



# **Buffalo Sabres**

**Daily Press Clips**

*Thursday, January 31, 2013*

## **Sabres-Bruins Preview**

Associated Press

January 30, 2013

Even a foreign object couldn't slow down the Boston Bruins, and it's been almost two years since the Buffalo Sabres have managed to do it at TD Garden.

The Bruins go for their longest season-opening home winning streak in over 22 years Thursday night when they try to continue their success against the Sabres.

Boston (5-0-1) has been one of the NHL's best teams this season, and a big reason for that success is wins in each of its first four home games. The Bruins last opened a season 5-0-0 at home in 1990-91, when they played at Boston Garden.

"We've played some pretty good hockey so far," coach Claude Julien said. "And the games that weren't quite as good as we should have been, we found a way to win. And to be a good team you've got to be able to do that."

Their dazzling start this season wasn't derailed by a bizarre incident in Tuesday's 2-1 shootout win over New Jersey. Tyler Seguin scored the opening shootout attempt, but the referees ruled that he had to go again after an object from the crowd was flung into the crease.

Seguin converted the do-over before Brad Marchand netted the decisive attempt in the sixth round.

"That's a first," Seguin said. "I'm still not sure what it was. Maybe a hot dog."

Boston will try to remain perfect on home ice and make it four straight wins there against Buffalo (2-3-1). Including three wins in the opening round of the 2009-10 playoffs, the Bruins are 8-1-1 in their last 10 home games against the Northeast Division rivals.

Seguin has scored four goals and set up two others over the last three home games versus Buffalo.

Nathan Horton has points in four straight contests, totaling three goals and two assists. He's tallied three goals while assisting on another in his past four home meetings with the Sabres.

Since opening the season with back-to-back wins, Buffalo has gone 0-3-1 in its last four, including a 4-3 loss to Toronto on Tuesday after Ryan Miller surrendered a goal with 1.5 seconds left in overtime.

The Sabres suffered another blow when right wing Patrick Kaleta was taken to a hospital with a neck injury after being hit by the Maple Leafs' Mike Brown, who was assessed a minor penalty.

Coach Lindy Ruff didn't think the hit was dirty, and Kaleta was released from the hospital Wednesday, but is out indefinitely.

"It wasn't a blatant run a guy from behind," Ruff said.

Thomas Vanek had an assist Tuesday after missing a 3-2 loss at Washington two days earlier due to a muscle injury. He has 10 points during a season-opening five-game scoring streak, one shy of his career high set last season when he had as many points in six contests.

Vanek's 25 goals and 49 points versus Boston are his highest totals against any opponent. He has four goals and five assists during a six-game point streak at TD Garden.

Miller, who gave up more than three goals for the first time this season Tuesday, has won six of his last seven starts against the Bruins behind a 2.47 goals-against average.

## **Sabres F Kaleta released from hospital, sent home**

Associated Press

January 30, 2013

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) -- Sabres forward Patrick Kaleta was released from the hospital Wednesday, after absorbing a hard hit late in the first period of Buffalo's 4-3 loss to the Maple Leafs Tuesday in Toronto.

Kaleta, who has a history of head and neck problems, was boarded by Toronto's Mike Brown, who was assessed a minor penalty for the play. Kaleta skated off awkwardly with 2:26 left in the period and did not return.

"It's a neck injury," Buffalo coach Lindy Ruff said in the postgame press conference. "He was X-rayed here and they took a precaution. They took him for some further tests. I have no update."

Kaleta was sent home and will not travel to Boston for the game against the Bruins Thursday.

The NHL has made hits from behind a point of emphasis in recent years, but Ruff didn't think Brown's hit was dirty.

"I thought he was sideways," Ruff said. "Some of the obligation is on the player (being hit). He wasn't defenseless. It's a tough area. It wasn't a blatant run a guy from behind."

Brown, who fought Buffalo's Mike Weber immediately after the hit, also left the game early. He played one shift in the second period before ending his night due to what Toronto coach Randy Carlyle termed an "upper-body injury."

## **Miller looks to rebound quickly from bad game**

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

January 31, 2013

BOSTON – Until Tuesday night, Ryan Miller was off to an excellent start in the Buffalo net. He seemed to be picking up where he left off from his stellar play last March that nearly single-handedly carried the Sabres into the playoffs.

