

Josh 0:00

Hello, everybody. Welcome back to another episode of the diver the play podcast. Luke is out another week, but next week he should be back. So Steve is with me for one final week. We got a lot to talk about trade deadline savers after dark and a whole bunch of other stuff. So stay tuned

Steve, what's up, buddy? How's it been? I know you had a pretty eventful weekend. So how you been doing bud?

Steve 0:31

Been doing good. It's um, it was really nice to be in a place where a 60 degree day is more than norm versus false spring. For those who don't know, I was down in Atlanta for this weekend because my best friend got married and went off without a hitch set for this. A couple parts. One both of my both my fault. One. So it was planned, you know, when the bride and groom get the rings during the ceremony, okay, so we told the the officiant a good six, seven times, that John gets his ring first. Because you always end on the nicer stuff bride gets the nicer stuff. Guess who he said was getting the ring first. And we had set it up that way because the rings are in a box. The officiant can't see very well. So I have the bride's ring tucked underneath. So he can't get it so we can't possibly get that ring. So I pull it out. He asked for the bride's ring. I tried to switch them. That doesn't happen. So he's talking about it as if it's the bride's ring and he's got the groom's ring.

Josh 1:48

That's awkward. And I see that. That's on you. That's not on you, though. Like

Steve 1:53

John said, 50%. Me? Well, I'll, I'll take that. Because I could have switched. I could have switched on that. Okay, I could have put more effort in that. But I was nervous to

Josh 2:04

John, if you're listening, I debate you on that 50% I'd give him more of a 35% to 40% blame. But that's just my take

Steve 2:12

a for John. That's generous. So second part during my speech at one point I froze, lost my place on the page. And then I ran out of space on my paper to write the conclusion. So the wrap up was a little rough. Anyway, conclusions IANA podcast knows just how bad my wrap ups can be. Yeah, they

Josh 2:33

get a little too worried.

Steve 2:37

But yeah, don't say, anyways, Josh, how are you?

Josh 2:42

Oh, I'm in pretty good. I had a I've had a couple of days off here for the first time in a while I was. I did the math the other day. And before Saturday, the 19th. I had worked 10 days in a row, and that was terrible. But then I had to work Sunday and then I've had the last couple days off. Don't work until Thursday. So it's kind of nice to just get a little breather here. But able to get my ducks in a row. Like with podcasts everything speaking of I apologize for last episode, we said we were gonna put Jack bagels comments in there. completely slipped my mind. As I said, I've been doing a lot of things so forgot all about it. I'm sure you all heard the comments by then so shame. I'm sorry, but not sorry.

Steve 3:30

I need a bell shame.

Josh 3:32

The shame Bell. Oh, shame. This time I will actually edit into sound effect. I'll put the bell in at the three minute and 32nd Mark just so I know where it's at.

Steve 3:42

Hey, we might be able to get sued by HBO. That'd be awesome.

Josh 3:48

Okay, let's get right into it. As I said we had sabers after dark. sabers played Edmonton in a 60 or 61 loss. They played the Calgary Flames in a one nothing fluky overtime win. And then they play the Vancouver Canucks in a another overtime win. I think that one was three, two or 4433232. Okay, yeah. So let's start with Edmonton. I didn't watch this one as much. I it. It started out it looked abysmal. And I just didn't care to watch it. Not to sound terrible, but I just got a little frustrated with it. And plus, I was working in driving home and things like that. So I kind of missed most of the game due to that. But Steve, you said you watch this one more than the other two. So what uh, what do you notice about that game?

Steve 4:39

That was painful. So this was the night right before my 6am flight to Atlanta. So I want to watch the first two periods. Luckily, our editor at die by the blade cover the recap because I was not conscious by the third period. I should have been unconscious by the second but I think force myself to watch a little bit more but that it just is one of those games they still got plane legs jet lag whatever you want to call it it is one of those games they just can't hack it and if you're not a really solid deep team it shows like you have to be on to be going against what admin sends what third in the Pacific now behind Ia so like they're playing well. They started hot when really cold and now they're getting hot again. So

Josh 5:34

I think we're actually waiting. I'm not sure

Steve 5:37

I think LA still had a while plus thing either way like a team I get team like that especially an offensive streaky team that's on. Can't exactly come with your B game when your B game is like a playoff teams D game turned into an F

Josh 5:57

Yeah, that's that's pretty good way to put it and you are correct. LA is one point ahead of the Oilers pretty tight at the top of the Pacific except for Calgary it goes 76 la 75 Edmonton 72 Vegas 68, Vancouver, and Anaheim still kind of knocking at the door at 65. But it's getting a little distant for the ducks there but Vegas keeps slipping. Who knows? You know? And that's no I

Steve 6:24

don't. I would see the ducks because the top three in the Pacific kind of have settled themselves. So yeah, the Ducks would be competing with like Dallas and maybe not Winnipeg, but Nashville for those wildcard spots.

Josh 6:41

And they'd be competing Winnipeg. Winnipeg got 68

Steve 6:45

eggs or Yeah, I am legs. Dallas, I think is gonna make it. They're kind of you're not gonna go to Vegas. Yeah, I'm rooting for them to knock out Vegas for selfish reasons. But I also hate Dallas, so

Josh 7:06

Yeah, fuck Dallas. Sorry.

