

April 03, 2012

Written by Dobber
Monday, 02 April 2012 22:33 -

Baseball season begins in two days - pick up the Fantasy Baseball Guide (and Prospects Report, if you want a kickass bargain) at [DobberBaseball](#) . And my Interactive [Playoff Draft List](#) will be released on Thursday and updated Sunday – it includes my playoff picks, and the ability to play around with multiple playoff scenarios. I often print off two sets of playoff scenarios and carry them into my draft. Then by Round 2 or Round 3 it becomes clear which printout has more players available towards the top of the list – and that's the one I go with, throwing away the other one.

Tomorrow we will post information on our annual FREE playoff pool. First prize is nailed down – a custom jersey from [Cool Hockey](#) .

It's quite the long shot, but [Steven Stamkos](#) nabbing that empty netter with two seconds left gave him 95 points on the year and is now nine points back of [Evgeni Malkin](#) with three games to go. A very long shot, but getting three points keeps that tiny thread of hope.

[Teddy Purcell](#) has 40 points in his last 36 games. Now that he's proven himself to be a highly-skilled top sixer, he'll have that expectation on him for next year. Generally, if the coach expects that of a player, he'll play him accordingly – which in turn serves to boost the ol' point totals. I think this year's 62 (and counting) points is just the tip of the iceberg.

[Mathieu Perreault](#) has eight points in his last 12 games despite modest ice time. And that's the sort of production that I expect from Perreault next season (just under 55 points) provided there is no coaching change.

[John Carlson](#)'s ice time was down to 12:50 last night and he's been around that number several times over the last 10 games. Meanwhile, [Mike Green](#) saw nearly 26 minutes and was still horrible. Carlson doesn't have Green's shot, but his hockey sense is out of Green's league. And despite what the minus-16 says, Carlson can play D. I haven't seen more than one Caps game over the last six weeks or so, so perhaps a Washington fan can enlighten me, but from where I'm sitting Hunter should be playing the hell out of Carlson and giving Green the 12-minute treatment. Hunter should know this though, given that he coached Carlson in London.

[Brooks Laich](#), normally a second half wizard, is pointless in his last five. Washington, what a train wreck. The best thing that could happen for Caps fans is that they miss the playoffs, Dale Hunter returns to London, and they bring in a coach who re-introduces the run-and-gun that worked so well for them three years ago. [Alex Ovechkin](#) is your team – act accordingly.

Just a quick note on the hyperlinks – I prefer my hyperlinks to open in another window. However, this program that we use that auto-links all the player names does it in Word. When we paste it from Word to the website, the “new window” thing doesn't paste along with it. So to

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put them in a new window would mean going through one by one to set each link up manually to go to a new window. Anyway, I wanted to explain, for those who wondered. You can right click hyperlinks and select “open in a new window” – that’s actually how I do it on all sites anyway.

College star and 2010 second-round draft pick Jason Zucker has been showing that he belongs. I would have thought that he was a couple of years away, but he’s pushing himself in the mix in Minnesota. Perhaps at the expense of Charlie Coyle? I don’t think Mikael Granlund is in any danger of not making the team. Anyway, Zucker has two points in three games and has seen about 12 minutes per game.

[Kyle Quincey](#) got suspended for one game, which opens the door for [Brendan Smith](#) to get called up again.

My column for Puck Daddy – [The Top 10 Fantasy MVPs of the season](#) .

This [Daniel Briere](#) “back contusion” news is concerning. Briere is a playoff stud, stepping up his numbers in Philly when they reach the dance. Earlier this year, when he missed six games, [Brayden Schenn](#) stepped up with four points in six games.

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The update on [Jeff Carter](#) – [no structural damage](#) to his ankle and he is day-to-day.

The AHL goalie of the month for March? Toronto's [Ben Scrivens](#) . Who says the Leafs don't have any goaltending? ;)

It's looking more and more like the Devils won't be putting [Adam Larsson](#) into the lineup [anytime soon](#)

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[Peter Harrold](#)
continues to play in his place, while the rookie gets scratched again and again.

My Hockey News column from yesterday – [10 players who I think will decline](#) next year.

Best plays of the past week...

{youtube}UuVI62EU_Q0{/youtube}

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The dumb Quincey hit (skates left the ice, elbow up):

{youtube}7GaqdUIXbfA{/youtube}

Leaf fans – look how uncomfortable some Leafs are to these questions (second half of video):

{youtube}lmo8n85rqq0{/youtube}