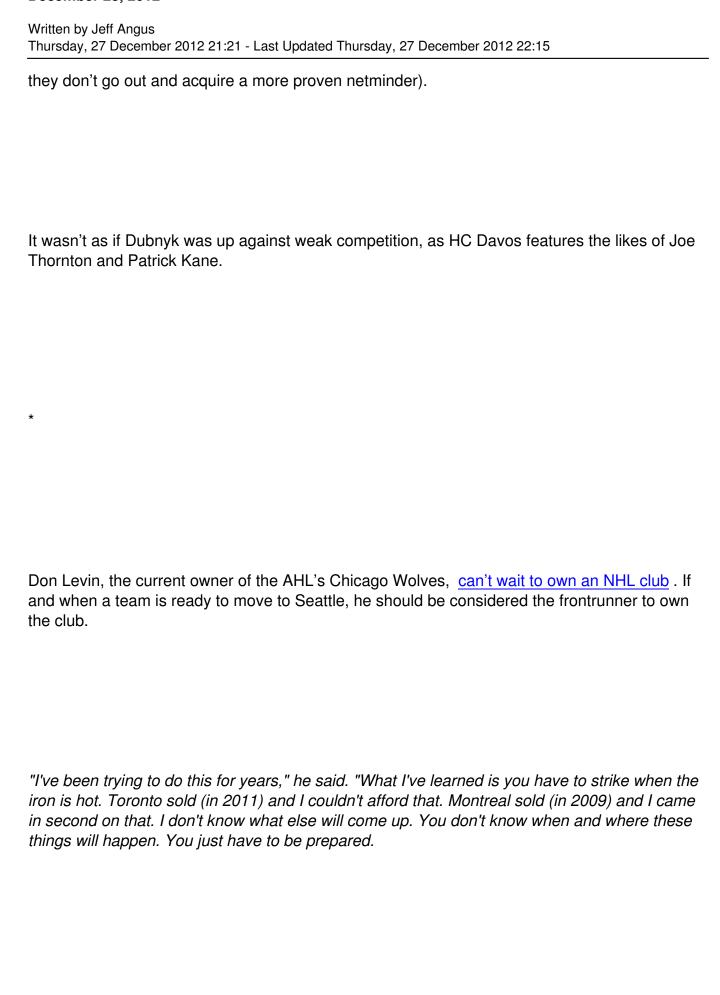
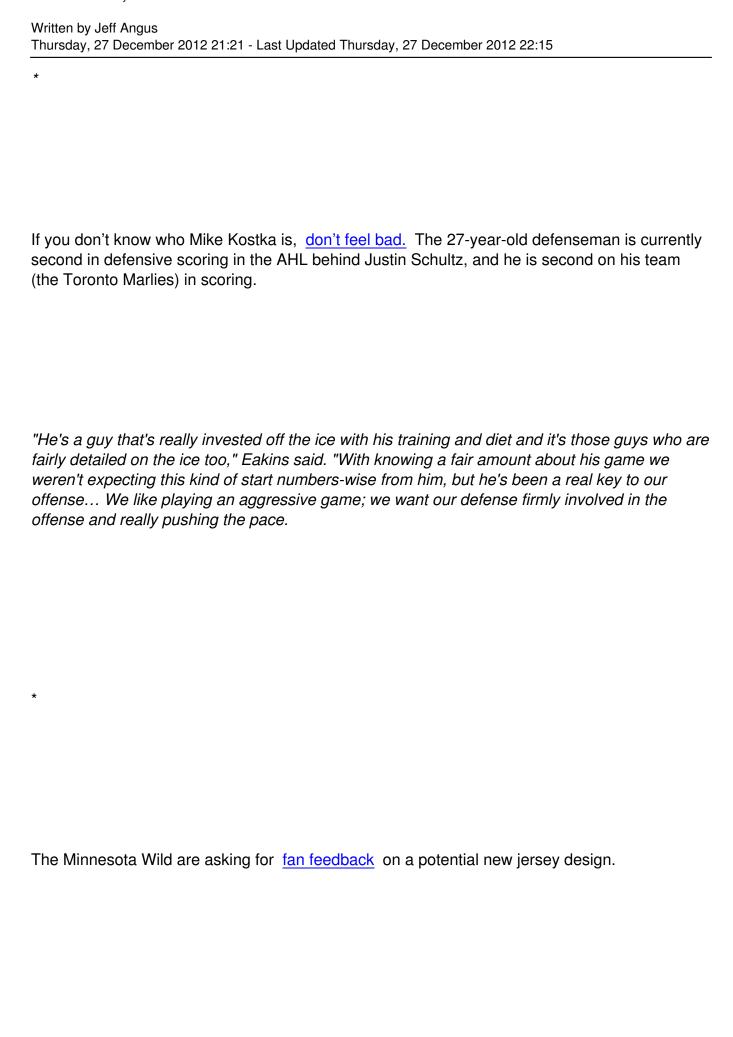




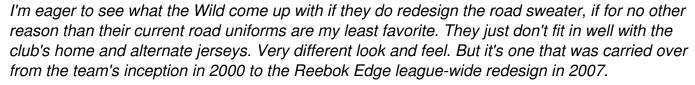
Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 27 December 2012 21:21 - Last Updated Thursday, 27 December 2012 22:15
Texas (who as also in action on Thursday night, I'll update that game in a bit) got a strong performance from Cody Eakin. Eakin didn't play Thursday after sustaining a minor facial injury on Wednesday, though.
The Aeros top line of Zucker, Granlund, and Coyle combined for six points.
*
Thursday night AHL action:
Adam Larsson continues his strong play of late with two helpers for Albany.