Steve 7:08

It's still not a goal. 20 How old are you? 2022 2323 years later, still not a goal. Yeah. Yeah.

Josh 7:19

Oh, for those of you that don't know the story I was I was born two months after the 99 No goal. So I was born into the misery and like like, like Bane and Batman, you adopted the darkness. I was born into it. I wish you adopted the misery I was born into it. Anyway, so yeah, bismal game there in Edmonton, but bounce back the next night against one of the best teams one of the hottest teams in the league, no pun intended the Calgary Flames. And, I mean, sure, it's a fluky goal from Paige Thompson to win the game but that was a good overall effort from the Sabres in a back to back against like I said the better team but one of the best teams in the league right now. Dustin Tokarski had a high rate highlight reel save on newly acquired I think it was newly acquired Kellyanne Kroc dove across the net made it all over all the NHL and sports net pages and stuff nothing on ESPN Of course. And like I said Taylor was in the right place right time Markstrom mix plays the puck and Mark Simpson fantastic lately and just didn't look like he could control the puck that well that night outside of his own crease so Thompson recognize that and pressured the guy and honestly he almost missed because how tall he is but there was it

was a great great finish thereby him and good overall effort from the team. Like I said, after the night before.

Steve 8:51

If you told me the Sabres would score one goal against Calgary and a back to back situation, I would have believed you. If you told me that Tokarski was in that and we would only score one goal. I would have believed you. If you told me that we score one goal in overtime. And that's the game winning goal. granted by rule if it's in overtime, it is the game winning goal. But score one goal and Tokarski pitches a freaking shutout against the flames. I would have called BS on that. But here we are.

Josh 9:32

Honestly, yeah, I mean that and that was the Sabres first shutout since 2019. Oh my gosh, Brian Duff tweeted that out after the game 117 games between shutouts for the Sabres Actually no, I think was it but no, no, no, it was 174 I believe actually. Because that's that's more that's more like time correct. I think

Steve 9:59

I'm not even Man, I'm just impressed.

Josh 10:03

Yeah, no, that was it's Hey, good for him that and Tokarski is only the third Sabres goaltender to get a shout out against the flames. Steve Can you name the other two this year

Steve 10:18

to get shutouts against the flames

Josh 10:20

no all time only only say right over the Sabres. Yeah.

Steve 10:25

Patrick yep so one more I feel like saying Miller would be too easy so that's gonna be the misnomer. I'm gonna say it's not Miller. It's not Mika Noren it

Josh 10:41

your weight actually, you're right. Let's go. Let's go. I was like, You're close. And I'm like, wait, no, you're right. So here Yeah, I got the I have the tweet. Brian's up through the first shutout for the Sabres since the 25th of October in 2019. They had gone 174 games that one only three savers goalies have posted shut out in Calgary in Calgary. I don't know if it's all timing. It's flames but in Calgary, Patrick Norn and Tokarski.

Steve 11:17

Wow. And good for one. I didn't see that because I was in full wedding mode that night. So I definitely didn't see that tweet. And I'm not i i swear on the two CPA exams. I have passed that I did not look that up.

Josh 11:33

There's also a tweet from him more shutouts. That's most one nothing wins by Sabres goaltenders in regular season only hashtag has eight. Miller has seven. And Roth has four and an N RAS for all of N routes Sabres shutouts, or one nothing wins. Good for shout outs as the Sabre and they were all won. Nothing wins. Wow. Yeah. Tokarski has,

Steve 12:00

I think he got a bad rap.

Josh 12:01

He's over in Sweden right now. He's actually still playing. Yes,

Steve 12:05

he's solid goaltender is just the new fad of having these massive human beings with almost cat like reflexes. Unless you're Devin duveneck. In that became a fad and all these smaller goaltenders got overlooked. I think Amroth had a little more to give by the end of his career.

Josh 12:24

Yeah, I think so too. But, you know, it's how the cookie crumbles. And here we are still looking for a goaltender.

Steve 12:33

What was that word? What crumbles?

Josh 12:35

The bougie? Cookie?

Steve 12:37

Yes, the cookie. But when you listen to that back, you're gonna laugh.

Josh 12:44

Okay. I might fumble my words.

Steve 12:49

slurring your words there.

Josh 12:52

No, Steve. I was trying to say the word. That's how the cookie crumbles. You know, the like, like, what? Anyway, alright, so I

Steve 12:59

can do that voice I would be trying right now. But I'll spare you guys that.

Josh 13:06

Anyway, so one more game to get to and then we'll get into trade deadline day was really exciting. We all know that. So they play the Vancouver Canucks on Sunday. Darlene looked like, draft your Darlene. I mean, it looked like he was back over in Sweden dangling 40 year olds in the Swedish Hockey League with frolanda I I don't know if that's just a fluke II game where he's really really good because he's been really solid these past like couple months, I think compared to the beginning of the season. But last that that last game, he was on fire, I mean, scores the game winner looks defensively sound in his own end. He's dangling people again. He just he looked fantastic. I don't know if you got to see much of this one to Steve. But I think you're gonna wish you should have or you're going to wish you would have if you see if you saw like the highlight reel that the nhl.com usually puts together. But that game was was great. I mean, it was a late night game and I was awake for the whole thing. It was entertaining as hell.

