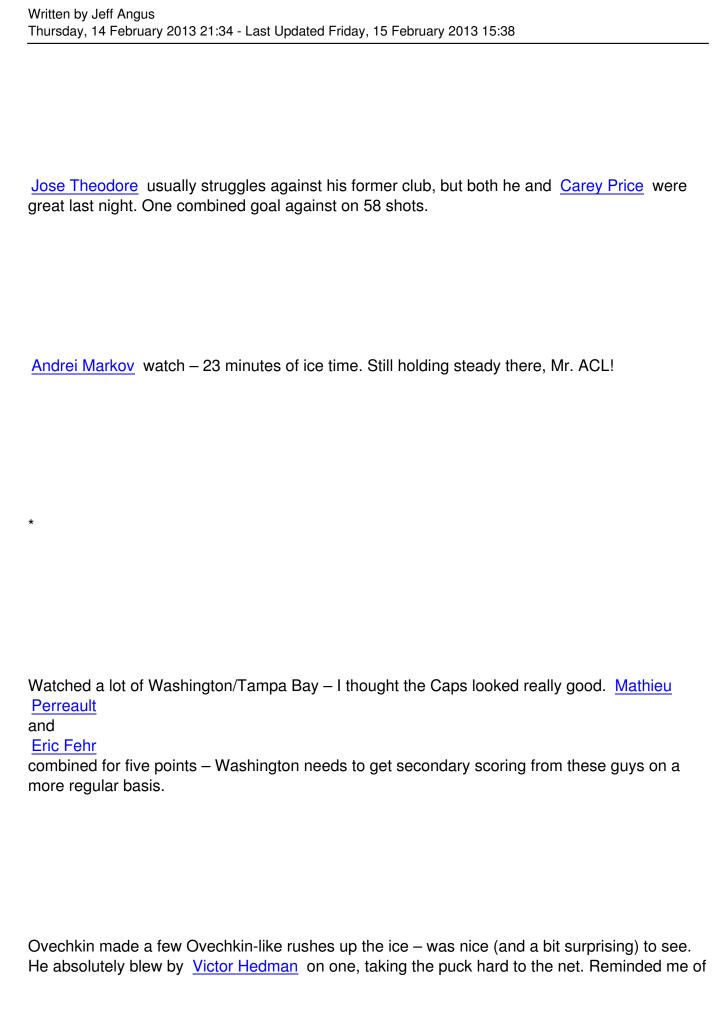
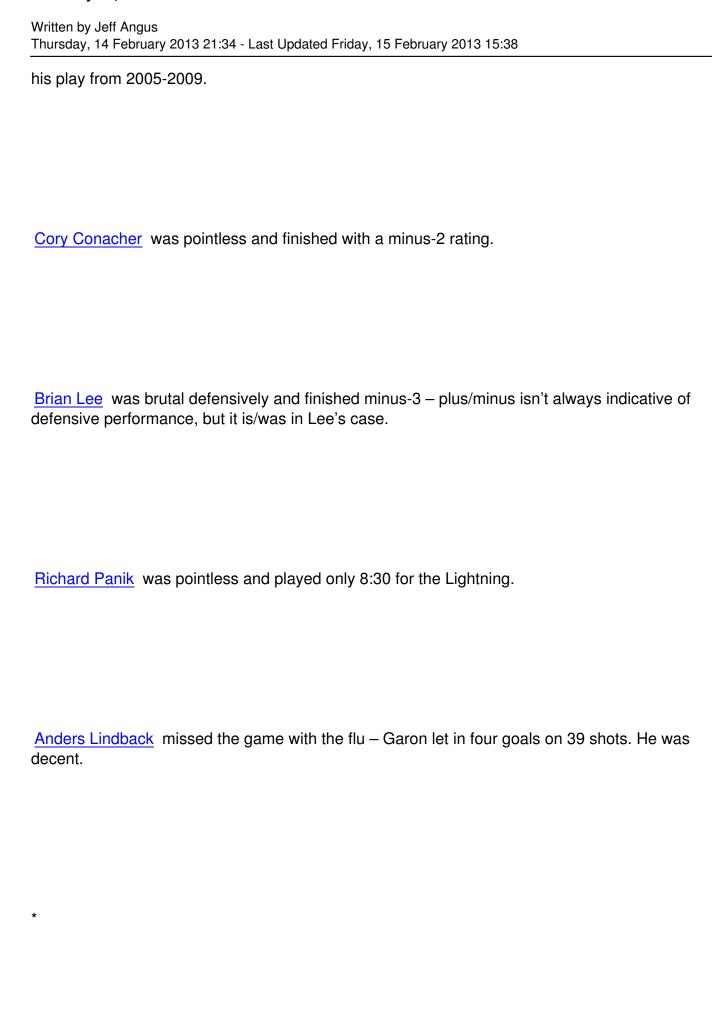


