The Jets have sent Mark Scheifele back to junior.

Word is that Alex Goligoski will be a healthy scratch tonight as the Stars look to shake things up.

*

David Clarkson is flying and Patrik Elias is helping him. Elias is 37 in two months, but hasn't missed a step. He has eight assists and 10 points in nine games and Clarkson is up to seven goals and 12 points already - and he has 37 goals in his last 86 games.

Stephen Gionta has four points in his last four games. His ice time is steady at around 14 minutes. He's not getting much in the way of PP time, but he seems to be steadily moving up in the eyes of his coach. I can see him getting used more and more. Worth watching. I nearly (nearly, mind you) picked him up in a deep, deep roto league. His AHL points were underwhelming and his college production was decent. On a hot line he will do okay, but otherwise he's a productive third-liner.

Bobby Butler , in his second game, upped his ice time from seven minutes to eight minutes and his shot total from one to two. Baby steps, right?

*

Chris Kreider got back in the lineup for the Rangers and played 10:35. He scored, his first career regular season point. Scoring is generally enough to keep you in the NHL a bit longer, but I really think he could use some light-it-up time in the AHL.

*

Marek Zidlicky 's ice time, past four games in order:

23:18

18:26

16:30

13:19 last night.

He's taking a lot of dumb penalties, on pace to finish with over 60 this year. From a strictly numbers standpoint though, he's having a good multi-cat year - besides the PIM he has an even plus/minus, shots are up slightly. But it's the offense that I've been sour on for two-plus seasons now.

*

Well what do you know, Rick Nash is producing at the same rate in New York as he was in Columbus.

*

Simon Despres has been a nice rookie add in roto leagues. His four points in eight games were what we were hoping to see - but not counting on. The shocker, though, is the 14 PIM and plus-4.

*

I bid high on the auction waiver on Sunday for Zach Boychuk. I just liked the opportunity. Plus, with a shorter year, $100 waiver budget goes much further. So I blew 12 bucks. Ah well. Three games in and he has four shots and no points, playing often with Evgeni Malkin . Great try by the Penguins. That's the right idea. Grab skilled castoffs and just see if something clicks. Do that 10 times and you'll strike gold, in my opinion. Not this time. Boychuk was down to 11 minutes of ice time last night.

*

In the four games that John Tavares has played more than 23 minutes, he is pointless. In the five games that he played fewer than 23 minutes, he has 11 points. I don't know what to make of that, but found it interesting.

*

Brad Boyes is doing it again. A new team, a new life - seven points in nine games for the Isles. He has great years with new teams, and then slowly fades over the course of two or three seasons. But it looks like he's a safe own, if you ignore the plus/minus.

*

James van Riemsdyk has 20 shots on goal in his last four games. He's scored three times with those shots. If he's become more of a shooter on his new team, he'll get 30 goals next year for sure.

*

Respect (ri'spekt) - Admire (someone or something) deeply, as a result of their abilities, qualities, or achievements.

No respect (no ri'spekt) - Nazem Kadri

How does he get 10 minutes of ice time when he leads your team in scoring? He's being set up to fail. Matt Frattin , too. "Fail" is harsh, actually. They're being set up to go on a long cold streak.

*

Matt Stajan has four points in his last three games. He's been seeing time with Hudler and Cervenka, and unlike his time with Iginla, he has found chemistry. At least with Hudler. Cervenka still seems to be finding his way (one point in four games).

*

Miikka Kiprusoff , a goalie who never gets injured, got injured (lower body). He left the game and Leland Irving came in.

This is what I hate about daily leagues. Sure, it's fun for a lot of you. But not for me. I spend so much time analyzing this stuff and writing about it, that I always seem to forget to pick up the guy I stumble on. I wrote the above blurb at 11:25 pm. I went to my daily league, finally clueing in that I needed to do that, and at 11:10 pm Irving was already picked up. This isn't rare. This is always. Any major news happens I write on it, comment on it…then remember to act on it. During weekdays. Saturdays I'm generally not around the computer much. So I stick to weekly. I agreed to join this one by accident, and had already committed when I found out it was daily! In a nutshell, I'm just not diligent enough to compete in a daily league and only a strong draft would keep me in the top half of such a league.

*

In his first NHL game in two years, Tomas Tatar was pointless and played 12 minutes.

*

Drew Shore notched another assist, giving him one in each of his last two games. He also took four shots. He's forcing his way onto this Florida team. My interest in him is still strictly keeper, but I'd be lying if I said I wasn't thinking about it for one-year leagues too. Let's see what next game brings.

*

Shocking to see St. Louis give up six goals. Shocking to see Nashville score six goals. Hey, that happened in the same game. So we got Colin Wilson , Ryan Ellis and Martin Erat all finally breaking out of their slumps. Erat in particular is very streaky. Even Jonathan Blum grabbed a pair of assists despite just 13 minutes of ice time. But it's a real confidence boost. Too bad the likes of Mike Fisher , Sergei Kostitsyn , Shea Weber and Craig Smith couldn't get in on that. They need the boost, too.

With Brian Elliott getting rocked, and Jaroslav Halak getting injured… do I need to tell you daily leaguers to pick up Jake Allen ? In the Hitchcock system, you and I could get shutouts as their goalie… so Allen would do fine if he gets to play.

*

The Bruins have recalled Ryan Spooner from Providence. He leads the AHL team in points (tied) with 30. If he plays tonight it will be his first NHL game. Dan Paille and Shawn Thornton will not play. Brad Marchand could play, but not certain (and I think Spooner getting into the game depends on if Marchand plays or not).

*

Speaking of first NHL games, JT Miller played his first for the Rangers. He went plus-1 in 14:25 of ice. This is just a cup of coffee, is my guess, with Ryan Callahan getting closer. But next year he could make the jump. He's closer than I thought.

*

Down Goes Brown on things that Phil Kessel is doing during his goal-scoring slump.

The best: *Racking his brain trying to remember the details of the trade the sent him to Toronto, while flipping through Toronto sports sections in the desperate hope that one of them might decide to mention it in passing someday.*

*

Be sure to check Goalie Post every day for accurate starting goalie info - Goalie Post

was the first to do this, and has been the most accurate for years. And with Justin Goldman now on board as a co-owner, you know the info will be up fast.

*

Brooks Laich is " inching closer " to a return for the Caps. It sounds like the weekend is a possibility.

*

The Hockey Writers looks at 10 players who are under 15% owned here .

*

Sure enough, David Savard was in the lineup for Columbus and saw 14:31 of ice time. But he was pointless and minus-2, not helping his cause when Nikitin gets back. Meanwhile Tim Erixon picked up an assist and has gotten a leg up on Savard on the depth chart.

Matt Calvert was back in the lineup for CBJ and they assigned Jonathan Audy-Marchessault down.

*

Anaheim has sent down Devante Smith-Pelly. That speaks volumes about Emerson Etem , who will get an extended stay with the team now. I can't see Rickard Rakell staying around, either.

*

Crosby gets a puck in the face. He did return - but Penguins have returned before and then a couple days later announce a concussion. An unlikely worry, but a worry nonetheless:

{youtube}4JqBEy31vts{/youtube}

*

Why I like Drew Shore. Check it out from last night:

{youtube}pm_EUWhJtUc{/youtube}