

Written by Jeff Angus Wednesday, 24 October 2012 11:42 - Last Updated Thursday, 25 October 2012 18:14
on. The best case scenario is a bunch of legal jargon, and the worst case is a heavy dose of pessimism.
I feel bad for the writers and reporters who have to cover it - trying to turn their spin into a column each day would be extremely difficult.
All along I have figured the season starts in December. The owners were willing to burn two months of the season to get a nice deal – what surprised them is that apparently the players are, too.
I'd be extremely shocked if we don't have any NHL hockey this year. I'd lay serious money down on the season starting at some point. The day-to-day swings and events haven't really changed all that much. It's tough wading through all of the negative news and conflicting reports each day, but it is doable.
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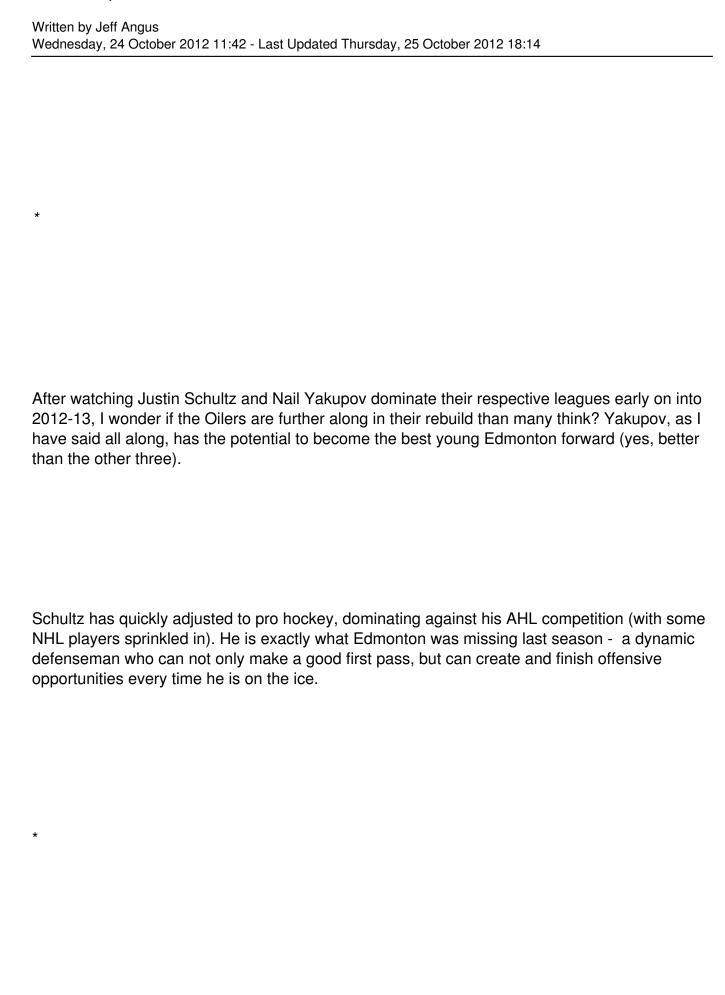


While <u>Daniel Sedin</u> started 52.4% of his shifts in the offensive zone back in 2008-09, it sharply increased all the way to 79.6% last season, consistently finishing among the league leaders by a wide margin.

Similarly the Sedins generally rank between 10th and 13th among Canuck forwards in the average quality of competition they face. While past evidence prevents anyone from claiming the Sedins can't play two-way hockey, coach Alain Vigneault is clearly keeping them focused solely on the offensive aspects of their game.

Vollman projects big things for David Booth:

A favourite among the statistical community for his great possession numbers, <u>David Booth</u> 's third-line level even-strength scoring rate between 1.4 and 1.7 points per 60 minutes over the past three seasons was probably stunted by a team shooting percentage under 7.0% when he was on the ice.



