



Presented by



COMMUNICATIONS BROADCASTING CONTENT

News Clips
10-11-15

WE ARE ALL
KINGS

FROM LA KINGS INSIDER

October 10: 2015 3:02 PM

By: Jon Rosen

Forwards Groups Evolve As Team Looks To Ignite Score

Darryl Sutter bases his offensive lines off groups of twos, so don't expect to see Marian Gaborik separated from Anze Kopitar or Jeff Carter apart from Tyler Toffoli.

That outlook allowed him to move several forwards around for the team's practice on Saturday, when Milan Lucic was aligned with Carter and Toffoli, and Brown was bumped back up alongside Kopitar and Gaborik, with whom he spent much of the 2014 postseason and episodes of the 2014-15 season.

"We need some more from the forwards, and then if you break that up even farther, and you break it up into lines or power plays, you break it like that – more from our centermen, like that – I think that our top two lines were not getting enough quality looks where it's one-and-done or in the cycle part of it or the support part of it in the forecheck," Sutter said. "We're just not getting enough, so we're kind of looking at it, 'OK, who's playing well, and who looks like they have a hot hand, and who's worked it before,' that sort of thing. I still like pairs. I still like Gaby and Kopi, I still like Ty and Jeff, and that's how we do view it, right? Brownie's getting lots of good shots and good looks and a lot of time with the puck, so we've just kind of got to look at all that."

Brown has indeed been one of the bright spots among the forwards through the first two games of the season, both regulation losses. He now leads the team with eight shots on goal after a seven-shot performance on Friday night.

Of course, when Milan Lucic was acquired in June, Dean Lombardi almost immediately deemed him a linemate of Kopitar and Gaborik's, noting that his presence would return Gaborik to his preferred right side. That look ended when Gaborik returned to the left wing on Saturday.

"The last couple of years, mostly I played on the left side there, so I'm very familiar with that," Gaborik said. "I've been on the right side, and I could have done more obviously, but now I'm back on the left side."

With Brown returning to Kopitar's line and Lucic joining the Carter-Toffoli pair, Tanner Pearson was moved alongside Nick Shore and Trevor Lewis, and Andy Andreoff skated alongside Kyle Clifford and Jordan Nolan. Jordan Weal served as an extra forward during line drills.

After practice, Gaborik spoke with LAKI about the adjustments to the team's lines.

Marian Gaborik, on the adjustments to the team's lines in practice:

Darryl's the coach. He makes all the decisions, and obviously in these two games, the first game we didn't have anything, and our last game, a little bit better, but obviously we need to generate more. It's a long year, so obviously you're going to see changes and stuff, but that's just the way it is. Whoever I'm playing with, we just have to make the best out of it ... and play well, play the least amount of time in our zone and have some zone time in their end, and just capitalize and bear down on opportunities and score some goals.

Gaborik, on whether Friday's game represented a step in the right direction for the forwards:

I think so. I mean, we had a bit more, we had some chances, we just have to bury those. We need to do better, obviously, that's for sure.

Gaborik, on his and Brown's versatility:

Mostly, last year and now, I'm going to be left, he's going to be right, so that's how we're going to play together. We know what we can expect out of each other there, and we created some chemistry last year at times. Obviously, because we're going to be playing the next game at least together, so like I said, we just have to make the best out of it and play the best we can. Like I said, whoever I'm playing with or we're playing with, it doesn't matter. We just have to generate.

October 10, 2015 2:39 PM

By: Jon Rosen

October 10 Practice Quotes: Darryl Sutter

On the focus of Saturday's practice:

We talked before – we wanted to make sure we got a good aerobic day in, just with the way the schedule is, and get back to a good practice Monday. [Reporter: Is that a general thing that happens a day before a day off, when you have a luxury of a practice the day before?] Yeah. The way this month's schedule is, it's broken up with the two days, the three days. It's not a normal schedule right now, so we've got to keep our fitness up and keep guys sharp that are sharp, and then some guys that haven't been as sharp in the fundamental part of it, get 'em to where they've got to be, and they've got to do it through practice because you don't want 'em to be doing it as the game goes along. You want 'em to be sharp early.

On the adjustment in the forward groupings on Saturday:

We generated a lot last night, and a lot of it was from our back end. Our back end was more mobile, our back end was moving pucks better, and that's basically where you create a lot of your team speed from, so we were a lot better at that. If you'd just look at it, we had 70-something attempts last night, and in comparison to the first game, it's almost a 50% increase, so the next part of that is the finish part of it, and as well as our defense moved the puck last night, also, a lot of our generation towards their net was from our defense. We need some more from the forwards, and then if you break that up even farther, and you break it up into lines or power plays, you break it like that – more from our centermen, like that – I think that our top two lines were not getting enough quality looks where it's one-and-done or in the cycle part of it or the support part of it in the forecheck. We're just not getting enough, so we're kind of looking at it, 'OK, who's playing well, and who looks like they have a hot hand, and who's worked it before,' that sort of thing. I still like pairs. I still like Gaby and Kopi, I still like Ty and Jeff, and that's how we do view it, right? Brownie's getting lots of good shots and good looks and a lot of time with the puck, so we've just kind of got to look at all that. [Reporter: He

does look faster and stronger so far.] Yeah. He's had a really good camp, he's carried it into his first two games. He's probably been our best forward, right through, if you look at the last four weeks, for sure. ... We thought we played a lot better last night, and we talked about it this morning, but we need results. You need the result. That's a bad habit to get into, saying that you played well [in defeat]. That becomes an out clause. You don't want to do that.

