

SPORT-SCAN DAILY BRIEF

NHL 11/5/2012

Boston Bruins

643690 NHL and union make progress, will meet again soon

Chicago Blackhawks

643691 Blackhawks' Carcillo eager to test rehabbed knee

Columbus Blue Jackets

643692 NHL, union make progress in talks
643693 NHL, players resume talks after two-week lull

Detroit Red Wings

643694 Poll: After the Winter Classic was canceled, how much will you support the NHL when it returns?

Montreal Canadiens

643695 1992-93 Habs season flashback: Roll continues with win over Red Wings

NHL

643696 Pressure is on for league, players
643697 Two sides agree: Talks have been good
643698 NHL talks prove positive
643699 N.H.L. and Union Resume Talks
643700 Quiet talks, hope for a 64-game season
643701 Meetings may be step toward end of NHL lockout
643702 Even some owners don't like what's under the cap in NHL labour dispute

Ottawa Senators

643703 Senators Daniel Alfredsson to play in Cornwall charity match
643704 Battles loom just to make Ottawa Senators' training camp — if NHL lockout insanity ever ends

Philadelphia Flyers

643705 With NHL lockout, Flyers get a minor opportunity with Phantoms
643706 Voracek scores goal in return from knee injury

Pittsburgh Penguins

643707 Penguins: Hungary heart

St Louis Blues

643708 No European vacation for Blues players
643709 Blues playing in Europe

Websites

643711 NBCSports.com / Malhotra: Players would be "on vacation somewhere stuffing our faces" if they didn't want to p

Winnipeg Jets

643710 Jets' Miettinen heads home
SPORT-SCAN, INC. 941-284-4129
643690 Boston Bruins

NHL and union make progress, will meet again soon

By Associated Press

NEW YORK — A secret, long-awaited bargaining session has done some good in the NHL labor fight — so much so that the sides already have plans to get back to the bargaining table soon.

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly and players' association special counsel Steve Fehr met for long stretches of Saturday in an undisclosed

location, marking the first time the sides had gotten together for talks in more than two weeks.

"We had a series of meetings over the course of the day and had a good, frank discussion on the most important issues separating us," Daly told The Associated Press in an email Sunday morning. "We plan to meet again early in the week."

Daly and Fehr hadn't met since Oct. 18 when both sides rejected offers, but a series of phone conversations this week did enough to produce a new round of talks.

Boston Herald LOADED: 11.05.2012

643691 Chicago Blackhawks

Blackhawks' Carcillo eager to test rehabbed knee

By Chris Kuc, Chicago Tribune reporter

The wait for the lockout to end and the season to get under way has been excruciating for Blackhawks players who haven't played in an NHL game since late April, when they were eliminated in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Then there is Daniel Carcillo, who hasn't played since his season ended Jan. 2 with a serious knee injury and has spent the last 10 months recuperating and eyeing a return to action.

"You don't usually get the luxury of having this much time to recover and to really get strong," said Carcillo, who tore the ACL in his left knee while making an illegal hit on the Oilers' Tom Gilbert that drew the Hawks winger a seven-game suspension. "It's been somewhat a blessing in disguise. With what's going on with the (labor) talks it just puts me out in sort of a weird place because I can't really test it fully like I would be able to in training camp.

"Time is good, but I'm itching to get going and I'm excited about the upcoming year — whenever that may happen."

When play finally does resume, Carcillo is looking to prove more than just that his knee is fully healed. The 27-year-old is also planning to show he's more than an agitator who was suspended twice in 2011-12 to raise his total of suspensions and fines to 10 throughout his seven seasons in the league.

With 1,068 penalty minutes in 310 career games, Carcillo played the role of enforcer during three seasons with the Coyotes and another three with the Flyers before signing with the Hawks as a free agent on July 1, 2011.

"I've been feeling I have something to prove my whole career, to be honest," Carcillo said. "I came in and I got pigeonholed into a certain role which is obviously not what I want to be known for ultimately. There's always room to improve and get better and prove to myself more than anything that I can be an effective player and a useful tool in any situation on any team."

During his limited time with the Hawks, Carcillo had 82 penalty minutes in 28 games, and while he certainly was looked upon to protect teammates, there were opportunities to display some offensive skills when coach Joel Quenneville inserted him onto the top line. Carcillo finished with two goals and nine assists and had a plus-10 rating and was able to skate with the Hawks' skill players.

"We've seen over the years that kind of role is really diminished," Carcillo said of enforcer. "You need to be able to play the game now. That's something I knew how to do before I started just fighting and protecting my teammates. It's something I want to get back to."

That doesn't mean Carcillo won't play with an edge — to do so would change the very DNA of a player who has always hit the ice with a little bit of crazy in him. It's all about maintaining control during the chaos.

"It's a fine line," Carcillo said. "With experience you get to be able to hone in and walk that line a little better. You just have to be more accountable for your hits and you really have to think now. It's such a fast game and a game of reaction, so it's a tough thing to do."

Chicago Tribune LOADED: 11.05.2012

643692 Columbus Blue Jackets

NHL, union make progress in talks

From staff and wire reports

A secret, long-awaited bargaining session has done some good in the NHL labor fight — so much so that the sides already have plans to get back to the bargaining table soon.

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly and players' association special counsel Steve Fehr met for long stretches on Saturday in an undisclosed location, marking the first time the sides had gotten together for talks in more than two weeks.

Daly and Fehr hadn't met since Oct. 18 when both sides rejected offers, but a series of phone conversations this week did enough to produce a new round of talks. It is unclear how long they were together on Saturday, but the discussions lasted well into the night.

Columbus Dispatch LOADED: 11.05.2012

643693 Columbus Blue Jackets

NHL, players resume talks after two-week lull

From staff, wire reports

The NHL and the NHL Players' Association returned to the bargaining table for the first time in more than two weeks yesterday in a bid to salvage a portion of the league's season.

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly and union special counsel Steve Fehr met in an undisclosed location to see if they could find common ground in a bitter labor dispute that has cost the league 326 games and its popular New Year's Day Winter Classic.

The league has said it will be impossible to play a full season.

A league spokesman said he did not expect any comments by NHL officials after the session.

