Fantasy Guide was updated yesterday. Today's goal is to polish up the plus/minus tab on the draft list. And while I'm at it, I should note here that the long-awaited *Playbook* over at DobberFootball is now ready for download.

Carolina rearguard Ryan Murphy had a goal and three assists in Canada's 6-5 loss Monday against Russia. Columbus d-man Ryan Murray went one and one, while Toronto blueliner Morgan Rielly added two assists. I only caught a few minutes of that game, and missed the Tuesday one entirely. Nail Yakupov had two assists for Russia. Of the four names mentioned, Yakupov and Murray have shots of sticking with the big club, but only Yakupov is the sure thing. I think Carolina is too deep on D to rush Murphy, while the Leafs will be patient with Rielly. Rossy will have the full scoop on this stuff over at DobberProspects.

In the final game, Canada won 4-2 in regulation, which forced an overtime period to decide the series. Ryan Strome won that one at 3:20. St. Louis forward Ty Rattie had two goals for Canada. The Blues are too deep for Rattie to get on the roster this year, and I think Strome is a year away as well.

Meanwhile, at the Under-18 tournament (Ivan Hlinka Memorial), Canada won their second game, topping Sweden 7-5. Of note, Max Domi tallied four points.

Thank goodness for prospects, because that may be all I get to write about for awhile. On the plus side, DobberProspects.com will get tons of content - what else would I do with my time? On the downside, we may not see any prospects tournaments. Steve Yzerman, for one, said that unless a CBA deal is done soon, the Lightning won't participate in a prospects tourney.

Those of you who haven't heard what the NHLPA offered the NHL in their 'alternate' proposal, it involved a reduced chunk of hockey related revenue (HRR) for the next three seasons, the hard cap remaining in place, and a luxury tax system that will give money to the weaker financial

teams. Over the three years, the proposal would see the players giving up as much as $800 million, and those weaker teams getting as much as $250 million per year. The sense of it is this - the fans are impressed with the proposal and the optics of it indicate that the players are giving up a lot here. It all depends on how hardline the owners' stance is. If they concede a luxury tax, I think these talks can gain steam. The good news is, the two sides will meet three more times this week.

The annual DobberHockey banner voting is almost complete, and we have three quarters of the banner decided. Every year we change the players on the big banner up top. And voting is decided in the forum. Vote for the last spot here . The three spots taken so far go to - Claude Giroux, Erik Karlsson and Jonathan Quick. The last spot will either go to Steven Stamkos, Alex Pietrangelo or Carey Price. To me it should be Stamkos. Yep, I'm trying to influence the vote.

Aaron Ward summed up the players' position nicely, in a few tweets:

Proposal theme is to partner with the stronger teams in league to help smaller market/struggling teams. In past as revenues go up, cap goes up. Now players share will grow at an artificially slower rate.If revenue grows at least by 7%, owners would keep $465 million. Rev grew at 9% this year and at 10.2% year before which means teams could stand to make double. In essence players are saying, go for it, make money and grow the game and keep what's leftover and in the 4th year the Players have the option to revert back to present system at 57%. Parameters in proposal as to how that money is used to help teams 'in need'.

The Flames have invited Steve Begin to training camp. He missed all of last season after hip surgery. So now the tryout invites start trickling in. Andrei Kostitsyn? Kristian Huselius? Petr Sykora?

My offseason analysis for The Hockey News looks at the Florida Panthers and the Edmonton Oilers. Lots to write about, in terms of prospects/youngsters.

Here's another NHL 13 clip. Get pumped, the demo for this game is out on August 21:

{youtube}QwBNr6yExMQ{/youtube}