

July 23, 2007

Written by Dobber

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Full analysis on this tomorrow morning...but I'll give you my quick write-up on it that I did for the SCORE Forecaster: The St. Louis Blues have acquired goaltender Hannu Toivonen from the Boston Bruins for center Carl Soderberg.

What does it give the St. Louis Blues?

At 23 years old, Toivonen still has a lot of upside in the NHL. The former first-round pick had a solid NHL debut in the 2005-06 season, going 9-5-4 and boasting a .914 save percentage. However, he stumbled a little last season and rather than seizing a starting role he wound up playing much of the year in the American League. The Finnish netminder will offer a challenge to Jason Bacashihua to be Manny Legace's backup, or he will challenge Marek Schwarz as the starter in Peoria.

What does it give the Boston Bruins?

Soderberg is a solid prospect with excellent upside. He was having a breakout season in the Swedish Elite League before being sidelined for the season with a serious eye injury. The 22-year-old was a second round draft pick in 2004. He should compete for a roster spot in 2008 and projects to be a second-line pivot some day.

Washington prospect Oskar Osala, who played for Mississauga (OHL) last season, will return to Finland to play in the coming campaign. He is ranked 230 on my prospects list.

Chris Simon has now signed with the Islanders. We knew it was coming, but now it is done.

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From stltoday.com: "Friday was the last chance to see many of the 40-something prospects who attended the camp. Many will return to Sweden or Canada, or head back to college, in the case of T.J. Oshie. Oshie was hands-down the best player at the camp, but he has decided to play his junior season at the University of North Dakota next season."

Dan Jancevski reportedly has the inside track for the seventh and final defenseman spot in Tampa Bay.

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