The two sides had not met since Oct. 18. Players were locked out by the owners on Sept. 15 after the sides could not agree on a new collective-bargaining agreement that centered on how to split \$3.3 billion in annual revenue.

Columbus Dispatch LOADED: 11.05.2012

643694 Detroit Red Wings

Poll: After the Winter Classic was canceled, how much will you support the NHL when it returns?

Brendan Savage

Fans around the NHL were unhappy when training camps didn't open on time in September.

Then, their mood got worse when the first two months of the regular season were canceled by the labor dispute that led owners to lock out the players.

Now, the Winter Classic is the latest casualty and that hits especially close to home for Detroit Red Wings fans and local businesses since this season was supposed to be the first time the game was played in Michigan.

The Red Wings were scheduled to play the Toronto Maple Leafs Jan. 1 at Michigan Stadium in front of a potential crowd of 115,000, the largest ever to witness a hockey game.

How much will you support the NHL when it returns?

I'll purchase tickets to the same number of games as in the past. I'll attend fewer games in person. I'll follow the NHL on TV but not in person. I'll wait until the playoffs begin to follow the NHL. I'm done with the NHL for good.

Instead, the NHL cancelled the game — as well as all the other festivities scheduled to be held at Comerica Park leading up to the Winter Classic — Friday afternoon on the day a non-refundable \$250,000 payment was due to UM.

Now, the NHL did announce that the next Winter Classic — presumably in 2014 — will be held at Michigan Stadium and that Comerica Park will also host games involving college, junior, AHL and alumni teams featuring former Red Wings and Maple Leafs.

But is that enough to satisfy you, Red Wings fans? Or has the latest development in the NHL labor dispute changed the way you view the league?

When the players finally return to the ice, how much will you support the NHL after seeing Michigan lose the 2013 Winter Classic?

Michigan Live LOADED: 11.05.2012

643695 Montreal Canadiens

1992-93 Habs season flashback: Roll continues with win over Red Wings

By Stu Cowan

As we wait and hope for an end to the NHL lockout, Canadiens fans can relive the 1992-93 season — the last year the Habs won the Stanley Cup — at HIO as we post game stories from that season.

The Habs took an 8-3-2 record into a game against the Detroit Red Wings on Nov. 4, 1992 at the Forum. Here is Red Fisher's story from that game:

Canadiens win, dodge injury bullet; X-rays are negative after cross-check to ribs fells Muller

Is this the year everything turns out squeaky clean and near-perfect for the Canadiens?

There's the matter of Kirk Muller, for example, a third-period casualty during last night's 5-1 victory over the Detroit Red Wings. Muller, who is surely one of the Canadiens' most prized possessions, left the game after being cross-checked from behind — but X-rays were negative.

In other words, while doctors feared he may have suffered a cracked rib, which would have been a long-term injury, they'll settle happily for what the Montreal General Hospital picture showed.

He was told to cuddle up with an ice-pack overnight, report for an examination today, whereupon a decision will be made on whether or not he'll play tomorrow against the Calgary Flames. Probably not, but he should be all right for Wednesday in New Jersey.

That makes it all right for everyone associated with the Canadiens, who are on a 9-0-1 roll and who have John LeClair snorting and pawing at the ground (or ice?) like an old warhorse in his anxiety to return to the roster. He has been sitting out more than a week recovering from a concussion.

The Muller injury arose out of a cross-check from behind by Soviet defenceman Vladimir Konstantinov. It was delivered with sufficient force to leave Muller bent over painfully, and the Canadiens family reaching for the headache pills.

Muller, after all, has been the Canadiens' best forward this season – again. In a few words, he's one of the unflinching ones. He comes to play every night.

He was into the heavy traffic on a power play when he was struck down while he and his associates were sitting gingerly on a 2-1 lead. What followed was that Gilbert Dionne scored on the ensuing 5- on-3 manpower advantage, Stéphan Lebeau added another and Mike Keane scored his second of the night to leave the Red Wings dead in the water.

Keane had opened the scoring in the first period. The judges went to the film to determine that Keith Primeau scored midway through the period and Eric Desjardins re-established the Canadiens' one- goal margin seconds later.

Desjardins had something to celebrate on this night – a three- pointer which effectively doubled his output for the season. It's apparent he's getting the feel of it, and likes the feeling. A lot, maybe.

"It was a good night for points," he said, "but what I like about it mostly is that our defence has been tightening up lately. We're playing well as a group. I've been hearing for several years that the defence is young, it's not strong enough, it needs help and if we don't get help we're in trouble. Well, I think this defence is doing the job. The whole team is doing the job."

The interesting thing about what developed into a rubout was that the Red Wings appeared to control much of the play during the first two periods. They faded badly in the third, perhaps because they didn't arrive in Montreal until noon in the wake of a 5-2 victory over the Hartford Whalers on Friday.

The difference, needless to say, was Patrick Roy. He made life miserable for Steve Yzerman on several occasions – at a time when a goal would have put the Red Wings back in the game or even on top of it.

It was Roy's brilliance (he stopped 26 shots) which held the Red Wings to only a first-period goal which, by the way, was allowed only after going to the replay.

That one came during a high and soaring moment, with Primeau doing the damage. He had unloaded a shot at the open side of the net midway through the period, and to most of the observers in the place – other than the one on the television camera – it appeared that Roy had made a mini-miracle of a stop. The crowd obviously thought so, too, because it rose to its feet to provide Roy with a thunderous ovation.

Roy knew he had stopped the puck with the blade of his stick at least a foot inside the net and, in one motion, snapped it into the traffic. Most of the spectators didn't, but linesman Gerard Gauthier's eye was quicker than Roy's hand. It was Gauthier who suggested to referee Rob Shick that perhaps the salute to Roy was a misguided one or, at least, premature. Gauthier was dead right.

So were the Canadiens most of the night. They're the NHL's hottest team awaiting tomorrow's skirmish with the Flames.

Montreal Gazette LOADED: 11.05.2012

643696 NHL

Pressure is on for league, players

By Chip Alexander

The on-again, off-again talks between the NHL and NHL Players Association are back on again.

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly and NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr met throughout the day Saturday and late into the night. Daly said collective bargaining sessions are expected to continue early this week.