October 10, 2015 1:33 PM

By: Jon Rosen

October 10 Practice Notes

Good afternoon from Toyota Sports Center. Forward lines from today's morning skate, as grouped together by colored jerseys:

White: Gaborik-Kopitar-Brown

Blue: Lucic-Carter-Toffoli

Green: Pearson-Shore-Lewi

Purple: Clifford-Andreoff-Nolan-Weal

-Defensive pairings remained the same from Friday night: McNabb-Doughty, Muzzin-Ehrhoff, Martinez-Greene and Forbort-Schultz.

-Saturday's practice was another long skate that took up the better part of the 11:00 hour. The team is off Sunday, and Darryl Sutter wanted to get a good aerobic day of work in. There's a weekend break in the schedule, so this is an early season quirk that comes with playing at home on a Friday night and not until Tuesday, when the Kings return to Staples Center to face the Vancouver Canucks.

-Because the Kopitar line has struggled to generate offense through the preseason and the first two regular season games, Milan Lucic was moved to Jeff Carter's line, with Tanner Pearson assigned to Nick Shore's line and Dustin Brown jumping up to the top line, opposite Marian Gaborik. This moves Gaborik back to the left side, where he most often plays with Brown. "We know what we can expect out of each other there, and we've created some chemistry last year at times," Gaborik said after practice. Sutter also discussed the reasons for the adjustments; stories to come.

-I have a personal event this evening – a friend of the blog is getting married! – so content will slow in the afternoon. More to come today, though, and thank you, as always, for reading. Enjoy your Saturday, Insiders.

October 10, 2015 1:22 AM

By: Jon Rosen

Waking Up With The Kings: October 10

That the Staples Center scoreboard was spitting out misleading numbers and statistics or failed to work at all seemed to be a fairly appropriate representation of Friday night's game, a forgettable encounter with the Arizona Coyotes in which the Kings took a step forward territorially and in scoring chances but not in the significantly more important responsibility of collecting points. After the game, the Kings more or less liked the majority of their 60-minute effort, but it's hollow to find solace in any sort of directional beacon in the team's play when dropping two points to a divisional rival that may end up as the 30th best team in the National Hockey League.

Though there was no cavalcade of Grade-A Kings chances in Friday's game, there were still enough of the B-type chances that on some nights, when they're getting the bounces, they'd look up at the scoreboard and see a two or three – maybe even a four if the power play was humming. Instead, they faced Good Mike Smith, the one who posted a .929 save percentage in March and April last season, and couldn't cash in on any net-front grease despite a mostly regular presence in the blue paint. On the other side of the rink, Jonathan Quick showed that he's still finding his game. After appearing to lose sight of a fluttering puck that deflected off Nick Shore's stick upon being released from Zbynek Michalek's stick on the Coyotes' first shot, a real backbreaker came with 48 seconds left in the first period, when Drew Doughty and Kyle Clifford converged on nearly the same spot just inside Los Angeles' blue line, allowing an unmarked Oliver Ekman-Larsson to take a vacation down the center of the ice in the Kings' zone and snap a Max Domi feed off Quick's stick and between his legs. Clifford had just gotten off the bench in the waning moments of Arizona's power play, and the long

stretch pass towards the L.A. blue line allowed just enough time for the Coyotes to capitalize on the Kings' assessment of the play. In the second period, Los Angeles was felled by a pair of turnovers, one as Steve Downie pressured Jordan Weal into a turnover leaving the zone, and the other on a disconnect between Matt Greene and Dustin Brown on another breakout attempt. The Kings' mistakes, coupled with Quick still trying to refine his game, meant that there were pucks ending up in the back of their net. Arizona, on the other hand, despite a disadvantage in skill, played a mostly smart, tight game in which their defense played well in front of Smith and was quick to clear the puck out of danger.