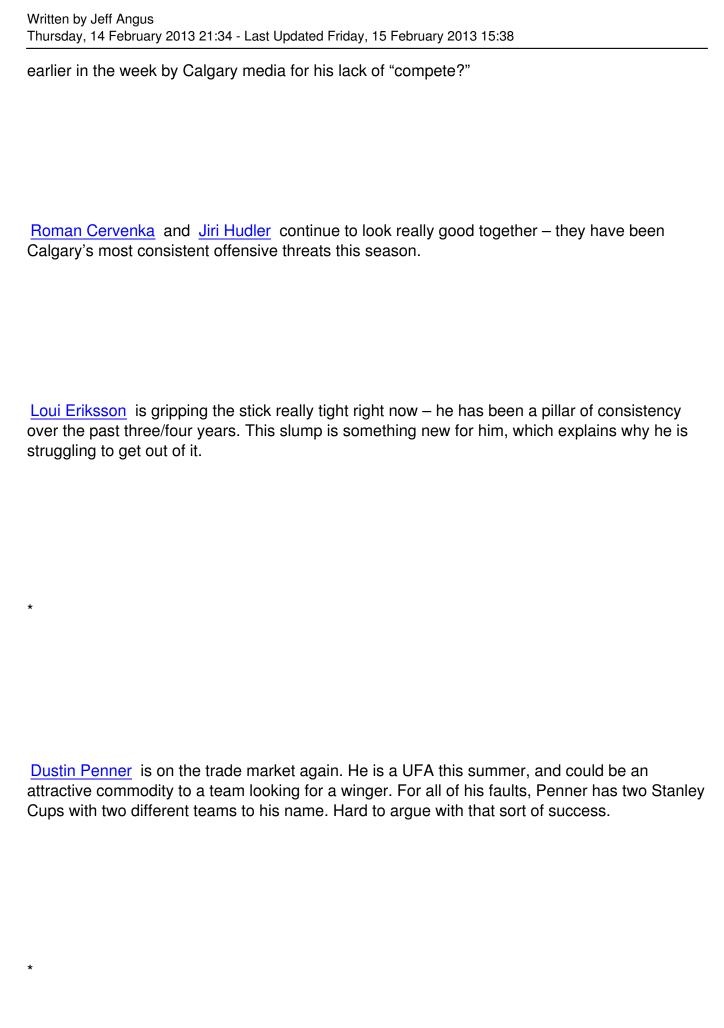
Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 14 February 2013 21:34 - Last Updated Friday, 15 February 2013 15:38
Kyle Okposo 's struggles continue – I'd look to move him (probably negligible trade value) if you want to upgrade your RW spot – he simply hasn't developed as hoped over the past few years.
Carl Hagelin is playing great right now, and it figures because I dropped him a few weeks ago. He had two points, seven shots on goal, and a ton of scoring chances last night. He has been the best Ranger forward after Nash this season.
Brad Richards played 15 minutes, Derek Stepan played 22.
Rich Nash played 25 minutes – typical John Tortorella. He loves to ride his top players.
*
Ben Scrivens let in three goals on 33 shots, but I thought he had a good game. The Leafs