The meetings Saturday, the first substantive CBA discussions since Oct. 18, were held at an undisclosed location. They came a day after the NHL announced the cancellation of the 2013 Winter Classic, which added more urgency to get the dialogue started again between the two sides.

Daly said he and Fehr, the brother of NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr, had a "good, frank discussion on the most important issue separating us."

The league proposed a 50-50 split of hockey-related revenue (HRR), honoring existing player contracts with a "make whole" provision in which players would receive deferred compensation. Donald Fehr and the union have opposed the make-whole plan, which Fehr said would come from the players' share of HRR and amount to "players paying players."

The talks Saturday apparently centered on tweaking the league's make-whole proposal. The league and players would share in paying the value of the contracts.

Steve Fehr said he hoped to "continue the progress" in the meetings this week. He indicated Donald Fehr and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman would join the talks.

Sunday marked the 50th day of the NHL lockout – the third work stoppage of Bettman's tenure. The league has canceled all regular-season games in October and November in the absence of a CBA.

Bettman had said that the season needed to begin this past Friday in order to fit in a full schedule and the Stanley Cup playoffs by the end of June. It is not known how many of the 326 canceled regular-season games could be played if a CBA is approved in the next week or two.

It's likely the Winter Classic, which was set for New Year's Day in Ann Arbor, Mich., would not be rescheduled this season because of logistical issues.

News Observer LOADED: 11.05.2012

643697 NHL

Two sides agree: Talks have been good

TRACEY MYERS

Most recent stories of NHL and NHLPA negotiations, or lack thereof, have been gloomy.

Few talks, abrupt ends to those that have taken place, and angry words from each side have been prevalent.

But on Saturday, something unusual happened: the two sides talked, and talked for a while. They talked until the early morning hours on Sunday, actually. And for the first time in weeks, there's actually some reason to be optimistic.

NHL commissioner Bill Daly and NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr met at an undisclosed location on Saturday, and the two sides will reportedly meet again early this week. Daly and Fehr talked until after 1 a.m. Eastern time, according to various reports.

And get this: they agreed on something.

"We had a series of meetings over the course of the day and had a good, frank discussion on the most important issues separating us," Daly told NHL.com.

"I agree with what Bill said," Fehr said in a statement. Hopefully we can continue the dialogue, expand the group and make steady progress."

Agreeing they had a good, frank talk. Hey, for two sides who couldn't agree on who ended a negotiating session in August, that's definitely a positive.

Saturday's talks were the first since mid-October, when the two sides parted not so amicably. The NHL came with a proposal featuring a 50-50 split in hockey-related revenue, whatever its true definition may be. The players' association came with three proposals, including one that went 50-50 in the first year as long as the league honored existing player contracts. Talks went south quick, as the league said the two were speaking different languages.

So Saturday's news was good news. And if it helps both sides to keep meeting at secret locations, by all means keep doing it. Tuck yourselves away in some tiki bar in Florida if need be. If taking all the rhetoric and the said/he said out of the negotiations leads to this getting done quicker, hide away.

It's something. It's progress. And it's a glimmer of hope in negotiations that have had very little.

Comcast SportsNet.com LOADED: 11.05.2012

643698 NHL

NHL talks prove positive

By TOM GULITTI

After several false starts, the NHL and its players finally might have found some traction in negotiations on a new collective bargaining agreement.

The sides still have a lot of work to do to hammer out a deal that would end the owners' lockout, which is now in its 51st day. There appeared to be some reason for hope, however, after lengthy discussions Saturday between NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly and NHL Players' Association special counsel Steve Fehr. The meetings, which were held at an undisclosed location and focused on the pivotal core economic issues, began in the afternoon and stretched beyond midnight.

It was the first time representatives from each side met face to face since talks broke down following a meeting in Toronto on Oct. 18.

Daly and Fehr put out statements Sunday that were reserved but generally positive and they plan to meet again in the next few days – likely in a larger group at the NHL's offices in New York.

"We had a series of meetings over the course of the day and had a good, frank discussion on the most important issues separating us," Daly said in his statement.

"I agree with what Bill said," Fehr's statement said. "Hopefully we can continue the dialogue, expand the group, and make steady progress."

Few details of what Daly and Fehr discussed in their meeting leaked to the media, which also could be viewed as a potential positive.

Prior to the meeting, it was reported that the NHL offered to have the owners cover the deferred payments that were the key to the "make whole" element of their Oct. 16 proposal. In that proposal, the NHL offered a 50-50 split of hockey-related revenue over a six-year term (with a mutual option for a seventh year) and full payment of the players' current contracts, but by using deferred payments that would still be counted against the players' share of the 50-50 split.

The league already has canceled the regular-season schedule through Nov. 30 and announced Friday the cancellation of the Jan. 1 Winter Classic outdoor game between Detroit and Toronto at Michigan Stadium.

Bergen Record LOADED: 11.05.2012

643699 NHL

N.H.L. and Union Resume Talks

By JEFF Z. KLEIN

Officials from the N.H.L. and the players union met over the weekend for the first time in more than two weeks, spurring hope of a meaningful push toward a settlement of the seven-week-old lockout.

Bill Daly, the N.H.L. deputy commissioner, and Steve Fehr, the union's special counsel, met from early Saturday afternoon until about 1 a.m. Sunday at an undisclosed location in the first bargaining session between the deadlocked parties since Oct. 18.

"We had a series of meetings over the course of the day and had a good, frank discussion on the most important issues separating us," Daly said in a statement released Sunday. "We plan to meet again early in the week."

In response to Daly, Fehr said, "Hopefully we can continue the dialogue, expand the group and make steady progress."

The two sides met one day after the N.H.L. canceled the Jan. 1 Winter Classic. The league had already canceled all games scheduled for October and November, amounting to 26.5 percent of the season.

The union had sought to reopen bargaining since Oct. 18, when Commissioner Gary Bettman rejected three union proposals. The main point of contention is how existing contracts will be honored once the players' split of overall revenue is reduced to 50 percent, from 57.

In the most recent offers presented by each side last month, the union wanted existing contracts guaranteed in full. The league proposed a plan under which players signing future contracts would take deeper cuts to defray the cost of honoring the existing deals.