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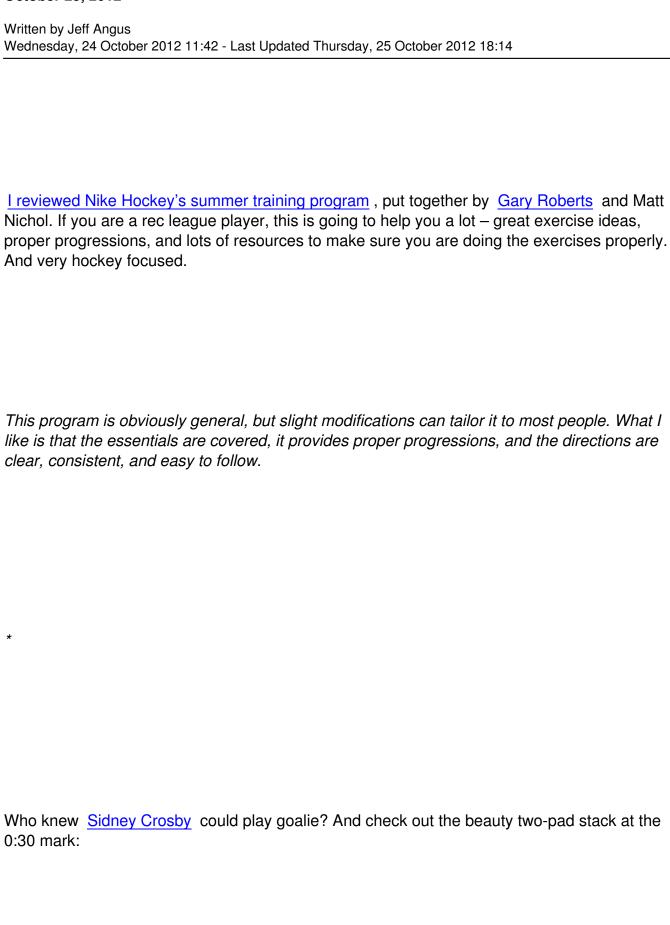
Canucks prospect <u>Nicklas Jensen</u> has 14 goals in his last 23 pro games (dating back to last year in the AHL, and to start this year with AIK of the SEL). Jensen's best attributes are his shot and his puck protection abilities – he is going to be in the NHL very soon. I would do my best to grab him in my hockey pool if he was available (through free agency or trade). He's going to be a good one.

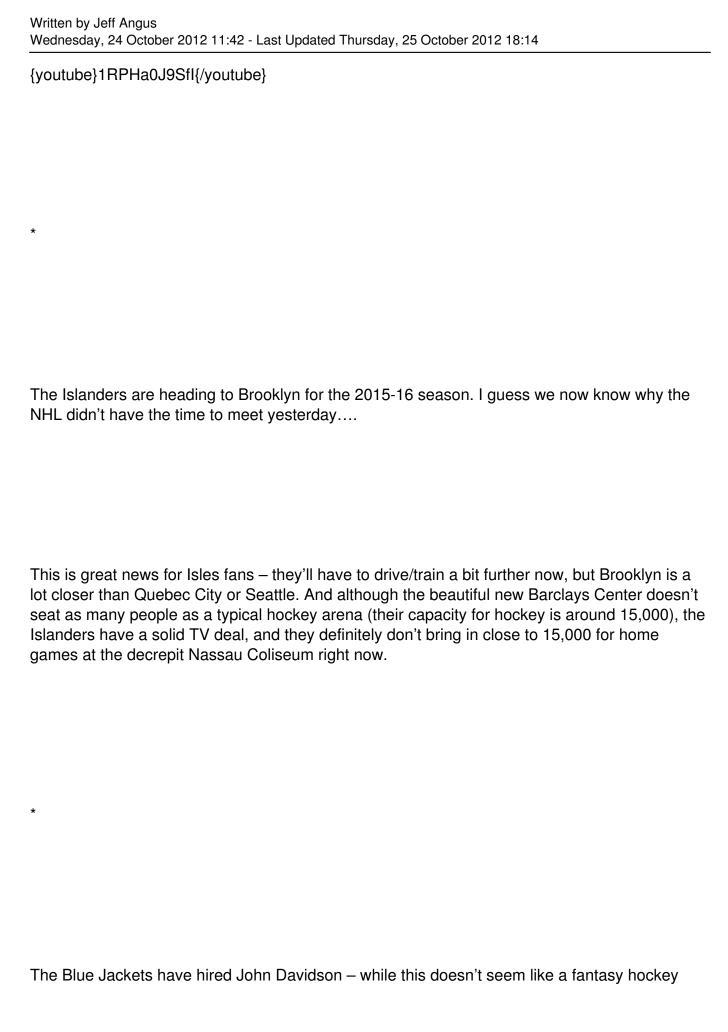
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My piece for DefendingBigD yesterday was on winger Tomas Vincour, who I got to see a lot of during his WHL career with Edmonton and Vancouver. Vincour hasn't been an offensive standout at the NHL level, but that could change with some experience, confidence, and opportunity.