Then came the overtime loss to the Toronto Maple Leafs. Miller hadn't given up a remotely questionable goal in his four previous starts but gave up three in that game, including Matt Frattin's winner with 1.5 seconds left in OT.

Afterward, a stone-faced Miller sat in front of his locker — pads still on — pondering what happened. When he talked to reporters, he took full responsibility and said he needed to be better and expected to be better.

The Sabres are 0-3-1 in their last four games and haven't been able to shake their doldrums after a 2-0 start. Miller needs to make sure one bad game doesn't turn into two or more and what a doozy of a chance he has Thursday night.

The Eastern Conference-leading Boston Bruins (5-0-1). In TD Garden, where they are 4-0. In what's expected to be Miller's first start there in nearly 14½ months, since the infamous Milan Lucic bull rush over him on Nov. 12, 2011.

“You just have to try to remember how last year felt and compete again,” Miller said. “[Tuesday] I just didn't have it, for whatever reason. It was definitely the kind of game I needed to show up for and be better. The guys got me back into it. I tried to hang tight with it and then I had another letdown. Just let them down.”

The Sabres were off Wednesday, a fact that sounds odd with the team struggling.

Coming off an overtime loss in which the defense struggled in its own end, the power play once again showed it could use plenty of fine-tuning and 18-year-old Mikhail Grigorenko often played to his age, there's no way coach Lindy Ruff would have given his players the day off.

But Ruff has to be more judicious with his practice time in the shortened season and there are now black-and-white rules about days off the players get, both at home and on the road, in the new collective bargaining agreement.

So the Sabres took Wednesday off and return to the ice for their morning skate Thursday at 11:30. They have a practice scheduled for Friday morning at 11 a.m. in the Bell Centre in Montreal but that one doesn't figure to be a heavy lift either because it comes in the wake of a game and late-night flight, and in advance of a matchup with the Canadiens on Saturday afternoon at 2.

Miller has faced the Bruins since the Lucic incident, going 2-0 against them last February in First Niagara Center and stopping 71 of 72 shots. But Jhonas Enroth played the other two games in Boston last year.

While a renewal of hostilities with Lucic — John Scott, anyone? — might be on the minds of Sabres fans, don't think Miller doesn't have even more ammunition against the Bruins now, too. Remember, he reportedly had a heated exchange with Boston owner and Board of Governors Chairman Jeremy Jacobs during negotiations between the NHL and NHLPA last month in New York.

Miller downplayed the exchange when he returned to Buffalo for practice after the lockout ended, but the story of the dispute — and Jacobs' near-walkout on the talks — got wide play across North America.

Through three games, Miller was fifth in the NHL in save percentage (.952) and sixth in GAA (1.67) while stopping 100 of the first 105 shots he faced. He's now dropped to 2.38 and .925 but still entered Wednesday 10th and seventh in the league, respectively, in those categories among goalies who have started more than one game.

In his first four games, the goals against him were all deflections and screens, or unstoppable howitzers on power plays from stars Claude Giroux of Philadelphia and Alex Ovechkin of Washington. That changed Tuesday.

Toronto's first goal, a rebound tap-in by Jay McClement, came after Miller simply whiffed on Nazem Kadri's 30-foot floater and the puck clanked off the goalpost.

"Just missed it," Miller said. "Stupid."

Cody Franson's second-period snap shot from the point beat Miller over the glove and it looked like there were no screen issues on the play. Then came the overtime winner, where Frattin beat Jordan Leopold and chipped the puck under Miller's arm with Miller on his knees instead of simply standing firm and taking the shot as time expired.

Miller had bounced back in the third period with a couple of strong saves and looked sharper in the net than he had over the opening 40 minutes. But the overtime faux pas wiped away any good feelings.

"I was trying to feel better," he said. "The first two periods weren't very good. ... Just have to regroup and get it together."

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Winger Patrick Kaleta was released Wednesday from Buffalo General Hospital after being held for observation overnight but did not travel here for Thursday's game.

Ruff said Kaleta was being checked for neck problems after taking a hit from behind from Toronto's Mike Brown in the second period. Kaleta, who has a history of neck issues, left the ice groggily after the hit and was sent to the hospital. Nathan Gerbe, a scratch Tuesday, is likely to take Kaleta's spot in the lineup.

