RT-SCA

NHL 11/19/2012

644476	Chicago Blackhawks Stalberg changing things up overseas	As the lockout continues to drag on, Blackhawks forward Viktor Stalberg will be leaving his roots and heading to play in the KHL, according to reporter Andrey Osadchenko.
644477	Columbus Blue Jackets Murray Suffers Shoulder Injury	Swedish forward Viktor Stalberg is on his way to Moscow to join Atlant. He can make his KHL debut in the game against Lev in Prague. #KHL
644478	NHL: All-Star Game might not be worth saving	— Andrey Osadchenko (@AOsadchenko) November 18, 2012
644479 644480	Detroit Red Wings Red Wings goalies struggle to stay sharp NHL, players will return to bargaining table Monday	Stalberg will be joining Atlant after playing 10 games for Frolunda of the Swedish League. Since Oct. 11, he racked up six goals and five assists with his hometown team.
	Minnesota Wild	Comcast SportsNet.com LOADED: 11.19.2012
644481 644482	Coyle poised to make major impact with Wild Tom Powers: In the midst of NHL lunacy, a one-night reprieve	644477 Columbus Blue Jackets
	Montreal Canadiens	Murray Suffers Shoulder Injury
644483 644484	NHL talks resume, but optimism doesn't Back to the bargaining table on Monday	Staff Writer
	Nashville Predators	
644485	Preds' goalie coach offers tips to area players, coaches	Defenseman Ryan Murray, the Blue Jackets' No. 2 overall draft pick in June, suffered a shoulder injury Friday while playing for the Everett Silvertips of the Western Hockey League. Murray apparently tried to break his backward fall during a game vs. Victoria. It's believed the shoulder was dislocated.
644486 644487	New Jersey Devils Week Later, More Talks, and Perhaps Some Shifting NHL lockout update: NHL, NHLPA schedule meeting for Monday	
644488	Ottawa Senators Senators touch down for northern tour	"It's not good news," Blue Jackets GM Scott Howson said. "Right now his arm is in a sling, held tight to his body, and he's in a lot of pain He'll have an MRI early this week, and then we'll know more.
644489 644490	Philadelphia Flyers Plyers' Claude Giroux suffers neck injury in Germany Snider's statement Drowning in the NHL lockout Giroux OK, NHL isn't Flyers to play in Sandy relief benefit game Former Flyer Laperriere conquers Philly Marathon NHL Notebook: Hull sees Ovechkin thriving with Oates NHL Notebook: Time for league to make a deal Giroux hurts neck overseas; injury not serious Ed Snider disputes 'erroneous' lockout report	"You'll have to see how much damage he's done to the labrum. Does he have any broken bones from the thrust of the fall? Once it's come out, it tends to come out easier in the future. Our doctors will take a look at the tests and we'll decide the next step."
644491 644492 644493 644494		Murray, 19, may have opened the season with the Blue Jackets if not for the NHL lockout. He certainly would have been recalled from Everett if a new collective bargaining agreement was reached and training camp commenced.
644495 644496 644497		NHL: All-Star Game might not be worth saving Jamie Sabau Columbus Blue Jackets
644498 644499		Logistics aside, there is a growing sense — in Columbus and around the NHL — that even if a season could be spared, it would be best for all parties if the game were canceled and promised to the Blue Jackets at a
644500	Toronto Maple Leafs AHL: Ben Scrivens, Toronto Marlies shut out first-place	later date, most likely 2015.
	Abbotsford Heat	Columbus Dispatch LOADED: 11.19.2012
644501	Frattin, Scrivens key Marlies win	644478 Columbus Blue Jackets
644502 644503	Washington Capitals NHL lockout 2012: Stars align for victims of Sandy NHL labor talks set to resume Monday	NHL: All-Star Game might not be worth saving
644505	Websites Report: NHLPA will not decertify	Staff Writer
	Winnipeg Jets	
	Kosmachuk hot and cold SCAN, INC. 941-284-4129 Chicago Blackhawks	The 2013 NHL All-Star Game in Columbus may already be dead, even if the league hasn't canceled it yet. One theory goes like this: If the owners and players can agree on a collective bargaining agreement to save a

Stalberg changing things up overseas

NINA FALCONE

Red Wings goalies struggle to stay sharp

644479 Detroit Red Wings

Columbus Dispatch LOADED: 11.19.2012

shortened season, the demand to pack as many games into a shrunken calendar will make a four- or five-day break in January expendable.

By Ted Kulfan

"Definitely it's a lot different compared to the normal practices we're used to," Jimmy Howard said after a workout last week. "Playing these cross-ice games, even though they're fun, they're just not realistic."

Troy — The routine is pretty much the same three days a week, the 10 to 14 locked out NHL players doing what they can to stay in shape at a local public rink and keep their skills as sharp as possible.

For the guys shooting the puck it appears easier, although missing the hitting and competitive nature of games and practices is getting increasingly difficult.

But the guys stopping the puck, Red Wings goaltenders Jimmy Howard and Jonas Gustavsson, along with other locked out goalies around the NHL, might be having a tougher time keeping sharp.

"Definitely it's a lot different compared to the normal practices we're used to," Howard said after a workout last week. "Playing these cross-ice games, even though they're fun, they're just not realistic."

What started out as basically the entire Red Wings roster of players before what was supposed to be the start of training camp has dwindled by the week since the lockout began Sept. 15.

Almost immediately, European players fled back home to play in pro leagues there. Some Red Wings chose to return home and train.

Because of that, only about half the roster is now in the Detroit area. The workouts have been brisk and high energy, but for goalies, playing one of the more unique positions in sports where timing is so crucial, it's another matter.

"You can go out there and at least feel the puck a little bit," said Gustavsson, who the Wings signed July 1 as an unrestricted free agent.

"We don't have a lot of guys here so the pace isn't going to be as high as a normal practice or game. That's the tough part, to get that quickness and tempo up.

"You make the best of it. You think about what you can do and try to do that "

Many of the workouts have shooting drills incorporated in them, and Howard and Gustavsson try to refine their mechanics and timing the best they can

But the quantity of shots Howard and Gustavsson are facing aren't nearly as much as they would during a typical NHL week.

Timing will be an issue for any NHL goalie once (or if) the lockout ends.

"You keep that competitive fire burning inside of you and try to stop as many pucks as possible," said Howard, who doesn't believe maintaining mechanics is an issue. "It's more along the lines of timing and picking up the puck through traffic, that's the hardest part out here.

"You have a few guys in front of you, you have no idea where the shooter is. That's what comes through regular high tempo practices and exhibition games."

With barely enough players to even fill out two full teams on the ice, it's difficult to duplicate any sort of game situation.

"It makes it rough for a full length practice," Howard said. "You just stop pucks and you get ready so when the time comes (to play), you're ready."

Detroit News LOADED: 11.19.2012

644480 Detroit Red Wings

NHL, players will return to bargaining table Monday

Ansar Khan

The NHL apparently realized that its suggestion of taking a two-week break in collective bargaining talks was counterproductive.

Negotiations between the league and the players union will resume Monday in New York.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and deputy commissioner Bill Daly, along with NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr and special counsel Steve Fehr are expected to attend, along with a small group of players and owners.

The meeting was requested by the union. It is uncertain if the players will bring a new proposal to the table.

The sides last met Nov. 11, when they wrapped up five days of talks on a sour note, far apart on contracting issues.

Reports indicate the NHL will begin canceling games in December, perhaps the first two weeks, this week.

Michigan Live LOADED: 11.19.2012

644481 Minnesota Wild

Coyle poised to make major impact with Wild

MICHAEL RUSSO

One of the franchise's top prospects showed off his varied talents Sunday in a game at Xcel Energy Center.

The Houston Aeros' Charlie Coyle worked in the defensive end Sunday night at Xcel Energy Center in an American Hockey League game against the Rockford Icehogs. Coyle, acquired from San Jose in the Brent Burns trade, has the type of all-around game that could have him in a Wild uniform soon after the NHL lockout ends.

He's a prototypical power forward, one with exceptional hands, a big frame and the strength to play in the NHL now.

Charlie Coyle's toolbox is overflowing, but that's obvious for the most casual Wild fan to recognize. John Torchetti, a veteran coach at every level, looks at his Houston Aeros' first-line right winger with the meticulous lens of a

"He's going to make an impact on the Wild for two reasons: He's nomaintenance, high-character and he is so good, so willing defensively," Torchetti said

Don't get Torchetti wrong: He loves Coyle's terrific skating, eagerness to go to the dirty areas, great release and, of course, the fact that he looks like a future top scorer.

But Torchetti doesn't think you can play in today's NHL without the defensive component, and Coyle "has been our most consistent, complete forward night in and night out since the start of the year."

