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645640 Anaheim Ducks

Six NHL players and six owners to hold labor talks

Helene Elliott

Six NHL owners and six players will meet Tuesday in New York for direct labor talks, a new approach to resolving a dispute that has jeopardized the season.

The NHL Players' Assn. on Sunday accepted the league's invitation to convene without the presence of Commissioner Gary Bettman or NHLPA Executive Director Donald Fehr. Each side will be permitted to bring staff members and counsel to the session.

NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said Sunday the league will be represented by California billionaire Ron Burkle of the Pittsburgh Penguins,

Mark Chipman of the Winnipeg Jets, Murray Edwards of the Calgary Flames, Jeremy Jacobs of the Boston Bruins, Larry Tanenbaum of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Jeff Vinik of the Tampa Bay Lightning. "We will provide further details when available and as appropriate," Daly said.

The NHLPA did not identify its delegation.

Fehr said the meeting "should facilitate dialogue between players and owners." He added, "There will be owners attending this meeting who have not previously done so, which is encouraging and which we welcome. We hope that this meeting will be constructive and lead to a dialogue that will help us find a way to reach an agreement."

LA Times: LOADED: 12.03.2012

645641 Chicago Blackhawks

NHL owners, players to meet face-to-face

TRACEY MYERS

After a few days of mulling over NHL commissioner Gary Bettman's suggestion of a meeting with no league or NHLPA top brass, the players' association has agreed to it.

The owners and players will have a face-to-face meeting in an attempt to reach a new collective bargaining agreement, NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said in a statement on Sunday. Bettman first suggested the meeting, which will not include him nor NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr, on Thursday after sessions with a federal mediator stalled. The players' association took a few days to mull it over.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday in New York.

"We expect the following NHL owners to attend: Ron Burkle (Pittsburgh Penguins), Mark Chipman (Winnipeg Jets), Murray Edwards (Calgary Flames), Jeremy Jacobs (Boston Bruins), Larry Tanenbaum (Toronto Maple Leafs) and Jeff Vinik (Tampa Bay Lightning)," Daly said in the statement. "We will make further details available when available and as appropriate."

Players who will be attending the meeting have not yet been named.

While Fehr and Bettman won't be present, Fehr said in a statement, that, "each side will have a limited number of staff or counsel present."

"There will be owners attending this meeting who have not previously done so, which is encouraging and which we welcome," Fehr's statement continued. "We hope that this meeting will be constructive and lead to a dialogue that will help us find a way to reach an agreement."

Comcast SportsNet.com LOADED: 12.03.2012

645642 Columbus Blue Jackets

Players, owners to meet without Bettman, Fehr

Staff Writer

NHL owners and players will meet face-to-face on Tuesday in an attempt to broker a deal to end their lockout that threatens to wipe out the season.

The meeting will take place in New York with the heads of the two feuding sides, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and NHL Players' Association executive director Don Fehr, both agreeing to skip the meeting.

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said in a statement that at least six team owners would attend the meeting.

Owners expected to attend are: Ron Burkle (Pittsburgh), Mark Chipman (Winnipeg), Murray Edwards (Calgary), Jeremy Jacobs (Boston), Larry Tanenbaum (Toronto) and Jeff Vinik (Tampa Bay).

The lockout reached its 78th day yesterday.

All games through Dec. 14 have been canceled, along with the outdoor Winter Classic on New Year's Day and the All-Star Weekend, which was slated for January in Columbus.

Columbus Dispatch LOADED: 12.03.2012

645643 Edmonton Oilers

Nugent-Hopkins thinking about world juniors

By Jim Matheson

EDMONTON - Ryan Nugent-Hopkins is having his shoulder looked at Monday.

Settle down. No need to panic. It's routine before the Edmonton Oilers centre likely says he'll play for Canada's world junior team at Ufa, Russia, over Christmas.

It'll be Nugent-Hopkins' call, with the Oilers probably going along with his desire.

If Nugent-Hopkins plays in the world junior, he'll be gone about a month from the Oilers' American Hockey League farm team at Oklahoma City, where he's been playing with Jordan Eberle and Taylor Hall during the lockout.

That's barring the NHL-NHLPA labour battle ending and the NHL starting up before the new year.

"We're just having a look at it (shoulder) ... as you know, he had an AC separation last winter and we want to make sure everything is exactly where we need it to be," said Nugent-Hopkins' agent Rick Valette, who was at Sunday's Edmonton Oil Kings-Lethbridge Hurricanes game at Rexall Place before watching bantam AAA star winger Tyler Benson's Southside Athletic Club team play the St. Albert Raiders a few hours later.

Hockey Canada will announce its world junior training camp roster Monday morning, with Nugent-Hopkins one of the 35 to 40 names for the camp that opens Dec. 10 at Calgary.

"It is a precautionary thing for all of our young athletes. It's a right thing for Ryan and the Oilers," Valette said about checking Nugent-Hopkins' shoulder, possibly with an MRI.

With a break in the Oklahoma City Barons' schedule, Nugent-Hopkins had time on his hands. The Barons played in Houston last Thursday and Friday, and don't play again until Friday at San Antonio, Texas.

"We booked this (medical exam) long ago. It's been in the works for awhile," said Valette.

While Nugent-Hopkins has been playing on the No. 1 line in the AHL, Hockey Canada needs him for its top line, likely with Jonathan Huberdeau (Florida Panthers' first-rounder) and Mark Scheifele (Winnipeg Jets' first-round pick).

Nugent-Hopkins hasn't played in a world junior before. He made the Oilers right after his selection as the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2011.

"This is my opinion, not Ryan's, but this is the last opportunity he has to play in this tournament. He didn't make the team the one time he was there (before the Oilers drafted him). He'll never be eligible again," said Valette.

"He has to really consider this and I think this is important to Ryan and a lot of our good young players ... they all want to represent their country.

"More than any other country, kids in Canada want to play in the world junior. In Sweden and the Czech Republic and Russia, their kids are in national team programs all the time, but in Canada, it's a real honour to play on this team."

"Ryan and I will sit together Monday and talk the pros and cons of the world junior," Valette continued. "We'll make a decision in the next day or two and it'll be his decision. Not mine.

"Of course, if the NHL starts up, he won't be going anywhere. His first priority is the the Edmonton Oilers and their fans."

