

October 16, 2012

Written by Dobber

Monday, 15 October 2012 22:34 - Last Updated Tuesday, 16 October 2012 15:19

Lockout Update: Day 31 - There is still a lockout.

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You've heard the big news today I'm sure. Very positive, as the NHL have promised the players that their contracts for this season will be honored in full, and that the split offered is 50/50 for the next six or seven years. Payments owed over that 50/50 number would be deferred to later seasons when revenue growth allows for it. The NHL media and twitterverse is abuzz with the news - and I suddenly got a handful of sales this afternoon.

If a CBA can be reached by next Tuesday, expect a full 82-game schedule to start on November 2. I believe the season will start before November 10th now. Expect furious negotiations over the next week. Fingers crossed.

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[Fantasy Guide](#) - Fully updated as of October 10, including the Draft List - KHL injury notes, a full blow-by-blow analysis and breakdown (from my perspective) of the Expert's League draft, a *bonus* article going over the rosters of each team and picking out possible retirement candidates in the event that the lockout wipes out the season. I will keep updating until January, and when a season is announced I will re-jig the projections - all 600 of them.

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We got our first bit of good lockout news yesterday [when it was leaked](#) to Deadspin that the NHL hired an expensive company/PR guy (Frank Luntz) to run a focus group to help guide them through the public relations battle that they are losing. The questionnaire included a part in which several different versions (using different wording) about the same issue was presented - in an effort to find the most positive spin. The term "shared sacrifice" seemed to be a good one

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that you'll see used a lot going forward. The questionnaire also included a selection of 10 images, with the "fight" image including the late

[Derek Boogaard](#)

as one of the combatants. Another page included almost word-for-word a piece written by Wyshynski over at Puck Daddy (see

[this](#)

, and

[this](#)

).

It speaks to the NHL's interest in keeping their fans - something we've all questioned to this point. But the fact that they got caught doing it sure hurts their position in negotiations. Think about it - six-digit fines for any team that speaks out of turn... what kind of fine would this warrant, if only they could fine Frank Luntz?

So this was leaked. And Luntz responded with [this statement](#) . Included:

The objective: to understand exactly what fans think and precisely what they want. In this case, the fans were very clear: they want the teams and the union to reach an agreement quickly so that they can get the hockey they want and deserve.

Wow. They spent thousands of dollars - probably close to six digits - for that conclusion? Well done. Is that cost going to be Hockey Related Revenue?

Anyway, I think this has to help. Can the NHL really be hardasses after this? Well, yeah. But I don't think they will. The mockery that the media is making of this - the wasted money, etc - is more backlash than the league has faced since this began.

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Regarding revenue sharing and the propaganda spewed out by the NHLPA about how great things are in Major League Baseball. Word is that the New York Yankees would like to get out

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from under the luxury tax threshold within a few years. If that happens, I'd like to see how great things are in MLB then. Weren't there seasons in which the Yankees contributed well over \$100 million in tax? Money that went to the poorest teams? What will those teams do without that money? Anyway, just something to think about. I believe more revenue sharing is needed, but I don't believe MLB is as comfy as Donald Fehr would have you think.

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Both [Jason Garrison](#) and Alex Edler are [still getting paid](#) by the Canucks. Edler is still dealing with a bulging disc in his back. Garrison has a groin injury. If I'm them, I'm in no hurry to rehab (Edler was seen kicking a 30-yard field goal Saturday, the back is probably fine). Keep sending those checks!

*

[Ben Bishop](#) has signed to play with Binghamton in the AHL. The domino effect? Less game action for [Robin Lehner](#). This lockout is skewing development of a lot of your players in ways that can never be measured - but the impact is there, mark my words.

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[Jussi Jokinen](#) played eight games in Finland and [has now returned](#) to North America. So he's a guy we can remove from our lockout tracker. He had figured the lockout would be over by mid-October. He'll probably head back in December if things continue to look grim.

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Buffalo prospect [Corey Tropp](#), who was probably making the team this year, is [out for the season](#) with a knee injury - both ACL and MCL were torn. Ouchie.

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Tampa prospect [Cory Conacher](#) was [named](#) the AHL player of the week thanks to five points over the weekend. He was last year's AHL MVP and last year's AHL rookie of the year. So yeah, doing good.

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[Cory Emmerton](#) broke his finger in a game in SM-liiga (Finland). He [may need surgery](#) .

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With two points yesterday, [Alexander Radulov](#) is back in his familiar spot at the top of the KHL scoring race with 19 points in 16 contests. But he has to be looking over his shoulder at [Ilya Kovalchuk](#) who is on a torrid pace - 16 points in just eight games.

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[Sergei Kostitsyn](#) has seven points in four KHL games, but more interesting is that he has seven shots. Normally it would take him 10 games to get that many.

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Hahaha - [Ilya Bryzgalov](#) gets tripped up. By nobody.

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{youtube}Trccg1TvU2o{/youtube}