That's quite the compliment for Coyle, who is making the jump from Saint John of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. After leaving Boston University last winter, Coyle scored 15 goals and 38 points in 23 games for Saint John before leading the team to a championship with 34 points in 17 games. He was named playoff MVP.

In 16 games for the Aeros, Coyle leads with seven goals and is tied for the team lead with 13 points. He helped set up the first of Johan Larsson's two goals in a 3-2 victory over Rockford on Sunday in front of an announced crowd of 11,175 hockey-starved Wild fans at Xcel Energy Center.

Coyle is showing why Wild General Manager Chuck Fletcher said in June 2011 that the trade that sent Brent Burns to San Jose for Devin Setoguchi, Coyle and a first-round-pick (became Zack Phillips) wouldn't have happened unless the Sharks parted with Coyle.

And he is showing why Wild coach Mike Yeo and Aeros GM Jim Mill say Coyle has an extraordinary chance of making the Wild immediately if the lockout ends.

"He's adapted to the pro game so quickly," Mill said.

Added Jason Zucker, Coyle's linemate who also has 13 points: "He does some stuff that you shake your head at. He does some stuff that I don't know how he does it, but he does and it works."

Coyle is not the only blue-chip prospect under Torchetti's tutelage in Houston. Mikael Granlund and Jonas Brodin were outstanding before getting injured eight games ago. And then there are Zucker, Larsson, Brett Bulmer and Phillips.

"Everyone wants to see the NHL, but if we can come together here [during the lockout], that's the next-best thing," Coyle said. "We're growing together and building a foundation [for the Wild]."

As for the other prospects:

- After getting a two-assist, six-game look for the Wild last spring, Zucker has been solid and said, "I'm trying to develop every aspect of my game right now."
- The ultra-competitive Larsson, who captained Sweden to a gold medal at the last world junior championships, has taken Granlund's spot on the top line. Said Zucker, "It's not hard to play with Johan Larsson."
- Bulmer got a three-assist, nine-game look to start last season with Minnesota before being returned to Kelowna of the Western Hockey League, where he scored 62 points in 53 games. He got off to a difficult start with the Aeros, but Torchetti said, "He's turned the corner. He fought through it, and that's all part of growing up and maturing as player."
- Phillips, who scored 80 points in 60 games for Saint John, has gotten off to a tough start. He has five points in 14 games and is minus-7. Said Torchetti: "Phillips should be taking advantage of this ice time because Granlund's gone. He's got to buy in and make sure he plays better defensively."

Two overshadowed players Torchetti believes are future NHLers are Justin Fontaine and David McIntyre.

"These guys take pride in being strong, two-way hockey players," Torchetti said. "The guys who play two-way hockey end up playing in the NHL quicker. The guys that don't end up in the minors a few extra years asking why."

Star Tribune LOADED: 11.19.2012

644482 Minnesota Wild

Tom Powers: In the midst of NHL lunacy, a one-night reprieve

Tom Powers

The problem with eager, hard-working minor league hockey players is that many of them grow up to become NHL hockey players. And then they are not so easy to like.

Oh sure, right now they're fueled by glorious dreams of making it to the big time. And they appreciate every kindness bestowed upon them by the fans. But all that changes once they come under the influence of Donald Fehr. Then they become ... unbearable. Perhaps they are not as detestable as the bumbling, incompetent NHL owners. Yet they still are intolerable.

Hey, there's enough bile to go around.

By the way, NHL contract talks are set to resume after an extended break. Apparently, Commissioner Gary Bettman is ready to return after spending some time negotiating on behalf of Hostess Brands in that labor dispute. Now he's prepared to get back to working his magic in the NHL.

The AHL Houston Aeros and the Rockford IceHogs put on a pretty good show Sunday at Xcel Energy Center in the middle of the NHL's suicidal lockout. It seemed like a good show, anyway. But I really don't have anything with which to compare it because it's been awhile. Yet the Aeros, who won 3-2, and IceHogs (what a horrible name -- the Pigs?) were moving around energetically. And it was interesting to see some of the Wild players of the future -- assuming the Wild have a future.

My guess is that if the NHL labor dispute ever does end, the Wild probably will draw pretty well at first. But patience is going to be limited. If

the team doesn't start winning right away, attendance quickly could drift down to 13,000 or 14,000 per game. At which point Craig Leipold and all the Wild players can go commiserate over a donut because they all deserve everything they get.

For one night, at least, it was good to see bodies moving around on the ice in St. Paul. The little slice of AHL life came complete with its own rivalries and drama, as the Aeros had recently lost a tough one to the Icehogs. It also provided a welcome payday for vendors who have been out of work. And it no doubt sparked a bit of traffic in nearby bars and restaurants.

Some folks are having it very rough because of this lockout. Just remember that the NHL loves its fans. As soon as all those billions of dollars are divided satisfactorily, the owners and players will commence reminding the fans of that. Probably by flashing it on the scoreboard.

Meanwhile, the Aeros were very grateful for the support of the 11,175 who paid to enter the building and who clearly made it feel like a home game for them.

"It was great coming in here and playing for these fans," said winger Charlie Coyle. "These are great fans here and we were all excited. We didn't know how many people might be here."

When informed of the attendance, Coyle shook his head.

"That's even more than I expected," he said.

As Johan Larsson, who scored two goals, said in his best English: "That is a lot of crowd."

Clearly, these youngsters have yet to become jaded and disdainful of the cash customers. But even though the game was entertaining, I tried not to like it too much. Because there aren't going to be any more at Xcel in the foreseeable future.

This was not the first time I'd seen the Aeros play. On Dec. 30, 1975 I saw Gordie Howe and the Aeros take on Bobby Hull and the Winnipeg Jets at the Summit in Houston. The building was packed for the faceoff between the WHA's elite. The atmosphere was grand. Even though Hull ended up not playing, the visiting Jets won anyway, 5-3.

If this pattern holds, I will next see the Aeros play 37 years from now, in the winter of 2049. I'll be the withered fellow sitting in upper deck, sipping a beer and bemoaning the NHL's 12 lockouts in the last half-century.

Pioneer Press LOADED: 11.19.2012 644483 Montreal Canadiens

NHL talks resume, but optimism doesn't

By DAVID SHOALTS

Union requests Monday meeting in NewYork

Negotiations are on again but this time there is no giddy sense of optimism the end of the NHL lockout is at hand.

The gloom and anger, which grew late last week on both sides of the labour dispute following the news that NHL commissioner Gary Bettman suggested a two-week moratorium on negotiations, has not lifted. Conversations with people in both the management and union ranks showed most were pessimistic even an abbreviated 2012-13 season could be saved and news that the union and management will try to restart the negotiations provided only a slight lift to the sour feelings.

As one governor put it, the only reason to feel even a slight sense of optimism is the fact they are talking again. The vast difference between the league and the union remains.

After a couple of conversations between NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly and NHL Players' Association special counsel Steve Fehr on the weekend, it was decided to take another stab at a full negotiating session. The talks will begin Monday in New York and both Bettman and NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr are expected to attend along with some players and owners.

"We can confirm that we have tentatively agreed to get back together on Monday, either late in the afternoon or early evening," Daly said in an e-mail

message. "The meeting was requested by the union and it's their agenda. We will see what they have to tell us."

Daly did not know if the union will be bringing a new proposal. A union spokesman declined to say if anything new will be brought to the table. The union was the only party interested in continuing negotiations, as the league made it known last week it would only negotiate again if the union came up with a new proposal.

There was some excitement on Saturday after the Philadelphia Daily News reported Philadelphia Flyers chairman Ed Snider was unhappy with Bettman and Boston Bruins owner Jeremy Jacobs, the chairman of the NHL board of governors. The story said Snider, one of the most powerful owners in the league, was trying to rally enough support among the other owners to push Bettman toward a deal.

However, Snider issued a statement saying the story was "absolutely erroneous." He said he remains a "solid supporter" of Bettman.

Snider is not considered a hardliner by his fellow governors, as the lockout is costing him on two fronts. The Flyers are owned by Comcast, which also owns the NBC television network. NBC was looking forward to kicking off its new \$200-million (all currency U.S.) per year contract with the NHL later this week on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday.

However, more than one governor pointed out it is almost impossible for the moderates to gain control. While Bettman needs only eight of 30 votes to turn down a proposal for a collective agreement from the NHLPA, it would take 23 to force him to accept one. The governors say the opinions in their ranks are so split neither the hardliners nor the moderates could rally 23 votes.

Recent days have shown there are sharp differences between the players and owners on more issues than the major one of splitting hockey-related revenue. While the players and owners have agreed to an eventual 50-50 split, the owners want to move to it immediately while the players want a gradual move from the 57 per cent share of revenue they received in the former agreement.

But there are also differences in contract rights, such as free agency, contract lengths and limits to annual salary increases. The players also want to receive the full value of their existing contracts.