New York Times LOADED: 11.05.2012

643700 NHL

Quiet talks, hope for a 64-game season

FRANK SERAVALLI

THE WINTER CLASSIC has been axed. The NHL's entire November schedule was canceled more than a week ago.

Now, without any bargaining chips left in either of their pockets, it seems like the NHL and its players' association are finally ready to talk turkey.

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly and NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr quietly met well into the night on Saturday at an undisclosed location. Unlike their previous discussions, these informal talks were not accompanied by rhetoric or spin.

"We had a series of meetings over the course of the day and had a good, frank discussion on the most important issues separating us," Daly said in a statement. "We plan to meet early again in the week."

"I agree with what Bill said," Steve Fehr said in a statement. "Hopefully we can continue the dialogue, expand the group, and make steady progress."

The statements are likely the first thing either side has agreed on in months. Formal bargaining has not taken place since Oct. 20.

Expanding the group, to include commissioner Gary Bettman and NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr, might prove tricky. Both iron-fisted negotiators have been catalysts for counter-productivity and criticism more so than compromise.

Now, with expectations clearly defined, Daly and Steve Fehr retreated to likely draw up new proposals that might lead to a resolution of this 51-day work stoppage. More than \$800 million toward the league's \$3.3 billion revenue last season has already been lost with the cancellation of 26.5 percent of the schedule and the Winter Classic.

There is still plenty of time for a season. An accord in the next 10 or 15 days would allow for a 10-day preseason and a 64-game season commencing on Dec. 1. Varying reports this weekend suggested a 64-game slate would include six games against division foes and four against other conference opponents without any inter-conference matchups.

Until a new contract is hashed out, all of those details are secondary. It is all impossible without progress - even if it comes in baby steps.

Philadelphia Inquirer / Daily News LOADED: 11.05.2012

643701 NHL

Meetings may be step toward end of NHL lockout

By Dave Molinari

The NHL and its Players' Association finally have an agreement.

Not on a labor deal to replace the one that expired Sept. 15, a day before commissioner Gary Bettman imposed the lockout that has led to the cancellation of 327 games.

No, the common ground they've found isn't nearly that dramatic, but it could turn out to be significant: The league and the union seem to agree that

meetings which stretched into early Sunday morning just might represent progress toward resolving the dispute that threatens the 2012-13 season.

"We had a series of meetings over the course of the day and had a good, frank discussion on the most important issues separating us," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said in an email. "We plan to meet again early in the week."

Steve Fehr, the No. 2 man in the NHLPA, represented the union in the weekend talks and subsequently issued a statement that echoed Daly's assessment.

"I agree with what Bill said. Hopefully we can continue the dialogue, expand the group and make steady progress."

The time and location of that next session haven't been announced, although indications are that it will be tomorrow in New York. Precisely who will participate in it also remains to be seen.

Although neither side divulged precisely what was discussed over the weekend, the absence of vitriol in the public comments from both sides was striking because so many previous meetings had been followed by a hailstorm of accusations and hard feelings.

Of course, cordiality does not guarantee that the sides, which had not met face-to-face since Oct. 18, will be able to reach a settlement on the core financial issues in the lockout.

The division of what is known as "hockey-related revenue" is at the heart of the dispute. That totaled about \$3.3 billion last season, when the players received a 57 percent share of it.

The league is looking to shrink that to 50 percent immediately and, while the NHLPA has agreed to an even split eventually, but wants to get down to it gradually.

Another major point of contention -- whether contracts signed under the previous CBA will be honored in full -- might have been addressed by the league last week, although the details of how that would be handled under the NHL's proposal are not known and conceivably might not be acceptable to the NHLPA.

In addition to issues that will determine how hundreds of millions of dollars are shared, there are many others that will have to be resolved before a settlement is reached.

Those deal with everything from a proposed limit on contract lengths to whether most players should be compelled to share hotel rooms on the road.

Post Gazette LOADED: 11.05.2012

643702 NHL

Even some owners don't like what's under the cap in NHL labour dispute

DAVID SHOALTS

The NHL owners and players may be back at the bargaining table, with the major issue of a 50-50 revenue split complete with fully paying existing contracts in sight, but trouble looms from a couple of surprising groups on each side of the labour divide.

At issue are two changes from the former collective agreement in what goes into the salary cap, in particular the payroll floor. In his last offer, before the previous round of talks broke off on Oct. 18, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said teams would no longer be allowed to count player bonus money on their payroll in order to get to the floor. He also proposed all player salaries above \$105,000 (all currency U.S.), even those on a team's minor-league roster, would now be included under the salary cap.

You said it: Hockey fans have little patience left for NHL

Gary Bettman (left) Commissioner of the NHL and Bill Daly, Deputy Commissioner and chief legal officer of the NHL leave the NHLPA offices in Toronto on Wednesday, August 22, 2012. Negotiations continue between the NHL and the NHLPA over collective bargaining as both sides try to avoid a potential lockout.

This alarmed two groups. One is a lot of NHL owners, many of whom were considered moderates, who are not happy that under this proposal they could no longer include on their payroll bonus money that would likely never be paid in order to get to the salary floor, which was \$48.3-million in the 2011-12 season. This means they will have to pay real cash to get to the floor, a daunting prospect for clubs operating on razor-thin margins.

The other unhappy group is all of the players in the AHL, who would effectively see their salaries capped at \$105,000 under Bettman's offer. This is alarming because a veteran can make as much as \$300,000 on an AHL contract, which is currently not included in the NHL team's cap payroll.

The unhappy owners may or may not prove to be a breaking point because of an NHL bylaw Bettman smartly instituted before the 2004-05 lockout. While it takes only eight supporting votes from the 30 NHL owners to allow Bettman to reject an offer from the NHLPA, it takes 23 owners to overrule any offer Bettman makes to the players.

Formal bargaining is expected to resume "early this week" in the words of NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly, who met into the early hours of Sunday morning with NHL Players' Association special counsel Steve Fehr at an undisclosed location. The major issues of a 50-50 revenue split and how existing player contracts could be paid in full under it were discussed and both sides felt the talks were promising enough for bargaining to resume.

"We had a series of meetings yesterday and exchanged views on the most important issues separating us," Daly said in a statement. "We plan to meet again sometime early this week."