There are certainly concerns over the team's start, but there's nowhere near enough data to present any real evaluation of the club. As Sheng Peng noted, the Kings are shooting 3.3%, and their save percentage is .833. The significant difference between now and the start of the season last October was when the Kings were struggling to find their game (remember those fortunate wins over Minnesota and St. Louis?), Jonathan Quick was on top of his, stopping 225 of the first 236 shots he faced (.953%). They out-chanced the Coyotes 29-12 last night according to War-on-Ice, and if they were to post those numbers nightly (yes, obviously not all games will be against Arizona), they'd probably come away victorious 80% of the time. That won't happen, but it is more likely that as past results indicate, whether against San Jose in the spring in 2014, or in emerging from the valleys of each of the last four seasons, the club finds ways to re-chart their direction out of the inevitable ruts of an NHL season. There are several warning signs – the Kopitar line was “a little better,” according to Darryl Sutter, though it was again held without a point – but there is also a strong constitution and a top-flight core. It does feel like there will be a long, standing-over-your-golf-shot-while-you're-shooting-well-above-your-handicap wait before Tuesday's game against Vancouver.

FROM LAKINGS.COM

October 10, 2015 2:00 PM

Kings Assign Goaltender Peter Budaj To Ontario (AHL)

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Kings have assigned goaltender Peter Budaj to the Ontario Reign of the American Hockey League Kings President/General Manager Dean Lombardi announced today.

Budaj, signed to a one-year contract, Oct. 9, 2015, has appeared in 296 regular-season games in nine seasons in the NHL with Colorado and Montreal registering a 124-107-36 record with a .903 SV% and a 2.76 GAA. In seven career postseason games he has recorded an 0-2 record with a .843 SV% and a 5.13 GAA.

October 10, 2015 1:36 PM

By: Alex Kinkopf

Reign Finalize Roster, Set For Opening Night

Ontario Makes Their AHL Regular Season Debut Tonight In Bakersfield!

The Ontario Reign are set to make their American Hockey League regular season debut tonight when they take on the Bakersfield Condors at 7:00 PM at the Rabobank Arena.

The Reign, who spent eight seasons as the Kings' ECHL affiliate, now house most of the Kings' top prospects, many of whom skated with the NHL club this past month at Development Camp and Training Camp at the Toyota Sports Center in El Segundo. 15 of the players on Ontario's current roster were part of the Manchester Monarchs' Calder Cup championship team last season.

After playing their first three games on the road, Ontario will return home to the Citizens Business Bank Arena on Friday, October 23 when they host the Bakersfield Condors, and on Saturday, October 24 when they host the San Jose Barracuda.

The Reign's full, final 23-man roster can be seen below:

Forwards:

#7 [Valentin Zykov](#)

#9 Adrian Kempe

#11 Kris Newbury

#12 [Jonny Brodzinski](#)

#15 Paul Bissonnette

#16 Sean Backman

#21 Andrew Crescenzie

#24 Ryan Horvat

#25 Scott Sabourin

#26 [Nic Dowd](#)

#27 [Michael Mersch](#)

#28 [Joel Lowry](#)

#39 [Justin Auger](#)

Defensemen:

#2 Kurtis MacDermid
#4 Kevin Gravel
#5 Vincent LoVerde (C)
#6 Jamie McBain
#8 Zachary Leslie
#23 Nick Ebert
#33 Kevin Raine

Goaltenders:

#29 Michael Houser
#30 Patrick Bartosak
#31 Pater Budaj

Early Saturday, Ontario announced they signed veteran goaltender Ray Emery to a professional tryout contract:

October 10, 2015 11:04 AM

By: Alex Kinkopf

Ice Pops Hitting the South Bay

Be On The Lookout For #LAKingsIcePops Today

Be on the lookout, we're hitting the South Bay today to give away our limited edition, LA Kings player themed frozen ice pops!

Come find us at one of our two locations this afternoon to score yourself one of these frozen, delectable treats! The popsicles come in six different flavors -- '**Pearson Pineapple**', '**Carter Coconut**', '**Kopi Berry**', '**Toffoli Berry**', '**Martinez Mango**', and '**Lucic Lime**'!

We'll be set up at The Point El Segundo at 850 Sepulveda Blvd, El Segundo, CA 90245 at 11:00 AM, and in Manhattan Beach at 2:30 PM at the intersection of Manhattan Ave and 10th Street.

Spot the LA Kings Ice Rider and the Bailey Mobile, where the LA Kings Ice Crew will be with their freezers, waiting to give you your treat on this blistering hot day.

As always, follow @LAKings on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to get up-to-the-minute details on where we'll be located today!

FROM LA TIMES

October 10, 2015 3:35 PM

By: Lisa Dillman

Ray Emery Agrees To Tryout With Kings' Minor League Team

Normally, a veteran goalie joining a minor league team on a professional tryout would not merit much more than a passing glance.

Ray Emery, however, is different.

It is a needed depth move for the Kings' organization. Its minor league team in Ontario (Calif.) announced Saturday morning that Emery has agreed to a professional tryout. Emery, 33, has appeared in 287 NHL games, mostly recently with the Philadelphia Flyers last season and Chicago before that. The bulk of his career was played in Ottawa. He even had a short run (10 regular-season games) in Anaheim in 2010-11.

The Kings' farm system, once well-stocked with able goalies, suddenly has needs because of injuries and other factors. They lost goalie JF Berube to the New York Islanders on waivers before the start of the regular season, and talented prospect Patrik Bartosak is injured and expected to be out about a month.