## **Commentary: Are Sabres ready to be back on ice?**

By Wesley Watson

Buffalo News

January 30, 2013

Hockey is back in Buffalo. The lockout that seemed like it would cancel the entire season ended and left hockey-thirsty fans with a short but intense 48-game schedule.

While the lockout dragged on, the sports talk radio waves were full of disgruntled fans screaming how they were done with hockey and would never set foot in the First Niagara Center again. It seems, however, that they've changed their tune.

The Sabres season is now under way, and it appears the arena is going to be quite full for all the games on the Sabres home schedule. Many people thought that the lockout would affect ticket sales for the Sabres, but the loyal fans of Buffalo were quick to support their team once the labor dispute ended. Many home games have already sold out, and there are only a few tickets left for the remaining games. The Sabres organization rolled out the welcome mat for returning fans, offering hockey buffs 50 percent off all merchandise. The arena store quickly sold more than 50,000 pieces of blue-and-gold memorabilia – a franchise record.

The abbreviated season means most teams are playing games at least every other day in the condensed schedule, if they aren't playing games back-to-back. Many fans love the schedule, and how hockey can be seen almost every day.

While fans may like that the hockey drought is over, it might be a somewhat different story for players. The players have to travel more with less downtime which increases the wear and tear their bodies take and decreases their ability to recover. As seen from the NBA lockout last year, with an increase of games in a shorter period of time, injuries are bound to occur much more. The increase of injuries also comes from players not conditioning and the lack of training camp. Coach Lindy Ruff shared his concern over player readiness in a recent news conference.

With the start of the new season comes new hopes and players for the Sabres. During the offseason the Sabres dealt Derek Roy to the Dallas Stars, in return for Steve Ott and John Scott. This move was to help the Sabres extend their physical presence on the ice, and relieve themselves of another "finesse" player from their overstock. Ott brings a tough attitude with his ability to finish checks.

The Sabres started their season with two good wins against Philadelphia and Toronto, but then lost four straight. Their on-ice performance isn't meeting up to the hype. While it's clear that Buffalo fans are ready for hockey, are the Sabres?

Wesley Watson is a sophomore at Lancaster High School.

While fans may like that the hockey drought is over, it might be a somewhat different story for players.

## **Sabres look for revenge**

By Stephen Harris

Boston Herald

January 31, 2013

The good and loyal hockey fans of Buffalo have been very patient. They haven't had much choice.

The Sabres, who face the Bruins tonight at the Garden, missed the playoffs last spring for the third time in five seasons. The two times they did finish in the top eight in the Eastern Conference during that span, they failed to get out of the first round of the postseason.

The team reached the playoffs only four times in the past decade and, of course, the total number of Stanley Cups won by the Sabres since the franchise's inception in 1970 — not counting the one they won in "Bruce Almighty" — is zero.

A recent low point for the Sabres and their faithful came Nov. 12, 2011, when Bruins winger Milan Lucic turned Ryan Miller into road kill, crashing into Buffalo's franchise goalie when he skated out to the circle to play a puck. The response of Miller's teammates wasn't much beyond a little tepid pushing and shoving.

The Sabres went into that game 10-5-0. Their loss to the B's started a 7-12-4 downturn, and they went on to miss the final playoff slot by just three points.

So with all that as a backdrop, it wasn't terribly surprising during the summer when the Sabres acquired center Steve Ott from Dallas and picked up winger John Scott in free agency. Lest anyone is not familiar with these two gentlemen, Ott is one of the most notorious rats and cheap-shot artists in the league, and Scott is a 6-foot-8, 270-pound Goliath who in 152 career NHL games has one goal, four assists and 241 penalty minutes.

It almost goes without saying that when longtime Sabres general manager Darcy Regier and coach Lindy Ruff added these two players, they were thinking about their impact against the Bruins.

The conference-leading B's, who earned a day off yesterday after improving to 5-0-1 with Tuesday's 2-1 shootout win against the New Jersey Devils, were 4-1-1 last season against Buffalo. So the Sabres, for reasons of both practicality and revenge, clearly have something to prove this year against the Bruins and a generally more physical Eastern Conference.

"We all know what John's going to bring," Ruff said in a Buffalo News story a couple of weeks ago. "He's a real character. He's been great in the room, great on the bench. He knows what he's here for. He can add the toughness that's needed."

