Lockout Update: Day 3 - There is still a lockout.

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The first second 10 names have been drawn for joining the Entry Tier of my annual invitational. See the bottom of the ramblings for the first 10 20 winners. It is 5pm ET, I will try to draw 10 names every six or seven hours over the next day. So 20 names are below.

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Fantasy Guide update - The guide was last updated September 14. My annual 3-Tiered Invitational will go on, and invites are being accepted until last night at midnight I'm extending this until 11am ET today. If you bought the guide and you want to join this pool, enter the draw by
emailing me
with the subject line Enter me in the Pool! and include your name in the body. I will announce the winners of the draw in 10-name spurts throughout the day.

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You can bet on the lockout! Check out the odds - you can get 2-1 if you bet on the season getting wiped out and it actually gets canceled. Very tempting. I'll be out a big percentage of income this year, especially if the season goes bye-bye…so perhaps I should hedge my bets and put a few grand on the season going kaput? Naw, I'm too chicken.

Other interesting bets include "will Crosby play in Europe next season at any point", as well as the over/under on the players portion of the agreed upon revenue split. The over/under is 50.5%

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Here is a great rundown of the KHL by the Litter Box Cats. Some notable names on each club.

From that rundown I picked out a few new names I didn't note yesterday - Andrei Loktionov, Anton Khudobin, Jakub Voracek, Lubomir Visnovsky, Sergei Bobrovsky, Fedor Tyutin, Ilya Kovalchuk, Sergei Kostitsyn.

Add Nikolai Kulemin to the list, he joins Malkin and Gonchar with Metallurg. He clicked with Malkin years ago - if he can find some of that magic again, he may have some momentum when he returns to play for the Leafs.

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How did Evgeni Malkin not crack the Top 10 most sold jerseys of last season? I mean, a guy who doesn't even play for that team anymore made the list (Jaromir Jagr). A partier who had an off year (Patrick Kane), a goalie who wanted to take the year "off" (Tim Thomas) and a player who missed most of the season (Sidney Crosby) - all made the list.

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Rick Nash and Joe Thornton have joined the Swiss League, and Big Joe has convinced Logan Couture to go there as well, albeit on a different team. Mark Streit will also head back to Switzerland for now.

Add Roman Cervenka, Jiri Tlusty, Michael Neuvirth and Vladimir Sobotka to the Czech League.

Other names off to European leagues include Christian Ehrhoff and Jason Demers.

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AHL training camps open on September 28. Countdown to AHL training camps!

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My eyes popped out of my head when I read that the Wild were offering season ticket holders 10% interest on their money, if the Wild can keep that money rather than refund it. I'm kicking myself for not investing in tickets. That's pretty lucrative.

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The Leafs' goalie coach, Francois Allaire, chose not to return next season. Great reputation as one of the best goalie coaches, and perhaps there is some merit to that. But it has to be the right goalie, one built to properly learn his style. He wrecked Jonas Gustavsson, which was the perfect square peg-round hole example. Getting away from him is the best move Gustavsson made. I think James Reimer was a fit, but in his first full season under Allaire he was hurt... and took a long time to recover. So we'll never know.

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Here are winners (so far) - the following will get an email with an invite into the Entry Tier, as well as details, etc:

Michael Bird

Hugo Twigg

Fraser Young

Rex Doty

Les Khan

Chris Goodall

Paul Wood

Chris Fair

Chris Robillard

Chris Rougeau

Jonathon Munn

Justin Ciavarella

Michael Shewchuk

Brandon Nihmey

Kjell Ekdahl

Nick Aumont

Mick Murphy

Shaun Marsh

Nick Williamson

Chris Hamm

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He's gonna lock you out! Gary says lock you out!:

{youtube}m0GuvZ4LTnE{/youtube}