

Lockout Update: Day 38: There is still a lockout.

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[Fantasy Guide](#) - Fully updated as of October 10, will be updated this week with some CBA updates, injury updates and don't forget that when the season is announced, I will re-jig the projections from Abdelkader through to Zubrus.

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[Sergei Kostitsyn](#) [hopes the lockout will wipe out the NHL season](#) . "It would be better if the lockout continues." And this is the responsible Kostitsyn. He adds - "I couldn't get used to (American) mentality. They are totally different people from us."

As a Kostitsyn owner in two of my leagues, stuff like this doesn't exactly thrill me. He is signed for two years at \$6 million.

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[Wayne Simmonds](#) and [Chris Stewart](#) had been playing in Germany, but that 30-day contract is over. They are [now off to the Czech Republic](#) to play in that league. Stewart had five goals and 11 points in nine games, while Simmonds had 14 points. A year ago, seeing Simmonds out-produce Stewart would have raised a Spockian eyebrow. Not today.

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October 23, 2012

Written by Dobber

Monday, 22 October 2012 23:27 -

[Nicklas Backstrom](#) wore the number 99 when he donned the Dynamo jersey in Russia. But when [asked](#) if he'll be the Swedish Wayne Gretzky, he said "No. I will be the Swedish [Nicklas Backstrom](#) ." He made his debut - on a line with [Alex Ovechkin](#) - yesterday.

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Pittsburgh prospect defenseman Olli Maatta had a goal and three points Sunday for London of the OHL. He has nine points in 11 games on the year. Max Domi, a top pick for next year's draft, leads the club with 19 points.

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Every week I open up the [KHL article](#) on the "players of the week" for the week prior. And every week I'm disappointed not to see an NHLer on there. Best goalie, best defenseman, best attacker and best rookie are each acknowledged. But nada for NHLers.

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I enjoyed writing [this piece](#) for THN, and I can't wait for next week's. I took a look at the last lockout and the young NHLers who played in the AHL and came to some conclusions. Not a scientific study, but I never dig very deep if the answer is this clear when looking at it from a high level - pointless when the answer is obvious.

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[Here](#) is Martin St. Louis discussing his career, and how he wants to retire "with a bang". He doesn't want to fade away, so a lockout wiping out the season is wiping out one of the few years he plans to remain in hockey as a player.

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The [Marc Savard update](#) isn't a good one. "There is no comeback in the foreseeable future", says Savard. Symptoms are still ongoing, as recent as Monday. Tough way to end a career, and the lingering effects of a concussion can be - as we're seeing here - quite devastating. In the meantime, he can pour the \$6.5 million that he's still getting paid for this year onto his living room floor and roll around on it. I know that would make me feel better.

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Edmonton's Justin Schultz was [named](#) the AHL player of the week for last week.

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[Jaromir Jagr](#) has [been out](#) with a groin injury. It has cost him two Czech League games so far. The groin has been a huge issue for Jagr since returning to the NHL a year ago, and it will continue to dog him until he retires.

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I wonder if [Evgeni Malkin](#) can talk his buddy Sergei Mozyakin into joining him in the NHL? Mozyakin is a 31-year-old former Columbus draft pick who is on a line with Malkin and has 20 points in 15 KHL games. He is a former 34-goal scorer in that league. But his magic with Malkin, including his four points yesterday, has opened some eyes.

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October 23, 2012

Written by Dobber

Monday, 22 October 2012 23:27 -

[Ryan Ellis](#) is still a "[few weeks](#)" away from returning to action. His broken wrist is still in a cast.

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[Anton Volchenkov](#) [broke his foot](#) in KHL action. Same issues with that guy, different league...

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Writing opportunities - two of them - both involve prospects. I need help for hockey prospects, over at [DobberProspects](#) , and I need a prospects guy for [DobberBaseball](#) . [Details here](#) . And I'll be honest with you - I'm 100 times more desperate for the baseball help. I also need - and this is new - another

[DobberFootball](#)

writer. What do you think?

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[Pavel Datsyuk](#) 's beauty - wow:

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