Earlier this week, the organization signed veteran goalie Peter Budaj, who had been in Kings training camp on a tryout, to a one-year deal.

There has been a fascinating triangle of goalie moves. Emery had been in Tampa Bay's training camp on a pro tryout but was released Sept. 27 when the Lightning claimed goalie Kevin Poulin off waivers. That led the Islanders to grab Berube when he went on waivers, and the Kings' organization needed to fill a slot.

It all makes sense ... eventually.

FROM OC REGISTER

October 10, 2015 9:04 AM

By: Rich Hammond

Paralyzed As Teenager, Jablonski Now In The NHL As Kings Staffer

Jack Jablonski is planning a future in hockey. Given what he has already experienced, he's wise enough not to plan too much else in life.

A spinal-cord injury ended Jablonski's hockey career, but now he's working in the NHL. The Kings have hired Jablonski, now a USC student, as a communications intern.

"I definitely wanted to keep pursuing a career in hockey and that hockey lifestyle," Jablonski said, "and I'm super interested in PR and communications so I hoped I could find an area that was a good fit."

In Dec. 2011, Jablonski, then a 16-year-old high school sophomore from Minnesota, was paralyzed from the chest down after he took a hit from behind during a hockey game. His spinal cord was severed at the neck.

Jablonski's injury, survival and recovery became a national story, as athletes from several professional sports showed their support for the teenager and invited him to attend practices and games.

Jablonski has continued to make an impact on hockey. His injury raised awareness about safety in youth games and the need to eliminate dangerous, blindside hits.

His mobility now limited to a motorized wheelchair, Jablonski isn't focused on his limits. He has already spent two-plus years hosting a weekly hockey-talk radio show in Minnesota, and in January, Jablonski accepted a scholarship to attend USC and study journalism and communications.

Kelly Cheeseman, the Kings' chief operating officer, graduated from the same high school as Jablonski. After a job interview, Jablonski became part of the Kings' college-intern staff this month.

Jablonski will work in the press box this season, providing assistance to reporters and Kings staffers.

"Having had the opportunity to work in radio the last couple years, that's been a blast," Jablonski said. "That's definitely an interest and passion of mine, but I've been looking into anything in sports media. I don't know where I want to go and what I want to do exactly, but that's what this time is for and I'm looking forward to figuring it out."

Jablonski hopes to walk one day, and pushes for spinal-cord research. Family members and friends helped organize and run Jablonski's "BEL13VE Foundation," which raises money to support survivors of spinal-cord injuries and to promote further research.

Jablonski said he is enjoying life in Southern California and, even though he's now a Kings staffer, he's looking forward to next week's visit from his favorite team, the Minnesota Wild.

"This is the first time I've started hockey season (with the temperature) in the 90s," Jablonski joked.

FROM NHL.COM

October 10, 2015 5:49 PM

Emery Agress To Tryout With Kings' AHL Affiliate

Ray Emery agreed to a professional tryout contract with Ontario of the American Hockey League, the affiliate of the Los Angeles Kings, on Saturday.

Emery, 33, attended training camp with the Tampa Bay Lightning on a professional tryout, but was released Sept. 28, the same day the Lightning claimed goaltender Kevin Poulin on waivers from the New York Islanders. Last season Emery went 10-11-7 with a 3.06 goals-against average and .894 save percentage in 31 games with the Philadelphia Flyers.

In 11 seasons with the Ottawa Senators, Flyers, Anaheim Ducks and Chicago Blackhawks, Emery has 145 wins and 16 shutouts. He won the Stanley Cup with the Blackhawks in 2013 and was the starting goalie for the Senators in the 2007 Stanley Cup Final.

October 10, 2015 2:25 PM

Kings Add Jack Jablonski As Communications Intern

Jack Jablonski has made it to the NHL.

The 20-year-old hoped to do so as a player, but a spinal-cord injury sustained in a high school game in 2011 left him paralyzed from the chest down. This season, the Los Angeles Kings hired him to work as an intern in their communications department. Jablonski is a student at the University of Southern California studying journalism and communications.

"I definitely wanted to keep pursuing a career in hockey and that hockey lifestyle, and I'm super interested in PR and communications, so I hoped I could find an area that was a good fit," Jablonski told the Orange County Register in an article published Saturday.

After his injury, Jablonski received support from a number of athletes, including NHL players. He said he's now focused on the next chapter in his life, which still involves hockey.

"Having had the opportunity to work in radio the last couple years, that's been a blast," said Jablonski, who hosted a hockey radio show in Minnesota the past two years. "That's definitely an interest and passion of mine. But I've been looking into anything in sports media. I don't know where I want to go and what I want to do exactly, but that's what this time is for and I'm looking forward to figuring it out."

A lifelong Minnesota Wild fan, Jablonski will see his childhood team visit the Kings on Friday. He has raised money for spinal-cord injuries and research with his BEL13VE Foundation.