Edmonton Journal: LOADED: 12.03.2012

645644 Edmonton Oilers

Shoulder check for Oilers Nugent-Hopkins

Derek Van Diest

According to his agent, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins wants to represent his country.

But before the Edmonton Oilers centre can join Team Canada, he'll have to make sure his shoulder is healthy enough to take part in the tournament.

For that reason, Nugent-Hopkins is on his way back to Edmonton to get an evaluation, having spent the NHL lockout with the Oilers AHL affiliate in Oklahoma City.

"It's just precautionary, they're just having a look," said Nugent-Hopkins' agent Rick Valette. "He had an AC separation last winter and we just want

to make sure that everything is exactly where we need it to be. With our young athletes it's the right thing to do and it's the right thing to do for the Oilers too."

Nugent-Hopkins has eight goals and 12 assists in 19 games for the Oklahoma City Barons this season. He's currently third in team scoring behind defenceman Justin Schultz and Jordan Eberle.

The Barons last played on Friday and don't have another game on the schedule until Saturday.

On Monday, Nugent-Hopkins is expected to be named as one of the players invited to Canada's world junior camp.

"We booked this long ago, this has been in the works for a while," Valette said. "Because of the time off, it was a good opportunity for us."

The World Junior Championships get underway Boxing Day in Ufa, Russia.

Nugent-Hopkins has never played in the tournament, having been cut two years ago as a 17-year-old, then spending last season with the Oilers.

"I think the one thing is — and this is my opinion — this is the last opportunity he'll have to play for the world juniors," Valette said. "He's never played in the world juniors before, he got cut last time he didn't make the team. He'll never be eligible again and that's one thing he has to consider.

"It's an important thing for Ryan and it's an important thing for a lot of kids to represent their country. That's an important thing to kids. Kids want to grow up and play for the U-18 team and the U-20 team in Canada more than almost any other country. In Canada it's a real honour to play on the World Junior team and he might have a chance."

Due to the fact Nugent-Hopkins is still in his entry-level contract with the Oilers, he was eligible to play with the Barons during the lockout, along with Eberle and Taylor Hall.

The Barons are currently fourth in the AHL Western Conference standings, having won 11 of their 20 games this season.

"One thing you have to understand, is if the NHL is going to start up, he won't be going anywhere," Valette said. "His first priority is with the Edmonton Oilers and fans of the Edmonton Oilers.

"When he gets here, we're going to sit together and talk about all the pros and cons, see where we're at and we're going to make a decision from there. And it's going to be his decision, it isn't going to be mine it'll be his decision. He wants to play for his country."

Edmonton Sun: LOADED: 12.03.2012

645645 Montreal Canadiens

NHLPA agrees to meet with owners on Tuesday

By Stu Cowan

NHLPA executive director Don Fehr issued the following statement Sunday evening regarding a meeting between owners and players later this week:

"The NHLPA has agreed to a meeting on Tuesday in New York that should facilitate dialogue between Players and Owners. Neither the Commissioner nor I will be present, although each side will have a limited number of staff or counsel present.

"There will be Owners attending this meeting who have not previously done so, which is encouraging and which we welcome. We hope that this meeting will be constructive and lead to a dialogue that will help us find a way to reach an agreement."

The Canadian Press reported that the owners expected to attend the meeting include: Ron Burkle (Pittsburgh Penguins), Mark Chipman (Winnipeg Jets), Murray Edwards (Calgary Flames), Jeremy Jacobs (Boston Bruins), Larry Tanenbaum (Toronto Maple Leafs) and Jeff Vinik (Tampa Bay Lightning).

Montreal Gazette LOADED: 12.03.2012

645646 New York Rangers

Dolan 'locked' out of NHL talks

By LARRY BROOKS

Brooks on So Rangers owner James Dolan will not attend Tuesday afternoon's NHL owners-players meeting in Manhattan, but the Bruins' Jeremy Jacobs will.

And what else does anyone need to know about Canceled-in-Chief Gary Bettman's agenda as Lockout III enters Day 94?

The meeting that will be held within a mile of Madison Square Garden will not include the MSG owner who was instrumental in ending the 2011-12 NBA lockout and whose desire to join these talks was reported on Saturday by The Post, but rather will feature NHL Board chairman Jacobs, who has cast a militant shadow over all of the previous bargaining sessions in which he has participated.

With the Board of Governors set to convene on Wednesday, the five other owners tabbed by Bettman for Tuesday's conference are Calgary's Murray Edwards, who, like Jacobs, is on the league's negotiating committee; Pittsburgh's Ron Burkle; Toronto's Larry Tannenbaum; Tampa Bay's Jeff Vinik; and Winnipeg's Mark Chapman.

Though neither Bettman nor Players' Association executive director Don Fehr will attend, league and union staff will participate in the discussion. With deputy commissioner Bill Daly set to represent the league, counsel Steve Fehr is expected to participate on behalf of the NHLPA.

"There will be owners attending this meeting who have not previously done so, which is encouraging and which we welcome," Fehr said in a statement. "We hope this meeting will be constructive and will lead to a dialogue that will help us reach an agreement."

Jacobs, Edwards, Washington's Ted Leonsis and Minnesota's Craig Leipold are the only owners who previously have been permitted by Bettman to attend bargaining sessions that have been open to every player in the NHL.

The NHLPA had not designated the six players who would represent the union at the meeting as of early last night. Logistics were more of an issue for the union than the league given that the owners had previously been scheduled to fly into New York.

Dolan, of course, was already here. And he will be here on Wednesday for the Board meeting. Of course, there's always the chance that Bettman might turn off the Ranger owner's microphone.

You never know.

New York Post LOADED: 12.03.2012

645647 New York Rangers

Jim Dolan wants in on NHL lockout talks

ANDREW GROSS

While the NHL awaited a response from the NHL Players' Association on Saturday whether it would accept commissioner Gary Bettman's proposal for direct owner-player labor talks free of league or NHLPA leadership, two reports citing sources close to Jim Dolan indicated the Rangers' owner wants to participate in such a meeting.

Dolan, whose franchise had its value estimated this week by Forbes at \$750 million, second in the NHL behind the Maple Leafs at \$1 billion, is strongly believed to be among the moderate owners who desperately wants to play hockey.

Today is Day 78 of the latest NHL lockout.