Fehr said in a separate statement: "I agree with what Bill said. Hopefully we can continue the dialogue, expand the group, and make steady progress."

The ugly public-relations fallout after the NHL cancelled the Winter Classic on Friday appears to have spurred the latest talks. As the criticism built on Friday, the NHL made it known it told the players' union it was willing to discuss ways the owners would pay more of the costs of the "make-whole" provision in its last offer. This became the biggest issue after the players agreed to reach a 50-50 revenue split at some point but wanted all existing contracts, which were signed when players received 57 per cent of the revenue, eventually to be paid in full. The owners had offered to do this by reducing the players' share in the later years of an agreement, which was rejected by the union.

However, despite the optimism spurred by Saturday's meeting, there are a lot of minefields in other issues, headed by the two that have a lot of owners and the minor-league players in a flap.

Sources say this owners group includes many who were previously thought to be eager to get a deal but were angered when they saw Bettman's offer to exclude bonus payments from the cap. The clubs in this group include the usual small-revenue teams such as the Florida Panthers, Nashville Predators and New York Islanders but others, such as the Dallas Stars, St. Louis Blues, Washington Capitals, Anaheim Ducks and Colorado Avalanche, are unhappy as well. While clubs such as the Stars and Blues have reaped big revenue in the past and have new owners, their gate receipts took big hits in recent years.

Under the old agreement, a club such as the Islanders routinely made sure there were several entry-level players on its roster whose cap hit was much larger than their actual salary thanks to several bonuses. For example, in the 2011-12 season, rookie Nino Niederreiter's entry-level contract paid him \$900,000 in actual salary but nearly \$2-million in bonuses brought his cap hit to just under \$2.8-million. The 20-year-old was on the NHL roster for 55 games and scored exactly one goal, which meant almost all of that bonus money was never paid, a huge saving for the cash-strapped Islanders.

But under Bettman's proposal, that would no longer be allowed. Instead of declaring \$2-million they wouldn't spend, the Islanders and other teams would have to cough up that cash in player salaries.

The owners want Bettman to find a way to make the salary floor lower in a new deal. While this will happen to some degree once the league goes to a 50-50 split, the cap is skewed by the fact the league has some clubs raising the overall revenue, on which the cap is based, with huge profits while a larger number of clubs make much less or lose money.

In the case of the minor-league players, the NHL could find itself in court. Following the 2004-05 lockout, the Professional Hockey Players' Association, which represents minor-league players, sued the NHL because the labour agreement decreed any team that had a player with a salary of \$75,000 or more claimed by another team on NHL re-entry waivers would have to pay half of the salary, which would count against their own payroll.

This effectively capped salaries for AHL veterans at \$75,000 and the PHPA managed to have the limit scrubbed.

Now that Bettman proposed to include all salaries above \$105,000 in a team's cap count, the PHPA could move again. At present, NHL teams often like to pay some veterans as much as \$300,000 to serve on their AHL teams as mentors for the young players but this means teams would not be willing to pay more than \$105,000. It would also mean the AHL would quickly lose those players, who are often fan favourites, to Russia's Continental Hockey League or the European leagues.

Toronto Globe And Mail LOADED: 11.05.2012

643703 Ottawa Senators

Senators Daniel Alfredsson to play in Cornwall charity match

By Don Brennan

Daniel Alfredsson has now decided to play with fellow locked-out NHLers in Monday's fundraiser at the Cornwall Civic Complex.

The game is the first in a series of charity matches for the group, which is made up primarily of Ottawa Senators who didn't go to Europe or Binghamton during the league's work stoppage.

It will also be the first in the area for former Montreal Canadien-Minnesota Wild Guillaume Latendresse since he signed with the Senators as a free agent in the off-season.

Other Senators in the lineup will be Peter Regin, Chris Neil, Chris Phillips, Zack Smith and Marc Method. Free agent Jesse Winchester, a former Senator, will also take the ice, as will the likes of Montreal Canadiens Brian Gionta, Josh Gorges and Travis Moen, Winnipeg's Grant Clitsome and Pittsburgh's Tyler Kennedy.

The game starts at 7:30 p.m. and will raise money for the Cornwall Chapter of the Max Keeping Foundation and First Assist, a charity that funds programs to benefit First Nations youth in fly-in communities.

Tickets for the First Assist Charity Classic are \$20. The group will play in Thunder Bay Nov. 12 then leave for a three-game tour of the Northwest Territories Nov. 18.

CONFIRMED LINEUPS (more NHLers expected to be added)

TEAM BLACK

Marc Method
Josh Gorges
Zack Smith
Brian Gionta
Stephen Gionta
Jesse Winchester
Guillaume Latendresse

Shean Donovan

TEAM WHITE

Chris Phillips
Grant Clitsome
Chris Neil
Peter Regin
Tyler Kennedy
Travis Moen
Daniel Alfredsson
Kent Manderville

Ottawa Sun LOADED: 11.05.2012

643704 Ottawa Senators

Battles loom just to make Ottawa Senators' training camp — if NHL lockout insanity ever ends

By Don Brennan

At the risk of once again tapping keys prematurely, it states here the flicker of light in CBA negotiations on the weekend suggests it's ALMOST safe to start THINKING about the actual game again.

Assuming you still care about it at all, that is.

Realizing the NHL and NHLPA could very easily break hearts yet one more time by acting like spoiled children (apologies to spoiled children everywhere), the marathon discussion between representatives from both sides Saturday COULD be the beginning of the end to the insanity. There is a chance, better now than at the end of October, the season could be saved.

Therefore, let us venture out on to the limb and think about what Paul MacLean might be thinking.

On hand to celebrate Brad Fritsch Day in Ottawa at Rideau View Country Club Friday night, the Senators coach proved the extra long off-season did not rust his wit.

"The amount of dedication it takes to be a golfer, and to be on the PGA Tour ... I have great admiration for that," MacLean said of Fritsch. "Because nobody three-putts better than I do."

MacLean also revealed that, with a training camp expected to be less than a week long, his team will bring only 23 players to Scotiabank Place when the doors finally open. Currently, the Senators have 21 on the roster, including Mika Zibanejad, who may not quite yet belong. Sticking by the book, that would leave two open spots available for Jakob Silfverberg, Mark Stone, Mark Borowiecki, Patrick Wiercioch and Andre Benoit.