FROM ESPN.COM

October 10, 2015

By: Pierre LeBurn

NHL Says Kings' Settlement With Mike Richards Doesn't Circumvent CBA

The NHL has defended the settlement between Mike Richards and the Los Angeles Kings, saying in no way does it represent a circumvention of the league's collective bargaining agreement.

Some rival team executives, speaking to ESPN anonymously on Saturday, questioned whether the Richards settlement represented a new loophole in the rules.

While the exact amount of the settlement has not been divulged, sources say the Kings will incur salary cap charges until 2031, although the settlement is believed to cost less overall than a buyout would have.

Still, NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said Saturday that the settlement was within the rules.

"There was a bona fide dispute over the Club's exercise of its termination right pursuant to the SPC (Standard Player's Contract)," Daly said in an email. "There was a grievance filed by the Union seeking resolution of that dispute. The Club is entitled to settle that grievance just as many Club-Player grievances are settled all the time. The CBA not only allows for those settlements, but provides for how the settlements should be accounted for from a Cap perspective. The settlement here is being accounted for in precise accordance with what the CBA contemplates."

Furthermore, Daly said, the NHL has kept a close eye on this entire situation ever since the Kings terminated Richards' deal back in late June.

"The League actively monitored each stage of this dispute from the time of the initial contract termination to the point at which the case was settled, during which time we were in frequent contact with both the Club and the NHLPA," Daly said. "If the settlement was simply a disguised way to get favorable Cap treatment, we certainly would have considered it to be a circumvention and acted accordingly. But this wasn't that. Far from it. There is absolutely zero concern that anything that transpired here could in any way be considered a 'circumvention' of the CBA. Anyone who believes to the contrary is clearly not privy to the facts."

A source also said Richards' settlement includes non-precedent language so that other teams in similar positions cannot cite the Richards case.

FROM FOX SPORTS

October 10, 2015



FROM EXAMINER.COM

October 10, 2015 11:44 AM

By: Nick Hamilton

LA Kings Still Struggle To Find Offensive Rhythm

The Los Angeles Kings continued to struggle as they fall to the Arizona Coyotes 4-1 on Friday night at Staples Center. The Coyotes were an offensive juggernaut against Los Angeles led 4-0 in the second period. Although Jonathan Quick allowed some goals to get passed him, he didn't have an enormous amount of support from his teammates.

Oliver Ekman-Larsson, Max Domi, Tobias Rieder and Zbynek Michalek all scored goals for Arizona. Near the end of the second period, Jeff Carter had a breakaway attempt against Coyotes goalie Mike Smith who made a solid save, but Tyler Toffoli scored the shorthanded goal off the rebound.

"It's real early in the season," Kings forward Tyler Toffoli said. "We know the group we have in here and we're not panicking. We just need to keep working, and stay with our game and find a way."

Head coach Darryl Sutter continues to look for ways to shift his line that will be to the team's benefit, vets like Jake Muzzin and Christian Ehrhoff continued to struggle, and Jordan Weal, in his first NHL game, had an offensive-zone turnover where Arizona capitalized on his mistake.

"They're goals weren't great chances. Weal turned it over on one. Greener [Matt Greene] poked one that kind of bounced between him and Brownny [Dustin Brown]," Sutter said.

Weal had consecutive 20-goal seasons in the AHL, for the Manchester Monarchs had a great breakthrough in the playoffs last spring. As the season progresses, Weal will adjust to the NHL and produce dividends for this Kings team. Los Angeles will have to continue to clean up the mistakes, regroup, and remind themselves that the Stanley Cup is a goal that is reachable. But is now a time to panic?

"We just need to clean some things up and start winning some hockey games," Drew Doughty said. "The bottom line is we didn't score enough goals. We got one goal to their four. If you want to win hockey games you have to be scoring 2-3 goals at least."

Quick had 18 saves on the night for Los Angeles, while Smith had 40 saves in the victory for Arizona.

"It is exciting to see and a good start to the season," Smith expressed. "I think we did a lot of things well as the game went on. We had a little bit of a slow start, probably slower than we'd like, but we found a way to win the hockey game, and beat a really good hockey team in their building, so we'll take it."

The Kings will continue to look for their first win of the season on Tuesday against the Vancouver Canucks.

Games Notes:

Tyler Toffoli scored a shorthanded goal, his first goal of the season. Last year he led the NHL in shorthanded goals (five) and shorthanded points (six).

Jeff Carter earned his first point of the season, a shorthanded assist.

FROM SPORTSNET.COM

October 10, 2015 11:06 PM

Emily Sadler

What The Mike Richards Settlement Means For The Kings

The Los Angeles Kings and Mike Richards reached a settlement on Friday.

According to Sportsnet's Elliott Friedman, Richards will remain on the Kings' cap through 2030-31. The cap hit will come in at \$1.32 million for the first five years, plus the settlement amount, which is believed — but not confirmed — to be \$550,000 on average, "although it varies year-to-year."