The NHLPA is believed to be willing to meet directly with owners on certain conditions, the main one being that an expanded group of owners are involved. Boston's Jeremy Jacobs, Minnesota's Craig Leipold, Washington's Ted Leonsis and Calgary's Murray Edwards have consistently been

attending negotiating sessions and have drawn the players' enmity as a result of the NHL's positions in the stalled talks.

Bergen Record LOADED: 12.03.2012

645648 Ottawa Senators

Senators season ticket owners weigh their options as lockout drags on

James Gordon

Senators season ticket owners weigh their options as lockout drags on

Simon Fortin-Brunet, Geneviève Brunet, Sébastien Fortin, and Leo Fortin-Brunet, disappointed Ottawa Senators fan and his family from Orleans decided to cancel their half-season tickets. (James Park/Ottawa Citizen)

If there were an archetype of the kind of fan the National Hockey League would want to have, he might look something like Sebastien Fortin.

The 36-year-old works a day job as a law firm office manager and runs a small home inspection business with his brother on the side. Two years ago, they sprang for a half-season ticket package, which they planned to use to entertain clients.

He and his wife also run a hockey-mad household, filled with three kids (ages 11, four and one) who are either Ottawa Senators superfans, or headed down that path. Fortin would fall into that category too — the reformed Montreal Canadiens supporter switched allegiances around age 16, when the capital got its own team.

Last spring, when Erik Karlsson, Jason Spezza and the rest of the Senators made their surprise appearance in the first round of the playoffs, he and his brother donned team jerseys and gladiator helmets and trudged out all the way out from Orleans to lend their support.

And last week, he called the Senators to say he wanted out.

No more tickets, no more money.

"The way I feel right now, is we're hostages to (the league's) CBA agreements," Fortin says. "I got to the point where I said to myself, 'all I can do is tune out and really try to avoid it as much as I can.'"

But when NHL commissioner Gary Bettman suggested a two-week moratorium on collective bargaining talks in mid-November, enough was enough.

"I saw that it was a game for them," Fortin says. "I'm like, 'there's no way I want to be a part of this.' This is just postulating."

So Fortin e-mailed his Senators ticket representative and said if he withdrew his business, and if other season ticket holders did the same, maybe the team would start to feel the real value of money. He and his brother pay about \$4,000 combined for their 200-level tickets, plus merchandise and concession purchases.

"I think it's the strongest statement we can make out there," he says.

Fortin's decision to call the team after collective bargaining talks hit a roadblock isn't uncommon, according to Senators president Cyril Leeder.

"We get feedback whenever the league has an announcement, cancelled games, or if there's some kind of major announcement — that's generally when we get the most of our feedback," he says. "Right now, I think everybody's in a mode where they're hoping that there will be a season at some point soon."

"So they're kind of, like the rest of us, sitting and waiting and hoping for the best."

Leeder's most important job at this point is damage control, and the team has been proactive in communicating with its customers. Earlier this fall, the Senators sent out a survey that asked fans what ticket, parking and concession discounts they might take advantage of if the league returned this season.

But money isn't the answer to everything.

"In the open-ended question, I think the prevailing comment of what they would like to see most is an apology."

Leeder says the number of season ticket holders who have cancelled so far is less than one per cent, though that number is in flux.

The team ended the 2011-2012 campaign with a season ticket base of 11,300 and Leeder says there's no way for the team to know what it'll be when games are played again.

Some, like Fortin, are still haggling to get their deposits back, so his account remains on the books.

"We do try and contact folks and talk to them about their decision and try to convince them to stay with us," Leeder explains. "And I think, by and large, people I talk to are in a pretty good spot, all things considered."

In some ways, the lockout couldn't have come at a worse time for the Senators.

"You never want to be in a work stoppage," he says. "For us, we certainly finished the year last year, we thought, on a pretty good note from a fan perspective."

"They were excited, they liked this team maybe ... better than any of the teams in the previous 20 years. They really connected with the players and the personalities and, for us, we feel like we had a lot of momentum going. So we were real anxious to get back playing the 12-13 season after we finished 11-12."

Losing the entire year would be devastating.

"That goes without saying, I think, for everybody. That's the worst-case scenario."

Guillaume Couillard is one of the Senators fans who called to cancel his season tickets, but was talked out of it.

His patience isn't infinite, however.

"If they're canceling the season, now I'm withdrawing my money for sure," the 35-year-old public servant says, though he admits he'll probably be back at some point down the road.

Like Fortin, the last lockout didn't bother him nearly as much, and he bought his first multi-game ticket package the first season back. He and a friend moved up to half and then full season tickets, which they've held for several years (they're in 209 now). His share costs about \$6,000 per year.

He called the team to withdraw his money after the league torched the first batch of games, but his ticket rep (who was very busy that day, he says) worked to "take the emotion out of the decision." The five per cent interest the Senators are paying him to leave his money with them was a factor, as was the assertion his section was one of the only ones with a waiting list.

Plus, he says, he just loves the game. A former player at various junior levels, he has high hopes his sons will take up hockey, and he's considering billeting a Gatineau Olympiques player.

Yet Couillard's situation also illustrates the shaky ground the NHL is treading. He was already considering backing out because he has three kids under four at home and the commute from Gatineau isn't an easy one. The absence of a season would give him an easy out.

The longer the lockout goes, the more damage is done.

In some cases, it has already cost the Senators priceless goodwill and work in the community.

A couple years ago, Fortin went to Scotiabank Place with his son's hockey team (he was an assistant coach) as part of a program called the "Sens Experience." It includes an hour of ice time on an NHL rink, a meeting with one of the players and Senators game tickets.

"That experience was just absolutely fantastic," he says. "I mean the kids, they get hooked for life, right? They become fans, big-time fans."

"So I mean, that experience was just outstanding, and they did a fantastic job, and it's just so disappointing to see them ruining it that way."

"Just pushing us away..."

Ottawa Citizen LOADED: 12.03.2012

645649 Philadelphia Flyers

Flyers' Sean Couturier, others look for an ice time in upstate New York during lockout

Frank Seravalli, Daily News Staff Writer

Winding through a rotary and down a hill, just past a thin strip of bars and restaurants, it would be easy to pass by the Glens Falls Civic Center without blinking.

The nondescript, brick building is nestled in this tiny New York hamlet at the foot of the Adirondack mountains, located just north of Albany and Saratoga Springs. It looks more like a high-school gymnasium than temporary home to some of the Flyers' brightest budding stars this winter during the NHL lockout.

