

JULY 22 – JULY 28, 2014

IN THIS ISSUE:

STAN BOWMAN	1
JAY FEASTER	2
HUMOR: ICE PEOPLE	3
DEVILS	4
JOSH HO-SANG	5
ARENA LIGHTING	

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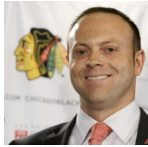
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OBSERVATIONS:

* **STAN BOWMAN** has locked in his Gold Dust Twins, Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane. Right now his Blackhawks are in super shape to remain among the Western powers for at least five years. Our only concern – and we're still not sure whether it's a problem at all – is whether Corey Crawford is the goaltender who can deliver another Cup to Chicago.



* **MIKE RIBEIRO** has opened up about his off-ice issues that led to the Coyotes buying him out. The center admitted that his play suffered when he and his wife separated during the season, but the newest Predator had his wife's support as she sat alongside him and Nashville g.m. David Poile during a recent video conference with reporters. Ribeiro said he lost focus on his play after seeing his children infrequently during the season: "I just wanted the year to be over so I could focus on them" Ribeiro also stated that he and his wife have reunited, which should help get his career back on track. We hope everything works out for the Ribeiros both on and off the ice.

* **DOMINIC MOORE** lost his second competition in Los Angeles in as many months. Moore was passed up at the ESPY awards after being nominated for Comeback Athlete of the Year. What's even more – teammate Henrik Lundqvist was there to present the award, but America's mainstream voting fanbase instead chose NBA player Russell Westbrook over the newly re-signed Ranger, and Sidney Crosby to boot. Moore, though, deserved it more – he left hockey for a year-and-a-half to care for his wife, Katie, who passed away in January 2013 after a nine-month battle with lung cancer. He returned to the NHL on Broadway this past season and was instrumental in the Blueshirts' run to the Stanley Cup Final. Westbrook's feat? A run-of-the-mill resurgence from a torn ACL.

GOSSIP:

If you read between the lines – and his quotes – **Martin Brodeur** has a Plan B if he's goes unsigned into the season. He could wind up on an NHL club's general staff. Hey, it worked for **Steve Yzerman**, didn't it? The big question is whether **Lou Lamoriello** would welcome Marty under his high command. A couple of homestretch quotes from Mister Goalie did not exactly put Brodeur in Lou's best graces. ... Perhaps the most surprising non-signing so far is **Michael Del Zotto**, considering his youth, experience and potential. ... Looking Good Department: Hockeytown USA – alias Detroit – with a new **Red Wings** rink finally on the horizon. ... Steve Simmons, my *Toronto Sun* buddy, says the only free agent who half-interests him is **Daniel Winnik**. The free agents who entirely interests us are **Martin Brodeur** and **Tim Thomas**. Mostly to see which one is signed first; assuming that any of the two get nibbles. ... We haven't heard a thing about **Brendan Shanahan's** successor as NHL's director of player safety, and maybe that means **Stephane Quintal** – the interim replacement – gets the gig permanently. ... NHL Players' Association insiders tell us that **Mathieu Schneider** has become **Don Fehr's** right-hand man to a point where The Donald does an awful lot of relying on Matty. ... **Blackhawks** g.m. **Stan Bowman** needs to clear over \$2M in cap space before his squad can do business. Chicago has already laid long-term claim to **Patrick Kane** and **Jonathan Toews**, the most expensive duo in NHL history. Each of the fraternal franchisees will begin his eight-year, \$84M contract after the upcoming season. *TSN* radio host Jason Gregor speculates that defenseman **Johnny Oduya** could be moved to accomodate – at least in the short-term – the amount of dough distributed throughout the Windy City. Come the fall of 2015, that amount exceeds \$65M for only 15 players. *NBC Sports'* Mike Halford says Bowman could move **Patrick Sharp** to Florida, whom Panthers g.m. Dale Tallon acquired as g.m. in Chicago in 2005.

EPHESUS LIGHTING MAKES IT TO THE NHL VIA SENS PUT AT END



Now that hockey has made it big-time to the high-tech era it's worth noting that advanced lighting finally has been introduced at Ottawa home games. The Maven has more:

After successfully illuminating more than two dozen indoor and outdoor sports and entertainment venues across North America with its revolutionary LED arena and stadium lights including many AHL arenas, Ephesus Lighting of Syracuse, NY has been selected as the lighting solution for Canadian Tire Centre, home of the National Hockey League's Ottawa Senators. The move to LED for this coming season makes it and the Bell Centre in Montreal, the first two NHL arenas to make the switch to LED lighting.

"Sports and entertainment facility operators appreciate that LED lighting is the natural evolution of arena and stadium lighting because it provides an optimal stage for events in person and on high definition television," explained Amy Casper, CEO of Ephesus Lighting. "The success of our lighting solutions and the glowing testimonials from fans, players, television broadcasters and facility operators reinforce this fact and prove without a shadow of a doubt that LED is ready for the big leagues."

