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Player notes

Position All Teams

Aaron Miller - D - Canucks

Aaron Miller has no structural damage in his back.

Miller was checked out by back specialist Dr. Robert Watkins. He remains week-to-week however and the U.S. Olympic committee is concerned whether or not Miller will be available to play effectively in February. Miller has missed the last three games for the Kings. Dec. 29 - 7:52 a.m. ET

Source: Los Angeles Times

Milan Hejduk - W - Avalanche

Milan Hejduk is feeling like his old self.

Hejduk started the season on the injured list as he had knee surgery before the start of the season. Hejduk has five points in the past two games, and if anything is looking up for the Avs - 3-6-0 in the past nine games - it is Hejduk's play. "I feel perfect now," said Hejduk, who had knee surgery before the season. "But it doesn't feel good to lose at home. We haven't beat these guys yet this year, and we have to work harder." It seems like Hejduk is ready to resume his role as one of the NHL's elite goal scorers. Dec. 29 - 7:47 a.m. ET

Source: Denver Post

Nils Ekman - W - Penguins

Nils Ekman has been bumped up to the top line in San Jose.

Ekman has replaced Scott Thornton on the top line, playing with Joe Thornton and Johnathan Cheechoo. Ekman scored once last night and his linemates each had an assist. If Ekman continues to play with the big boys, his fantasy value will sky rocket. Dec. 29 - 7:41 a.m. ET

Shane Doan - W - Coyotes

Shane Doan scored twice to lead the Phoenix Coyotes to a 5-4 comeback win over the San Jose Sharks.

The Coyotes scored 4 times in 2:58 in the third period for the win. Derek Morris, Oleg Saprykin and Mike Johnson scored the other Coyote goals, while Brian Boucher made 30 saves for the win. Nils Ekamn, Milan Michalek, Johnathan Cheechoo and Grant Stevenson scored for the Sharks as Evgeni Nabokov picked up the loss. Dec. 29 - 7:39 a.m. ET

Source: Arizona Republic/Phoenix Gazette

Richard Park - W - Islanders

Richard Park scored the winner as the Vancouver Canucks nipped the Nashville Predators 4-3 in Vancouver.

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Markus Naslund had a goal and an assist in the winning effort. Ed Jovanovski and Matthias Ohlund also scored for the Canucks as Ales Auld picked up the win. Darcy Hordichuk, Marek Zidlicky and Yanic Perreault replied for the Predators who have not won in Vancouver since January 2000. Chris Mason took the loss for the Predators.
Dec. 29 - 7:30 a.m. ET

Source: Nashville Tennessean

■ **Pavol Demitra - C - Canucks**

Pavol Demitra scored twice including his 20th goal of the season to lead the Los Angeles Kings to a 5-3 win over Colorado.

Demitra also added an assist in the victory to give him 49 points in the NHL this season. Mike Cammalleri, Lubomir Visnovsky and Tom Kostopolus also scored for the Kings in the win. Mathieu Garon stopped 32 of 35 shots for the win. Milan Hejduk areplied twice for the Avs while Brett McLean scored the first Colorado goal.
Dec. 29 - 7:19 a.m. ET

Source: Rocky Mountain News

■ **Pavel Vorobiev - W - Blackhawks**

Pavel Vorobiev was a healthy scratch last night.

At least that was the official line. Vorobiev stated earlier in the day that he had a leg injury, but that was news to Chicago coach Trent Yawney. Whatever the real reason, Vorobiev did not play last night. Adjust your lineups if needed.

Dec. 29 - 7:15 a.m. ET

Source: Chicago Tribune

■ **Dallas Drake - W - Red Wings**

Dallas Drake scored the eventual winner as the St. Louis Blues defeated the Chicago Blackhawks 2-1 in Chicago.

It was only Drake's second goal of the season. Eric Brewer opened the scoring for the Blues and Jason Bacashihua stopped 21 shots for the win allowing only Klye Calders late third period goal to beat him.
Dec. 29 - 7:09 a.m. ET

Source: Chicago Tribune

■ **Brian Pothier - D - Capitals**

Brian Pothier left tonight's after suffering a concussion.

Pothier sustained the injury in the second period and did not return. He is day-to-day until further notice.

Dec. 28 - 10:37 p.m. ET

Source: Associated Press

■ **Marian Gaborik - W - Wild**

Marian Gaborik had 2 goals in Minnesota's 4-2 win over Edmonton tonight.

The talented forward now has 12 goals and 24 points in 20 games this year. If he can remain healthy for an entire season, he may be a threat to crack the 50 goal, 100 point mark, an impressive feat while playing with Minnesota. For now, he is an above average producer who should be active in all formats.

Dec. 28 - 10:35 p.m. ET

■ **Jan Hrdina - C - Blue Jackets**

Jan Hrdina left tonight's game with a chest injury.

Hrdina suffered the injury in the 2nd period and did not return. Consider him day-to-day for now. Adjust your lineup if necessary.

Dec. 28 - 10:15 p.m. ET

Source: Associated Press

■ **Dany Heatley - W - Senators**

Dany Heatley had 1 goal and 2 points as Ottawa defeated Carolina 6-2 tonight.

Daniel Alfredsson and Bryan Smolinski, filling in for the injured Jason Spezza each also had 2 points, giving Ottawa's top make-shift line 6 points on the night. Heatley has only been kept off the scoresheet 4 times this year, and with 24 goals and 53 points in 34 games, he should be in the top 5 in scoring at year's end.
Dec. 28 - 10:13 p.m. ET

■ **Alexei Kovalev - W - Canadiens**

Alexei Kovalev had 2 assists in Montreal's 4-3 win over Tampa Bay tonight.

Kovalev has 5 points in 4 games since returning from knee surgery just prior to Christmas, so he is not showing any lingering effects from the procedure. With 8 goals and 24 points in 22 games overall, Kovalev is still an above average fantasy forward who should be active in all formats.

Dec. 28 - 10:07 p.m. ET

■ **Scott Gomez - C - Rangers**

Scott Gomez had 3 assists as New Jersey waxed Washington 7-2 tonight.

Gomez had been slumping going into tonight's game but rebounded with a fine effort. He is still having a sub-par season, with 9 goals and 28 points in 37 games, but keep in mind he is typically a much better player in the second half of the season, so we have likely not seen the best of Gomez yet.

Dec. 28 - 10:05 p.m. ET

■ **Jaromir Jagr - W - Rangers**

Jaromir Jagr had 1 goal and 4 points as the Rangers defeated the Islanders 6-2 tonight.

Jagr extended his lead in NHL scoring as he continues to make a case for himself as the league MVP this season. Give Jagr 24 goals and 59 points so far after 38 games, making him one of, if not the top fantasy forward in the NHL once again.

Dec. 28 - 9:57 p.m. ET

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