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Another Swedish defenseman had two helpers in that game - Springfield defenseman Tim Erixon. Erixon looks to be NHL ready with his play this season.
Angus favorite (third person speak) Matt Calvert had two points and 14 PIM. I am not sure how many people are in AHL leagues that count PIM, though
Cam Atkinson had two points and seven shots on goal.
Ryan Johansen had a goal as well. A great night for the top prospects in Columbus.
*
Canada defeated HC Davos 5-0 in Spengler Cup action yesterday. Devan Dubnyk earned the shutout for Canada. I like Dubnyk's chances at posting solid numbers for the Oilers (assuming





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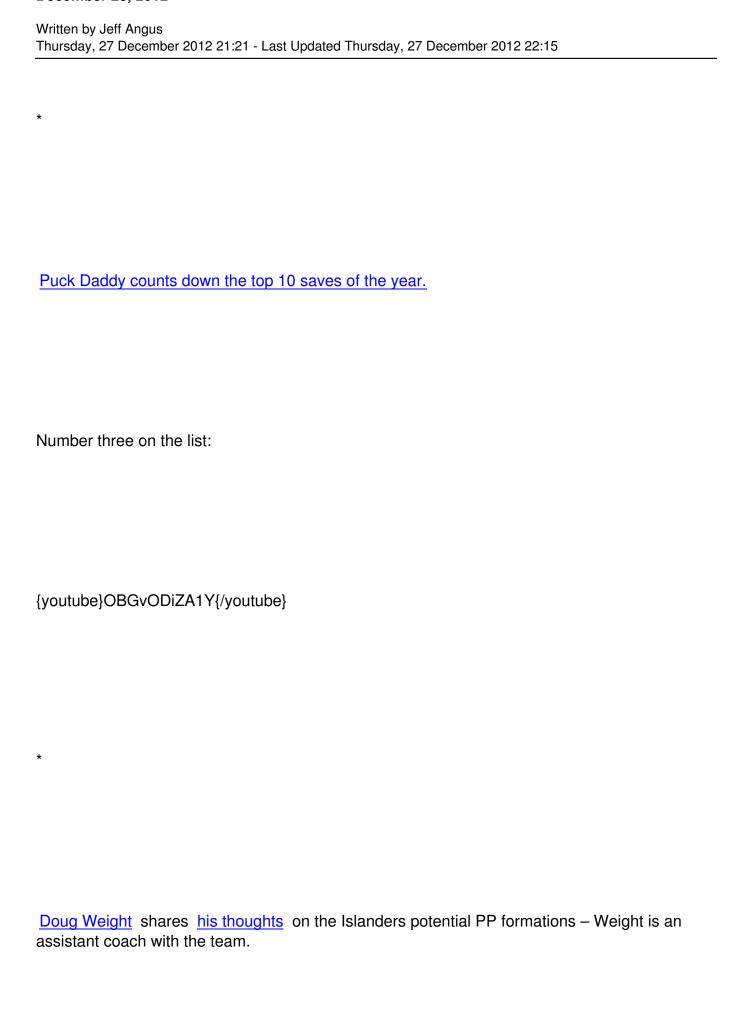


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New Jersey's top prospect Jon Merrill has <u>returned to practice</u> with his Michigan teammates after suffering a vertebrae injury a few months ago.

Merrill, the Devils' 2010 second-round draft pick, has not played this season because of a fractured vertebrae he sustained on in hit in a preseason exhibition game against the University of Windsor on Oct. 9. Merrill has a Jan. 2 doctor's appointment with the hope of being cleared then for full contact.

I could see Merrill stepping into the Devils lineup next season, provided he remains healthy for the rest of the 2012-13 campaign and is able to get some games in under his belt.



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Thursday, 27 December 2012 21:21 - Last Updated Thursday, 27 December 2012 22:15 Weight goes on to say he's inclined to first try Streit and Visnovsky together at the points, but clearly a priority is going to be whether the unit's makeup can gain the zone on a consistent basis. (As an aside, P.A. Parenteau was also good at this aspect and will be missed, particularly 5-on-5, though as John Tavares has evolved we can expect he'll have more zone entries for his line.) The top NHL plays from 2012: {youtube}UdvUsKdMlbY{/youtube}

Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 27 December 2012 21:21 - Last Updated Thursday, 27 December 2012 22:15 Montreal prospect Alex Galchenyuk was great yesterday for the Americans, as they took care of Germany with an easy victory. Galchenyuk finished with a one-goal, two-assist day in the Americans' easy win, earning player of the game honours. He was the OHL and CHL player of the week in his final games for Sarnia before leaving for Team USA, so he has momentum. Each of his helpers came in the opening shift of a period. He set up San Jose Sharks prospect Sean Kuraly just 19 seconds into the game. They were even quicker in the second period. Galchenyuk tracked German defenceman Stephan Kronthaler in his own zone before the defenceman fell down and coughed up the puck, which Galchenyuk hopped on for a centring pass that Washington Capitals sixth-rounder Riley Barber popped into the net just 14 seconds into the frame. Jacob Trouba, JT Miller, and Seth Jones also had goals for the Americans, who scored eight in

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total.