"There are a lot of teams that are not very happy about this," said Friedman. "The league's position is, if the Kings had won the grievance, there would have been no cap hit, so that's better than nothing."

"The players got a guarantee that this was a one-time thing," added Friedman, "and it does not set a precedent going forward."

Kings general manager Dean Lombardi **said the following in a written statement** via *The Los Angeles Times* on Friday:

"Without a doubt, the realization of what happened to Mike Richards is the most traumatic episode of my career," Lombardi wrote. "At times, I think that I will never recover from it."

"Anyone close enough to me knows how much I loved Mike Richards. I believed that when I had acquired him, I had found my own Derek Jeter. But the fact is that he was never close to the player that he was after his best seasons in 2008-09 and 2009-10 in Philadelphia."

"I tried everything with Mike — meeting with him constantly, sending him to concussion specialists, traveling in the off-season to visit with him at his summer home — and everything failed," Lombardi said in his statement. "I heard the rumors that Mike might have some off-ice issues, but I refused to believe that they were true despite some obvious signs."

Richards' contract was terminated by the Kings in June for a "material breach." It was later revealed that Richards, 30, was taken into custody at the Canada-U.S. border into Manitoba earlier in the month, and was charged with possession of a controlled substance by the RCMP.

FROM FROZEN ROYALTY

October 11, 2015

By: Gann Matsuda

LA Kings F Jordan Weal Remains Focused Despite Disappointing NHL Debut

EL SEGUNDO, CA — Throughout the history of the National Hockey League, young players have made their debut in the best hockey league in the world, with varying degrees of success.

To be sure, many young players dream of playing in the NHL, and about what their first NHL game will be like—scoring a goal, playing well, if not standing out as a star, and winning the game, of course.

But many are not fortunate enough to enjoy that kind of success, including Los Angeles Kings forward **Jordan Weal**, who made his NHL debut on October 9, 2015, in a 4-1 loss to the Arizona Coyotes at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

In that game, Weal was on the ice for 13 shifts (7:38 time on ice), and earned a -1 plus/minus rating. He was also credited with one hit, one takeaway, and two face-off wins, while playing on a line with left wing **Kyle Clifford** and right wing **Jordan Nolan**.

In addition to the loss, Weal's NHL debut was spoiled by a costly turnover early in the second period that led directly to a goal by Coyotes rookie forward **Max Domi**.

"I thought it went pretty good," Weal said about his NHL debut. "I made a little blunder there in the second period, but there's not much you can do about that now. I thought every other shift I had out there was good. We were creating energy, getting chances, drawing penalties. If we continue to do that, It's going to keep building and keep getting better."

Weal indicated that going in, he did not have specific thoughts about what his NHL debut would be like.

"You never really think about that first game," he said. "It's just being out there, you know? You dream about plays you make against certain guys you watch all the time on TV. It's never really that first game that you think about when you're imagining it. It's more about being in there, being in the mix, and playing against the best players."

"I tried to be as calm and as cool as I could," he added. "When I get a little too excited, I tend to be a bit jittery, so I just tried to play it cool, and remember all the hard work it took, and the people who helped me get there."

Like many players, Weal sometimes seems uncomfortable talking about himself, and he quickly moved the discussion back to the team.

"You never know what's going to happen in a hockey game," said Weal. "It's such an unpredictable sport—there's so many bounces, and things like that. You try to control the things you can control, and try to execute within the system. For the most part, I thought our line did that. We created some pretty good shifts."

Back to that costly turnover... Weal was skating up ice with the puck through the defensive zone when he was cut-off by Coyotes forward **Connor Murphy**, forcing the turnover that led to Domi's goal.

"The guy had a good angle on me, and I kinda was surprised at how good the angle was," he explained. "I was going to try to cut back to the other side and bring it up the other way because they were [in the middle of a line change]. He came right at me, and threw me off. I fumbled it a bit, but stuff like that happens. You've just got to forget about it."

"I [moved] to go back, but [Murphy] wasn't budging," he elaborated. "So I was like, gaahh. It was one of those plays. You've just got to keep working, and try to get it back."

When pressed, Weal admitted that he took some time to enjoy the things that usually happen when a player makes his NHL debut.

"I sent a couple of text [messages] to my parents before the game, and I called them after the game," Weal said, smiling broadly. "They were proud of me, that all the hard work has started to pay off, and I was very thankful

for what they've done my whole life. Even my friends who were out playing road hockey with me for hours on end while growing up in elementary school—it's pretty cool that all that led to something like this."

"[His parents] watched it on TV," Weal added. "They had all of their friends over. I was Facetime-ing with them last night, and it seemed like they were having a lot of fun, so it was a good night. There were a lot of people watching. It was fun to get that first one under my belt."

Despite the loss and the rather glaring turnover, Weal indicated that he did not feel out of place when he was on the ice.

"I felt comfortable," he noted. "That's the one thing that stood out for me. The game wasn't going too fast, or anything. I felt like I was creating turnovers, and when I got the puck down low, I was able to hold onto it and make some plays."