“Teams come in and don’t run around even if he doesn’t fight. When you have a player of his magnitude when it comes to the physical sense and somebody does something really stupid against your team, they know they’re going to have to deal with somebody who’s really tough.”

No question, Scott is one tough customer. He has the reach and strength to hold off his opponent, and throws monstrous right-hand bombs.

“I know my role. . . . I’m a fourth-line guy,” Scott told the Buffalo News. “Protect the team and keep the other team honest. Play physical.

“It took a little bit of time to get used to me being an enforcer. I wanted to see if I could be a defenseman or forward, chip in with the goal-scoring. I’ve embraced it the last few years. My job is to protect the team. I enjoy doing it, I enjoy going out there and fighting and protecting my teammates.”

But the obvious question is: Will he help or hurt the Sabres if he goes on the ice? Scott played only four shifts, 1:58 in ice time, in the club’s overtime loss to Toronto on Tuesday. And though he’s played all six games in the young season, he’s averaging just 3:25 on the ice.

It would be a tough challenge for any Bruins player to drop the gloves with Scott, but how much impact can he really have?

Ott’s a different story. We’ve seen the mayhem he can cause, and there’s no reason to expect anything different from him tonight as the Sabres try to prove something against the B’s.

#### Bruins notes

The condensed schedule hasn’t even really set in yet for the Bruins (who have an utterly ridiculous month of March in which they play 17 games in 30 days), but they head right back on the road after practice tomorrow. They face the Maple Leafs in Toronto on Saturday night. Then comes a rare break, with the next game not until Wednesday in Montreal. . . .

Think the Toronto media has taken note of the terrific start for Dougie Hamilton? Think there might be a reminder or two that the Leafs’ price to get Phil Kessel (six games, no goals, three assists, minus-2 rating) from Boston was draft picks that turned into Tyler Seguin, Hamilton and Jared Knight?

Hamilton, with four points (all assists) after six games, was No. 2 in scoring among rookie defensemen entering last night’s games. . . .

Goalie Tuukka Rask entered last night in the top five in goals-against average (fifth, 1.74), save percentage (fifth, .932) and wins (four). . . .

The Bruins' 188 hits through Tuesday tied them with the Rangers for most in the league. And their 60.7 faceoff win percentage was best in the league. Patrice Bergeron leads the B's at 65.5 percent on faceoffs, second in the NHL to Detroit's Pavel Datsyuk (66.7).

## **Bruins will be tough test for Sabres**

By James Murphy

ESPN

January 30, 2013

BOSTON -- The Boston Bruins-Buffalo Sabres rivalry was reignited last Nov. 12 when Bruins winger Milan Lucic raced in for a loose puck and barreled over Sabres goalie Ryan Miller, which led Miller to take a swing at Lucic but stirred little response from Miller's teammates.

The Bruins went on to pummel the Sabres 6-2.

Following the game, Miller had some choice words for Lucic.

"I'm not going to really get into that," Miller said. "I just stuck around because I just want to say what a piece of [expletive] I think Lucic is. Fifty pounds on me, and he runs me like that. It's unbelievable. Everyone in this city sees him as a big, tough, solid player. I respected him for how hard he played. That was gutless. Gutless, piece of [expletive]."

After almost two weeks of build-up for the "revenge game" -- during which time the Sabres' guts and team chemistry were questioned -- Paul Gaustad dropped the gloves with Lucic 1:23 into the game, and was disposed of with ease by the burly Bruins winger. The Sabres ended up losing again, 4-3 in a shootout.

The Bruins went on to win the season series with their old Adams Division rivals 4-1-1, and Buffalo general manager Darcy Regier focused his offseason on improving the Sabres' toughness. Pesky players such as Gaustad and Patrick Kaleta were not going to be enough, so Regier signed 6-foot-8, 270-pound enforcer John Scott as well as another pest, but one who can fight, in Steve Ott.

The Sabres realized that the only way to hang with what Bruins coach Claude Julien calls "heavy" teams such as the Bruins, Flyers, Rangers and Devils is to get bigger and play more physical hockey. When Scott signed with Buffalo, he referenced the Lucic-Miller incident and promised there would be no lack of response this season should something similar occur.

"Hopefully, with me next year, that doesn't happen," Scott told the Buffalo News. "If it does happen, there's a different outcome."