At 21, Vincour is still a work-in-progress. Last year, the Stars placed him in a depth role. He didn't look out of place, but he didn't stand out, either. He seems to be picking up more and more as his professional career progresses, which is a good thing, as he still has a ways to go if he wants to be a top six forward in the future. The fact that he is already entering his third pro season at the age of 21 speaks volumes to his overall game and the structure he plays with.

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relevant move – look what he did in St. Louis to rebuild that organization.

The Blue Jackets may not be a better team this year, but they are going to be a hell of a lot harder to play against. Rick Nash is skilled, but he is a pretty soft player (and lazy). Columbus added some serious sandpaper with

Brandon Dubinsky and Nic

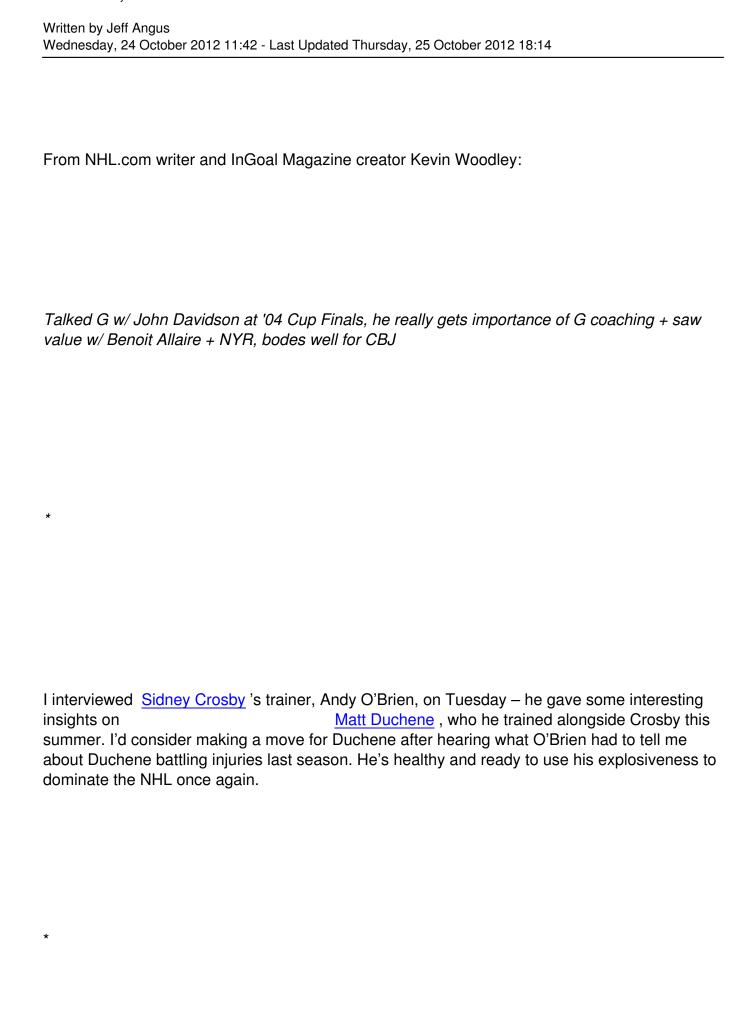
k Foligno up front.

<u>Ryan Johansen</u> is a stud and is ready to take a step forward. <u>Cam Atkinson</u>, too. And on the back end, there are a number of talented young defensemen – Nikitin, Savard, Moore, Murray, and a few others as well.

The goaltending is still a giant question mark – I'm not sold on <u>Sergei Bobrovsky</u> starting, and <u>Steve Mason</u>

should have been in the minors for the last two years. That being said, there is some upside at the position (things can't really get any worse than they were last season).

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One week – tell us why you love fantasy hockey for a chance to win!

I'll post my submission next week (I am not eligible to win, of course).