Sean Couturier doesn't mind. Glens Falls reminds him of home. In fact, he lived here briefly the year he was born, when his father, Sylvain, enjoyed a 29-game run with the Adirondack Red Wings.

It's just a tougher sell to get fans to see him play in upstate New York than in upper New Brunswick, where Couturier grew up. The Adirondack Phantoms are the Flyers' top minor-league affiliate. On Wednesday night, the Phantoms played in front of an announced crowd of 2,487 - but the actual attendance was probably half that.

For one, the Phantoms themselves are a temporary stop in Glens Falls, the second incarnation of American Hockey League action in town. Team owners Rob and Jim Brooks broke ground on a new arena in Allentown on Thursday, where the team will move in time for the 2014-15 season.

It's one thing to invest - financially and emotionally - in a great local team, even if you know they'll eventually rip your heart out by packing up. But without a single Calder Cup playoff appearance since leaving Philadelphia in 2009 - and a 100-115-21 record and four head coaches - the on-ice product hasn't been worth the risk.

Couturier, 19, is one player trying to change the culture in Adirondack, even though his own stay might be temporary.

"I think at the start of this lockout, I wasn't sure how things would last," Couturier said. "I was obviously thinking about it. Lately, I've forgotten about it. I realize that I am here, I can't change it. I feel like I'm just lucky to be playing hockey."

Phantoms coach Terry Murray, the former Flyers head coach who has logged 1,012 NHL games behind the bench, said that a change in attitude and willingness to look past the lockout has turned their season around. Adirondack (9-9-0) has reached the quarter pole in 10th place in the Eastern Conference, but won three out of their last four heading into this weekend's set at home.

"The top players are coming to grips with the fact that there's a lockout going on, without choice," Murray said. "Now, if this thing gets extended, which would be great for us but unfortunate for them, they need to realize that this is a great opportunity for them to be playing big minutes. They have a chance to do something special and win."

The Philadelphia Phantoms won the Calder Cup for a second time during the yearlong 2004-05 lockout in what was widely regarded as the most competitive AHL season ever. Future stars Mike Richards and Jeff Carter got their first taste of professional hockey during that playoff run. Patrick Sharp, R.J. Umberger and Dennis Seidenberg used the locked out season to launch their careers.

"Things are starting to come together," Phantoms captain Ben Holmstrom said, one of five original Adirondackers still with the team. "There's always an adjustment period, but guys are starting to grasp the concept. Obviously, everybody is interested in what's going on with the lockout."

"But I think some guys are realizing if we're going to be here, we might as well win."

Heading into Friday night, the Phantoms were 6-3 when Couturier has recorded a point. His three-game goal-scoring streak coincided with the Phantoms' three-game winning streak.

For a player who made his living last year in the NHL as an 18-year-old in the trenches - killing penalties and winning defensive battles on the fourth line - those numbers are important. Couturier is second on the team, behind

Brayden Schenn, with 15 points. He had five goals in the first nine games of November, compared to just one in the first month of the season.

Before heading to Adirondack in October, Couturier said he wanted to hone the offensive side of his game.

"It's going pretty well," Couturier said. "I'm getting [scoring] chances pretty much every game, which is something I couldn't say in the NHL. I'm looking to produce even more the rest of the season."

Couturier will get plenty of chances to do so. Murray has him quarterbacking the first-unit power play at the point. He's also killing penalties on the second unit - which Murray said is designed to maximize his even-strength ice time - and shouldering the load late in games.

Couturier averaged just 26 seconds of power-play time per game last season with the Flyers, fewer than every forward except Zac Rinaldo and Max Talbot.

"All I know is that I've been handed a pretty damn complete player," Murray said. "He's literally a complete, total package. Size, strength, speed, power. He's going to continue to grow physically and get stronger as he gets older. He has wonderful skills. I love the way he transports the puck. He's one of the few players I can say I'd like the puck to be on his stick for up to 10 seconds at a time."

Murray said he has been ragging Couturier to shoot the puck more, even though he's second on the team in shots (47 in 18 games). In fact, Murray put in place a power-play drill this week and purposely kept the middle shooting lane open to force shots from Couturier.

Unknowingly, Couturier still tried to coerce the puck to his teammates on the wings, according to Murray.

"I think some of it is reluctance," Murray guessed. "He definitely has a playmaker's instinct first. Even if there is a lane, he is looking for that one extra pass to get his teammates a better look. He has a great shot. The magic to scoring in the NHL is shooting the puck."

Murray said Couturier's skills remain just as polished defensively. He makes reads and adjustments effortlessly.

Sometimes, talking to Couturier, it's easy to forget he's still just 19 (he turns 20 next week). The No. 8 overall pick in 2011, Couturier is barely ineligible for the World Junior Championships (under-20) around the holidays in Russia. He did win a silver medal for Canada in 2011.

If Glens Falls feels a bit like home off the ice, his responsibilities on the ice remind him of junior hockey. He was an all-around All-Star for Drummondville (Quebec Major Junior Hockey League), collecting 96 points in back-to-back seasons. The AHL does not keep track of ice time as a statistic, but Couturier is probably north of 20 minutes per night. He averaged 14:08 in 77 regular-season games under Peter Laviolette last year with the Flyers.

"Last year, I was in a limited role, a different role than what I was used to," Couturier said. "I'm playing a lot more. Different minutes, different situations, too. That's helpful during the lockout. You can work out in the gym, but it's not the same as playing. This is still pro hockey. Whenever this works out, I'll be ready to jump right in."

Until then, even if it's next fall should the NHL waste another season, Couturier will try to sell a sleepy Glens Falls on hockey.

"I don't know how things will end up with the lockout. I really don't," Couturier said. "Lately, I've forgotten about it. I think that's why things have been going better."

Philadelphia Inquirer / Daily News LOADED: 12.03.2012

645650 Philadelphia Flyers

New twist to NHL labor talks

Daily News Wire Reports

TRADITIONAL labor talks have done little to make progress in the ongoing NHL lockout, so the league and the players' association are going to try something different in an attempt to save the season that is slipping away.

A crew of six owners will meet with a handful of players on Tuesday in New York - 1 day before the league's board of governors meeting - without commissioner Gary Bettman and union executive director Donald Fehr. Bettman proposed the unique meeting on Wednesday when talks broke off following 2 days of negotiations with federal mediators, and it wasn't agreed to until Sunday.