Silfverberg would seem to be a lock, given that there were some in the organization pencilling him on the first line at summer development camp. Except that there are already 13 forwards — four lines plus one — among the group of 21. So two defencemen?

Either way, pencils do have erasers, and one should be poised over the list of goalies.

Ben Bishop has a one-way contract, but he's not as good as Robin Lehner, and with a shortened season teams can't afford to go with anything less than their best.

On Saturday, Bishop was Binghamton's goalie of record in a 4-2 loss. He is now 0-2 with a 4.04 goals against average and a .902 save percentage. To this point, Lehner has probably been the B-Sens' top player. He is 4-2 with a 1.99 GAA and .933 save percentage.

Lehner, of course, is also second on the team in the penalty minutes department. But those who think his much-publicized fight with another goalie in a game a couple of weeks ago is a sign the 21-year-old Swede still has some maturing to do, well, they should think again.

"I don't see that," said MacLean. "Now I've only seen Robin play six or seven times, but I felt that in that situation I witnessed that night, I would have done the same thing.

"He got run a few times and he got absolutely shish-kabobed, in my opinion they shish-kabobed him, and then they fell on him, and then they gave him the rabbit punches when he was down. I have no problem with what he did. His reaction was what I would have expected.

"The fact he stood up for himself and got tossed out of the game, I saw nothing wrong with that. I thought he was demanding his share of the ice, being competitive. It was a situation that I wasn't surprised by his reaction. I thought he did the right thing."

MacLean also liked other things he saw in Bingo.

"I was there for the training camp and exhibition games, and fourth and fifth games of the season," he said. "I thought everybody was still playing real good, nobody really separated themselves. I think that up front, Zibanejad was probably the better forward in one game, Silfverberg was the better

forward in the other game. Mark Stone was real consistent in the two games, and the practices I saw.

"On the back end, Jared Cowen was the best defenceman the first game, didn't play the second. He picked up a hip flexor injury. Borowiecki was very competitive and did what he does. Patrick Wiercioch moved the puck ... all of them gave a good account of themselves. Even Andre Benoit, who, when you look at a shortened training camp and potentially shortened season, (is) an experienced player also might have got himself into the mix as well."

The Benoit thing makes sense. So does taking Lehner into the season ahead of Bishop. Lehner is the goalie of the future. He also appears ready to take the next step now.

He's had more than two full terms in Binghamton. He has experienced the highs and the lows. He's done enough seasoning.

"I saw him play the two games, and I thought he was very good," said MacLean.

More opinions will be forthcoming once the NHL and NHLPA throw some fuel on the flicker and prove they are, in fact, reasonable adults. But for those thinking of using Twitter as a way to get their message to MacLean, well, think again.

"Twitter? I don't read Twitter," he said. "I have a hard time reading my phone."

Ottawa Sun LOADED: 11.05.2012

643705 Philadelphia Flyers

With NHL lockout, Flyers get a minor opportunity with Phantoms

Sam Carchidi, Inquirer Staff Writer

GLENS FALLS, N.Y. - Terry Murray says it was difficult for some Flyers-turned-Phantoms to return to the AHL. Some scoff at the suggestion.

Either way, the Adirondack Phantoms finally seemed in sync Saturday night, nine games into the season, with a 4-0 conquest of visiting Albany at the almost-full Glens Falls Civic Center. Until that strong all-around effort, the Phantoms had not led at the end of any intermission all season.

Some of his players were "a little distracted" early this season by the labor battle between the NHL and the players' union, said Murray, the Phantoms coach who has spent most of his career behind NHL benches. "I think some of them thought, 'Maybe this is going to end a little faster than what I was expecting, and I'm going to be gone in a couple days.' But the players have gathered themselves and they're settling in."

"You obviously want to play up there, and you keep an eye on it, but your focus has to be here," Phantoms center Brayden Schenn said. "This is our team right now. There was a distraction a little bit, but I don't think that's why we're losing hockey games."

The Phantoms, who will move to Allentown for the 2014-15 season, are off to a 4-5 start.

Winger Zac Rinaldo has deliberately been oblivious to the labor news.

"I've come to an agreement with myself to not pay attention to it," said Rinaldo, who has played with more discipline, has scored two goals, and has been used on the power play with the Phantoms. "If I pay attention, I'll get too worried, and it's a waste of time. I just keep my mind on my team here."

Speedy winger Eric Wellwood was expected to spend his first full season in the NHL; he played in 24 games with the Flyers last season.

"I think it's been a challenge, not just for me but almost every young guy who's in the American League and wants to go back," Wellwood said of returning to the minors. "A lot of guys have trouble with that. They had expectations of playing [in the NHL], and now they're down here. It's definitely a challenge, but you're here to play hockey, and you play your heart out."

The Phantoms have nine players who were with the Flyers at some point last season. Some of them - most notably, Schenn, Sean Couturier, Wellwood, Rinaldo, and Marc-Andre Bourdon - figured to be back with the

Flyers this year if the lockout hadn't changed the hockey universe, shaking it from Glens Falls - the quaint town in upstate New York where the Phantoms play - to Europe, where more than 200 NHL players have found work.

The Phantoms, despite the influx of Flyers, have struggled to find chemistry. And when they do find it, it will be disrupted if the NHL returns, causing some players to head back to the Flyers.

Murray said he has been pleased with the work ethic, "but I think we have to play a little smarter."

Schenn, 21, who was expected to play on the Flyers' second line, leads the Phantoms with 11 points. He had four points in one game, three in another. But his play has been inconsistent and he has a minus-6 rating.

"He and I sat down and chatted about what I need from him," Murray said. "I told him, 'This is a team that's looking at you. You're a young guy, and you have some NHL games behind you, and everybody's looking at you to lead the way.' And he's been much better lately."

Couturier, one of the NHL's top rookies last season, said the AHL stint can be beneficial, even though the speed of the game and the caliber of play can't compare to the NHL.

"I'm getting a lot of minutes and playing in all situations," he said after scoring a shorthanded goal and adding two assists in Saturday's 4-0 win over the New Jersey Devils' top affiliate. "Hopefully with all the ice time, I can improve my offensive game."