Canadian Tire Centre is a multi-purpose arena, located in the western suburb of Kanata, in Ottawa, Ontario. In addition to being the home ice of the NHL's Ottawa Senators since 1996, the 19,153-seat venue also hosts a variety of other major events including the best in music, sports and entertainment.

Ephesus was selected after facility operators conducted an extensive side-by-side test with three other lighting companies offering LED solutions. The Ephesus Lighting solution dramatically exceeded all others in every category including amount of light reaching the ice surface, light uniformity, ease of installation and instant on/off capabilities.

"In our side-by-side test, it was clear that the Ephesus Lighting solution made the most sense to us for a variety of reasons," said Tom Conroy, Vice-President &

Executive Director at Canadian Tire Centre. "Our facility operators will benefit from the versatility of the system and the fact that it is practically maintenance free. But most importantly, our fans at Canadian Tire Centre and watching at home will clearly see a better game. Additionally, this new lighting system will allow our game entertainment team to instantly strike and illuminate the arena, which will open the door for an enhanced presentation and better fan experience."

Canadian Tire Centre will replace its metal halide system with Arena 600 and Arena 300 lights and the Ephesus wireless control system, which allows them to control the lights and create unique fan experience effects. Despite reducing the number of fixtures by more than one-third, the Ephesus lighting solution will dramatically increase light to 75 foot candles and yield a projected energy savings of more than 70%.

In all, five AHL venues have made the switch to LED lighting including the War Memorial Arena, home of the Syracuse Crunch, which before the start of the 2012-13 season, became the first sports arena in North America to play under LED lights. Four other AHL venues made the switch last season, including the Broome County Veterans Memorial Arena in Binghamton, N.Y. (Binghamton Senators), Webster Bank Arena (Bridgeport Sound Tigers), BMO Harris Bank Center (Rockford Ice Hogs), and Ricoh Coliseum (Toronto Marlies).

Ephesus manufactures the brightest LED on the market and is the only arena-designed lighting solution certified under Design Light Consortium's (DLC) quality, performance and energy efficiency requirements. The DLC certification enables facilities to receive energy incentives from utility providers.

MORE GOSSIP:

Earlier this summer, **Mike Babcock**, whose contract as Red Wings head coach expires at the end of next season, was one of the most popular names linked to coaching vacancies around the league. While he remains behind the Detroit bench, a contract extension has to be agreed upon sooner rather than later. Babcock told *The Detroit Free-Press* that he won't discuss a deal once the team hits the ice. "We get it done by fall, or I won't bother," he said. "I'm not doing it during

the season..." While **Canucks** defenseman **Alex Edler** has been linked to several teams this offseason, the Swede has no intentions of waiving his no-trade clause. "It's not something I think about," he told Swedish media outlet *Expressen* according to a translation. "As long as Vancouver wants me, rumors mean nothing." ... According to *The New York Post*'s Larry Brooks, the **Rangers**, who recently added forwards **Lee Stempniak** and **Matthew Lombardi**, could also have their eye on 22-year-old **Kevin Hayes**. The Blackhawks selected Hayes in the first round of the 2010 Entry Draft, but the **Boston College** grad did not attend Chicago's prospect camp earlier this month and will become a free agent August 16 if he does not sign an entry-level deal with the team. Given his offensive potential and experience playing with BC alum **Chris Kreider**, Hayes could get a shot in the Rangers' bottom-six. ... With arbitration hearings looming, the Rangers may be willing to give key RFAs **Mats Zuccarello** and **Derick Brassard** a little extra if it meant locking them up long-term. According to *NBC Sports*' Ryan Dadoun, Zuccarello would want around \$4.5M per year on such a deal, and another \$5.5M per year for Brassard. Both amounts would likely be higher cap hits than if the Blueshirts were to accept short-term arbitration deals. ... With his predecessor **Dan Byslma** getting axed for a lack of postseason success, **Penguins** head coach **Mike Johnston** was asked if he feels pressured to win immediately. He told Josh Yohe of the *Pittsburgh Tribune*, "I've never been one to focus on pressure. Pressure, for me, comes when I don't feel like I'm doing a good job — just like a player. Trust me, I will put more pressure on myself than anyone else ever will. No offense, but I don't really read the papers much. I trust my staff and the people I'm close with." Sounds like he has the perfect mindset for his first NHL head coaching gig. ... After **Ryan Johansen**'s harsh words on **Columbus** for not wanting to offer him a long-term deal, it appears the emerging young center has changed his tone. According to *thescore.com*'s Ian McLaren, Johansen's agent, Kurt Overhardt, has extended a two-year offer to the Blue Jackets. While the value of the contract, and what the Blue Jackets will counter with, are not known, one has to think that the two sides are getting close to a deal. **CORRECTION:** In our last issue we reported that **Sidney Crosby** had completed surgery on his wrist. *The Penguins captain had planned to undergo the procedure, but instead sought a second opinion and has decided against surgery for now.*