Originally the thought was no one other than owners and players would be in attendance, but each side will have staff and counsel there. Deputy commissioner Bill Daly will likely participate for the NHL, along with union special counsel Steve Fehr.

Ron Burkle (Pittsburgh), Mark Chipman (Winnipeg), Murray Edwards (Calgary), Jeremy Jacobs (Boston), Larry Tanenbaum (Toronto) and Jeff Vinik (Tampa Bay) will take part in the talks on the owners side, Daly said. The players' association didn't immediately announce who will attend from its side.

#### Sport Stops

The Chicago Cubs are working on a deal to acquire Japanese relief pitcher Kyuji Fujikawa, ESPN reported, citing a major league source. Fujikawa, 32, has 220 saves in 12 seasons in Japan.

Hall of Fame shortstop Ozzie Smith sold his 13 consecutive Gold Glove Awards from 1980-92 for \$519,203, SCP Auctions said. Two pairs of Muhammad Ali boxing gloves used during fights each sold for \$385,848. A Babe Ruth team sweater from around 1922 sold for \$250,642, Oscar Robertson's NBA MVP Award from 1963-64 for \$177,632 and Paul Hornung's 1956 Heisman Trophy for \$173,102.

#### Winter Sports

Lindsey Vonn completed a sweep of World Cup races at Lake Louise, Alberta, for the second straight year. Vonn won the super-G in a time of 1 minute, 22.82 seconds. She also won two downhill races over the weekend for the hat trick. American teammate Julia Mancuso was second in the super-G in 1:23.25.

Ted Ligety of the United States easily captured his second straight World Cup giant slalom race with a flawless and fast final run in Beaver Creek, Colo. Ligety finished in a combined time of 2 minutes, 25.59 seconds, holding off top rival Marcel Hirscher of Austria by 1.76 seconds.

Philadelphia Inquirer / Daily News LOADED: 12.03.2012

645651 Pittsburgh Penguins

Penguins' co-owner Burkle to join labor talks

By Rob Rossi

The Penguins' big man is getting involved in the NHL labor fight.

Not Mario Lemieux, the Hall of Fame former player, but Ron Burkle, a majority co-owner whose net worth is about \$3.5 million.

Burkle is one of six owners who will attend a meeting with select players Tuesday in New York. NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and Players' Association executive director Donald Fehr will not attend the session, though select staff will be in the room.

Deputy commissioner Bill Daly and union special counsel Steve Fehr will attend the meeting.

Burkle, 60, was not available for comment. He historically does not grant interviews, and all NHL club personnel face a fine of between \$250,000 and \$1 million for publicly commenting on the labor dispute.

The Penguins have had no representation at previous meetings between the league and union during the lockout, which will hit Day 79 Monday. The franchise is a moderate in a labor dispute over definition and division of revenue, money needed to honor current players' contracts and contractual issues such as free agency and max term limits.

NHL bylaws require eight of 30 clubs to support labor action taken by Bettman, who has been backed at previous meetings by hard-line owners Jeremy Jacobs (Boston), Murray Edwards (Calgary), Ted Leonsis (Washington) and Craig Leipold (Minnesota).

Jacobs and Edwards will join Burkle at the Tuesday meeting. Also to attend are: Mark Chipman (Winnipeg), Larry Tanenbaum (Toronto) and Jeff Vinik (Tampa Bay).

The Players' Association was finalizing late Sunday which players would attend the meeting.

The meeting, suggested by Bettman after federally mediated talks broke Thursday, was accepted by the union on the condition that fresh voices represent the NHL.

"There will be owners attending this meeting who have not previously done so, which is encouraging and which we welcome," Fehr said in a statement.

Burkle is close with Penguins franchise player Sidney Crosby, whom union officials have praised for his engagement during the labor dispute.

A noted Democratic fund raiser, Burkle is considered a master deal maker — especially in his native California, where he first struck big working with grocery unions. He is a past recipient of the ALF-CIO Murray Green Meany Kirkland Community Service award and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor Man of the Year award.

Former Gov. Ed Rendell lauded Burkle for his negotiating work during the Penguins' pursuit for Consol Energy Center funding in 2007.

"Neither Bettman nor Fehr could possibly be a tougher negotiator than Don," Rendell said in November.

"But what made Ron tough is also what makes him successful. He is prepared, keeps his cool and understands that there has to be give from both sides to get a deal done. That's what I saw from him during the arena talks."

Burkle and Lemieux own majority stakes with the Penguins. They led a group that purchased the franchise out of bankruptcy in 1999 but had no relationship before that pursuit. Neither man is fond of the public spotlight, though Burkle has made headlines for his political (former President Bill Clinton) and celebrity (Rolling Stones' front man Mick Jagger) associations.

One of the richest men in America, Burkle is famous for dressing in jeans and a black Polo shirt. Crosby was surprised to see Burkle in a suit at Crosby's 21st birthday party several years ago.

Burkle and Lemieux rarely are involved in day-to-day Penguins dealings. They have appointed club CEO David Morehouse and general manager Ray Shero to run the club's business and hockey operations respectively.

However, Burkle has impacted the franchise beyond his initial investment and the arena deal.

He backed the payroll increase necessary for the Penguins to acquire high-profile winger Marian Hossa at the 2008 NHL trade deadline. He signed off on eating the remaining two-plus year of Michel Therrien's contract when Shero made a coaching change a year later.

Burkle also insisted that players' facilities — dressing room, workout and training areas — be state of the art when Consol Energy Center was being designed.

He has hosted club officials and players at his Southern California mansion when the Penguins play in Los Angeles or Anaheim.

Tribune Review LOADED: 12.03.2012

645652 Pittsburgh Penguins

Penguins' Ron Burkle to take part in NHL, Players' Association negotiating session

Dave Molinari / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Ron Burkle of the Penguins is one of six owners who will take part in a negotiating session Tuesday between the NHL and a half-dozen members of its Players' Association in New York.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr won't participate in the session, but the No. 2 man from each side -- deputy commissioner Bill Daly and NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr -- is expected to sit in on the talks.

The players who will be involved have not been identified. Ownership's other representatives will be Jeremy Jacobs (Boston), Jeffrey Vinik (Tampa Bay), Larry Tannenbaum (Toronto), Mark Chipman (Winnipeg) and Murray Edwards (Calgary).