Steve 14:13

Well, my flight was at 10:20pm. So I was hoping that one of two things would happen one I would have Wi Fi so I could watch the game or be I would get have a charger in there and be able to watch somehow, neither of which came to fruition. So I ended up watching God knows what. Oh, I think 21 Jump Street. So good luck when we landed and I finally get service back. It was overtime. So I got to see the overtime. Meanwhile, this is like one almost 130 in the morning. Right. And like, my girl sitting next to me and she's basically conked out we've been up all day, just brutal so I'm watching the game and Dali made that nasty move to the middle and scored the game winner. And you know I started celebrating or is very very very confused and what was going on. But yeah, I at least got to see that goal and from whatever everything I've seen all the highlights and what I could pick up Dolly's finally starting to feel it, because he always had the talent that we always heard he had the talent. It was just, when is it gonna come? So what I think is, it's all in his head. So you need you need a hype man behind him. You need the NHL version of DJ Khaled to just be shouting stuff at him in a positive way. Alex thought we need I'm not gonna lie that probably has a lot to do with it. Because talk it been in the playoffs a few times. Like he comes in even though he's not that old. You're younger than me. He's, uh, he comes in with some actual experience and you'd be like, Dolly like, brass. You're nasty.

Josh 16:13

Your Victor Hansen said that about him. Victor Hedman is one of the best defenseman in the league. And he's saying, Yeah, I see myself in him. Like, holy shit. That's a that if that isn't a compliment. I don't know what it's like.

Steve 16:30

He said that, but Ralph Kruger was our coach. So I think it went in one ear out the other and principles were jammed through his ear hole.

Josh 16:40

Yeah, that's, that's the other thing. I think that that Darlene is finally recovering from the Kruger effect. I think that the two I think that he's finally gotten over all the issues, they're very starting to anyway. Um, but one one quick thing that I want to mention or tooth two things real quick, before we get into trades, one, after the Calgary game. I don't know if you saw the video, Steve. I retweeted it. But Don Granado I don't know if every saber or every NHL coach does this. But Don Granada waited in the tunnel. And high five and patted on the back. Every single guy that walked down the tunnel, every single one. Like usually coaches just leave right off the bench go to the locker room. Now he waited in the tunnel. And he he high five and pat on the back every single one of his guys. That was great. I love to see that. I know. It's such a little little thing. But I've never seen a Sabres coach do that. And I've never seen an NHL coach do that unless they just haven't had the video like that. But that was fantastic. And I love to see that sort of thing. I know. Like I said it's really small. But small things lead to big things. Another thing that's really small and kind of stupid in some people's eyes, but after every when that big Hawk that that Big hug that Alex talk gives Greg Anderson or Dustin Tokarski. That's just awesome to see. That's like, it's like the Linus omark Jeremy swayman hug in Boston. It's just like, it's it's a fun little team thing that they all do together. And like, they do it every time. It just, it's, I don't know, maybe I'm just buying into it too much like everyone else's. But I just love to see that kind of stuff. And it's really, like, makes me really hopeful that maybe this this is the time that we can actually say next year will be different.

Steve 18:28

Now this absolute it's absolutely a positive sign in that. They don't just say Yeah, we really like this is a close knit group. Like it's one thing to say it but we're actually seeing it. We're seeing the excitement in the players. Like it's not just, you know, you see I call Orion hard after the games like yeah, you know, are really close team and you know, it's nice to get the win. Or they get a goal and it's all business like it's like no like you're playing a sport for a living. Something we'd all kill to do. Like let's see some excitement. I want to see the Jeff Skinner smile. I want to see the tuck hug. I want to see that sort of shit. To see my coach that excited about a dub that really meant a lot to the guys. That is important. And you said little things lead to big things. I was something that I was taught as I was going through juniors and crap and it it matters like going from a team that really stressed doing all the little things right? And then when you go into a team where that's not stressed that's how you have letdown games. That's how you have a toxic environment. That's when you get disgruntled players. It it's net not usually one thing that takes down a team. It's a lot like the tenure of Jason bottle. It's death by 1000 paper cuts. And in his case, one giant mistake that has been salvaged by the complete unicorn that is staged Thompson that center

Josh 20:01

there's another giant mistake and Brandon HAGL but that's besides the point um

Steve 20:06

I see since I'm filling in for Luke I'm not allowed to get super shouty that is what what I've been told by our non producer. So

Josh 20:17

anyway, what what's my title exactly then if I'm if I'm not a producer?

Steve 20:23

Well I'm just saying there's not a person in my ear besides you tell Oh, shut up. Shut up Steve stop yelling because the brand Hegel thing makes me really angry. It is the biggest self own that you could possibly imagine.