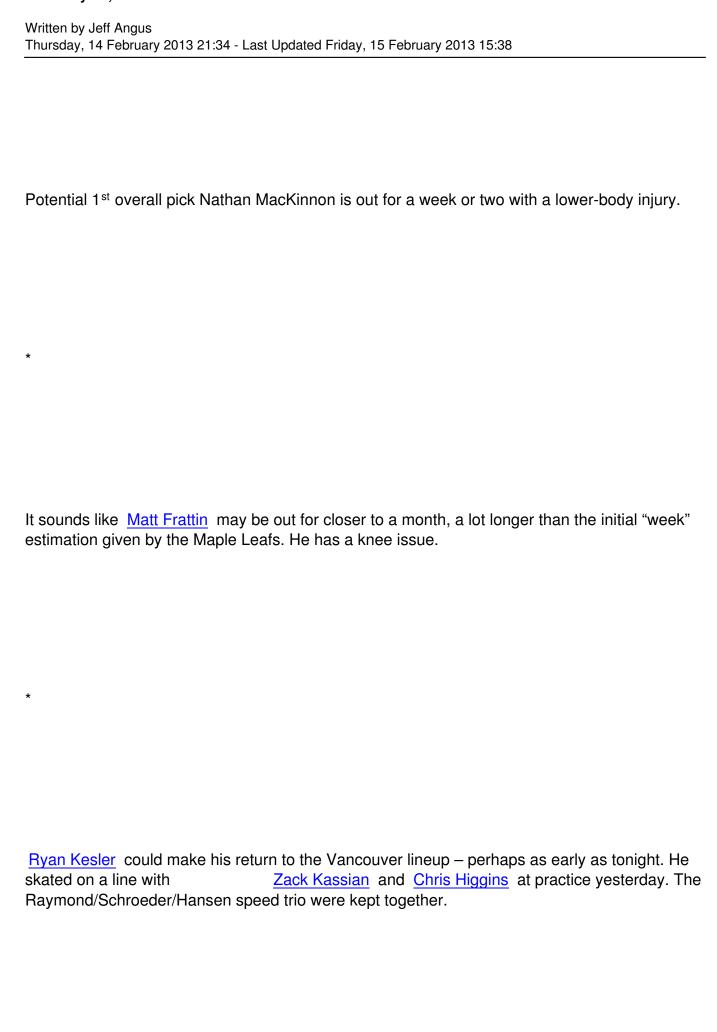




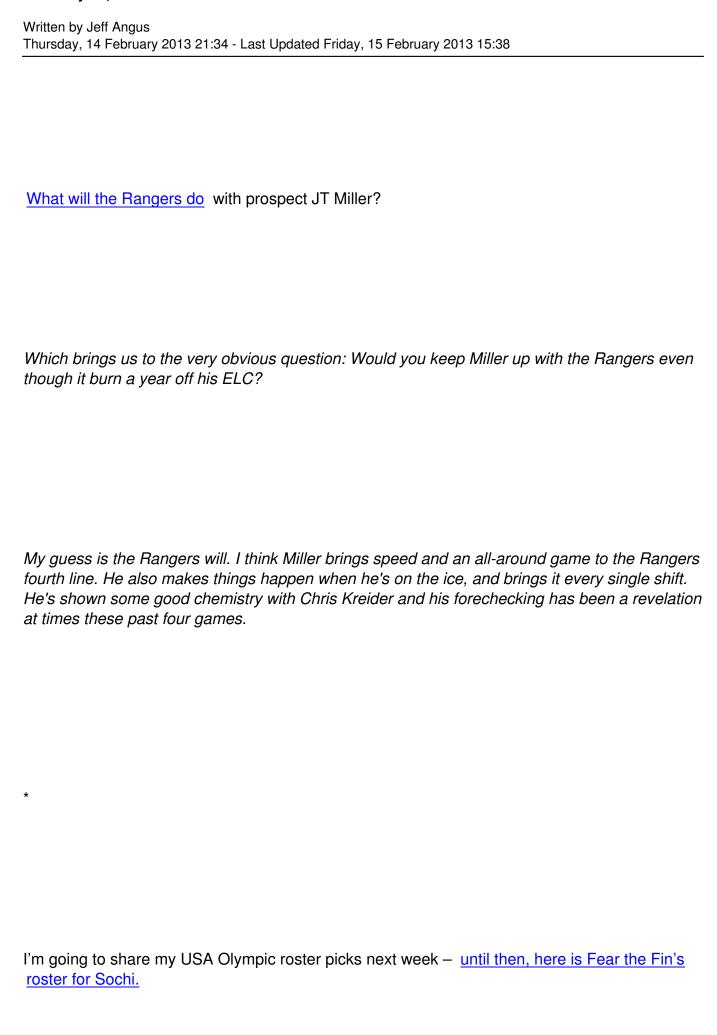


Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 14 February 2013 21:34 - Last Updated Friday, 15 February 2013 15:38
I play basketball games every Thursday evening, and because of that my game recaps for the later games will usually be added to the ramblings throughout the morning on Friday. Apologies in advance to the Colorado/Minnesota fan(s).
*
I didn't recap the Flames/Stars game in yesterday's ramblings, so here are my thoughts:
Alex Goligoski looked like a forward learning to play defense for the first time on Wednesday. His gap control and defensive positioning were both horrendous. The Flames were having a field day with cross-ice passes in the Dallas zone, and it didn't help that Richar d Bachman was very, very shaky.
Jarome Iginla had by far his best game of the season. Coincidence after getting called out





Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 14 February 2013 21:34 - Last Updated Friday, 15 February 2013 15:38
Kesler has been coy with the media during the rehab process, but he has been skating/practicing hard for the past few weeks. He won't be as rusty as most players are coming off of long-term injuries. He took his time after rushing back in 2011-12.
*
A nice passing play from Tuesday night:
{youtube}X4Dh5kh2dxs{/youtube}
Popus marks to Mason Doymand, for that filthy too drag
Bonus marks to Mason Raymond for that filthy toe drag.
*



Written by Jeff Angus

Thursday, 14 February 2013 21:34 - Last Updated Friday, 15 February 2013 15:38

I don't have too many disagreements with the roster, but I'd take <u>Justin Faulk</u> over <u>Tom Gilbert</u> <u>Cam Fowler</u> . Jack and <u>Erik Johnson</u>	or
have both been passed over on the American depth chart by younger/better defensemen.	
*	
With the Ponikarovsky trade, the Devils returned Andrei Loktionov to the AHL yesterday. Will he get his chance in the NHL?	When
*	
A good read from Ansar Khan on how the Red Wings have adjusted their playing style in (Life after Lidstrom):	LAL

Written by Jeff Angus

Thursday, 14 February 2013 21:34 - Last Updated Friday, 15 February 2013 15:38
The Red Wings still have some good puck-movers in <u>Niklas Kronwall</u> and <u>Ian White</u> , as well as injured players <u>Brendan Smith</u> and
Carlo Colaiacovo . But, the blue line has undergone a transformation the past couple of seasons.
"We don't move the puck (as well)," Babcock said. "When you got (Nicklas) Lidstrom, (Brian) Rafalski, Stewie (<u>Brad Stuart</u>) and Kronner, they go back, they turn the corner and they fire it to someone who hasn't had to work quite as hard to be quite as close, to be in the exact position.
"We can't play like that. We have to be closer and tighter and more available and better defensively, and sometimes it's not very pretty, but that's just the way it is."
*

Written by Jeff Angus Thursday, 14 February 2013 21:34 - Last Updated Friday, 15 February 2013 15:38

Manny Malhotra has been placed on the IR and is out for the season. The Canucks came to him and recommended the move, as he hasn't been the same player since the gruesome eye injury two years ago.

This way, Malhotra is off the books but he still gets paid. He is likely to retire at the end of the year and continue on with the team in a coaching capacity. He is one of the most respected guys in hockey. Pretty amazing how good he still is at faceoffs with very limited vision. It is a real shame that his time in Vancouver was cut short, but he was a quintessential pro during his time here.