"There will be owners attending this meeting who have not previously done so, which is encouraging and which we welcome," Donald Fehr said in a statement. "We hope that this meeting will be constructive and lead to a dialogue that will help us find a way to reach an agreement."

Post Gazette LOADED: 12.03.2012

645653 Pittsburgh Penguins

Penguins co-owner Burkle, Sidney Crosby expected at next NHL collective bargaining meeting

By Dave Molinari / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Penguins co-owner Ron Burkle is an intensely private man, one who goes to great lengths to avoid attention.

That might be quite a challenge Tuesday, because Burkle is one of six NHL owners scheduled to participate in a collective bargaining agreement meeting in New York with a half-dozen members of the NHL Players' Association.

Penguins center Sidney Crosby also is expected to take part in that session.

Although neither of the lead negotiators, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr, will participate, the No. 2 man from each side -- deputy commissioner Bill Daly and NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr -- is expected to sit in on the talks.

Aside from Crosby, the players who will be involved are not known, while ownership's other representatives will be Jeremy Jacobs (Boston), Jeffrey Vinik (Tampa Bay) Larry Tannenbaum (Toronto), Mark Chipman (Winnipeg) and Murray Edwards (Calgary).

Jacobs, a hard-liner who is chairman of the NHL Board of Governors, has been a frequent lightning rod for player anger and frustration. He, like Edwards, is on the owners' four-member negotiating committee.

"There will be owners attending this meeting who have not previously done so, which is encouraging and which we welcome," Donald Fehr said in a statement. "We hope that this meeting will be constructive and lead to a dialogue that will help us find a way to reach an agreement."

Craig Adams, the Penguins player representative, echoed that sentiment.

"It will be interesting to get some new owners in there and, hopefully, get some new perspectives," he said. "No stone, obviously, should be left unturned. If it can help, we'll try it."

This will be the first time Penguins ownership has had direct involvement in the negotiations, because neither Burkle -- a billionaire who resides in southern California and is regarded as an outstanding deal-maker -- nor Mario Lemieux is on the league's negotiating committee.

"I don't know [Burkle] very well, not as well as some other people, but obviously he's a fantastic businessman and a very sharp guy," Adams said.

"The interactions I've had with him have always been very positive and he treats us very, very well. My opinions of him are all positive."

Tuesday's get-together, which stems from a suggestion by Bettman, will be held a day before a previously scheduled Board of Governors meeting in Manhattan.

The NHL has been shut down by a lockout since mid-September. Games through Dec. 14 have been cancelled and if labor peace is reached in time to salvage a portion of the 2012-13 season, the schedule will have to be redrawn, presumably with a strong emphasis on intra-conference games.

Post Gazette LOADED: 12.03.2012

645654 Tampa Bay Lightning

Jump start? Lightning owner Jeff Vinik among group of NHL players and owners to meet in New York

Damian Cristodero

The NHL and the Players Association have agreed to send a limited number of members to New York for a Tuesday meeting without the presence of negotiators, and Tampa Bay Lightning owner Jeff Vinik will be part of the group.

Other owners attending will be Boston's Jeremy Jacobs, Pittsburgh's Ron Burkle, Calgary's Murray Edwards, Winnipeg's Mark Chipman, and Toronto's Larry Tanenbaum, the league announced. The union has not announced its representatives, though Lightning star Marty St. Louis has expressed interest in attending.

Vinik, who has not previously attended negotiations, is believed to be a moderate who won't mind the player payroll savings and increased revenue sharing a new collective bargaining agreement will bring but who also wants a season to be played. The Lightning had no immediate comment.

It is hoped a free exchange of ideas without polarizing figures such as commissioner Gary Bettman and union executive director Donald Fehr will spark the stalled negotiations.

"There will be owners attending this meeting who have not previously done so, which is encouraging and which we welcome," Fehr said in a statement. We hope that this meeting will be constructive and lead to a dialog that will help us find a way to reach an agreement."

Tampa Tribune LOADED: 12.03.2012

645655 Tampa Bay Lightning

Tampa Bay Lightning owner Jeff Vinik to join NHL labor talks

By Damian Cristodero

The Lightning's Jeff Vinik has not participated in negotiations with the players association on a new collective bargaining agreement.

That changes Tuesday when he and five other owners meet in New York with a select group of locked-out players in an attempt to spark the stalled talks.

"I'm happy he's going," Tampa Bay captain Vinny Lecavalier said Sunday after the meeting was announced. "He's a guy who will listen and talk and have a conversation and see where things go."

So far things have gone poorly.

Games are canceled through Dec. 14, as are the Jan. 1 Winter Classic and Jan. 27 All-Star Game. Two days of mediation last week failed to break deadlocks about how to split \$3.3 billion of revenue, team revenue sharing and player contract rules.

No formal negotiations are scheduled. So if the meeting, a day before the NHL's board of governors gets together, "can help out, then great," Lecavalier said. "At least we're trying to do something to get things going."

The meeting is not expected to be a negotiating session but an exchange of ideas. Commissioner Gary Bettman and players association executive director Donald Fehr will not participate, though deputy commissioner Bill Daly and union special counsel Steve Fehr are expected to be in the room.

Boston's Jeremy Jacobs, considered the most hawkish owner, also will attend, along with Pittsburgh's Ron Burkle, Calgary's Murray Edwards, Winnipeg's Mark Chipman and Toronto's Larry Tanenbaum. Vinik, who was not available for comment, is believed to be a moderate who wants a season played.

The union has not announced its participants. Lightning right wing B.J. Crombeen, part of the negotiating committee, said "a long list of players" wants to participate, including Tampa Bay star Marty St. Louis.

"We hope that this meeting will be constructive and lead to a dialog that will help us find a way to reach an agreement," Donald Fehr said in a statement.

Said Lecavalier: "A guy like Mr. Vinik who listens well, I think it's going to help the process."

St. Petersburg Times LOADED: 12.03.2012

645656 Vancouver Canucks

Schneider makes 40 saves in successful Swiss League debut

By Brad Ziemer,

Vancouver Canucks goalie Cory Schneider, in his new garb for Swiss League team Ambri Piotta, is flanked by two unidentified team officials.

Cory Schneider was a winner in his Swiss League debut on Sunday.