Josh 20:39

Not Not only does it make me angry because the Sabres had him at one point and then just kind of squandered the opportunity but also makes me angry because there's a lot of pieces for just Brendan Hegel. Like it's just like I don't I don't see where Chicago's rationale trading him is because that is a piece you build around if you're starting a rebuild and to I don't see giving up that much for him from Tampa side of the board because like Tampa gave up two first Rounders and, and one really good prospect and another pretty good prospect like Taylor radish, I think is going to be a very good impact player for Chicago. And those two first round picks are basically second Rounders because Tampa Bay is still going to be a very good team for the next two years. So that's my little NHL trade rant. Um, yeah,

Steve 21:34

two things there one, I think Bruce was that great of a GM he's kind of riding off of iser mins coattails who built the team and he's made a couple of good moves, but the best one being letting cooter off hats timing couture off surgery. However, cost controlled production. It has a lot of value, Andrew, in that case, I think it was overpriced, but you had to blow his socks off to get him out of there because Hegel was part of pool Chicago wanted going forward. He sets the timeline of when they're going to be good next, hopefully, and they they really wanted them when you really want them you go get them. Exactly. I think he was worth more of an ELC contract than Dalton Smith. But that's why Jason Botterill is over there ruining Seattle.

Josh 22:33

Oh, let's let's also talk about them for a second trade deadline before we jump into savings trade deadline. They're literally sending back every one that they picked in the Expansion Draft. They send back Marcus Johansen they send back Mark you're done. Oh they send back hell yarn Croc well, they'll send back Kelly yarn crock, but they trade away Cal yarn crock. Um, who else did they trade? Oh, God, I can't think of the other ones. They but they're like undoing the the Expansion Draft pretty much. So. I mean, I guess

Steve 23:04

trying to jeer Donal, they they don't seem to have a plan. No. Like what what is their plan if they wanted to gather a bunch of guys and then flip them for assets? Why wouldn't you take a guy like Tarasenko who you could have grabbed and then flipped for at least a first round pick and a good prospect. I think that's wildly more valuable than having VINs done on your blue line. And I'm big fan of his right but I still think he's a third pair defenseman, maybe a second pair.

Josh 23:36

I didn't notice this but they traded Mason Appleton back to the Winnipeg Jets

Steve 23:41

for third round pick and I'm sure they're asked

Josh 23:43

for like fourth round pick.

Steve 23:46

Stuff. Fourth, I'm sure they're asked him for like a second a second plus, to not take him in the first place. And now they're netting a fourth round pick. Like you could have had some good players there. I don't think cop was available. But I think it was either Appleton or was it Demello was the other guy? Yeah, I think it was the other guy. Yeah. When we were talking to Chad on our other show us like yeah, Demello was a slam dunk. He's a great D, like cost control does have drives play all that stuff. And so instead they just get end up with a fourth round pick.

Josh 24:23

But now look at it this job. Good job, Seattle. Now look at it this way, though. They do have a first rounder in the next three years. They have four second Rounders this year, three next year and one in three years. They have a third rounder. They have 3/4 Rounders, a fifth, a sixth and a seventh in this year's draft. So they have 1-234-567-8910 1112 picks in this year's draft. Seattle a lot of

Steve 24:53

it's a lot of darts but he could have had more and yeah, two things about it. One they don't have a plan. It goes into my theory that one round Francis is overrated. And Jason Botterill is not good at his job. And too, which leads us into our next little segment here. It was wasted potential. Seattle could have done a lot more if they had a more coherent plan. And we're better at executing. However, that brings us to a very quiet night for the Buffalo Sabres.

Josh 25:27

Yes, it does. So what we're gonna do here is, since there was basically two sides of this coin, there wasn't much that this there wasn't, there's only two things that savers could have done one exactly what they did doing nothing. And two, they could have just had a fire sale and sold off a lot of different pieces that are going to be uof phase, and even an RFA or two here this summer. So we're gonna kick this thing off in a little bit of a debate sort of style. So Steve will be on the side of there should have been a fire sale, and I will be on the side of they did the right thing. So Steve, do you want me to start off or do you want to start,

Steve 26:07

I can start so and what we're going to be doing is going through the arguments kind of explain the situation and then we'll go into kind of where we fall. So we'll give you the two poles and

then we'll see if we end up near the equator or down by Antarctica. So the camp that says, Kevin Adams completely blew it by not moving guys, this is the general argument here. So you've got at least four to five unrestricted free agents on your roster that are not going to be on your team come next year. Most likely, you're looking at Cody Eakin you're looking at Collin Miller, you're looking at maybe a mark Pesic Anderson's most likely not going to be here either. You can make arguments to keep them to be in the room. However, you're gonna lose them for nothing. After we lost all mark for nothing after we lost Jake McCabe for nothing. We're still a rebuilding team as promising as it looks. How many prospects look good. Remember the days when we thought Baptist? Bailey? Those guys I'm forgetting forgetting some defense when we had like Bryson Martin was supposed to be good like that guy socked?

Josh 27:28

Yeah, and we could Oh, yeah, guys,

Steve 27:31

we had second round pet like, Lemieux got traded, but he was kind of mad anyway.

