Lockout Update Day 87: there is still a lockout.

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Michael Del Zotto is heading home. A back injury . Apparently it's a minor one, thankfully.

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In lockout news, uh, there isn't any. Other than games being cancelled until January. And Pierre LeBrun reports that the two sides will meet in an undisclosed location Wednesday. What's the rush?

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Fantasy owners unite! I wrote this piece for The Hockey News on the impact of fantasy hockey on the NHL and vice versa - and their respective bottom line.

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Matt Duchene's contract in Sweden is done. But he's signed another one, this time to play in Switzerland.

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TSN is reporting that if the lockout isn't resolved by the end of the month, then all the guys in Switzerland could make their way to the Spengler Cup. This would include the aforementioned Duchene, plus John Tavares, Jason Spezza, Tyler Seguin, Patrice Bergeron, Brooks Laich and Michael Del Zotto. Joe Thornton and Rick Nash are also over there, but TSN didn't note them so perhaps they're ineligible. Too old, maybe? The Spengler Cup starts on December 26… so between that and the WJC we'll have hockey again, albeit at weird hours.

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Although Ilya Bryzgalov has slowly been turning his play around in the KHL, he is out of action now with a " high fever ". His save percentage is finally up above .900 and his GAA has dipped below 2.50 (10 games).

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Jonathan Huberdeau may have ended his QMJHL career. He's off to join the Canadian junior team and then when the tournament is over he could be playing for the Panthers (stop laughing). If so, his Q career ends with an eight-game points streak (16 points).

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Jacob Markstrom, stud goalie prospect for the Florida Panthers, has been named the AHL's player of the week. He won all four of his games and allowed just seven goals on 137 shots.

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Five reasons why there will be an NHL season, according to Kevin Allen.

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Lots of swearing, but I love this post from the Onion mocking the Bleacher Report. Mostly because I despise the way the Bleacher Report does things and this mocking post hits the nail right on the head.

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In his ramblings, Jeff Angus has been giving you excerpts on the goalie profiles we have in the Fantasy Goalie Guide, but other elements of the guide that should be noted are:

- A political overview of every player. Nearly a full page for each team is dedicated to the entire system of goalies and how easy their path is (or difficult) to the No.1 NHL job based on organizational hopes and expectations. Every bit as key as the talent itself.

- A whole bunch of lists. You love rankings. We got 'em.

Buy it here.

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Kuznetsov, arguably the best prospect in the world (and his keeper ranking is only held back by his two-year KHL contract) scores here at around 1:00 and then at 2:30. He celebrates the second goal by playing dead. Weird:

{youtube}k4qnxWSi_j8{/youtube}