"That's what I want to do," he added. "That's part of my game. I felt that I was up to speed."

What did take some adjusting was moving from the top line role he played with the 2015 Calder Cup Champion Manchester Monarchs, then of the American Hockey League, to a fourth-line checking/energy role with the Kings, for one game, anyway.

"It's different," he observed. "If you're on the bench for a couple of penalties, you've got to keep yourself warm, keep yourself ready and engaged. When you're playing a lot, you're always on the ice. You're always in it."

"I had to deal with that during my first year in the AHL," he added. "I wasn't playing a lot the first half of the season, so I'm trying to bring back what I learned from [that], and use it here."

Head coach **Darryl Sutter**, who is, at the best of times, extremely reticent to offer praise for young players, preferring the tear-them-down approach to motivate them, was even more reticent with Weal.

"It was his first NHL game," said Sutter. "I think there were shifts when he was nervous, and he'd probably like to have some plays back."

Weal is likely to struggle to get ice time for the foreseeable future, and because it is virtually guaranteed that he would be claimed off of waivers, it is a foregone conclusion that the Kings will be unable to assign him to the Ontario Reign of the AHL, where he would skate on their top line.

In spite of that, Weal does not seem to be discouraged.

"It's not done yet," Weal said about the hard work he has already put in. "You've got to keep working. [My NHL career is] just starting."

First Sutter-Ism Of The New Season

After the Kings practice ended on October 10, on his way back to the team's dressing room area at the Toyota Sports Center in El Segundo, California, Sutter stopped to sign autographs for four youth hockey players.

After signing one autograph, Sutter said, "I just ruined this stick."

When asked how he ruined it, Sutter replied, "I signed it."

Later, after seeing the above photo, Sutter said, "I signed a pair of skates there."

"Ruined those, too."

FROM THE HOCKEY WRITERS

October 11, 2015

By: Dustin Nelson

Ray Emery Signs Tryout With Kings' AHL Affiliate

Ray Emery was a UFA over the summer after the 33-year-old's contract with the Philadelphia Flyers expired on July 1. In September, still without a contract, he took a tryout deal with the Lightning after Tampa Bay found out that they would start the season without Andrei Vasilevskiy. They solved that problem when they claimed Kevin Poulin off waivers.

Now, Emery is headed to the Ontario Reign on a tryout contract, the team announced on Saturday.

The Reign are the AHL affiliate of the Los Angeles Kings and they signed Peter Budaj this week. After the Kings lost J.F. Berube when the Islanders claimed him off waivers (they needed a goaltender after Poulin was claimed by Tampa), the Kings wound up a little short in their goaltending depth.

At the NHL level the Kings have Jonathan Quick and Jhonas Enroth, with Quick posting a .833 Sv% through the first two games of the season, allowing nine goals through two games.

Last season for the Flyers, Emery played 31 games with a .894 Sv%.

FROM NBCSPORTS.COM

October 10, 2015 5:37 PM

By: Ryan Dadoun

NHL Defends Mike Richards Settlement As CBA Compliant

The Los Angeles Kings will be incurring a cap hit related to their **announced settlement** with Mike Richards, but some rival team executives have anonymously questioned if this all represents a loophole in the CBA, according to **ESPN**.

After all, while the financial terms of the settlement aren't known, the Kings might have saved cap space overall by **terminating his NHL Standard Players Contract** and then resolving the **grievance with the NHLPA** rather than simply buying him out.

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly countered the claims of cap circumvention by stating that the CBA allows for a settlement of a grievance and outlines how it be factored into a team's salary cap. Additionally, he noted that the league has been following the situation closely.

“The League actively monitored each stage of this dispute from the time of the initial contract termination to the point at which the case was settled, during which time we were in frequent contact with both the Club and the NHLPA,” Daly said. “If the settlement was simply a disguised way to get favorable cap treatment, we certainly would have considered it to be a circumvention and acted accordingly. But this wasn’t that. Far from it. There is absolutely zero concern that anything that transpired here could in any way be considered a ‘circumvention’ of the CBA. Anyone who believes to the contrary is clearly not privy to the facts.”

October 10, 2015 3:40 PM

By: Joey Alfieri

Kings’ AHL Affiliate Gives Emery PTO

Ray Emery has agreed to join the Ontario Reign on a professional tryout, **according to a team release**. The Reign are the minor league affiliate of the Los Angeles Kings.

Emery attended Tampa Bay’s training camp on a PTO, but **he was released** after the team claimed **Kevin Poulin** on waivers from the Islanders.

The 33-year-old had a 10-11-7 record with a 3.06 goals-against-average and a .894 save percentage in 31 games with the Flyers last season.

Even with starter **Jonathan Quick struggling**, it’s hard to envision this move leading to a return to the NHL for Emery.

The Kings have Quick and **Jhonas Enroth** with the big club, while veteran Peter Budaj **was signed to a two-way contract on Friday**.

