Fantasy Guide is updated through August 24. At the end of the Anaheim Ducks section, there is a 60% off coupon code to pick up the DobberFootball fantasy guide and/or playbook. Pretty much makes the football stuff cost less than "chump change".

Kyle Turris has signed a five-year contract extension worth $17.5 million. Wow - if that's not a vote of confidence, I don't know what is. If you thought he'd get every opportunity to succeed before this... your thought is certainly carved in stone now.

Rene Bourque had abdominal surgery and he will be out until November recovering (8-10 weeks)

For those asking - Chris Nichols is fine and out of the hospital. Tests all turned out okay, just an unexplained severe tightness in his chest. Probably just worried about the CBA, eh Chris?

My column for Puck Daddy yesterday covered centermen. Look for wingers to be posted later today.

The NHL made their counterproposal to the NHLPA yesterday. You can read about here , or here , or here . To me, it reads like a proposal that should have been their starting offer. Rather than waste time with that 43% to the players garbage. Once the league moves a little on revenue sharing, they will probably be surprised at how good a deal they can get.

Lyle "Spector" Richardson has this one right in his column In Defense of Gary Bettman .

So what contingencies does your league have in place if there is a delay? What about a cancellation? For me, all three of my keepers are moving forward. Same day as always. Next year, too. And if the season is cancelled, we draft in the same order. Extra help for the bottom

dwellers in a full keeper league where rebuilding takes a long, long time. Last lockout cost MY team the most. I was the defending champ, but needed to rebuild. But with an extra year for my old guys to get older - my rebuilding was severely hurt. That extra year cost my team getting any kind of good return in a trade involving Ron Francis, Brett Hull, Mark Recchi or Alexei Kovalev. Whereas, had the NHL played right away, perhaps they'd get some early points, which I would parlay into picks and prospects. Instead, they resumed playing when they were two years older instead of one. Killed me. The most torturous rebuild I ever went through, thanks to the lockout. Easily added two more years of building to the process.

One thing about the lockout that is promising is the fact that the sides are speaking frequently. Do you think Bob Goodenow would have met with Gary Bettman this often? Hell no. Goodenow would wait for Bettman to come to him for a meeting… and then he'd set one up for a week from now. Whereas Donald Fehr has no problem coming to the NHL to set up a meeting. I don't think he cares if he has to be the one instigating the meeting each and every time. So four months of meetings under Goodenow, Fehr will have had in four weeks.

Here's a look at aging superstar Teemu Selanne's production by month over the last seven seasons. It was an attempt at seeing if he slows over the course of a long season, or flourishes early on, or any kind of trend at all. To me it looks like he does start fast and ends fast. If you replace those DNP spots with an average of, say four points, then November is easily his best month, while October is third (behind March). Also consider that the April numbers are for half of the games…. kind of making April his best month. A shortened season of, say 50 games, could really help him.

And to squeeze a little bit more non-business content in the ramblings, I'll answer a forum question I just saw. Matt Carle or Kevin Bieksa? You take Carle because Bieksa is 50/50 in terms of getting hurt for a long period of time. But even at full health guaranteed I take Carle. His role with the Lightning offers great upside... whereas Bieksa loses some offensive shifts thanks to the Jason Garrison signing.

The 1995 CBA "worked out quite well" according to Bob Goodenow in 1998. You can already see Bettman waffling:

{youtube}uZJOGZKFm9c{/youtube}