The Sabres enter Thursday's meeting with the Bruins in last place in the Northeast Division with a 2-3-1 record, losing Tuesday against Toronto with less than a second remaining in overtime. One reason has been the sub par play of Miller and he knows he needs to be better for the Sabres to turn things around.

"I just didn't feel like I gave the guys much help tonight," Miller told reporters after Tuesday's loss. "We get three goals and we carry the lead. I've got to make a play, make

more saves. I didn't have it tonight. I just didn't have it, for whatever reason. It was definitely the kind of game I need to show up for and be better.”

While Thursday's game figures to be physical, the Sabres will be without Kaleta, who injured his neck and was hospitalized Tuesday when he was boarded by Toronto's Mike Brown. After being released from the hospital Wednesday, Kaleta did not travel to Boston with his team.

Nonetheless, there will be plenty of intrigue with Ott and Scott now wearing the Sabres sweater.

## **Sabres Kaleta leaves hospital**

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

January 30, 2013

Boston, MA (WGR 550) -- The Sabres were off today and then traveled to Boston, but the team did it without one of their players.

Pat Kaleta was hit from behind by Mike Brown and went to the hospital. The winger spent the night in the hospital and was released early today.

He of course will not play Thursday against the Bruins.

## **Grigorenko Carrying All of Us**

By Jeremy White

WGR 550

January 30, 2013

The Sabres have stumbled out of the gate in Lindy Ruff's 15th year. General Manager Darcy Regier received a contract extension just before the season. As top brass seems more entrenched than ever, I find myself holding on to an idea and clinging to one 18-year-old player.

It's a lot to put on a kid, I know. Mikhail Grigorenko has exactly one goal in the NHL and a ton of pressure to produce now that he'll be with the Sabres for the year.

I've heard all the jokes: "Mancrush"... "Your new boyfriend" ... and all of those that you sent to me over twitter or text or whatever. I don't care. In fact, if I'm being honest I think they're funny.

Six games into this season something is happening to the Buffalo Sabres. The ever-growing discussion about Lindy Ruff and Darcy Regier is reaching a boiling point (again). There have been excuses. There have been reasons that we've been given to explain away past failures. They were believable. Stomach-able. You could talk yourself into believing them if you really wanted to.

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I want to take you back to last year at this time. The Sabres were 20-24-5 and with 45 points, sat tied for last place in the Eastern Conference (-24 on goal differential). At that time I wanted the team to stink the joint out so they could get an elite forward. I wanted an elite center. I looked at NHL Central Scouting and found a name - Mikhail Grigorenko.

I mentioned Grigorenko by name. It was the idea that I loved. Elite talent.

By the NHL Draft I was thinking the Sabres should trade up for Alex Galchenyuk. Two years ago I wanted to trade the farm for Ryan Nugent-Hopkins. Elite forwards win Stanley Cups. Elite forward sell tickets, score goals, create fun, and put butts in seats. They remind us that we like the sport.

I had my plan on January 30th of 2012. It was my same plan from the summer of 2011 with RNH. Stink out the joint and draft a kid at the top. The Sabres didn't have to.

The heroic run to miss the playoffs and Mikhail Grigorenko's draft slide went hand in hand...and the two met in the middle. The Sabres drafted him at #12 and my plan for hope was alive and well.

I don't know that Ruff or Regier will change - ever. What happens if the Sabres miss the playoffs this year? What will be the reason? What will be the excuse? How will it be explained away?

Young team.

Chemistry problems.

Mental toughness.

Parity.

Half a season.

Who knows and who cares.

I've been called an optimist. I take the intended insult, happily. I live by a credo: "Pessimism is rarely the more fun or fulfilling approach".

I choose to believe in things, and in possibilities. It's why we all get into sports in the first place.

For too long I've clung to the excuses. Let's see we've heard about injuries and payroll restrictions... and bad luck... and potential...and how many more. I believe some of these to be true. Some are quite valid. The problem lies now though, in stagnation.

Lindy Ruff will occasionally mention the "hope tank"...and mine's about empty with this team. There are still several players that I believe in. I don't think this team is some irreparable disaster.

That's the rub here in Buffalo. We'd settle for the knowledge that a change could come. Imagine a roster-shaking trade or a coaching change. Heck...we'd settle for the idea that it's even POSSIBLE!