Most of the Flyers-turned-Phantoms say they have accepted the fact that the lockout could be lengthy, and they are focused on playing with Adirondack. Some realize that even if the lockout ends, there are no guarantees they will get promoted.

"I wasn't really sure if I was going to be up there this year, so I'm just trying to work as hard as I can down here and get better, and when or if it ends, I'll be ready in case I get a shot," defenseman Erik Gustafsson said.

You need to keep improving "because there's always somebody that's ready to take your spot," Bourdon said.

Philadelphia Inquirer / Daily News LOADED: 11.05.2012

643706 Philadelphia Flyers

Voracek scores goal in return from knee injury

TIM RIDAY

The 23-year-old, who suffered a sprained knee during a 4-3 loss to St. Petersburg on Oct. 6, scored a goal in his first game back, according to Nova Sport's Roman Jedlicka (via ProHockeyTalk). Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara assisted Voracek's marker.

Voracek signed a four-year, \$17 million contract with the Flyers on July 26 after registering 18 goals and 31 assists in his first season in orange and black.

Before the lockout, Voracek was expected to replace Jaromir Jagr, who signed with the Stars during free agency, on the Flyers' top line with Claude Giroux and Scott Hartnell.

Voracek is one of eight Flyers playing in Europe during the lockout -- Danny Briere, Claude Giroux, Wayne Simmonds, Ilya Bryzgalov, Ruslan Fedotenko, Matt Read, Tom Sestito, and Voracek.

Comcast SportsNet.com LOADED: 11.05.2012

643707 Pittsburgh Penguins

Penguins: Hungary heart

By Shelly Anderson

Some NHL players have joined overseas teams in the ongoing lockout, and others are contemplating such a move. For Penguins strength and conditioning coach Mike Kadar, a trip to Europe required only the approval of the club.

The rewards were greater than he could have imagined.

"It was surreal," said Kadar, who returned a few days ago from spending a couple of weeks in Hungary.

The idea was for him to work with the Hungarian Ice Hockey Federation in Budapest. And he did that, getting on the ice primarily with the country's top 20-and-under players and holding a clinic with 50 coaches. He also worked with a pro club, Szekesfehervar of the Austrian League.

But the reception he got in the homeland of his grandparents blew away Kadar.

"As soon as I landed, there was a reporter there," he said.

That interview was just the beginning.

He attended a ribbon-cutting, a news conference, a wreath ceremony and a tree christening. He dropped a ceremonial first puck. He took tea with Peter Szijarto, a state secretary, in that officials' Parliament office.

By the time he left, there were plans to help him get dual citizenship, in Hungary and his native Canada.

"I had no idea going in what I was going to run into," Kadar said. "When people are coming up and telling you that they're proud of you and they don't even know you, it was emotional."

Kadar previously had gotten some press in Hungary as a staff member on an NHL team and because of his family heritage. His grandfather, also named Mike Kadar, defected to Canada before World War II. Although spotty records from the Soviet years make it impossible to verify, it's believed that Janos Kadar, a former leader of Hungary, was the brother of the older Mike.

The younger Mike made something of a pilgrimage to Nyiradony, a small hometown of his grandfather. He had been there once before, a side trip while working with the Slovenian national team in 2007, but this was different.

Despite a GPS, he was an hour late because of what passes for traffic in rural Hungary.

"It took 2 1/2 hours," Kadar said. "It was back roads, with horse and buggies, and a lot of older people ride pedal bikes."

No matter. Kadar was treated like royalty. After a ribbon ceremony to welcome him, he visited with the mayor and school children. He laid a wreath at a memorial for a late Hungarian Olympic champion boxer.

And there was the plum tree. It stands in a tree garden and eventually will have a plaque on it. Kadar ceremonially shoveled sand onto its base as it was presented to him.

"That was cool because I remember my grandfather always talked about plum trees in Hungary," said Kadar, who grew up in western Canada and was a teenager when his grandfather died.

Almost all of Kadar's conversations required a translator and some patience -- something he gained experience with the past two summers on trips to Moscow to work with Penguins center Evgeni Malkin -- but there were flashes of the familiar.

He knew some of the cuisine, such as chicken paprikash, because his grandmother used to make it.

Kadar worked with Glen Williamson, who oversees the Hungarian development program. Williamson was a scout for the Los Angeles Kings when Kadar worked for that club.

There are a number of Canadians coaching in that country.

For some in Hungary, Kadar's stature was specifically tied to hockey and the Penguins. Szijarto, a Parliament member who shared tea with Kadar, was educated in North America and once saw Mario Lemieux play at Civic Arena.

Others didn't follow the sport that closely, or at all, but admired Kadar simply for being a man who shares their heritage and has climbed to the top league in a pro sport.

"I thought it would be a bigger sport than it is -- you know, when you think of European hockey," Kadar said. "It's not the top sport -- and it's certainly not Canada when it comes to hockey -- but it's becoming bigger, and in some areas it's hockey, hockey, hockey."

"But the love of the game is the same as anywhere. They want to get better."

Post Gazette LOADED: 11.05.2012

643708 St Louis Blues

No European vacation for Blues players

Jeremy Rutherford

For the Blues' Alex Steen, the decision this season was a simple one. If there were a lockout in the NHL, the Swedish forward would play hockey in Europe.

"I'm having fun playing in front of friends and older family members that don't have the energy to stay up in the middle of the night to watch me on TV in the NHL," Steen said.

But that's not the only reason Steen elected to sign a temporary contract with Modo of the Swedish Elite League, as opposed to riding out the work stoppage by practicing in St. Louis or elsewhere.

"No. 1, I'm able to stay sane," Steen said. "Part of it is mental, so you're not bored out of your mind. Everybody has a different personality and some guys are able to handle it a little better than other guys. I would have a really hard time just working out with no end in sight. I knew for myself, I had to play."

"No. 2, if the lockout gets resolved over there, and we start up the NHL again, I've been playing for a while, so I'll be ready to go."

In what may be the most players of any team in the NHL, eight Blues are currently suiting up overseas, a group that includes Patrik Berglund, Chris Stewart, Matt D'Agostini, Roman Polak, Kris Russell, Vladimir Sobotka and Vladimir Tarasenko.

