

July 2, 2007

Written by Jeff Angus

Sunday, 01 July 2007 22:30 - Last Updated Monday, 02 July 2007 18:54

Hope the ramblings have been good for everyone. I've been fairly quick on most signings, usually checking TSN.ca pretty often. I'll be internetless from tomorrow evening onwards for a few days, but I'll be able to update whatever happens tonight/tomorrow morning.

Jarome Iginla has inked a five-year, \$35 million dollar extension. Sutter is busy today.

Word out of Vancouver radio is that Teemu Selanne is about to announce his retirement. Staying with the Ducks, Bertuzzi's deal is for \$4 million per season (\$8 million total).

Calgary has also announced the re-signing of Robyn Regehr to a five-year, \$20 million dollar deal. What a wicked contract... there were rumors that Regehr wanted out but that appears to not be the case. An absolute steal at \$4 million per.

The Flames have signed Owen Nolan to an incentive-laden one year deal. It could be worth up to \$2 million.

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Very interesting signing... the Ducks have locked up Todd Bertuzzi to a two-year deal. Not a huge surprise with his obvious connections to Brian Burke. Definite sleeper with some of the talent he could line up with there.

Montreal has signed Bryan Smolinski to a one-year, \$2 million dollar deal. The deal is also rumored to include a NTC.

The Kings have also signed Kyle Calder. Quite the busy day for GM Dean Lombardi.

Los Angeles has signed Michael Handzus and Ladislav Nagy. I am not a big fan of Nagy at all, he defines the term "perimeter player." Handzus however is a great second/third line player who can play in all situations. Handzus' deal is rumored to be over \$4 million long-term.

Sheldon Souray and Brad Stuart are still out there. I see Souray going to the Devils, and Stuart returning to San Jose.

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The Predators have signed Radek Bonk and Greg deVries. Bonk should center the third line and has turned into a pretty effective checking center. While the Preds have been gutted, they can still throw together two good lines with Erat-Arnott-Sullivan, Dumont-Legwand-Radulov.

Atlanta signs veteran defenseman Ken Klee. No terms released and no fantasy impact at all, but he should be a stabilizing force on a team that needs one on defense. Also a replacement for the departing deVries.

Montreal finally lands a free agent, locking up defenseman Roman Hamrlik to replace some of Sheldon Souray's offense. The deal is a four year, \$22 million dollar pact. Hello overpayment!

Chicago has signed veteran Robert Lang to a two-year deal. Should put up decent numbers with some talented wingers in the Windy City.

Columbus re-signed Ole- Kristian Tollefsen and Alexander Svitov to two-year deals each.

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Contrasting with earlier reports, Michael Nylander is NOT an Oiler. He has signed a deal with the Washington Capitals. Going from Jagr to Ovechkin... not too shabby. In other news, the Oilers continue to miss the boat.

Colorado made out the best in free agency so far, getting a top shutdown defender and a gritty, first line winger. The Rangers made some huge moves, but sinking \$15 million in cap space for the next five years to two guys who didn't top 70 points is scary. My main beef with these contracts is not the insane dollar figures, but the terms. 5-8 years for any player is ridiculous.

After losing Brian Rafalski, the Devils are rumored to be going after Sheldon Souray. Souray has some connections to New Jersey and is the best option left.

The Canucks have inked restricted free agent Lukas Krajicek to a two-year, 2.2 million dollar deal. Krajicek has some upside but won't be a big point producer in this league.

Scott Niedermayer has NOT officialy retired. He is leaving the door open for a return before training camp.

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Tom Preissing has landed in LA. He signed a deal worth \$2.75 million per for the next four seasons. Great contract for the Kings. I'm surprised Preissing didn't fetch \$3.5-4, as that seems to be the going rate for a top-four defenseman.

Ryan Smyth has signed with the Avalanche. He will make \$6.2 million per season over the next five.

Darryl Sydor and Petr Sykora have both signed two-year contracts with the Penguins. Sydor will make \$2.5 million per, no word on Sykora's salary yet.

Paul Karyia is now a Blue. His contract is reportedly worth \$6 million per season for the next three.

In a smart move (with no fantasy ramifications), the Predators have signed Jed Ortmeyer to a two-year deal worth \$750,000 per season.

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Keep an eye on this guy for next season. The Thrashers have signed Eric Perrin to the same contract that Ortmeyer got with the Predators.