The Vancouver Canucks' goalie turned aside 40 of 43 shots to backstop Ambri-Piotta to a 4-3 win over the Rapperswil-Jona Lakers.

The win was only the eighth in 27 games this season for Ambri-Piotta, which currently sits in 11th place in the 12-team Swiss League.

The game was a wide-open affair as Ambri-Piotta peppered Lakers goalie David Aebischer with 44 shots.

Four of the shots Schneider faced came off the stick of Ottawa Senators' centre Jason Spezza, who is spending the NHL lockout playing for the Lakers.

Schneider's new Ambri-Piotta teammates include forward Richard Park, a former Canuck.

Vancouver Sun: LOADED: 12.03.2012

645657 Vancouver Canucks

Problems on the back end, down to Edler's back

By Jason Botchford

Alexander Edler has been an enigma on the Vancouver Canucks' blueline, as there are questions now whether he'll develop into the elite defenceman he had the potential to be.

The numbing labour standoff in the NHL shark jumped sometime this week when the sides began having meetings to see if they should have more meetings.

Give the NHL this: it does have an amazing ability to find a wide variety of ways to waste everyone's time. Whether it's calling in a mediator who no one was going to pay attention to, or proposing a sit-down between players and owners, without Gary Bettman and Donald Fehr in the house.

Sorry, Daniel Carcillo sharing scones with Craig Leipold isn't going to get this deal done.

The only encouraging news is the calendar. It's December and this season's final lap for this clown rodeo show has finally begun.

If there are going to be games, expect them to start in early January. At least that's what Cory Schneider was considering when he signed on in a Swiss league with a contract that runs to the end of December.

There will be some cards stacked up against the Canucks in a shortened, condensed season that starts in January. The first, obviously, is how few players (three) they have in Europe.

But what they don't have in game readiness, they should make up in health. At least, that's if the Canucks three injured players, Ryan Kesler, Jason Garrison and Alex Edler, are all progressing as they should be. If they are, as the team suggests, they should be ready to play next month.

You can be sure it would have been a significant story if the season had started back in October and the Canucks were without this injured threesome, who have not been locked out and continue to rehabilitate at Rogers Arena.

Kesler would have been missed in just about every component of the game. The Garrison signing would have been ripped for having its hint of damaged goods, especially after he suggested his groin issue was a chronic problem.

And Edler? Well, that maybe the most troubling of all.

Edler is the quiet, professional Swede. He produces at an elite level, having become a 50-point defenceman who has significantly out-performed his \$3.1 million-per-year contract for the past two seasons.

He is also just 26, which means you can still say he's growing, learning and developing. Though, to be honest, that ship has sailed.

Like the NHL jumped the shark this past week, Edler's development excuses did in the first round of the playoffs in that five-game series against the L.A. Kings. That's when the criticism of his inconsistency finally crossed the line into concern he may never be the top-tier, No. 1 defenceman many believed he had the talent to become.

One of the lasting, nightmarish images from that postseason series is Edler turning the puck over, again and again. Many assumed the problem to be mental. It looked that way, as he committed a string of unforced errors, like a head case who the coaching staff could not straighten out.

But what if it's not? What if the problems go back years? What if the issue is founded in how his back handles stress, not how his mind does?

Edler underwent surgery, because of a bulging disc, in January 2011. It was a problem that had plagued him for years. He didn't miss games, though as he could manage it enough with physical treatments. But no one can be sure how it impacted his game on the ice.

Edler continued to experience back spasms throughout the next season in 2011-12. He missed practices, and couldn't play one game in December.

Now, those back problems started creeping back up for Edler this September. Since, he's been rehabbing under team supervision. He has been progressing, but another surgery has not yet been ruled out.

And what if it all ties in to those mental mistakes you saw on the ice? That his back issues are causing him to rush plays, change direction, and alter his decision making in critical moments?

The Canucks have a huge decision on Edler pending. It will be by July 1, if the free-agent rules don't change and there is a new CBA.

Edler is an unrestricted free agent who is looking to become the team's highest-paid blueliner.

The Canucks have carefully crafted an internal salary cap and have not been anxious to blow it up for Edler. That's one of the reasons he wasn't signed before the CBA expired on Sept. 15.

Were they also concerned his back issue is a lingering problem which may impact him over the course of a long-term deal?

Who wouldn't be?

Vancouver Province: LOADED: 12.03.2012

645658 Washington Capitals

Alex Ovechkin records hat trick for Dynamo Moscow

Katie Carrera

While NHL labor negotiations stalled again following two unsuccessful sessions with mediators, players who sought work in Europe continue to make their own progress on the ice. On Saturday, Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin recorded his best offensive output to date for Dynamo Moscow.

Ovechkin recorded his first hat trick of the season, and his first in any league since Jan. 22, 2011 at Toronto, in Dynamo Moscow's 4-2 win over Donbass Donetsk. The victory also included Ovechkin's 100th career point in the Russian major leagues.

Check out the highlights of Ovechkin's hat trick below:

Before he lit up the scoreboard, though, Ovechkin made a different sort of impression when he signed autographs for several Ukrainian children after Dynamo Moscow's morning skate. Our friends over at Russian Machine have the details and video of Ovechkin's interaction with some of his young fans.

Washington Post LOADED: 12.03.2012

645659 Washington Capitals

NHL, NHLPA to meet Tuesday

By Katie Carrera

The NHLPA has agreed to a league-proposed owners and players meeting Tuesday in New York as the two sides continue to search for traction in labor negotiations.

The session, initially suggested by the league to as a meeting between owners and players only, will feature a group of six owners, approximately the same number of players and a few staff members from both sides. Neither NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman nor NHLPA Executive Director Donald Fehr will take part, though.

"The NHLPA has agreed to a meeting on Tuesday in New York that should facilitate dialogue between Players and Owners," Fehr said in a statement. "Neither the Commissioner nor I will be present, although each side will have a limited number of staff or counsel present."

According to a statement released by NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly, the following owners are expected to attend: Pittsburgh's Ron Burkle, Winnipeg's Mark Chipman, Calgary's Murray Edwards, Boston's Jeremy Jacobs, Toronto's Larry Tanenbaum and Tampa Bay's Jeff Vinik.

Jacobs and Edwards are both members of the NHL's four-man negotiating committee, which also includes Capitals owner Ted Leonsis and Minnesota's Craig Leipold. To date, those owners have been the only ones permitted at the bargaining table.