The owners have offered to put \$211-million over two years toward "making the players whole" as long as it is deferred for one year after the new agreement begins. The players say that will not cover 100 per cent of their contracts.

Toronto Globe And Mail LOADED: 11.19.2012

644484 Montreal Canadiens

Back to the bargaining table on Monday

Stu Cowan

After talk last week about a possible two-week break in NHL labour negotiations, the two sides have decided to return to the bargaining table on Monday.

There was some positive movement on the weekend to set up another face-to-face meeting between the league and the NHLPA. The 64-day lockout has already claimed 327 regular-season games and players missed their third pay day of the season Thursday.

The 2004-05 season was cancelled in February during a lockout. A lockout in 1995 ended in January, leading to a 48-game schedule.

Montreal Gazette LOADED: 11.19.2012

644485 Nashville Predators

Preds' goalie coach offers tips to area players, coaches

Josh Cooper

Predators goaltending coach Mitch Korn will host what he calls a "fireside chat" at Bridgestone Arena tonight from 6:15-8:15 p.m.

The event gives local coaches, goaltenders and parents a chance to pick his brain about the finer points of NHL netminding.

"It's more interactive," Korn said. "It's really better to term it an informal discussion about the position — the histories, the current, the education, the style, the buzzwords and the skills — in a venue that allows me to cover a lot of topics and let the group dictate the direction it goes."

Korn, who has been with the Predators since their first NHL season in 1998-99, said he started doing these events when he was the goaltending coach at Miami of Ohio.

They were so well received that he has continued to do them.

Those interested in attending can RSVP at nashvillepredators.com/goalienight.

Tennessean LOADED: 11.19.2012

644486 New Jersey Devils

Week Later, More Talks, and Perhaps Some Shifting

By JEFF Z. KLEIN

Negotiations between the N.H.L. and its players union are scheduled to resume Monday in New York amid indications that ownership's solid front may be cracking.

On the league side, the talks, coming after more than a week off and taking place on Day 65 of the lockout, are expected to include Commissioner Gary Bettman and his deputy, Bill Daly, as well as some owners, including the Boston Bruins' Jeremy Jacobs, who is chairman of the N.H.L. Board of Governors. Expected on the union side are the executive director, Donald Fehr, and his brother and deputy, Steve Fehr, as well as some players.

On Saturday, reports from Philadelphia indicated the Flyers owner Ed Snider was growing sour over lost revenue and marketing momentum because of the lengthy lockout. Snider is also the chairman of Comcast, the parent company of NBC, which has paid \$2 billion to carry N.H.L. games but is losing advertising revenue because of the lockout.

Snider denied the reports Sunday, calling them "absolutely erroneous." Long known as a hard-liner, Snider said he remained "a solid supporter" of Bettman.

Progress was made in some key areas before the sides broke off negotiations Nov. 11.

The league and the union were very close to agreement on an expanded revenue-sharing system between clubs. They were also only \$2 million to \$3 million apart per year, per team, from finding a way for owners to pay full value on existing contracts after the salary cap is lowered under a new collective bargaining agreement.

But big differences remain in other areas — particularly in free agency and contract rights, for which the N.H.L. has not altered its proposal since its opening offer in July.

The owners are still proposing that the minimum qualifications for free agency be raised to 28 years of age or eight years of service, from 27 or seven. Contract lengths would be limited to five years, with no more than five percent fluctuation from year to year, and salary arbitration would become more difficult for players to seek.

While both sides have agreed to a 50-50 split of revenue, the players want a gradual step down from the 57 percent they earned under the old agreement, reaching 50 percent in the third year of the deal. The owners, however, want the 50-50 split to take effect immediately.

"I don't see a path to an agreement here," Donald Fehr said after the league declined to budge on those issues in the Nov. 11 bargaining session. That prompted Bettman to suggest a two-week moratorium on negotiations.

It was not until Friday that the sides made contact again, when the No. 2 officials, Daly and Steve Fehr, discussed the logistics that paved the way for Monday's talks.

New York Times LOADED: 11.19.2012

644487 New Jersey Devils

NHL lockout update: NHL, NHLPA schedule meeting for Monday

Charles Curtis

Fear not, hockey fans. The reports regarding Gary Bettman suggesting a two week moratorium from talks are in the past.

Instead, negotiations are back on and set for tomorrow.

"We can confirm that we have tentatively agreed to get back together on Monday, either late in the afternoon or early evening," deputy commissioner Bill Daly said, via Dan Rosen of NHL.com. "The meeting was requested by the Union and it's their agenda. We will see what they have to tell us."

ESPN's Pierrre LeBrun reported the talks will happen in New York City. The timing is perfect given the rumblings that more games could be canceled soon.

It's also, it seems, a better road than what could have happened next. According to the New York Post's Larry Brooks, the union was given options by leadership for "Decertification ... Capitulation ... [or] Continued negotiations in an attempt to end the owners' lockout."

Decertifying was a strategy used by the NFL in its lockout last year and, as Brooks said, "will inevitably become louder and a more acceptable option for the players if the league continues to stonewall through next month." That option would get the courts involved and would involve a whole mess of legal wrangling

For now, the focus is on tomorrow and what progress could be made in ending the lockout soon.

Star Ledger LOADED: 11.19.2012

644488 Ottawa Senators

Senators touch down for northern tour

Ken Warren

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT — When Canadian North flight 444 from Edmonton touched down here into the snow-swept capital of the Northwest Territories at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, John Chabot finally allowed himself to take a deep breath

After three weeks of 16-hour days spent organizing travel arrangements for a constantly shuffling roster of NHL players and working out the finest details with northern officials on the novel idea of a three-game charity tour to Yellowknife, Inuvik and Whitehorse, Chabot could rest easy.

His dream of bringing the NHL to the northernmost reaches of Canada was going to happen, raising funds for charities in the process. Chabot is passionate about his support for First Assist, an organization which allows First Nations youth to experience a taste of life in larger cities to the south, opening up their eyes to a bigger world and giving them respite from a sometimes dark world that often includes far too much drug and alcohol abuse.

The end result might not have been quite as grand as he first envisioned — 10 NHL players ultimately made the trek, including Ottawa Senators Craig Anderson, Chris Phillips, Chris Neil, Zack Smith, Marc Methot, Guillaume Latendresse and Peter Regin — but the group was expected to hit the ice in front of a standing-room-only crowd of more than 2,000 at the Multiplex Complex Sunday night, making it the biggest hockey event to ever hit the city. During the intermissions, the NHLers planned to mingle on the ice with players from Yellowknife minor hockey associations.

"It was just (Sunday) when we got on the plane and, well, when we actually saw ground," said Chabot, who played with Montreal, Detroit and Pittsburgh in the NHL and has served as head coach of the Gatineau Olympiques and an assistant coach with the New York Islanders. "When we were flying on the plane, they were actually saying 'we might be landing in Hay River (a five-hour drive from Yellowknife) because of all the snow,' but once we saw ground, I started laughing.

"There was about a foot, maybe a foot and a half of snow, that fell in the early morning. It was a beautiful day Saturday and it will probably be beautiful Monday, but that's the North."

If ever there was a labour of love, this is it. Chabot spent Saturday and Sunday ferrying players to and from airport terminals in Edmonton and Yellowknife, picking up the final wave of Grant Clitsome, Jordin Tootoo and Jim Slater only hours before game time.

The charity games have been thoroughly embraced throughout the Northwest Territories, with companies stepping up and left and right to take care of any and all expenses. Buffalo Air has sponsored the charter flights from Yellowknife to the hunting/fishing community of Deline on Monday, from Deline to Inuvik on Tuesday and from Inuvik to Whitehorse on Wednesday.

"In 30 years growing up here, I don't think we've seen anything like this come up here before," said Aaron Wells, a program co-ordinator with the Aboriginal Sports Circle in the Northwest Territories.

Derek Squirrel, who works alongside Wells, says "the kids are going to be talking about this for the rest of their lives, being on the same ice as an NHL player."

It was a mutual experience. The players who made the trek are taking everything in, from being able to raise funds for charity to getting a glimpse of a new culture to hopefully having the opportunity to try hunting, fishing or even dogsledding at some point in the next few days. There were tentative plans for the players to view the Northern Lights late Sunday night. Deline also has laid claim to being the birthplace of hockey.

Given all that, Phillips brought his nine-year-old son, Ben, for what he described as a "once in a lifetime experience" to glimpse the North.

"I grew up in Northern Alberta (in Ft. McMurray), I had family up here and this is still my first time that I've made it up here," said Phillips. "I thought it was just a perfect opportunity. I couldn't pass it up."

If Phillips has one regret, it's that more of his peers didn't take advantage of the chance to play on a new stage. He recognizes that the appearance of NHL players is a huge deal here.

