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I was given Journeyman for Christmas - it is a hockey book written by Sean Pronger (with help from Canucks commentator Dan Murphy). Sean is known as the older brother to Chris, and his career has spanned many countries and many teams. He shares some really funny/insightful stories, including playing in the Bertuzzi/Moore game, the incident in Manitoba when then-rookie Kevin Bieksa knocked out teammate Fedor Fedorov in a bar fight, and much more.

I'd highly recommend picking up a copy.

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2012 wasn't as memorable for the Canucks as 2011 was (to say the least), but there were some interesting moments. Here are a few of them.

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I missed a few AHL updates from Wednesday night. Well, here they are.

Cody Hodgson had a monster game for Rochester, scoring twice, adding an assist, and firing seven shots on goal.

Defenseman TJ Brennan had a goal and four helpers. Good timing from Eric Daoust for his post yesterday.

Future roto-stud Marcus Foligno had a goal and seven PIM.

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Texas (who as also in action on Thursday night, I'll update that game in a bit) got a strong performance from Cody Eakin. Eakin didn't play Thursday after sustaining a minor facial injury on Wednesday, though.

The Aeros top line of Zucker, Granlund, and Coyle combined for six points.

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Thursday night AHL action:

Adam Larsson continues his strong play of late with two helpers for Albany.

Another Swedish defenseman had two helpers in that game - Springfield defenseman Tim Erixon. Erixon looks to be NHL ready with his play this season.

Angus favorite (third person speak) Matt Calvert had two points and 14 PIM. I am not sure how many people are in AHL leagues that count PIM, though....

Cam Atkinson had two points and seven shots on goal.

Ryan Johansen had a goal as well. A great night for the top prospects in Columbus.

*

Canada defeated HC Davos 5-0 in Spengler Cup action yesterday. Devan Dubnyk earned the shutout for Canada. I like Dubnyk's chances at posting solid numbers for the Oilers (assuming

they don't go out and acquire a more proven netminder).

It wasn't as if Dubnyk was up against weak competition, as HC Davos features the likes of Joe Thornton and Patrick Kane.

*

Don Levin, the current owner of the AHL's Chicago Wolves, can't wait to own an NHL club . If and when a team is ready to move to Seattle, he should be considered the frontrunner to own the club.

"I've been trying to do this for years," he said. "What I've learned is you have to strike when the iron is hot. Toronto sold (in 2011) and I couldn't afford that. Montreal sold (in 2009) and I came in second on that. I don't know what else will come up. You don't know when and where these things will happen. You just have to be prepared.

*

If you don't know who Mike Kostka is, don't feel bad. The 27-year-old defenseman is currently second in defensive scoring in the AHL behind Justin Schultz, and he is second on his team (the Toronto Marlies) in scoring.

"He's a guy that's really invested off the ice with his training and diet and it's those guys who are fairly detailed on the ice too," Eakins said. "With knowing a fair amount about his game we weren't expecting this kind of start numbers-wise from him, but he's been a real key to our offense… We like playing an aggressive game; we want our defense firmly involved in the offense and really pushing the pace.

*

The Minnesota Wild are asking for fan feedback on a potential new jersey design.

I'm eager to see what the Wild come up with if they do redesign the road sweater, if for no other reason than their current road uniforms are my least favorite. They just don't fit in well with the club's home and alternate jerseys. Very different look and feel. But it's one that was carried over from the team's inception in 2000 to the Reebok Edge league-wide redesign in 2007.

*

New Jersey's top prospect Jon Merrill has returned to practice with his Michigan teammates after suffering a vertebrae injury a few months ago.

Merrill, the Devils' 2010 second-round draft pick, has not played this season because of a fractured vertebrae he sustained on in hit in a preseason exhibition game against the University of Windsor on Oct. 9. Merrill has a Jan. 2 doctor's appointment with the hope of being cleared then for full contact.

I could see Merrill stepping into the Devils lineup next season, provided he remains healthy for the rest of the 2012-13 campaign and is able to get some games in under his belt.

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Puck Daddy counts down the top 10 saves of the year.

Number three on the list:

{youtube}OBGvODiZA1Y{/youtube}

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Doug Weight shares his thoughts on the Islanders potential PP formations – Weight is an assistant coach with the team.

Weight goes on to say he's inclined to first try Streit and Visnovsky together at the points, but clearly a priority is going to be whether the unit's makeup can gain the zone on a consistent basis. (As an aside, P.A. Parenteau was also good at this aspect and will be missed, particularly 5-on-5, though as John Tavares has evolved we can expect he'll have more zone entries for his line.)

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The top NHL plays from 2012:

{youtube}UdvUsKdMlbY{/youtube}

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Montreal prospect Alex Galchenyuk was great yesterday for the Americans, as they took care of Germany with an easy victory.

Galchenyuk finished with a one-goal, two-assist day in the Americans' easy win, earning player of the game honours. He was the OHL and CHL player of the week in his final games for Sarnia before leaving for Team USA, so he has momentum. Each of his helpers came in the opening shift of a period. He set up San Jose Sharks prospect Sean Kuraly just 19 seconds into the game. They were even quicker in the second period.

Galchenyuk tracked German defenceman Stephan Kronthaler in his own zone before the defenceman fell down and coughed up the puck, which Galchenyuk hopped on for a centring pass that Washington Capitals sixth-rounder Riley Barber popped into the net just 14 seconds into the frame.

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Jacob Trouba, JT Miller, and Seth Jones also had goals for the Americans, who scored eight in

total.

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