FROM CBSSPORTS.COM

October 10, 2015 3:07 PM

By: Adam Gretz

Veteran Goalie Ray Emery Signs Tryout Deal With Kings’ AHL Affiliate

After he was unable to make the Tampa Bay Lightning roster on a tryout contract, veteran goaltender Ray Emery is getting another opportunity to play professional hockey this season.

It just won't be in the NHL at the moment.

The AHL's Ontario Reign, the AHL affiliate of the Los Angeles Kings, announced on Saturday that Emery has signed a professional tryout contract with the team.

Emery, 33, spent the past two seasons serving as Steve Mason's backup with the Philadelphia Flyers and appeared in 31 games during the 2014-15 season. The team elected not to re-sign him after the season, one of Emery's worst in the NHL, and allowed him to hit the unrestricted free agent market where he remained unsigned until he was given a tryout deal with the Lightning. The Lightning brought him for a look after their backup, Andrei Vasilevskiy was sidelined with an injury in training camp. They instead acquired Kevin Poulin to be the backup to Ben Bishop.

In 287 career games at the NHL level Emery has a 145-86-28 record with the Ottawa Senators, Anaheim Ducks, Chicago Blackhawks and Flyers.

He last played in the AHL during the 2010-11 season when he appeared in five games for the Syracuse Crunch.
Topics: Ben Bishop, Kevin Poulin, Steve Mason, Anaheim Ducks, Chicago Blackhawks, Los Angeles Kings, Ottawa Senators, Philadelphia Flyers, Tampa Bay Lightning, NHL

FROM YAHOOSPORTS.COM

October 11, 2015

By: Sean Leahy

Jack Jablonski Joins LA Kings As Communications Intern

Friday was a big day for Jack Jablonski, the USC student who was paralyzed in 2011 during a high school hockey game in his sophomore year.

He began working for an organization that's won two of the last three Stanley Cups:

Jablonski is the new communications intern for the Los Angeles Kings and will work in the press box during games at Staples Center. As Rich Hammond of the Orange County Register writes, this gig is just the thing that further along his interest in the hockey industry:

Jablonski has already had an impact on hockey. His injury raised awareness about safety in youth games and the need to eliminate dangerous, blindside hits.

His mobility now limited to a motorized wheelchair, Jablonski isn't focused on his limits. He has already spent two-plus years hosting a weekly hockey-talk radio show in Minnesota, and in January, Jablonski accepted a scholarship to attend USC and study journalism and communications.

Since his injury, Jablonski has experienced an outpouring of support from the hockey world.

Davis Drewiske, then of the Los Angeles Kings, used part of his day with the Stanley Cup in 2012 to spend it with Jablonski. He also successfully lured Zach Parise to come play for his favorite team, the Minnesota Wild. In 2013, he was drafted by the USHL's Chicago Steel. His prom date? Michelle Beadle of ESPN. And finally, with the help of Jeremy Roenick, helped lead the world's longest stick-tap last November in support of spinal research.

Like many interns, Jablonski isn't sure exactly what he wants to do in the field, but certainly this opportunity with the Kings will introduce him to the different roles that makeup a professional sports franchise.

October 10, 2015

By: Josh Cooper

LA Kings AHL Affiliate Signs Ray Emery To PTO

After surrendering nine goals in their first two games the Los Angeles Kings decided to add some more goaltending depth to their system.

On Saturday the team's American Hockey League affiliate, the Ontario Reign, announced it signed veteran netminder Ray Emery to a PTO. He was signed to a PTO by the Tampa Bay Lightning in training camp but didn't stick with the team.

The Lightning lost backup Andrei Vasilevskiy shortly before the start of camp with blood clots.

Per the Tampa Bay Times from before training camp:

"Anytime you get a chance to play in the best league in the world, it's exciting," Emery said. "All I can control is doing as well as I can in training camp, and hopefully get good results."

He has battled hip injuries throughout his career, but still managed to stay an NHL regular in spite of his issues. Last season with the Philadelphia Flyers he had a 3.06 goals against average and .894 save percentage in 31 games.

The 33-year-old Emery is just two years removed from a season with the Chicago Blackhawks where he had a 1.94 goals against average and .922 save percentage in 21 games. He went 17-1-0 that year.

The Kings system is loaded with veteran goaltenders along with starter Jonathan Quick. There's backup Jhonas Enroth (131 NHL games), along with Peter Budaj (296 NHL games) in the AHL and now Emery who has played in 287 NHL games.

While Los Angeles hasn't exactly played great in front of Quick in their first two games, the two-time Stanley Cup winning netminder has struggled.

Above is a video of the Arizona Coyotes first goal in their 4-1 beatdown of Los Angeles on Friday at Staples Center. Last summer the Kings traded backup goaltender Martin Jones, considered one of the league's more underrated talents, to the Boston Bruins as part of a deal to land hulking forward Milan Lucic. Through two games, Lucic has yet to record a point and is a minus-2.