Josh 27:38

Alex knew we had Alex Neil

Steve 27:40

Ander sock I hate him. But you can never have too many darts to throw at the dartboard when you are still a rebuilding team, especially with some high elite talent coming our way that is going to get paid. Dahlan keeps trending this way is next contract going to be massive. Oh and power. If he is what we hope he his his contract is going to be pretty big. So you're gonna need to fill out the lineup with some cost control younger players that can still contribute. Having picks does that it also allows you to either move up in the draft for a guy you like like when they got JJ Patrika they moved up to get them that's worked out. It also gives you the flexibility when you're trying to acquire talent at the deadline. If you're a good team throw an extra fifth round pick to get ahead of Florida in the sweepstakes to get your fourth line grinder center who's going to win draws. So it a lot of it just seems like a complete missed opportunity. And you'll you'll go through the arguments against it. So I won't go in into deep detail. But having guys like Colin Miller around especially especially columellar. I know he was hurt. But he's a right handed D who was doing well this year. And who has produced in this league, a right handed shot like Jeremy Lauzon got a freaking second round pick. I can do that. Ah, that drives me nuts. The miller thing really gets to me. But overall, the argument goes back to you got to capitalize on opportunities and letting this slip away seems like a missed opportunity.

Josh 29:28

So I want to start off by saying a couple things that I do agree with you on because like I like I I do think that like when this first happened when the trade deadline first hit, there was going to be no more trades. I was pretty upset. I was really frustrated. So I do agree with Steve on most of this but I also know that I've calmed down a little so what Kevin Adams had to say I changed my mind. But I do want to say I think the not trading Miller thing was a big mistake, because like

you said, See, we could have got we probably could have got a lot for him and who knows why the trade didn't go through Adam said he wasn't getting what he wanted. So, I mean, he probably wanted a second like like Lausanne got but he only was probably getting offers for fourth or worse, fourth round picks are worse. So it's just how again, it's how the cookie crumbles. See, I said that right that time. So the other thing is, this was just it just felt like one of those years that they were weren't going to do anything anyway, so I had my expectations I had my hopes up for nothing pretty much but once Kevin Adams said what he was gonna say I've kind of changed my mind. So he did say, you know, we want guys like Miller and he like we like the group we have, which I get that you don't want to ruin the chemistry. The guys are really bonding together. Right now, Cody Eakin is supposedly a very good locker room guy. A guy like Mark Pysyk is great to have around. For his experience for guys like Darlene and Yoky, Haruru and even non defenseman like Casey mittelstadt And Paige Thompson. I mean, Robert hag came out and said that when he got traded to Florida, Mark Pysyk literally texted all the Florida guys that he had in his phone and texted them hags number, and said, Hey, guys, here's, here's Rob's number. He's a great guy. And, you know, help them out any way you can. And that's such a classy move from from an NHL that that's why I like that's why I like Mark Pysyk He's such a nice guy. Like, that's someone I hope that they sign it back in the offseason. They weren't going to move Craig Anderson, I mean, he. He loves it here, he says, And he doesn't want to he's playing too. So he doesn't want to go somewhere and be someone's insurance policy, just for a chance that maybe winning a Stanley Cup. But the columellar thing I think was a great mistake. But at the same time, like you said, Steve, he's a right handed defenseman, who is, uh, like he's needed. They're needed right now around the league. So maybe they're trying to work out an extension for him. I don't know if I'd really want to extend him. But at the right price, anything's possible, I think, I don't think he's worth the 3.8 that he's getting right now. But give him something a little under three, for a couple years just to try him out again, maybe, but it might be time to move on from him. And this might have been the perfect point to move on. But regardless, if you don't sign him by July first he's out of your hair. So it's, it's gonna be interesting to see what they do there with Miller and with Zeke and guys like that too, because like I said, Eakins a pretty good locker room guy. So I think that was their main focus, his trade deadline was making the right moves to maximize their assets. But keeping the chemistry intact and keeping everyone's mind in the right place, because we trade someone right now. It's not going to change your season, the season's over with, it's been over for about a month, month or two now. And some could argue even longer, but this trade deadline is probably the smartest move for the future. In the sense of you didn't. You didn't wreck what you have built. But that's not to say that they're going to stick with the same group next year because this group clearly isn't always working. They need to clearly make some upgrades here. But for right now, this is fine. I think the one thing I was also pissed about was the fact that they didn't use their trade cap or their salary capital. I think that that was another big mistake by Kevin Adams. Supposedly there were calls to try to do that, but they just never panned out. Um, I the one trade that I didn't bring up on a trade deadline episode and I want to throw this at you right now. Steve. I wanted the Sabres to take on Tyler Myers contract from the Vancouver Canucks. I would like I don't know what we would have sent them back. I would have wanted more than just Myers but Myers is a veteran right hand defenseman, I think that could be would have been like a decent pairing with

own power when he comes in. I mean, like that's exactly what they're looking for is a veteran defenseman on the right side to pair with power. And Myers is one of those guys. So I want to hear your thoughts on that if you have any ideas of what we could get from them or could have gave back. But that's just a trade that I thought of because Vancouver's in capital and that's a contract that's killing them right now. But what are your What are your yes,

Steve 34:42

so So real quick about that contract? How many years is left on it? Can you look that up for me? And then my initial reaction on it is you could want it to be an offseason move because with the turnaround of Vancouver they are trying to make the playoffs but They are in some dire straits with a lot of guys and that their long term future doesn't look so bright.

Josh 35:06

So after after this probably after this year he has to left.