"I wish we had more guys and the games might be a little better, a little more competitive," he said. "But the fact is, we're up here and it is a big draw."

Craig Anderson, the Senators No. 1 goaltender, saw the trip in a similar light. He left sunny Ft. Lauderdale on Saturday for Yellowknife. The distance between the two cities is 6,300 kilometres. And when Anderson arrived into minus-13 Fahrenheit temperatures here Saturday, it was 93 degrees colder than when he left his South Florida home.

"Ah, dress warm and have some fun with the guys," he said. "I'm excited to learn and see what the culture is all about and I would really like to do some dogsledding, if I can. When we were in Denver (playing for the Colorado Avalanche), we were going to go on dog tour, but my wife was pregnant and we missed out on the opportunity."

Anderson has also done his part for charities earlier in the lockout. Last month, he played in a game in Chicago that raised \$330,000.

"Part of it is just going somewhere where I haven't been before and having an opportunity to see a part of the world that I will probably never see again," he said.

Latendresse, meanwhile, is hoping for a chance to hunt "something big" like caribou or bison.

While Chabot was smiling widely at watching it all come about, even he had some doubts along the way.

"If the organization in the North hadn't been as strong and as well organized, then I probably would have pulled the plug because we had things happen over the last week where it was out of control," he acknowledged. "But so many people said, 'you've got to come up, you've

got to come up.' It would have been unbelievably unfair to take that chance away."

Ottawa Citizen LOADED: 11.19.2012

644489 Ottawa Senators

Woes continue for 67's

Staff Writer

Woes continue for 67's

Fans throw toys on the ice following Ottawa's first goal as part of the annual Teddy Bear Toss for underprivileged children. (Bruno Schlumberger/Ottawa Citizen)

Whalers 3, 67's 2

DON CAMPBELL

The last time the Ottawa 67's finished a season with a winning percentage as low at the club's is to start this week, the reward in June was first pick overall, and Alyn McAuley's arrival started a 67's renaissance that has continued with 18 straight consecutive playoff appearances.

The season was 1992-93 and that edition of the 67's finished with just 16 wins and a winning percentage of .303.

The current numbers that matter most are a seven-game losing streak (one more than the six wins they have all season), the fact they're on pace to win no more than 20 games, and a winning percentage of just .304.

The Plymouth Whalers arrived at Scotiabank Place with Ottawa Senators No. 1 pick Stefan Noesen on the shelf with a sprained ankle and still turned back the 67's before a crowd of 6,364 Sunday afternoon.

As hard as the 67's worked against the superior Whalers, the difference was a questionable penalty shot that led to Plymouth's first goal, a tough bounce off the end boards that left 67's netminder Clint Windsor with no chance on the second goal and a power-play marker 1:26 into the third.

"We need to get a win under our belts soon," said veteran winger Steven Janes, who played with conviction and drew the 67's even at 2-2 1:48 into the second. "One of these games we have to get the bounces."

Things looked good when Prescott's Ryan Van Stralen got the teddy bears flying (fans were asked to bring toys for children in need and toss them on the ice after the first home goal) on the power-play just 3:45 into the contest. Dante Salituro picked up an assist on the marker to give himself 17 points and keep him in the top 10 in rookie scoring.

Less than five minutes later, however, Van Stralen came back the length of the ice to make a backcheck deep in the 67's zone, only to see Plymouth's Richard Rakell awarded a penalty shot for what Van Stralen, and many others, felt was no more than a trip.

Rakell deked Windsor and, about a minute later, Matthew Mistele made it 2-1.

"We all want to win. It's not like we're not working hard," said Windsor, a 67 all of seven days. "We're close. I have all the confidence in the guys in the room."

Still, it's hard to be a 67 these days, facing an almost must-win game Tuesday night at home against the Kingston Frontenacs, before nine straight away from Scotiabank (not that the road is necessarily a bad thing right now — they're 4-5 away).

The 2-10-0-1 home mark is bottom of the league in two categories: Fewest wins on home ice and most losses.

They are also six points behind the Sudbury Wolves for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

"Everyone comes to the rink positive," said Van Stralen, who was dominant at times. "We're kind of in a slide.

"But there's no pointing fingers round here and there's positives to take out of this one."

As for Noesan, one of the Senators' three 2011 first-round picks, he was walking the halls on his own and the first diagnosis is a high ankle sprain, the result of falling with Belleville Bull Brendan Guance Saturday night.

Ottawa Citizen LOADED: 11.19.2012

644490 Philadelphia Flyers

Flyers' Claude Giroux suffers neck injury in Germany

Staff Writer

Flyers star Claude Giroux suffered a neck injury while playing for Eisbären Berlin in Germany, but multiple reports said it was minor and that the center is fine.

The same can't be said for the NHL.

The league-imposed lockout is in its 64th day, and no end is in sight. The league and the NHLPA are scheduled to meet Monday, but NHL officials say the sides are far apart in many areas.

In other words, look for more games to be canceled soon - perhaps later this week.

As for Giroux, he was checked in the head in a game against the Krefeld Penguins on Friday and taken to a hospital, but he was released and could practice on Tuesday.

Philadelphia Inquirer / Daily News LOADED: 11.19.2012

644491 Philadelphia Flyers

Snider's statement

Staff Writer

ED SNIDER, the chairman of Comcast-Spectacor, released a statement on Saturday regarding a Daily News story that was published in SportsWeek that morning.

"An article appearing in today's Philadelphia Daily News is absolutely erroneous," Snider said in the statement. "I am a solid supporter of National Hockey League commissioner Gary Bettman and the league in this unfortunate situation. Like all fans, players, owners and league officials, I am extremely hopeful that an agreement can be reached and we can eventually be playing hockey again soon. League rules prevent me and all owners from making any comments on the labor negotiations. I will continue to honor that and not make any further comments."

In response, Daily News executive sports editor Chuck Bausman said: "We stand by our story."

Philadelphia Inquirer / Daily News LOADED: 11.19.2012

644492 Philadelphia Flyers

Drowning in the NHL lockout

Frank Seravalli

WHEN PONDERING the NHL lockout, we can't help but think back and draw comparisons to last summer's London Olympics. Play along for just a minute.

Like NHL Players Association executive director Donald Fehr, swimmer Ryan Lochte had years to practice and focus on his impending battle with incumbent and undisputed pool champion Michael Phelps.

Like NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, golden boy Phelps entered London's showdown with his grasp on the sport slipping. His reign was clearly nearing an end after dominating for so long.

Lochte smelled blood in the water. Phelps was strong, but relented. He settled for four gold medals, half his total from 4 years earlier. Lochte stole a gold medal in the 400-meter individual medley, an event Phelps won 4 years earlier.

The end result, of course, was that the challenger cut into the incumbent's bounty and ended up canceling out a majority of the headlines either one of them could have obtained. Phelps was merely mortal; Lochte was impressive but a tad headstrong in his claims as the next heir. Swimming largely became a secondary story in the Olympics.

We are now moving into late November. Monday is the 65th day of the lockout, and the NHL is officially in the deep end of the pool. Hockey is fading in the sporting landscape at a time when, especially in Philadelphia, it would be just beginning to gain steam to power a passionate fan base through the cold winter.

The entire sport is drowning as a result of a power struggle. Players are lashing out, almighty corporate sponsors are lining up for refunds, and as we reported on Saturday, the Flyers are questioning their stomach for it all.

Latest Flyers Videos

Despite a suggestion last Thursday for a 2-week moratorium in talks, Bettman and Fehr will return to the bargaining table on Monday evening in New York to resuming negotiating after an 8-day hiatus. NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said Saturday that it was the union's request for the meeting and it is "their agenda." This comes after the NHL has repeatedly criticized the NHLPA for making essentially the same offer "five different times."

The best way to make a deal remains obvious: Present a close to 50-50 split in revenues to provide immediate financial relief to owners, owners honor player contracts already signed, and leave most contracting issues alone.

Instead, Bettman is flummoxed by Fehr, who has kept the league guessing as to exactly what it will take to broker a deal. Fehr's attempts to guarantee raises for players have repeatedly been stonewalled.

Both leaders have used questionable, head-scratching strategies in an attempt to sway public perception - only to turn about-face quickly when met with negative or hostile reaction from fans. For Bettman, last week's 2-week moratorium suggestion comes to mind. Two weeks ago, Fehr said the two sides moved closer toward a 50-50 revenue split and then shortly after reiterated that they remain so far apart. The king of rhetoric has met his prince.

Tit for tat, these two brilliant business and legal minds have gone at each other with tactics that have proven successful in the past. Fehr beat Major League Baseball into submission with the cancellation of the 1994 World Series. Bettman nearly broke the union in 2004-05.

Fehr and Bettman, like Lochte and Phelps, are so used to winning that they have never really ever met an equal on such a big stage. They have kept each other guessing. It really is a perplexing situation to watch them continuously dig deeper into their playbooks.

