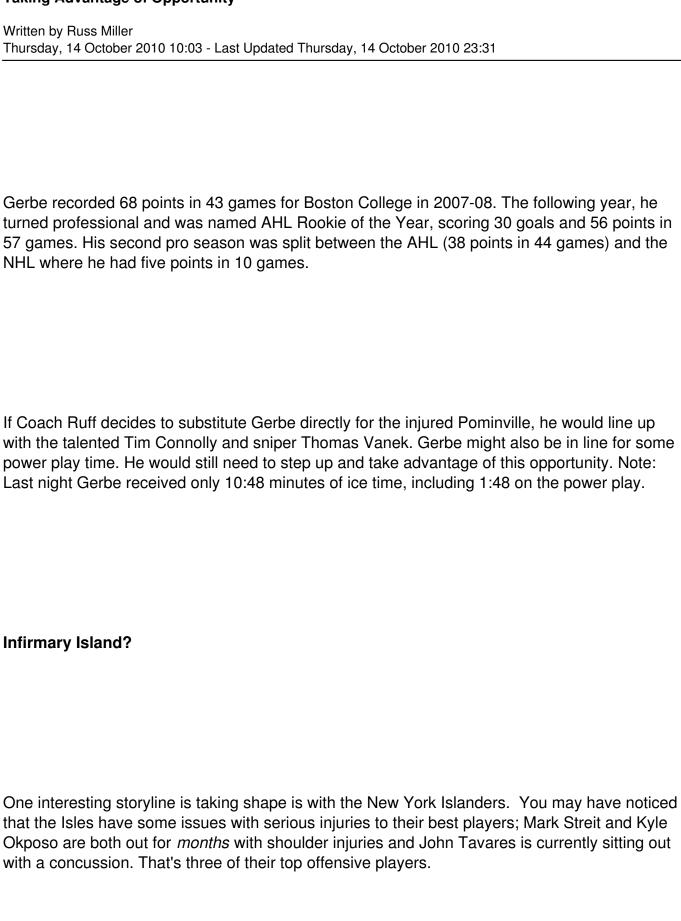
Written by Russ Miller Thursday, 14 October 2010 10:03 - Last Updated Thursday, 14 October 2010 23:31



It was an ugly scene last Monday with Jason Pominville being escorted off the ice on a stretcher after being hammered into the boards by Chicago's Niklas Hjalmarsson. With the NHL's discipline czar dishing out a two game suspension, all that's left to figure out is who might benefit from Pominville's absence?

Nathan Gerbe drew into the line-up last night. For those who haven't seen the pint-sized fireplug play, he is versatile (can play all three forward positions) and offensively gifted.



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Despite those key injuries, heading into last night's games, the Islanders were one of the top scoring teams in the league, recording ten goals over their first two games. Fully half their goals had come via the power play that was clicking at a gaudy 38.5 per cent.

What's left is a collection of mainly cast-offs and late bloomers that have overachieved thus far in 2010-11. The top three lines are Josh Bailey-Blake Comeau-P.A. Parenteau, Doug Weight-Nino Niederreiter-Michael Grabner and Trent Hunter-Matt Moulson-Frans Nielsen. Not exactly something opposing coaches are drawing up plans on the chalkboard to defend against. So who's picking up the slack on Long Island?

One Islander player who looks rejuvenated is **Doug Weight**. The 39-year-old is tied for the team lead (Comeau and Bailey are the other two), recording four points in the first three games this season. He's averaging nearly 20 minutes of ice time per game while playing with rookie Nino Neiderreiter and the speedy Michael Grabner. Last night, Weight set up rookie El Nino for his first NHL goal. Waiver wire pick up Michael Grabner added the second assist.

Does this mean you should run out and pick up Weight if he's available on your waiver wire? Maybe. He could be a decent short term call up, especially in a points only league.

What's with **Clarke MacArthur** and his four goals this year? He had 16 goals all of last year! He's playing on a line with Mikhail Grabovski and Nikolai Kulemin, two guys who are underrated skill-wise. MacArthur has a history of being a bit of a streaky player, so don't get all worked up

