It's a fantasy hockey revolution!

On November 7, 2005, I registered DobberHockey.com as a domain and immediately transferred my web page over to the new url, effectively launching what would become the best damn fantasy hockey site on the Internet. Let's take a look back at what the site looked like over the years, some of the older features, and how the community has grown. You'll laugh, you'll cry, but mostly you'll just shake your head and wonder "what the hell was Dobber thinking?". But it brought us to where we are today.

Thank you Gary Bettman and Bob Goodenow.

Yep, you heard me. Er, read me. Because - no lockout, no DobberHockey. Simple as that.

I was writing for The Hockey News since November of 2001 (and I still do today). The lockout, unfortunately, forced the publication to let some people go. They hung in there for a few months, but when the season was officially cancelled in late January of 2005, some cuts had to happen. Included in the cuts was their web editor. I still did weekly articles throughout the lockout, not wanting to lose my precious spot when the NHL returned, but I had to start submitting to Adam Proteau. When the NHL returned, I resumed my monthly Fantasy Rankings (yes, the one you still see today on THN and here). The problem was - Adam didn't know how to post them. I solved this by taking my free web page from my provider and posting them there. I then linked to them from each column I gave THN.

Traffic started to build, and I started tossing my thoughts up and archiving my THN columns there. Prior to the lockout, I had also been helping out with the Fantasy Sports Network and Pool Expert, and it was those guys (not the current owners, as they have since sold the business - but I'll give their new endeavor a plug: Filemobile.com) who encouraged me to get a domain. I tried to get dobber.com, but it was taken.

Here is an early look at this site back in late 2005/early 2006:

DobberHockey

Fantasy Hockey Pool Tips! From the pages of

Thoughts/Opinions/Ramblings on the world of fantasy hockey pools

Updated two to three times per week. Last update: 03/02/2006

Dobber's Top 200 Fantasy Prospects | *Dobber's Top 300 Fantasy Players*

March Winners/Losers/Newcomers

NEW - This week's latest:

Here is my radio appearance on Leafs Lunch Feb. 25

March Fantasy Player Rankings

Announcement: The NHL trade deadline is Thurs. March 9th at 3pm. I may not be the first to report trades, but I will have analysis from a fantasy perspective within a half hour of the trade happening. So be sure to check it out. I'll be updating all day long. I know a lot of keeper leagues will have trade deadlines around the same day

Ramblings

The Leafs can't sign McCabe. If they lost two more games in a row, he'll be traded. What did they expect when they sign Kaberle to a ridiculous 4+ million per season? Of course McCabe is gonna want five million! My opinion? In today's NHL, McCabe should be signing what Kaberle just signed for, and Kaberle should be signing for half that. JFJ, and I'd been giving him the benefit of the doubt until now, is starting to appear like a bit of a bonehead. Signing Belfour just days before the lockout to a ridiculous amount that no other team would pay, and for a ridiculous term that would lock the team into an unfavorable cap position (and he had to know the cap was coming)...and then not buying Belfour out (cap-free) when he had the chance...and now this stupid signing. What next – Aki Berg for over a million? Oh, wait...

It's looking like Jokinen to Ottawa won't happen now. Apparently, Ottawa will not part with any big names (like Martin Havlat), and Florida would be stupid (and would look stupid to their fans) if they did not get a Jokinen-caliber player in return.

Answer to below question: first three shifts and Holik was playing with Marian Hossa and Peter Bondra. The rest of the first and throughout the second period - Petrovicky and Fata. A point every two games is all you can expect from him the rest of the way.

I'm interested in seeing where Bobby Holik fits on the Thrashers, now that he's back in the lineup.

David Legwand was in the AHL for a conditioning stint and he came away with zero

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Stepping it Up II (3/15/04)

Stepping It Up (3/15/03)

You're Fired! (10/9/04)

Radio Appearance: September 28th, 2005 - Fan960 in Calgary

Radio Appearance: February 25th, 2005 - 640Toronto in Toronto "Leafs Lunch" - listen here

Is He That Damn Good?

Dobber said this in February, 2003

Dobber's...

Top 300 Fantasy Players

op 200 Fantasy Prospects

Top 100 Fantasy Goaltenders

ugust Winners, Losers, & New

Dobber's 06/07 Pool Guide!!

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Letters

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Dobber's Pool Guide - $4.99 - Click Here for details...the most in-depth guide you'll find. Don't argue with me.

Ramblings

JULY/AUGUST UPDATES WILL OCCUR SUNDAYS, AND PERHAPS ONE OTHER DAY EACH WEEK

From what I have been reading, Brad Isbister (who was once coached by Laviolette), will have every opportunity to replace Corey Stillman. An interesting dark horse.

September Rankings are up.

I have heard from several sources about a certain fantasy pool magazine (which admittedly I have not read), that is so horrible it is almost funny...had they not spent money on buying it. It's called **"Hockey - the Magazine"**. Here are some comments:

Stuart: "I bought Hockey - the Magazine. It has Pominville with 27 points, Frolov with 44, Hilbert with 63, Briere with 111, Semin with 33, Shanahan with 84 and Selanne with 96. After bringing it home I had one quick read through and told my wife I had wasted my money. I don't use it for any of my player predictions. It's a piece of crap."

Dave: "my father purchased the pool guide book "Hockey-the Magazine"---I had a chance to read thru it and it is , without a doubt, the worst pool guide I ever read. It looks like they "assessed" a few guys (maybe the top 25 scorers and some goalies, but then just copied their stats from last year --if someone played 40 games and had 34 points last year (even though it was a one time injury in an other wise "iron-man") ---they had them playing 42 games and had 35 points as their prediction. Plus stating certain forwards were defensemen and calling the team the "Trashers" throughout the book. And this was just from a quick review--I'm sure there were a lot more errors. It had the look of someone who knew nothing about hockey but was looking to make a quick buck."

Sam: "I will be telling everyone who is not associated in any of my pools about your guide.... you should be charging $8 or $10 bucks for this, its is so much better than the crap that is out there now, especially that new one "Hockey the Magazine".

Blake: "Thanks for the mag! I've bought the THN mag, read your work and I've bought some new mag called Hockey, the Magazine...which is rubbish. Forecaster and McKeens is yet to come out in Vancouver...But I wanted to say that I really think your work trumps what I've read to date.

Also, I don't think I can claim to be answering every letter anymore - too many of them, and I think some are getting lost. Just re-send if it's been awhile.

Regarding Martin Erat being traded - seems likely. He is making good coin, and the Preds have wingers to spare. Another thing to consider, however - Scott Hartnell is an unrestricted free agent next season. So they both have a reason to be traded.

David Tanabe signed in Carolina - it does nothing to change my prediction for him. J.P. Dumont's signing, however...now THAT one has some serious impact. The Predators had a probably (in my opinion) line combination of Kariya-Arnott-Radulov, followed by Sullivan-Legwand-either Erat or Hartnell (my personal choice was Erat). Now, Dumont arrives and will