These headstrong personalities at the top have both sides struggling for progress. Players are rallying around Bettman's actions and not Fehr's leadership.

A fight supposedly just about money has turned into so much more than that. It's a full-on power struggle. The NHL will "win" a revenue-split reduction when this is all over. But it also will be staring down an ugly monster, in the form of the NHLPA, which has flexed its muscles and proved a worthy competitor.

At the start of the Olympics, with the world watching, both Phelps and Lochte were charged with preserving and protecting the prosperity of their sport. Players, fans and owners have entrusted more than 100 years of tradition to two outsiders in Bettman and Fehr. The water is so deep now, and they've spent so much energy flailing their arms in anger, that it has to make you wonder whether even life preservers will save them.

Giroux recovering

Claude Giroux suffered a minor neck injury on Friday night in an overtime loss for the Berlin Polar Bears in Germany.

Despite being sent to the hospital for evaluation after a check to the head, Giroux told the Daily News in text messages Saturday that it was "just a little neck injury" and to "not read too much into it."

Giroux, 24, couldn't guess at a timetable for his return but said he felt fine. Published reports in Germany said he could return to practice as early as Tuesday. He is actively keeping tabs on the NHL lockout, but has racked up 19 points in nine games for Berlin in the meantime.

Slap shots

The NHL's leading goal scorers from the last two seasons, Steven Stamkos and Corey Perry, were added to the lineup for Saturday's charity game at Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall, hosted by Scott Hartnell and the Rangers' Brad Richards. Wayne Simmonds, back from Europe, also will participate, as well as Norris Trophy finalist Drew Doughty. Other Flyers participating include Kimmo Timonen, Jody Shelley and Braydon Coburn. Former Flyers included are James van Riemsdyk, Ville Leino, Dan Carcillo, Steve Downie, Simon Gagne and Steve Eminger. Tickets went on sale last Friday on Ticketmaster.com. Proceeds benefit Hurricane Sandy relief.

Philadelphia Inquirer / Daily News LOADED: 11.19.2012

644493 Philadelphia Flyers

Giroux OK, NHL isn't

Staff Writer

Flyers star Claude Giroux suffered a neck injury while playing in Germany, but multiple reports said it is minor and that the center is fine.

The same can't be said for the NHL.

The league-imposed lockout is in its 63rd day, and no end is in sight.

Oh, the league and the NHLPA will meet on Monday, but NHL officials say the sides are far apart in many areas.

In other words, look for more games to be canceled soon, perhaps later this week.

As for Giroux, he was checked in the head Friday and taken to a hospital, but he was released and could practice on Tuesday.

Philadelphia Inquirer / Daily News LOADED: 11.19.2012

644494 Philadelphia Flyers

Flyers to play in Sandy relief benefit game

Wayne Fish

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. – Professional hockey might be inactive right now but National Hockey League players, mindful of the destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy, are certainly keeping busy.

On Friday, Flyers forward Scott Hartnell and New York Rangers forward Brad Richards – in conjunction with Caesars Atlantic City — announced plans for "Operation Hat Trick," a charity hockey game here at historic Boardwalk Hall on Saturday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m.

Proceeds go to support the Empire State Relief Fund, the New Jersey Hurricane Relief Fund and the American Red Cross, aiding New York and New Jersey families affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Tickets, priced at \$20 to \$100, are on sale and can be purchased at the Boardwalk Hall box office, ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster locations, or by calling 800-736-1420.

NHL players expected to participate include: Anaheim Ducks star Bobby Ryan along with Flyers defensemen Kimmo Timonen and Braydon Coburn, plus forwards Jody Shelley and Wayne Simmonds.

Ex-Flyers scheduled to play include Steve Downie, James van Riemsdyk, Simon Gagne, Ville Leino, Daniel Carcillo and Steve Eminger. Also look for Jeff Halpern, Brian Boyle, John Carlson, Taylor Pyatt and James Neal.

Richards and Hartnell will each captain a team represented by several of their professional teammates as well as other notable legends from throughout the hockey world.

"The lives that have been touched by the devastation are people in our own communities and the communities of our fans," said Hartnell. "To have the opportunity to be able to raise money for the relief effort by participating in this game is an honor and we are asking fans of the tri-state area to assist in anyway they can to help the communities and people affected."

Burlington County Times LOADED: 11.19.2012

644495 Philadelphia Flyers

Former Flyer Laperriere conquers Philly Marathon

Staff Writer

He's dabbled in smaller race distances, but nothing of this magnitude. The Philadelphia Marathon?

"It was on my bucket list," said former Flyer, Ian Laperriere.

The 38-year-old finished the 26.2-mile course in 3 hours, 42 minutes, 23 seconds Sunday – a minute ahead of his projected time. It was his marathon debut.

"That last two miles were unbelievable," he said. "It was the longest two miles I have ever run."

Lappy dedicated the race to his late father, Michel, who died of pancreatic cancer 10 years ago. He wore pancreatic cancer's designated color purple for the race too.

"Cancer will always be close to my heart because of my dad," he said.

Seven months ago, Laperriere began training to run a marathon but injured his Achilles tendon.

"I couldn't train for four to five months," Laperriere said. "I wanted to do one. It's something inside me.

"I need to challenge myself physically. It's a pretty big challenge for a guy who is 205 pounds to run 26.2 miles. Since I've retired, I've looked for those challenges."

In building up to this, he had run 21 miles two weeks ago. His training began at half-marathon distances. What helped him get through the additional five miles in this one, he said, was 40-year-old race partner Matt Pasco, his neighbor from Haddonfield, N.J.

Pasco was looking for a partner who could run under 3:45 after his wife recently pulled out sick. Lappy became Pasco's "partner."

"I'm glad Matt was there to help," Laperriere said. "He does a bunch of these marathons and he kept yelling at me to keep going. I was afraid I would cramp up at the end. We went a little too fast at the beginning, but we had some juice at the end and Matt was pushing me."

Since his retirement as a player brought on by post-concussion syndrome, Lappy has found new challenges at work in terms of coaching, conditioning and now as the Flyers' director of player development.

His travels scouting left him with time to run, and that's when he began to think about a marathon.

Interestingly, if he were on the ice, he would not be able to skate with others because of motion sickness brought on by post-concussion syndrome. Yet running doesn't affect him at all.

"Running is the one thing I can do," he said. "It's quick movements on the ice that bothers me. And you don't have to worry about getting hit either in these."

Some of his friends introduced him to swimming and biking last summer.

"I know where they're taking me," Laperriere said. "My buddies have done a couple of Iron Men competitions and they're trying to take me that way. That's another animal. I want to see how I feel in a couple days after this marathon

"And the training for this, it's totally different than hockey. I was built to play hockey. Hockey is 30- to 40-second shifts. It's not an endurance like a marathon. I had to change my workouts completely.

"I've tried to get out of my comfort zone by training for this. A month ago, I did a 12-mile run on an obstacle course. That was hard too."

And this?

"It's the mental aspect," he said. "You are on your feet three or four hours. It is very demanding physically, but at one point, your head begins to play games with you and makes you wonder why you need to do this."

Race results

Strange not to see a Kenyan win this event, as so many have in the past. Ardmore's Michael McKeeman (36) won Sunday's marathon in 2:17:51.

Six years ago, he finished second. "This has been a goal for me from six years ago to come back and win it," he said.

At 22 miles, coming down Kelly Drive, he admitted he thought he would finish second before catching Scott MacPherson (25) from Austin, Texas, and passing him from Mile 23 to the finish.

Russian Irina Mashkantceva (29) was the top female finisher in a record 2:35:37. She didn't speak English, and there was no interpreter. She broke Mariska Kramer's 2011 record of 2:35:46.

Kenyan Isaac Korir Kedikou (25) won the half-marathon in 1:02:53, while Washington's Misikir Demessie (25) was the top female finisher there in 1:11:57.

Both were New York Marathon entrants competing here since that race was canceled due to Hurricane Sandy. Also, both those runners won the 8K Rothman Race earlier this weekend.

Philadelphia's Rachid Bensalem (40) was the top masters marathon finisher in 2:28:06. Elena Orlova (42) from Gaithersburg, Md., was the top masters female finisher in 2:41:29.

Paul Erway (54), from Shelbyville, Ky., won the (bike) wheeler marathon in 2:29:38. Shannon Franks (35), from College Park, Md., won the half-marathon wheeler event in 1:19.

Over 30,000 runners competed, including about 1,700 New York marathoners.

Comcast SportsNet.com LOADED: 11.19.2012

644496 Philadelphia Flyers

NHL Notebook: Hull sees Ovechkin thriving with Oates

Staff Writer

Brett Hull, speaking at the Hockey Hall of Fame ceremonies on Monday, predicted that Alex Ovechkin will flourish under new coach Adam Oates, a Hall inductee.

