Detroit has yet to score in the first period this year. I know it's early but, wow.

*

After two straight games of playing fewer than 10 minutes, Brenden Morrow shot past the mark last night. He played 10:12. His fantasy value days are behind him.

*

Damien Brunner continues his groundbreaking season with another goal and three shots. As I noted, although prior undrafted late-blooming Europeans failed to give fantasy value in their first NHL campaign, Brunner has this one on too much of a silver platter. Linemates, ice time, and a coach's patience. If every prospect had that, there would be no busts.

*

Richard Bachman didn't get the start, but he got into the game when Kari Lehtonen left with an apparent injury. If so, put a bid in for Bachman. In fact, do it anyway to be safe - I just did.

*

Speaking of moves, I pulled off a doozy last night. I put my money where my mouth is. I still have faith in Alex Ovechkin and I think he is a "buy low" right now. Ditto for John Carlson . Come to think of it, their fates go hand in hand. Worst case - Carlson turns out to be a bust this year, while Ovechkin stumbles to 37 points. Best case, well, you know.

So when a guy in my league announced he was moving Ovechkin and Carlson, I was aggressive. I made an offer, he took out my Little and a fourth (in a 13 round draft a 4th is decent) and had me put in Hemsky and Atkinson. And he would then add Tyler Kennedy . The changes were more than acceptable and I took the deal before he could change his mind.

The deal was: Eriksson, Hemsky, Atkinson, Del Zotto. For Ovechkin, Carlson and Kennedy. It's a points-only keeper (keep 12), with added points for shots and power-play. I'm the defending champ, and in this 14-team league I now have Ovechkin, Giroux, Neal, Letang and Kopitar as my best players.

*

Both Nikita Nikitin (head) and Adrian Aucoin (LBI) were injured last night. Look for David Savard to draw back in and actually get some minutes. He may be worth activating, actually.

*

So…the Devils elected to recall Matt Anderson over Bobby Butler . They must really want Butler to hone his game - or he's not in their plans at all. Anderson played just under seven minutes last night in what was his NHL debut…at age 30.

*

Coming off a shutout, Chad Johnson gets another start tonight. Mike Smith is due to return anywhere from two days to two weeks. Up to you if Johnson is worth nabbing. Because the Coyotes will ride Smith. However, I do see a "Bachman/Raycroft" situation here in which Johnson could impress so much that the team sends LaBarbera down.

*

It's not an NHL season without a Jason Spezza injury. And his UBI held him out of last night's contest against the Caps. No word on how long he's out for.

Jakub Silfverberg is down to 11:18 of ice time. He needs to produce. Quickly. Or that ice time will keep slipping, and once it gets to seven minutes, then it will be press box. And then Binghamton.

*

Even though Wojtek Wolski picked up an assist, his ice time was down to 11:19. Here is his ice time, in order, the last four games:

18:28

14:24

13:09

11:19

So what picture does that paint for you? To me, it's a picture of a press box.

*

Zac Rinaldo is back and Tye McGinn will be sent back down. McGinn was surprisingly good, here are his numbers: two points, six hits, seven shots in three games.

*

Keaton Ellerby had 19 minutes in penalties last night - and he has 36 on the season. He's set a career high already.

*

Corey Conacher is up to nine points now. And counting. Not even the most optimistic (probably me) expected this. And there are zero reasons to see a slowdown. Other than the fact that this pace is absurd.

*

The difference between staying in the NHL and going back to junior? Dougie Hamilton played 19:59 for Boston. Stefan Matteau played 8:56 for the Devils.

Look at David Clarkson 's start - four goals, seven points, 11 PIM in five games.

*

Ryan Callahan injured his shoulder and left last night's game. This doesn't look like a 'day to day' thing. It looks like a 'week to week' thing. So says Dr. Dobber.

*

Mikhail Grigorenko is in the NHL for good. He played his sixth game. To celebrate, he scored his first career goal against the Leafs last night. Though he still played just 10 minutes. Lindy Ruff doesn't rush his youth, that's for sure.

*

Nazem Kadri has points in five of his six games so far, and to me he has been the best Leafs forward more often than not.

Matt Frattin has five points in three games since being recalled. He'll slow down, but he's a good, underrated fantasy player. If he plays another 40 games I don't see why he doesn't come very close to the 30-point mark. Which is tremendous, when you pro-rate that.

*

Jonas Brodin played over 20 minutes in his third career game. He picked up his second assist. Yes, worth scooping. He was paired with Ryan Suter . I'm serious when I say this - within three years, you'll wonder who is helping who.

I keep saying this, but Cody Franson is the most underrated player in Toronto. He is getting little ice time and a lot of scratches, when he has hockey sense that would put him Top 5 on the team, and he's accurate with his stick. On another team, he would be a star despite his perceived shortcomings. Anyway, he has three points in three games and is plus-3.

*

The Oilers put Yann Danis on waivers and it looks like Nikolai Khabibulin will return. Don't worry about him. This is Dubnyk's team for now.

*

Getting worried about David Desharnais . Just two points in five games. Hell, Alex Galchenyuk got that last night alone, playing just 10 minutes.

*

Bobby Ryan and Scott Gomez each got their first points of the season last night. For Ryan, he always starts slow. For Gomez, he also starts slow. And finishes slow. And in the middle.

*

The Ducks have allowed their No.3 goalie Frederik Andersen to go back to Denmark to assist in their attempt to qualify for the Olympics.

*

Ottawa prospect goalie Robin Lehner has been named the AHL player of the week. He won both his games, including a shutout.

*

Keep an eye on how he does - the Avs have recalled Michael Sgarbossa .

Emerson Etem played 7:51 in his NHL debut for the Ducks.

*

No word on what injury he sustained when he went down yesterday, but Sven Bärtschi left practice
.

*

I was on pins and needles for this one. I was so certain that surgery would be unsuccessful. But my mind is at ease - Eddie Lack 's hip surgery was indeed successful . So says the idiotic headline.

Seriously, just say " Eddie Lack has hip surgery". That headline says it all. Why do you have include the successfulness of the surgery in the headline? It's needlessly adding words. Like I'm doing now.

*

*

The subject of controversy yesterday, Alex Burrows shootout attempt Monday:

{youtube}DvMjAyuk2uc{/youtube}

*

Datsyuk. That's all. Just…Datsyuk:

{youtube}axwyIWqwsBg{/youtube}