

July 21, 2012

Written by Jeff Angus

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Shane Doan visited with the Rangers and Flyers over the past few days. He apparently wants to make a decision soon for family reasons (kids enrolled in school, sports, and so on).

The Devils locked up unheralded defenseman Mark Fayne to a two-year contract, avoiding arbitration. Fayne will earn an average of [\\$1.3 million per season](#).

"With Fayne now re-signed, the Devils have eight defensemen under contract for 2012-13—Fayne, Andy Greene, Bryce Salvador, Anton Volchenkov, Marek Zidlicky, Henrik Tallinder, Adam Larsson and Peter Harrold."

[According to the Edmonton Journal](#) , the Oilers were definitely interested in Shea Weber.

"But, as I wrote at the end of a Sam Gagner blog late Thursday night, the Oilers certainly were sniffing around Weber. My sources tell me it never got to where they were digging in to make an

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offer sheet right now, but my sources tell me they might well have later. We all know they've gone that route before, going for Buffalo's Thomas Vanek in 2007, only to have the Sabres' match their stunning \$50 million, seven-year offer, then getting Dustin Penner from the Ducks with a wildcat five-year offer sheet."

The big question on many people's minds – how does [Pekka Rinne](#) 's value get affected if Weber doesn't return to Nashville? I think the Predators simply have to find a way to match this offer sheet, although I am not privy to their financials.

Right now, Rinne is the second or third best goalie in the league. However, with no Suter and potentially no Weber playing 25+ minutes a night in front of him anymore, his value will drop – quite a bit.

Last year, Suter and Weber both excelled playing extremely tough minutes. Nashville's other defensemen all struggled in lesser roles. Rinne is too good to have his value completely dependent on two defensemen, but no other team relied on a defensive pairing as much as the Predators did on Weber and Suter.

Solid depth signing by the Ducks – [Daniel Winnik](#) – two years, \$1.8 million per. Winnik has stone hands and next-to-no fantasy value, but he is a great PKer and very dependable defensively. He'll boost [Jonas Hiller](#) 's value

a little bit.

I haven't done a fantasy mailbag in a while – look for one later this weekend or early next week.

[Hockey Prospectus](#) takes a look at the top 10 prospects on Long Island. A few of the profiles:

Kabanov:

"Kabanov is a high-end puck possession player who NHL scouts praise for his "tremendous hockey sense on and off the puck." One scout said on him "He's got great vision with the puck, but he's always around the play because he senses so well without it and always knows where the puck will be." Kabanov has plus puck skills and can really dangle defensemen. He's an above-average skater who can generate good power from his stride. The interesting thing about Kabanov was the praise I heard this year for his all-around game. One scout said, "He's very competitive on and off the puck, and plays a good team game. He's been solid defensively." I don't buy the character issues with him that are widely discussed, and everything I've heard from scouts this year points to him having good on-ice work ethic and getting his off-ice work done. I've written about how I feel those issues were overrated, and NHL sources I talked to this year echoed that."

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[Matt Donovan](#) (their best young defenseman, in my opinion):

"Donovan is a high-end offensive defenseman with an explosive combination of puck skills and skating, although the former is much more impressive. He has the ability to hit with a quick strike scoring chance and is also dangerous controlling the puck from the offensive blue line. He had a very impressive first pro season, and his offensive numbers look better when you consider the fact he was not being sheltered in offensive roles."

[Derek Roy](#) talked to [Dallas radio](#) about his recent shoulder surgery.

"A little bit of a surprise," Roy said of the trade, "but at the same time my agent told me don't be surprised if you get traded this summer. I was shocked at first because I had been there so long. I had been there my whole career and I have a lot of good memories back in Buffalo, but you know, this is a new chapter of my life and I'm excited to be a Dallas Star and I'm excited to get going. We don't play here much. I think I've only played here a couple of times in my career in nine years with the Sabres organization so...it's a tough move but it's exciting at the same time. This being my first trade, even throughout junior and all growing up and whatnot. No trades."

The way Dallas handled the surgery, it appears that they would like to keep Roy for the long

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term. Considering they don't have much up the middle in the organization, that would be a smart move. Roy has never fully seized the role as a top line center, but he would be the perfect complement in a secondary role to [Jamie Benn](#) .

Shea Weber slap shot time:

{youtube}Q4YN_q7w2MU{/youtube}