

**July 10, 2012**

Written by Dobber

Monday, 09 July 2012 23:33 - Last Updated Tuesday, 10 July 2012 00:31

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Further to yesterday's notes on front-loaded contracts – yes it is wise for players to take them. Obviously the smart move. My point was that 11 years from now, they will forget all that and just look at the tiny checks they start getting when they may still be on top of their game – and Suter's and Parise's case, it could be below the NHL minimum in 2023.

I look at a few Nashville blogs and news sites lately, such as [On the Forecheck](#) , and I see concerns about Nashville's ability to attract and retain star players. I don't think there is anything to worry about. There are only a handful of star players in the league, you can't have all of them. They lost one flake to the KHL, and another star signed to be with family and sleep on a mattress full of money. You can't really compete with those things. And if

[Shea Weber](#)

wants to blame the franchise for losing Suter and sulk his way out of town, then that is fine too (for the record I don't believe this is the case). The team once drew

[Paul Kariya](#)

, and have kept many of their players. I think they're fine.

Anaheim Calling is having a petition to fire Bob Murray. I'm generally very patient with GM's. You've seen that with my defense of Brian Burke, Steve Tambellini and [Garth Snow](#) . But that is because I see the long-term vision and I see them doing what they can to move toward that vision. But in Murray's case, I'm inclined to agree here. The only ground-breaking trades he has made have been bad ones. Drafting has been average, decisions on free agent signings have also been average and decisions on re-signing current players for value – also average. He better hope Bruce Boudreau gets this team going.

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A great behind the scenes look at the Parise/Suter stuff from Michael Russo [here](#) . An enlightening look, complete with anxiety...

So apparently [Jared Spurgeon](#) will be paired with [Ryan Suter](#) “if camp were to open tomorrow”. That will obviously help his numbers. In fact, he’ll be able to take more chances with steady Suter around. And Parise will line up with Koivu and Heatley. Now if all the other coaches make similar announcements, my [Fantasy Guide](#) will be much easier to set up...

Hey, if you follow RSS feeds, and always wondered about the ramblings – you can follow them using this feed: <http://www.dobberhockey.com/rss/ramblings.xml>

[Nathan Paetsch](#) and [Triston Grant](#) are in the Detroit system now. Yep, times are that slow. Grand Rapids [signed](#) them.

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I like how Greg Wyshynski put together his [Puck Headlines](#) yesterday, noting:

- [Shane Doan](#) has spoken with the Vancouver Canucks, and his agent said he'd totally play for them. [ [News 1130](#) ]
- [Shane Doan](#) has spoken with the Pittsburgh Penguins, and his agent said he'd totally play for them. [ [Pensburgh](#) ]
- [Shane Doan](#) has spoken with the Detroit Red Wings, and his agent said he'd totally play for them. [ [Malik Report](#) ]
- Adrian Dater hasn't spoken with [Shane Doan](#) recently, but totally hopes he'd play for the Colorado Avalanche. [ [Denver Post](#) ]

If you want awesome analysis on [Alexander Semin](#) , you won't find better than [this one](#) .  
Someone get a hold of the writer for me and get him on the DobberHockey team!

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Remember [Christian Hanson](#) ? Bruins property now. He signed a one-year deal with them, a two-way contract.

Things are looking good for [hockey in Phoenix](#) . The petition that was supposed to be submitted yesterday getting the lease agreement on the November ballot – was not handed in. Although they are still collecting signatures beyond the deadline, it's looking like they'll push the sale forward. For now...

Mason Raymond has signed a one-year deal with the Canucks, worth \$2.275 million. You'd think he would rebound next season, but I took a quick look at his PDO, which was around average at 1016 – and the even-strength shooting percentage of his team while he was on the ice was 7.88%... and average is around 7.94%. But better ice time and better linemates will help, since the “luck factor” (what PDO measures, in a nutshell) isn't providing much.

The New York Rangers have signed Jeff Halpern to a one-year deal, per RDS.

[Shane Doan](#) vs. [Dustin Brown](#) from February:

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