Steve 35:12

Yes to left. Okay, so that's that's not too bad because at most you, he comes off assuming that power burns a year first year of his entry level the end of this season. You still have power on his eLC. So the money at two more years at five, whatever he's getting, I think it's high fives low six. It is exactly six. It's exactly sex. Okay, so split the difference. So at sit at \$6 million for I mean, he's a second pair right handed D with a lot of experience in this league. I think he's got a bad rap here because he didn't have much support.

Josh 35:51

We also thought he broke his legs. Yeah,

Steve 35:55

we we thought he was gonna be like, Vic, basically Victor Hedman and he wasn't he was Tyler Myers. So the Tyler Myers is still good player. And that would be a good use of our cap space in the offseason. That's an offseason move.

Josh 36:13

Right. Because this deadline. Yeah, go ahead.

Steve 36:16

Yeah, getting back to this deadline. So the other part of not moving guys. Two things. One, it makes me very worried about Ryan Johnson, because they need to sign him this offseason before so he doesn't go into his senior year. And then we get scorned and he leaves and we apparently we get a compensation comp. I can't say the word a compensation Peck. Compensatory? It's about as close as I'm going to get. So it would be the last tick and it'd be like an EQ, it's an extra second round pick, which would be

Josh 36:57

why would it be second?

Steve 36:59

Because it's a sec, they the compensation when your first round pick doesn't sign as a second round peg? Oh, okay. I don't know if it would be like the same slot that they picked them. So they picked them at the end of the first round. It was the St. Louis 31st. Overall pick, right back when they won the cup. So it would probably pick them and take in the second round.

Josh 37:19

But would it be 62. Now since there's 32 teams,

Steve 37:22

if there's 32, teams double that 64. So it'd be the 65th overall pick, who's all not not terrible, but Ryan Johnson's a good player, and I want him signed. So that worries me just having too many bodies, and now you have less incentive for him to burn a year. It's just not having as many cards in your hand, then you have to worry about Okay, so we need to get power into the mix. And we need to get playing time for some of these guys and Collin Miller still there. I don't know how happy he is knowing he probably could have been on a contender. And instead he's here in a place where he hasn't exactly had any success whatsoever, Team wise. So he's gonna be looking to get out and he's still around.

Josh 38:15

Well, here's my question about and it's a numbers game. Here's my question about Johnson. We have to sign him by July 1, correct?

Steve 38:24

Not this July 1. It would be knocking I don't even think it's July 1.

Josh 38:29

We have to we have to sign him this offseason. Pretty much.

Steve 38:33

Yeah, otherwise he goes into his senior year can play it out and then he just has to wait like four or five months like the Jimmy VC thing. And then I think like mid, I think it's August 15 or something weird like that, where he can sign anywhere.

Josh 38:49

So here's here's the thing. Free Agents on defense for the Sabres, obviously, as we talked about Colin Miller, Mark Pysyk. There's going to be a lot of open spaces I think still columellar Mark Pysyk will butcher and Jacob Bryson's on RFA. So that leaves you with for three Yeah, four guys on the books. Casey Fitzgerald, a TIA Samuelsson Henri jokiharju and Rasmus Dolly. So, power comes in, right power comes in, he plays third pair with Mark Pysyk. For now we'll say Casey Fitzgerald and Mathias Samuelson are really good pairing I think and when Fitzgerald gets healthy again, I think those two should be together. And then you have Deleon

and jokiharju. So Miller's the odd guy out in that in that case, and say you you're not going to bring back well butcher you're not going to bring back. Colin Miller. She have your six guys right there and Johnson is still the odd guy out unless you don't bring back Pysyk if you don't bring back Pysyk you can put power and Johnson together but that's an inexperienced pair. I don't know if they want to do that. Exactly. And if you go the route

Steve 40:00

still left. And I thought it's Johnson thing. He might that's what's interesting. So Johnson's skill set being, he's not super offensive, but he can move the puck. He's a really good skater, but he doesn't have those offensive impacts you would expect from someone who's such a great skater. So he's kind of like a more sound defensive Brandon Montour. So he could be a guy in that kind of skill set. He doesn't need to be on the left side because he kind of compensates with you know, hockey sense and his skating will step up for him. So he could be the guy who plays the right side because we have a lot of guys we are really high on who all shoot left. We saw Darlene do that earlier in the year when he was struggling saw him on the right side it was ugly might be a completely different story now but do you really want to bet on it? So just moving forward this blue line it needs a little work and if we'll see we'll see what they do I'm worried about Johnson if they don't think he's gonna sign they must trade him this offseason trade him get get a experience forward. Something like that. I I don't know where it came from. But my buddy was saying they were talking about maybe Johnson for like Mayfield or something from from the island. Yeah. If you're yeah if you're doing that like try and get Cal cluster faster clock so you know get one of those solid fourth line guys who you know, you can plug in the lineup and he would be really fun to watch with like a Girgensons and ask blender. So So yeah, yeah, I don't know which side Clutterbuck plays. But if he plays right foot him with Girgensons if he plays left foot and moto Poso, and just watch them ruin people's nights.