Recall Hully and Oates played 195 games together in St. Louis, with Oates racking up 228 assists and Hull 212 goals as a tandem. In other words, he knows chemistry and feels that Ovechkin will thrive under Oates' style.

"I'm excited about it but I'm also not really excited about it because he's going to break all the records," Hull told the Washington Post. "It's crazy. He's going to thrive under Oates. There's just no question.

"When I played, Adam was my coach. He told me what we were going to do, when we were going to do it, how we were going to do it and it always worked. He'll be able to do the same thing with Ovechkin and [Nicklas] Backstrom too.

"He's going to get Ovechkin. He's going to get the ego – and egos aren't a bad thing. All great players, all great goal scorers have egos. You have to

feed the ego and the more you feed the ego the happier Ovechkin is, the happier the rest of the team is, the better the rest of the team plays."

Snapshots from the Hall

Some leftovers from Monday's Hockey Hall of Fame induction ceremonies in ToronLegendary Buffalo announcer Rick Jeanneret won the Foster Hewitt Memorial Award for excellence in broadcasting. He began calling Sabres' games in 1971.

"Was it all worth it?" Jeanneret asked the Buffalo News. "Rick Jeanneret, Foster Hewitt? You're damn right it was worth it."

Former Colorado Avs general manager Pierre Lacroix, talking about the most influential forward he ever had – inductee Joe Sakic.

"I definitely have felt like a proud father or something at some of these," Lacroix told the Denver Post. "With Joe, it is a very special one because of how special he was as a player and person. He was just so important to our franchise, and so important to our success in the 10 years or whatever that I was in charge. [He was] 'Mr. Integrity.'

"When I first took the [GM] job in Quebec, right on through in Colorado, he was just a first-rate captain, who you always knew would walk the perfect line between the boys in the dressing room and the coaches and management outside."

The Russian Rocket, Pavel Bure, also went into the Hall. Though he made his mark in Vancouver, Bure also spent parts of four seasons with the Florida Panthers.

"Seeing him go into the Hall of Game, it's well deserved," former Panther Ed Jovanovski told the Miami Herald. "He was one of the most electric players to play the game.

"They made a splash bringing him [to Florida]. As a player it was sick to see him play. He was a player who brought fans out of their seats. He was worth the admission."

Jovanovski was part of the trade that brought Bure to the Panthers.

Inductee Mats Sundin's parents flew to Toronto from Europe for the ceremonies.

Sundin told a story of playing hockey in his basement.

"Sometimes, with grandman in net," Sundin said. "Sometimes, my mother had to play in net. "I will never play in the NHL again, but the great memories I get to keep forever."

Need a visor

Even if you're just messing around with pucks with your buddies, trying to stay in shape during the lockout.

Which is what Tampa's Ryan Malone was doing when fellow Lightning teammate Marty St. Louis' stick caught him in the right eye.

Malone needed five stitches to close the cut there and has a black eye for now

Malone said the incident didn't sway him to get a visor.

"Not something I worry about," he said.

New duds

That's the thinking in Dallas when this lockout ends, according to club owner Tom Gaglardi.

"It's true," he told the Dallas Morning News."I think that it's been speculated that we're doing that. I think our jerseys have taken an interesting ... team, we've had a history of changing our jerseys quite often. Ended up in the place now with our current jerseys, which I quite like.

"But a couple things bother me, and one is that we're the only team of 30 that doesn't wear our logo on our chest... bit of a lack of color with our current kit. We're looking all those things, up to and including if we want to modify our primary logo as well."

He said he wanted a "timeless classic jersey," whatever that is, but he also wanted something "Texan," too.

A Good Cause

The Brad Fox Memorial Hockey Game will take place at the Class of 1923 Ice Rink at the University of Pennsylvania on Sat, Nov. 24, at 7 p.m.

Tickets to the game are \$10. All proceeds will go to the Fox family.

Fox was a police officer in for Plymouth Township, who was killed in the line of duty in September while pursuing a hit-and-run suspect.

Comcast SportsNet.com LOADED: 11.19.2012

644497 Philadelphia Flyers

NHL Notebook: Time for league to make a deal

Staff Writer

Only the National Hockey League would choose a "lockout" as its first choice to collective bargaining, instead of its last.

Only in the NHL would the owner's committee dismiss proposal after proposal within minutes of being presented with them, instead of sleeping on it.

And only the NHL would you have six continuous days of talks break down, then follow that with absolutely no talks the following week, then suggest to the other side maybe they ought to take a two-week vacation to cool down.

Meanwhile, all the good achieved over the past seven years in creating a record \$3.3 billion business has gone to hell.

Mark this down: When hockey returns, it will do so with less longtime, loyal sponsors who have stood by and watched two lockouts in seven years and understand there is something fundamentally wrong with this business model.

What kind of sports league forces a shutdown to achieve "economic certainty," with a CBA, and then after record revenues seven years later feels it needs massive changes to assure better economic certainty and sets out to destroy everything it had achieved?

Amid this chaos, The Commish, Gary Bettman, if he hasn't figured this out by now, has more than met his match in Donald Fehr, the man who brought Major League Baseball to its knees, then rebuilt the game with an economic structure that has had guaranteed labor peace for 15 years.

If Bettman thinks he's going to get Fehr to blink, he hasn't done his homework on a man who stared down the World Series and won.

The danger now is that in their desire to annihilate the NHLPA under marching orders from Jeremy Jacobs, Bettman has strengthened the players' resolve to see this through even if means losing another season.

The players are not going to cave on every contractual right earned in the last surrender of 2004-05.

What Bettman needs to understand here is that the strategy of divide and conquer has failed against Fehr. The players aren't going to abandon him.

It's time for the NHL to make a deal. End this foolishness before we lose another season, more fans, more money and more sponsors.

End it now, Gary before you regret it.

Lucky to be alive

That's how Danny Geoffrion described his son, Blake, this week to The Tennessean, after a horrific on-ice injury during an AHL game.

Blake, playing for Hamilton, was hip-checked by Syracuse's Jean-Philippe Cote last weekend. He had to undergo life-threatening skull surgery because of how he landed on the ice, bouncing off Cote's skate.

"We're lucky that he's alive," Danny Geoffrion told the paper. "They removed the piece of his skull that was about the size of a silver dollar.

"They had to replace that with titanium and metal mesh. And that's what the plate consists of, with the screws and all that, so he now has that in his head. It was unreal.

"Parts of the skull had gotten into the brain. So they cleaned all that out, and took care of the little bleeding he did have, which was another major thing. He was very, very lucky."

Danny and his wife, Kelly, witnessed the hit at Montreal's Bell Centre. Blake Geoffrion was drafted by Nashville and now plays for the Canadiens.

Blake is expected to make a full recovery, but his status for a return to the ice this season is doubtful. He was discharged from Montreal General Hospital on Wednesday.

Take the deal?

That's the advice from now retired Mark Recchi to the players in this NHL lockout. He thinks the longer the players wait to accept the owner's offer, the less they will get the end.

"My advice is that the longer it goes, the worse [the offer] is going to get," Recchi told the Boston Globe. "Hey, I'm an owner, too, so I see both sides. We lose money on our team, and obviously that's not the same, the money's not nearly as significant as in the NHL, but the business dynamics are similar. We've lost money every year we've owned it.

"The longer they're out, the revenues are going to go down and down. Corporate sponsors aren't going to be lining up ... so there goes that money. The schedule isn't going to be 82 games, I don't think, at this point. That's more money lost. So, how are you going to get a better deal? Personally, I think the best time is now.

"There's definitely a deal there. Obviously, it has to be fitted. But OK, get it right, then sign the thing for 10 years, get back to playing, and don't worry about it anymore. You don't want to go through this again in five or six years."

Which is why this next deal should be long term.

Another opinion

This one coming from ex-Bruin Derek Sanderson, a guy who knows something about money, seeing how he jumped to the WHA in 1972 for \$2.6 million.

"I think hockey will survive despite it all, but it could be a long time coming back if they do not have hockey this year," Sanderson told CSNNE, inferring a cancelled season.

"For most people, they're not actively looking for hockey until football is over. Once [the NFL season] is over, people are going to be asking, 'Where's the Bruins?' If you don't get it by Christmas and you don't let kids watch the games, then you're going to hurt the game."

Sanderson doesn't like the two main participants in the CBA talks, either – Gary Bettman and Donald Fehr.

"I think hockey is the greatest game in the world. You can't say too much about [the lockout]. But I don't understand it. Bettman is a basketball guy and Donald Fehr is a baseball guy, isn't he? Why are they talking about hockey?

"The owners had a great CBA the last time if they did it properly. Just don't frontload the contracts and sign guys to contracts for 10 or 15 years. Don't make those deals. But they did it to themselves and now they're looking for something else."