"There will be Owners attending this meeting who have not previously done so, which is encouraging and which we welcome," Fehr said in a statement. "We hope that this meeting will be constructive and lead to a dialogue that will help us find a way to reach an agreement."

Washington Post LOADED: 12.03.2012

645660 Websites

ESPN / Learning to be 'coach' Ryane Clowe

By Scott Burnside

Pat Curcio has mixed feelings on the NHL work stoppage.

On one hand, the native of the Toronto suburb of North York is a hockey fan and misses his daily dose of NHL hockey.

But as part-owner, president, general manager and head coach of the fledgling San Francisco Bulls of the ECHL, he's enjoying his squad's newfound success; success that has coincided with the arrival of newly minted assistant coach Ryane Clowe of the San Jose Sharks.

"I told him you're not going anywhere anytime soon," Curcio joked in a telephone interview with ESPN.com.

With all due respect to Curcio and the rest of the Bulls, Clowe is hoping to get back to the Shark Tank in San Jose as quickly as possible. In fact, the Newfoundland native's affection for his adopted home on the West Coast was one of the factors in his ending up with the Bulls.

Having spent the summer at home in Newfoundland, Clowe returned west in advance of training camp. When the lockout began in mid-September, there was a large group of Sharks to skate with. As the lockout dragged on,

though, the number of players dwindled dramatically with many teammates heading either to Europe or other locales.

Clowe wondered what his next move would be.

Meanwhile, Curcio, who owns 20 percent of the team with his wife, was getting calls from a number of agents wondering about placing NHL clients with the ECHL squad. Among the calls was one from Clowe's agent, Kent Hughes. Curcio was a big fan of Clowe's rugged style and was thrilled at the idea that Clowe might join the team in some capacity.

"That's my kind of hockey. I said, 'We'd love to have him,'" said Curcio, a longtime ECHL player.

Heading into the last season of his NHL deal, Clowe was torn between the need to stay in shape and the desire to avoid paying insurance costs and risking injury playing in non-NHL competition.

So Clowe split the difference and began working out with the Bulls, although he decided that at least initially he wouldn't play. Soon, though, he and Curcio were talking about strategy, different systems that might work, how to improve the Bulls' power play and the penalty kill.

"It kind of evolved into helping out a bit on the coaching side," Clowe told ESPN.com.

Next thing you know, Clowe was in a suit on the bench with Curcio.

Initially, Clowe was an assistant without portfolio, talking to the guys on the bench, offering a little in-game direction. Then Curcio put Clowe in charge of the defense, as well as giving him a hand in organizing the power play and penalty kill.

"I told him if you have any questions, just run down the bench and ask," Curcio said.

So far the Bulls have enjoyed success with Clowe on the bench, going 5-1.

The popular Shark's presence with the team hasn't hurt attendance, either, as the first-year Bulls have drawn an average of 3,500 to 4,500 fans to the venerable Cow Palace, where the Sharks actually played their first two years in the NHL.

"You can never have enough good people around you. It's been great to be able to bounce things off Ryane," Curcio said. "There's just been a good working relationship. He's so down to earth."

Clowe turned 30 at the end of September, so he remains in the prime of an NHL career that has seen him become a consistent 20-goal producer with a gritty edge. But he's also started to imagine what post-NHL life might be like. Initially, he imagined some sort of management position, but his experience with the Bulls has given him a unique view of the coaching world.

"I didn't know how much I'd like it," he said. "You're still close to the action. It's kind of rewarding.

"It's been making something good of a bad situation," he said in reference to the lockout, which is headed toward the three-month mark.

It's an interesting line Clowe walks with the team.

Before practice, he and Curcio go over areas they feel the team needs to work on, including special-teams play -- which Clowe has been instrumental in assisting, given his experience at the NHL level.

Then when practice begins, Clowe dons a jersey -- he's listed as No. 92 on the team's website -- and skates with the boys. He cuts no corners, so when Curcio is putting the squad through their paces, Clowe is sweating it out with them every step of the way.

That has endeared Clowe to the players, said Curcio.

Come game time, Clowe is at the rink a lot earlier than if he was simply a player, looking at video and helping Curcio put together a game plan for that night's opponents. But instead of banging bodies in the corners, he's behind the bench in his suit, getting the defensive pairings on the ice at the right time.

Straddling the line between player and coach, Clowe leaves the critiquing of players to Curcio.

"I don't want to step on anyone's toes," he said.

But he certainly has a much greater appreciation for what Sharks head coach Todd McLellan and his staff go through on a daily basis when the NHL is in business.

As a player, you tend to go home and reflect on your game, how you played, how you might get better, Clowe explained. Now as a coach, he returns home and thinks about the entire squad, 20 or 22 players, and how things might have gone better or things he as a coach might have done to get the most out of the group.

"There's a lot to it," he said. "Now I understand what the coaches are going through."

As for the lockout, Clowe remains hopeful the entire season won't be lost, although he admits if it does come to that, he won't be entirely surprised given how things have gone in recent weeks.

"Everything's up for grabs right now," he said.

ESPN LOADED: 12.03.2012

645661 Websites

Study finds there is "significant underreporting" of concussions in hockey

Joe Yerdon

A year-long report released on Friday that centered around men's and women's college hockey teams in Canada and the United States says coaches would rather have players with possible head injuries to keep playing rather than get them out of the game and checked out.

Alan Maki of The Globe And Mail hears from the lead scientist on the study, Dr. Paul Echlin, about the results they've seen through testing Canadian university players.

"We did a previous study [one year ago] with the CIS without observers," Echlin said. "We didn't do MRI imaging and there was only one reported concussion for that season. This past season, we were full on with multiple physicians at games, home and away, and we did imaging. It really demonstrates the underreporting of medical concussions."

We've seen it happen numerous times in the past where a player gets hit hard and appears to suffer issues with staying cognizant only to continue playing in the game. While the NHL has new concussion protocols, the study finds coaches at lower levels aren't taking the same kind of care.

One coach quoted in Jeff Z. Klein's piece on this for the New York Times saying, "Unless something is broken, I want them back out playing."

If this kind of thinking is going to change to help players stay healthy, it's going to take a lot of change to how people perceive concussions.

NBCSports.com / LOADED: 12.03.2012