Josh 42:14

And so here's here's my last quick thought on the defense situation. So obviously, they want to bring in an experienced veteran guy for power, but why not also try to bring any Veteran Experience guy with for Johnson as well, if Johnson does in fact, the right side? Like you said, he shoots left but he can probably play the right. So another guy I was looking at was Alex Goligoski. On the Minnesota Wild, he's a UFC at the end of the season. He's 36 to making way too much money right now. He's also kind of an an ageless wonder. So he's someone that I've always liked. And I don't think he'd be a bad addition to this team. But part of me wants Tyler Meyers more just because of the sentimental value there. But another thought is is trying to bring both in but the problem there is you found a couple diamonds in the rough in Casey Fitzgerald Matea Samuelsson this year. So you have a pairing there you have Darlene obviously, and then the question mark then goes to Henry Aoki, are you You know what I'm saying? I'm gonna take trade how to trade Henry. Okie, are you?

Steve 43:23

Absolutely.

Josh 43:24

I've thought the same thing the past couple of weeks. Because

Steve 43:27

I think his wrap around the league is higher than he will ever reach in his career. I think what we've seen and I was really high on him to like when I saw him at the World Juniors playing with I think Lacson on Finland. I've loved how he played, but he just hasn't gotten better. And he actually makes that dalim pair worse. Hmm. which is saying something because Darlene is raising all boats at this point. Except Yoki. Are you right? The man when you see him, he just looks the last half the time and honestly it better than Alex Nylander, but I think I think you can do better than Yoki Are you? So here, problem is the team really likes them and they're really high on them. So I don't think they'll trade them but if it were me, he'd be the guy I need to go. But then you have literally no one on your right side.

Josh 44:25

But then But then you bring in Tyler Meyers and you have someone he's not what it used to be, but he's still again, a veteran right shot defenseman who is highly touted in the league. Alex Goligoski is another guy like that like those aren't your like bln dolls, but they'll they'll hold you over until guys like Ryan Johnson, Casey Fitzgerald are better on your right side and say you draft the right shot defenseman this year's draft it it's not your fixing everything. button but but it could help to bring in one of Have Goligoski or Myers so those those are the two of the guys that I'd love the Sabres to target on defense this offseason? I mean one would probably be cheaper than the other and Goligoski because you could sign him in free agency but I'm sure there's gonna be a bunch of other teams that want to have him on the roster.

Steve 45:17

Yeah, when you look when Luke gets back, I'd be interested to see when we can really dig into in the offseason. Imagine what packaging Johnson portail Portillo, who I'm convinced is gonna do the Cal Peters and then sign you a Fae because he only has to be one more year and you know, he's in the depth chart, you can see UPL you see Levi, there's a lot of other places he could go if he's patients. So you trade him now, before the accident and Michigan's y'all know how good they'll be next year after they lose Hughes power, veneers a lot of guys, right? So she would be if you could package Ryan Johnson, Portillo and the Florida first round peg, imagine what player you could get for that. Oh, whether it's a whether it's a top six forward or a right, top for right handed shot defenseman, that, that opens in a lot of doors. That opens a lot of doors and that's like a that's the benefit of having all these guys, right? That's that's the benefit of Samuelson turning out to be what all his coaches said and guys like me are saying, but he literally cannot transition to skate for like the man's feet, or cinder blocks that are not cinder blocks anymore, and he is going to have a very long, productive career. I love how he plays. So I'm

Josh 46:52

gonna throw out a name. You're not allowed to respond. You can have one you can have one word and response and then we're gonna leave it at that till we come back to this discussion and the offseason because I think we're going to do with me, you and Luke for the offseason.

Jacob Chychrun No, okay. All right. Well, we'll discuss that later in that in that package. So seeking change one word, I said what oh, wait, he's a left shot shit. Well, that's what I mean. Nevermind. Alright, moving on, looking ahead at the Sabres week ahead. They play Pittsburgh tomorrow night on March 23. As we're recording this on March 22. Actually, at night, this time, we're not doing it at the crack of dawn. After that, they have Washington on March 25th. Sunday March 27. They take on the New York Islanders. These are all home games by the way, or no I'm sorry. Sunday game is in New York against the Rangers. I might have said the islanders there. I don't know if I did or not. Then they have a back to back where they are in Chicago on the 28th they play again at home against Winnipeg on the 30th and then RJ night is April 1 Next Friday against the predators at home so a lot of games in the next week here for the Sabres I know through a lot of yet a lot of their Steve but one game that catches your eye and this next week here

Steve 48:19

well the first one coming up is one I've got my eye on only for two reasons. One, it's tn T and without the leafs they have to talk about the Sabres at least a little bit. So no, no, no, no

Josh 48:31

those talking about Crosby.

Steve 48:33

Oh, crap. You're right.

Josh 48:37

Oh, no, no, no. They'll talk about Crosby with his newly acquired teammate Ricard Raquel.

Steve 48:43

Yeah, I won. I love that. I think I think Pittsburgh is going to be one of the teams in the East. I think out of the mat they're probably this close the gap between them and Carolina. I still give Carolina the advantage. It just depends on which goal is hot. But I'm also writing the preview for that game for die by the blade. So check that out shameless plug, because I am a plug. So as far as those games, just be beat the Rangers for the love. Just please. Hey, they are not they are not as good as they think they are because they are having an all world season by their goaltender goaltending is a hell of a drug and they're high as a kite.