Comcast SportsNet.com LOADED: 11.19.2012

644498 Philadelphia Flyers

Giroux hurts neck overseas; injury not serious

Tim Panaccio

The Flyers are holding their breath after getting reports from Germany that Claude Giroux suffered a minor neck injury.

General manager Paul Holmgren told CSNPhilly.com Saturday that the club doesn't believe the injury to be serious.

Giroux, playing for Eisbaren Berlin, incurred a high hit in the second period on Friday against Krefeld, and was trying to stretch out his neck afterward.

Oliver Koch, a German reporter who files for Broad Street Hockey, told the website Giroux was taken to a hospital as a precaution and is OK.

Giroux is expected to miss at least one game. Koch also said the play was sent to the Deutsche Eishockey Liga for review.

Comcast SportsNet.com LOADED: 11.19.2012

644499 Philadelphia Flyers

Ed Snider disputes 'erroneous' lockout report

Staff Writer

Flyers chairman Ed Snider vehemently denied a story in Saturday's Philadelphia Daily News that claimed he had "soured" on the CBA negotiations under Gary Bettman and was aligning forces with other moderate owners to bring an end to the NHL lockout.

Sources within the Flyers told CSNPhilly.com that Snider is not upset with Bettman but rather is "frustrated" with NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr's tactics in negotiations.

Snider released the following statement:

"An article appearing in today's Philadelphia Daily News is absolutely erroneous. I am a solid supporter of National Hockey League Commissioner Gary Bettman and the League in this unfortunate situation. Like all fans, players, owners and League officials, I am extremely hopeful that an agreement can be reached and we can eventually be playing hockey again soon. League rules prevent me and all owners from making any comments on the labor negotiations. I will continue to honor that and not make any further comments."

Comcast SportsNet.com LOADED: 11.19.2012

644500 Toronto Maple Leafs

AHL: Ben Scrivens, Toronto Marlies shut out first-place Abbotsford Heat

STEVE RUSSELL

Goaltender Ben Scrivens was sharp early and made 24 saves as the Toronto Marlies blanked the Abbotsford Heat 5-0 on Sunday in American Hockey League action.

Toronto (9-5-1) scored three times in seven minutes in the third period, including twice in 30 seconds, to seal the victory.

Ryan Hamilton, Nazem Kadri, Nicolas Deschamps, Matt Frattin and Will Acton scored for the Marlies, who won their second in a row and sixth in their past seven outings. Mike Zigomanis chipped in with two assists.

Leland Irving made 19 saves for the Heat (10-2-3), who entered the game in first place in the AHL's Western Conference.

It was the third start in three days for Scrivens, who made 17 saves in a 6-1 win over the Hamilton Bulldogs on Saturday after surrendering five goals on 28 shots in a 6-3 loss at Hamilton on Friday. The Marlies netminder wasn't tested often, but stood tall midway through the third period when the Heat had a 5-on-3 advantage for nearly a minute.

Deschamps collected his fourth goal of the season when he accepted a pass in the slot from Zigomanis and whipped a wrist shot past Irving at 5:19 of the third period. Frattin made it 4-0 for Toronto when he knocked in a rebound for a power-play goal at 12:46, and Acton went hard to the net and closed out the scoring when he beat Irving at 13:16.

Kadri made it 2-0 when he skated out from behind the Abbotsford net and roofed a shot over Irving's shoulder at 2:03 of the second period before an announced crowd of 5.248 at Ricoh Coliseum.

Toronto Star LOADED: 11.19.2012 644501 Toronto Maple Leafs

Frattin, Scrivens key Marlies win

By Lance Hornby

The temptation to let Matt Frattin loose earlier than planned must have been agonizing for the Marlies' coaching staff.

Five months after knee surgery, with Frattin feeling like he might be ready in late October or early November, the struggling team was in need of his spark. But the decision to re-boot one of last year's hottest Maple Leaf prospects was delayed until all medical concerns were settled. He was even rested for the game after his two-goal return in Hamilton on Friday.

Frattin erased all doubts with one of the nicest goals in Sunday's 5-0 stomping of the division-leading Abbotsford Heat and two or three jarring hits to match one he laid on Bulldogs' Jarred Tinordi on Friday.

"Every game, every shift I like to get in a couple of bumps early," Frattin said. "Then I know my legs are going.

"Scoring-wise, the coaches have been harping on me to shoot quickly and catch the goalie (sleeping) or make him make a save. The biggest thing is hitting the net."

Frattin has three goals on eight shots, including a team-high four on Sunday. Counting his Leaf, Marlie and NCAA strikes with North Dakota, he has 61 goals in his past 126 games. His hit parade is what impresses Marlie coach Dallas Eakins as much as the offensive slate and why he wanted the right winger in mint condition for his return.

"He's so strong on his feet and he's able to get in hard on the forecheck," Eakins said. "And when he finishes his check or has rubbed someone out along the wall, he's taken the wind right out of their sails. He missed camp, but he's one of those (fitness conscious) guys. Not only have we killed him in the gym and on the ice, he's done it to himself. His early showing is good, his challenge now will be to keep it rolling."

Frattin was a caged tiger the past couple of weeks when he resumed practice.

"I was doing a lot of things with (strength coach) Mark Fitzpatrick to get my cardio up," Frattin said. "I wanted to get in the mind frame that from the first game I'd be able to play my very best. But I still have a lot more in me."

TRIO GRANDE FOR SCRIVENS

With three goalies. Eakins' was not planning to play one man in all three games of this busy weekend.

But Jussi Rynnas injured his groin and despite a rough night in Hamilton, the coach figured Ben Scrivens needed the work before Mark Owuya. Scrivens proceeded to stop 39 of 40 total shots and collected his first shutout on Sunday.

"That's the kind of goaltending we remember," Eakins said of Scrivens winning the Hap Holmes Award in the AHL last year. "He was calm, he was cool and our team was confident with him. These games were giant strides for Ben."

Scrivens now has more Scrivens-type numbers, a winning record (5-4), with a save percentage back at .900 and rising.

"Three in three and two of them under 48 hours is what makes this league tough," Scrivens said. "It's a test on your body and your mind."

It helped him to have 11 goals to work with the past two home games and a sprinkling of power-play success.

"Our team is full of guys who can score, who can dipsy doodle and the biggest thing, generate goals off the cycle. Look at Nicky Deschamps' goal today, straight off the cycle when we switched sides behind the net and got it in the slot."

NASTY NAZ

Nazem Kadri's goal Sunday gives him 11 points in the past five games. That all came after a benching in Austin on Nov. 9.

"The great thing about Naz is that he's an awfully competitive guy," Eakins said. "He responded well (to being sat). I said to him the other day, 'you've really screwed yourself now'. He didn't know what I meant, but I said you've shown us once again what you can do and how well you can play. That's your benchmark."

GANG'S ALL HERE

Mike Cosentino, director of business operations for the Marlies, confirmed what Eakins and his players have been noticing at Ricoh. The NHL lockout, coupled with the long run the Marlies went on last year, has considerably boosted attendance.

Saturday was a sellout, while Sunday's crowd was 5,248, despite the Argos playoff game on TV and the Santa Claus Parade. Average attendance is 6,239 through their first six games, compared to 3,453 in the same period in 2011-12.

Toronto, which can hold 8,000 and change at Ricoh, ranks 10th on AHL average, with Hershey No. 1 at 8,884. The Bears have a 10,500-seat facility.

MARLIE MINUTIAE

Former Leaf GM John Ferguson Jr. was at Sunday's game scouting for San Jose. He had four former Leaf picks in the game, Frattin and the Heat's Tyler Ruegsegger from 2007, plus Toronto's Korbinian Holzer and Leo Komarov from '06 ... Deschamps has now scored in back-to-back games after a slow start ... Joe Colborne's eye was almost closed shut after he took a punch from Gabriel Dumont in Saturday's game and though he'd improved by Sunday, he was scratched against Abbotsford ... Toronto killed its second 5-on-3 in as many games.

Toronto Sun LOADED: 11.19.2012

644502 Washington Capitals

NHL lockout 2012: Stars align for victims of Sandy

By Stephen Whyno

A lot of NHL players are satisfying their itch to play hockey during the lockout by signing overseas or in lower-level North American leagues.

For those who haven't decided to ride things out by playing meaningful games for paychecks, informal practices are about all they have. Except for when guys get together to put on a game for charity.

That's what happened in recent weeks around New York and Philadelphia, as ex-NHL enforcer Todd Fedoruk and others drummed up interest in a game to benefit victims of Superstorm Sandy. It'll happen Saturday in Atlantic City, N.J., and Rangers forward Jeff Halpern and Washington Capitals defenseman John Carlson will take part.