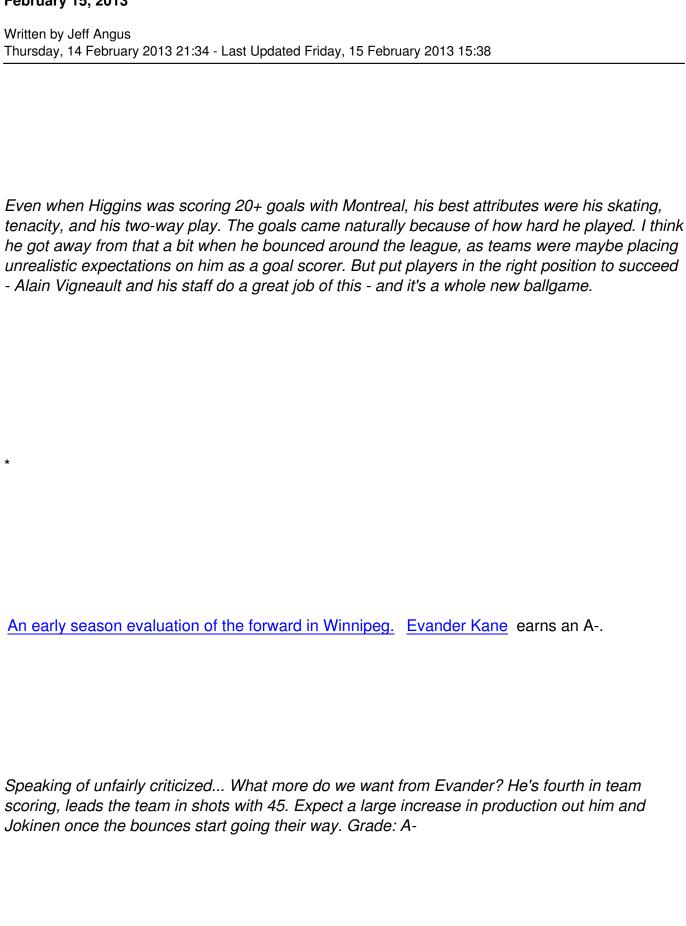
*

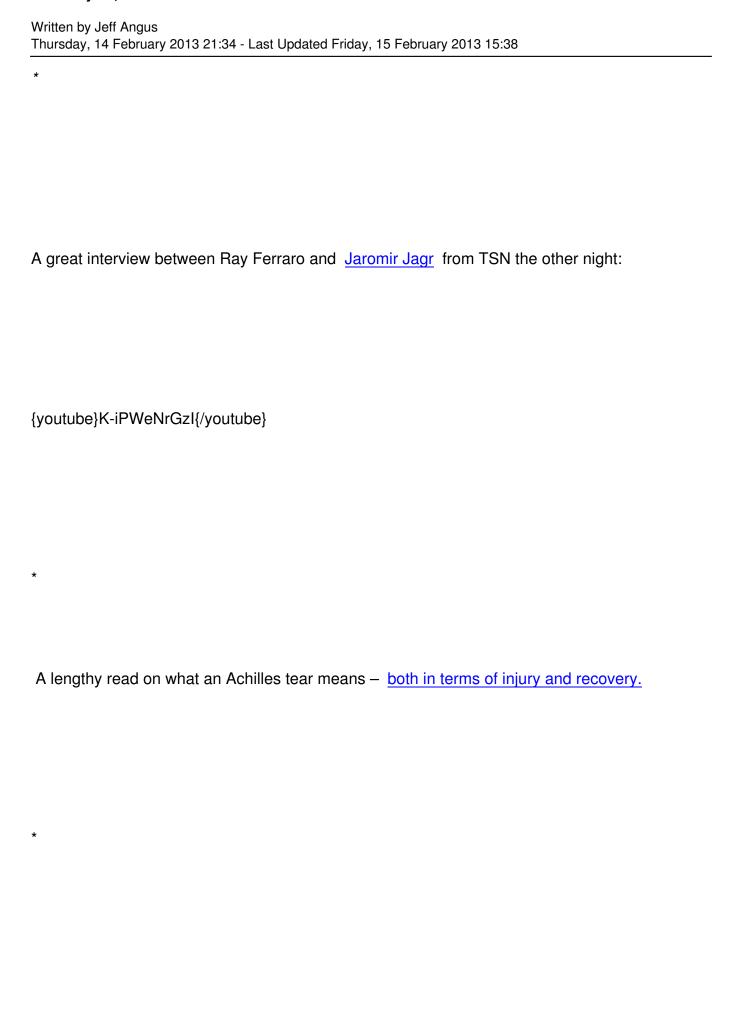
Kari Lehtonen is an elite goaltender – preach on, Mr. Goldman!

Beyond the stats, Lehtonen belongs in the "elite" category because he has undergone a significant transformation since joining the Stars. Once considered an injury-prone goalie, he's more committed to nutrition and physical fitness, his practice habits are stronger, and he's more detail-oriented with his technical and positional game than ever before.

Written by Jeff Angus

Thursday, 14 February 2013 21:34 - Last Updated Friday, 15 February 2013 15:38 To top things off, Kari can make some of the most dynamic and dazzling saves imaginable, one of which is a candidate for the save of the year (behind-the-back glove save on Jan. 31 against Columbus). Stability, consistency, unquestionable skills and athleticism; Kari has everything needed to be considered an elite goalie, and we feel his play this season has earned him that title. Pittsburgh has recalled 2010 1st round pick Beau Bennett – the skilled winger may make his NHL debut tonight. A few of my posts from the past few days - Chris Higgins has found a home in Vancouver thanks to a clearly defined role the value of the role player.





Written by Jeff Angus
Thursday, 14 February 2013 21:34 - Last Updated Friday, 15 February 2013 15:38

Dallas has sent Jamie Oleksiak down to the AHL – he wasn't bad during his time in the NHL, but the team probably wants him playing more than 15-16 minutes per night.

*

Minnesota has sent Charlie Coyle down. He looked OK recently in the games I saw, but still a bit raw without the puck. He has a lot of upside.