Josh 49:34

I'm surprised that Chris Drury moved all those untouchables in that Andrew cop trade. I mean, wow. I mean, a guy like Jack Eichel can't get those second Rounders like that. You know, like, that's, that's shocking. Andrew capa is better than Jack like No. Anyway, yeah, I'd love to beat the Rangers too. After all that offseason bullshit that they put us through. I'm really looking forward to the RJ night game. I'm hopefully going to be going That's Luke. We'll be back by then. So me and him are planning on going. I don't know if you can free your busy tax schedule, Steve, but we're looking to go if you're available.

Steve 50:10

We'll see.

Josh 50:12

So, wrapping up here, what's one thing you've had in the past week that you've you were excited about, or one thing that you're looking forward to in the next week here?

Steve 50:23

So I already already talked about the wedding. That was kind of the big thing. But other than that, one drink responsibly, non kids. So anyone over 21 not promoting underage drinking, but I was at Wegmans right before this doing the weekly shopping. And I saw something that actively made me very happy. The Genesee breweries Koelsch, red ruby Cole is now for sale, at least until I think they come off around the Fourth of July. So that's what I will be exclusively having in till I run out because it is phenomenal.

Josh 51:14

So I know what you're doing. I know what you're bringing to my birthday party. In other words,

Steve 51:18

pretty much yeah.

Josh 51:20

I've never actually had this stuff. So maybe maybe I'll steal one or two from you.

Steve 51:24

Sounds sounds like a birthday present.

Josh 51:28

That's the work that works for me. Oh, birthday.

Steve 51:31

Here's a feature headache.

Josh 51:34

So one exciting note from me. I just recently sold one of my hockey sticks on sideline swap shot at sideline swap. They don't promote us or anything, but they're just a really good website. Really good app. Um, and I had a little over 200 bucks in my account on there. So you know, I said, You know what, screw it, I can treat myself. And I bought myself my first ever brand new pair of hockey skates the other day. So that was nice. Turns out, I didn't realize this till after I bought them. But they were Bauer Supreme. And then we're power Supreme S 37 was the model. And that is exactly what my power stick that I just bought is to its power supreme s 37. So that's kind of some unplanned irony there. I don't really know. That's, it's I don't know why this gates and the sticker have the same like, model and all that stuff. But I don't really understand all that. But no, it was cool. It's nice to have pair of skates that actually fit you.

Because the ones I had. Were a size too big. I found out. I went to pure hockey and I got my size done correctly. And the guy say Well, one of really high arches. So I don't know how you don't have immense foot pain from skating all the time. And to your skates are a size too big. And I'm like, Oh, well that explains why I can't you know, skate properly. And then I got some insoles for my for my feet too. So I can actually have my feet firmly in my skates. So it's a little bit of a exciting purchase for myself. And I'm happy I did. I'm excited to get to try him out. I have no idea when that next game will be but we'll see. So yeah, that's my big thing.

Steve 53:10

See, now you're going to be used to the too big of skate. So now you're going to be falling all over the place with the right sighs skate until you adjust.

Josh 53:20

Oh yeah, that's the thing. Like I don't have my next game until like I play in that broken sticks League. It's a pickup game pickup league you sign up weekly. And my next game with them that I'm signed up for currently is not till April 3. So I haven't told them theoretically. But I don't know when in the next week or so. I'll be able to do that. So little nervous. I'm trying to get there before I can before I go out and do all this other stuff, but time will tell.

Steve 53:47

Well, you know that goalie gear I gave you Yeah, goalie gear I didn't give you almost got used our goaltender for our beer League and this is the last thing I'll say cuz you know me. So our goalie during right before a playoff game dropped out two hours before so we're scrambling to find a Tandy. I literally brought I have like pads. I have a shoulder. I have mold. Are you going to try to Rochester and think oh, yeah, I'll

Josh 54:17

play in a barely playoff game way up.

Steve 54:20

Oh, sweet. You would have gotten lit up. Yeah, using my brother's old gear, that stuff is beat the hell? So I use the backup backup goalie gear that I have and brought it to the rank luckily we found somebody last second, literally last second. But yeah, that almost got used with a player helmet. I think we had a catcher's mitt. Yeah, cuz I didn't have a Glover blocker.

Josh 54:50

I was like, you might want to steal your stuff back.

Steve 54:53

No, cuz it never gets used and honestly, the leg pads are fine, but if anyone use that chapter protector, I'm pretty sure they'd have a heart attack the first soft shot that hit their chest.

Josh 55:07

So in other words, you're ready to lay it on the line for the team.

Steve 55:12

Well, I was gonna let someone else use it and find out for themselves so I'm not a bad person. But maybe after that I wouldn't have been a very good person. Yeah. Trending the wrong way much like Vegas is season.

Josh 55:31

Alright, anyway, so once again, thanks for listening, go watch some Sabres hockey. They got a good, good bunch of games coming up in this next week. So it should be a pretty exciting week. And if you're going to RJ Knight, look out for a guy and old Derrick Roy jersey and a ginger beard. That'll be me. And maybe we'll see you there. But other than that, have a good week, everybody

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