"It's not as intense as a playoff game, but I think because guys are sick of the practices with each other all the time, you're looking for a bit of competition," Halpern said in a phone interview Friday. "It's a good excuse to just play a hockey game."

It's a hockey game with plenty of star power. The Anaheim Ducks' Bobby Ryan and Corey Perry are playing, as are Tampa Bay Lightning center Steven Stamkos, Pittsburgh Penguins wing James Neal and Los Angeles Kings defenseman Drew Doughty. But given that it's being played at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, naturally the game is full of Rangers and Flyers, including Brad Richards, Henrik Lundqvist, Scott Hartnell and Kimmo Timonen.

"I know John Carlson, who's a New Jersey native, really wanted to be a part of that game," Halpern said.

Carlson tweeted: "What's better than watching hockey and giving back to the victims of Sandy?"

Perhaps playing NHL games. The league and NHL Players' Association are set to resume collective bargaining negotiations Monday in New York City, at the players' behest.

Asked what he expected out of these talks, deputy commissioner Bill Daly said in an email: "We have no particular expectation. We will see what happens."

If the sides do meet as planned, it will end an eight-day break. There was a report last week that commissioner Gary Bettman asked for a two-week moratorium on talks. Halpern called the notion of that "insane."

"The numbers aren't far apart. The players have agreed to get to 50/50 whether it's in Year 1 or Year 3; everything can be negotiated," Halpern said. "I don't understand it because the league was doing so well and it was such a great partnership that I don't know. I just have a hard time understanding why this came about."

More than two months into the lockout, there are more questions than answers. In the meantime, though, players gathering in Atlantic City and trying to make something good out of a less-than-ideal situation.

"If we were playing, we would have a much easier forum to be able to give back to a lot of the affected areas and a lot of the communities," Halpern said. "Right when the hurricane first hit, I think we wanted to do something like this."

Washington Times LOADED: 11.19.2012

644503 Washington Capitals

NHL labor talks set to resume Monday

By Ira Podell

NEW YORK (AP) — So much for a two-week break. Just over a week since the last set of failed negotiations, the NHL and the locked-out players' association will return to the bargaining table Monday.

Conversations that restarted Friday between NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly and NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr produced enough positive movement Saturday to set up another face-to-face meeting that the sides hope will lead to an agreement to save the hockey season.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman suggested to union executive director Donald Fehr this week that the sides take two weeks off from negotiations. The union maintained its desire to keep talking, and now bargaining is back on.

"We can confirm that we have tentatively agreed to get back together on Monday, either late in the afternoon or early evening," Daly said. "The meeting was requested by the union and it's their agenda. We will see what they have to tell us."

Owners and players met for several consecutive days last week in New York, but made little progress. Negotiations ended in an angry exchange last Friday, but bargaining resumed two days later only to break off again in just over an hour.

Staying apart never appeared to be a good option, and the NHL now seems to agree.

All games through Nov. 30 have already been taken off the schedule, more cancellations are likely within a week, the Winter Classic has been wiped out, the All-Star game is the next big event in jeopardy, and the whole season could be lost, too, in the blink of an eye if a new deal can't be hammered out.

The players have stuck to their position that negotiations are the only way to work out differences, and that they are willing to meet any time the NHL wants to.

The NHL contends that the union has submitted the same proposal multiple times without moving in the league's direction. The union says it has agreed to come down from receiving 57 percent of hockey-related revenues to a 50-50 split. The league wants that to go into effect in the first year of the agreement, while the union wants to get there gradually.

Seven years ago, after the entire 2004-05 season was lost to a lockout, the players' association accepted a salary-cap system for the first time. The union feels it shouldn't have to bear the brunt of the concessions now after league revenues reached a record high of over \$3 billion last season.

This 63-day lockout has claimed 327 regular-season games, and hope of a new deal and the start of the already-shortened season — likely of 68 games per team — on Dec. 1 has started to wane.

It is more than just finances preventing a deal. The disagreements over player contract terms have emerged as just as big an impasse.

The NHL wants to limit contracts to five years, make rules to prohibit backdiving contracts the league feels circumvent the salary cap, keep players ineligible for unrestricted free agency until they are 28 or have eight years of professional service time, cut entry-level deals to two years, and make salary arbitration after five years.

Once those issues are settled, the sides will then have to figure out who will cover the financial damage the lockout will ultimately do to this season.

Players missed their third pay day of the season Thursday, and the clock is ticking toward more losses. The 2004-05 season was canceled in February. A lockout in 1995 ended in January, leading to a 48-game schedule.

Washington Times LOADED: 11.19.2012

644504 Winnipeg Jets

Kosmachuk hot and cold

By: Tim Campbell

GUELPH, Ont. -- It's been seven games now since Scott Kosmachuk found the back of an Ontario Hockey League net.

Of course the Winnipeg Jets' draft pick, taken in the third round last June, is squeezing his stick a little.

Of course he's thinking about where the offence has gone.

But maybe the more telling thing about the gifted Guelph Storm rightwinger, a Toronto native, is that there doesn't seem to be any panic.

In fact, barely a worry, at least on the outside.

"Streaky? You could say that," the 18-year-old said over the weekend, his November so far not even holding a candle to his 10-goals-in-10-games run in October. "I had a good streak there, but hopefully this is just a little dry spell here and I can get a good one going again."

Through 24 OHL games this season, the 18-year-old has 12 goals and 24 points, still leading his team in goals and second in points.

"I started doing really well with my line (with team-leading point-getter and excellent setup man Tanner Richard) and then we went into a little slump, so there were some changes a couple of games ago," Kosmachuk said. "I don't know, it's just sometimes things don't go your way, pucks bounce, but you've got to keep working at it, stay positive and do the little things right.

"I don't think I'm putting too much pressure on myself to score, necessarily, but I just noticed the last couple of games that the pucks are bouncing on me, just off my stick, and even today, it wouldn't settle. It's something different."

After a 30-goal season attracted much attention and led the Jets to step up with the pick in Pittsburgh, many eyes look at Kosmachuk differently this year

And maybe one of the reasons the dry spell isn't much of an issue yet is that Storm coach Scott Walker, the former 16-year NHLer with Vancouver, Nashville, Carolina and Washington, is as well a Kosmachuk fan in many ways.

"I think there was a lot of pressure on him last year, heading for the draft," Walker said. "This year, I sense that he has less pressure but he still feels like he wants to do more.

"To me, he's got NHL speed, an NHL shot. We just have to get him to make sure he understands all aspects of the game. I think he's really getting a lot better at that. I'm using him penalty killing a bit now; it's kind of new and he's being responsible about learning it and I think it keeps him in the game."

The locals who watch the Storm say Kosmachuk is increasingly slippery on the ice, has a good nose for the net and that for a good part of this season, the puck's been following him around quite a bit.

Maybe some of that success has led him to be too clever at times, not shooting enough.

Walker said he does have to remind the Jets' prospect of his strengths from time to time.

"But he's always a threat out there with his speed," Walker said. "He's got a great first step and some good hands. I think he can be a complete player, but it's easier said than done.

"Lots of guys are drafted. Lots of guys don't make it. But I think he's got everything he needs and he's starting to put it together.

"And he's got the right mentality. That's one thing I really notice. You always have you antennae up about guys who get drafted -- how are they going to be? Honestly, he's been a real treat. But yeah, he has to be a shooter. He gets his speed going, and when he chips it and drives by a D, he can finish with the best of them."

Kosmachuk said the pressure of 2011-12, the draft year, was intense at times

Is there a different feeling this year?

"Yes, and no," he said. "It's different obviously because your draft year is big, there's lots of hype around you. Coming into this year, you're drafted but you can't stop working because this is just the beginning of the rest of your life, you know? Tough question."

Winnipeg Free Press LOADED 11.19.2012

644505 Websites

Report: NHLPA will not decertify

Joe Yerdon

When the NFL and NBA went through their lockouts last year, one word that came up often with each league's players' association was "decertification." Decertifying the union means disbanding and drastically changing the outlook of negotiations.

According to Larry Brooks of the New York Post, members of the NHLPA did inquire about doing the same at a recent union conference call but had the notion explained and turned down. From Brooks:

The players were told opting for decertification would not merely represent a legal technicality, it would in fact mean the players would no longer be negotiating as a unified group; indeed, decertification would mean the union would be disbanded.

There was little appetite to adopt that route, though talk of decertification — which presumably would be followed by filing of antitrust action in the U.S and filings in Canada, where labor laws differ throughout the provinces — will inevitably become louder and a more acceptable option for the players if the league continues to stonewall through next month.

The NFL and NBA were able to get through their tough talks and save their seasons after the players' unions decertified. In both sports' situations, decertification helped spur talks along.

All things considered, it's for the best the NHLPA isn't going this route as that would likely throw another wrench into what's been messy negotiations.

NBCSports.com / LOADED: 11.19.2012