Depending on the direction of the collective-bargaining negotiations -- talks between the league and the players' union over the weekend seemed to spur some progress -- more Blues could be forced to make a decision about playing in Europe.

"It's possible, but I'm not there yet," captain David Backes said. "I'm hoping that the NHL season starts, but if not, we'll stay active in the community. I'm taking a couple of classes at school, too, trying to finish my degree, so I've got plenty to do here."

While Backes continues to skate in Chesterfield with Blues' teammates and other NHL players from the area, the club's contingent in Europe appears to be making its investment worthwhile.

Steen has five goals and 14 points in 15 games with Modo; Tarasenko has 10 goals and 19 points in 13 games with SKA; Berglund has eight goals and 12 points in 14 games with Vasteras; and Sobotka has six goals and 15 points in 13 games with HC Slavia Praha.

"It was weird coming into the fall without playing exhibition games," said Steen, who joined Modo in the regular season. "Once I got injected into a lineup, I was full of energy. You work so hard during the summer to get yourself ready and then all of the sudden there's no (NHL) season... there was a lot of built-up energy."

Linus Hugosson, the editor of Pro Hockey, Europe's "biggest NHL magazine," said that Steen's performance in Sweden has earned him overdue respect from fans.

"We know that he's a great team player, two-way forward who always works hard," Hugosson said. "We know that, but he has been able to come in and be on a hot streak and produce a lot of points. He's probably one of the most underrated Swedes. This lockout has not been necessarily a

breakthrough for him, but almost a breakthrough for the Swedish hockey fans who haven't really discovered him in St. Louis."

But one of the risks of playing games during the NHL lockout is the potential of injury. Russell, playing in Finland, suffered a knee injury but has returned to action. Last week, Steen suffered what Modo labeled a tear in his "back thigh," sidelining him for 2-3 weeks.

"It's not a major thing," Steen said. "I'll just miss a few games and I'll be back. It's not a big deal."

Meanwhile, Berglund is playing for his hometown team, Vasteras, and Hugosson said that while the points weren't coming initially for the Blues center, "he was working really hard. The (Vasteras) coach was praising his team effort. I think he's here wholeheartedly, not just to have fun with his friends in Vasteras."

Fans overseas have mixed emotions about seeing their favorite NHL players at home, Hugosson said.

"It's kind of strange for the fans here in Europe right now," he explained. "It's great to see these stars close up, but I would say ... if the NHL fans in North America are reacting with apathy, NHL fans in Sweden are reacting with anger. The (owners and players) are getting a lot of grief from the fans right now. But in the meantime, the general hockey fan in Sweden, they are happy to see Patrik Berglund and Alex Steen. So it's kind of two-sided."

"I think everybody that's a hockey fan wants the NHL to play," Steen said. "The longer (the lockout) goes, the more fed up people are getting, which is understandable. It's not like they want to keep us here; they want the NHL to be up and running."

But until it's up and running, several Blues will continue skating in Europe.

"You kind of live day by day," Steen said. "It's really hard to do that, but you have to. It (stinks) for everybody, not just the players and owners and fans ... but people in the organizations too. It affects more people than you think. Basically, we're just waiting for (the owners) to come to the table. Until that happens, you just live day by day."

St Louis Post Dispatch LOADED: 11.05.2012

643709 St Louis Blues

Blues playing in Europe

Jeremy Rutherford

No European vacation for Blues players

BLUES PLAYING IN EUROPE

Alex Steen

Team: Modo

League: Swedish Elite League

Statistics: 15 games, 5 goals, 9 assists

Patrik Berglund

Team: Vasteras

League: Allsvenskan

Statistics: 14 games, 8 goals, 4 assists

Chris Stewart

Team: Crimmitschau

League: German Bundesliga

Statistics: 9 games, 5 goals, 6 assists

Team: Liberec

League: Czech Extraliga

Statistics: 4 games, 0 goals, 1 assist

Matt D'Agostini

Team: SC Riessersee

League: Germany 2

Statistics: 3 games, 0 goals, 0 assists

Roman Polak

Team: Vitkovice

League: Czech Extraliga

Statistics: 11 games, 0 goals, 3 assists

Kris Russell

Team: TPS Turku

League: Finland SM-liiga

Statistics: 8 games, 2 goals, 7 assists

Vladimir Sobotka

Team: HC Slavia Praha

League: Czech Extraliga

Statistics: 13 games, 6 goals, 9 assists

Vladimir Tarasenko

Team: SKA St. Petersburg

League: Kontinental Hockey League

Statistics: 13 games, 10 goals, 9 assists

St Louis Post Dispatch LOADED: 11.05.2012

643710 Winnipeg Jets

Jets' Miettinen heads home

staff report

Antti Miettinen is the latest member of the Winnipeg Jets to jet off to Europe.

The right winger is actually heading home after signing with HPK Hameenlinna of the Finnish Elite League. Miettinen played for HPK between 1999 and 2003, notching 37 goals and 56 points in 56 games during the 2001-02 season.

Miettinen will be reunited with his Jets teammate from last season, Winkler native Eric Fehr, who has three goals and three assists in five games for HPK.

Miettinen, who was born in Hameenlinna, had five goals and eight assists in 45 games for the Jets last season.

Winnipeg Sun LOADED 11.05.2012

643711 Websites

NBCSports.com / Malhotra: Players would be "on vacation somewhere stuffing our faces" if they didn't want to play

Joe Yerdon

Manny Malhotra is like most other players affected by the lockout. He's upset with the owners and he just wants to get out there and play hockey.

As he tells Elliott Pap of the Vancouver Sun, he'd have other plans if he wasn't serious about getting back on the ice and getting a new CBA worked out with the owners.

"If we had no desire to get back to the games, we'd be on vacation somewhere stuffing our faces rather than skating and working out every

day," he stated. "To say that guys don't want to negotiate and get things done would be a wrong statement."

The players' resolve hasn't been questioned at all through this process. If you're on Twitter and following any of the players, you know they're involved in the process even to the point of annoyance.

Add to that the number of players who headed overseas to play as well as CBC's Elliotte Friedman report saying the players want Donald and Steve Fehr to negotiate with the owners more.

Putting that much more effort into the process might be one of the few things to help get a deal done sooner than possible.

NBCSports.com / LOADED: 11.05.2012