We don't get that.

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There's a reason that Grigorenko's appearance at the scrimmage was headline-worthy.

The ovation when he appeared for the shootout should have sent a message.

The standing ovation to announce his first goal last night should have sent a message as well.

He's new.

He's fresh.

He's different.

Right now his best asset is that he has NOTHING to do with the last 14 years.

Listen to some of our callers...or your friends around town. There is so much bitterness about the last 14 years and the stagnation that the biggest fear with Grigorenko seems to be that the past will suck him down with it.

If the Sabres were to hold a "Survivor" where fans were to whittle everyone down and vote people out of the organization...who lasts longer, Grigorenko or Ruff? Grigorenko wins in a landslide, and we barely know him.

He's an almost total unknown, but I'm still clinging to that idea. The chatter in bars, and ovations at the arena tell me that many of us are doing the same.

When you have a team that doesn't appear willing to make changes at Coach or GM or even with a certain group of "untouchable" players...what else can you do?

## **Sabres' Weber still battling for regular spot on blue line**

By Bill Hoppe  
Olean Times Herald  
January 31, 2013

BUFFALO – The cycle repeats each year. Inevitably, Mike Weber begins the season as the Sabres' seventh or eighth defenseman, a spare part.

Weber sat the first eight games and 20 of the opening 22 contests as a healthy scratch in 2010-11. The 25-year-old watched the first 10 games last season.

The Pittsburgh native couldn't break the trend this year, sitting five times before Sabres coach Lindy Ruff dressed him for Tuesday's 4-3 overtime loss to Toronto, Weber's 133rd NHL game and first since April 7.

Now, pulling Weber from the lineup will be difficult. He usually stays once he gets in.

Weber played 65 total games two years ago and 51 times last season.

"It's always disappointing when you're not playing," Weber said Tuesday inside the First Niagara Center. "It's one of those things you have to stay patient and know that you can do the job when you get in."

Expect the rugged Weber to skate again tonight in Boston against the rough-and-tumble Bruins.

The Sabres' tepid response after Milan Lucic ran goalie Ryan Miller on November 12, 2011 in Boston embarrassed them. Miller should start tonight, his first appearance at the TD Garden since the incident.

The tilt could get wild if the Sabres, who muscled up by adding sandpaper winger Steve Ott and tough guy John Scott during the summer, want to send a message.

Weber showcased his fearsome edge Tuesday, compiling 17 penalty minutes and an assist on Mikhail Grigorenko's first NHL goal while skating 13:15, mostly beside rookie T.J. Brennan, who was also making his first appearance of 2012-13.

Weber immediately fought Mike Brown after the Maple Leafs' tough guy hit Patrick Kaleta into the boards as the agitator turned, earning the instigator penalty and a 10-minute misconduct.

"Webby was going to be ready," Ruff said. "I thought the minutes he gave us, he gave us quality. You don't mind losing that (power play from the Brown hit), no. On a hit like that he did the right thing."

The right preparation allows Weber to join the lineup and contribute after long layoffs. He's usually one of the last players off the ice following practice. Sometimes he's in the FNC riding an exercise bike and working out as his teammates are playing a game.

Still, it's difficult sitting for weeks at a time.

"He handled it. It's not easy for any player," Ruff said. "There's no good way to handle it. The only thing you can do is make sure that you're responsible for being ready when you get to play. Mike, he's a true professional. He stays positive, gets his off-ice (workout) in, gets his on-ice (workout).

"Some players you got to go over and tell them, 'Listen, it's time to go to work. Don't worry about what position you're in.' For him, you don't have to question whether he's going to work or not work whether he's playing. He always puts the work in."

Weber prepares like he's playing every game.

"My preparation never changes from year to year," Weber said. "So I've always got to make sure I'm ready to go and know when I get in hopefully I'm in for the rest of the way."

Weber could stay in the lineup if he keeps performing well. The supposedly deep blue line has struggled during the Sabres' four-game losing streak (0-3-1). It's also starting to get banged up.

Alexander Sulzer, who began the season entrenched as Christian Ehrhoff's partner, was believed to be a healthy scratch against the Leafs. Tyler Myers looks nothing like an elite defender. Robyn Regehr, whose presence pushed Weber out briefly last season, missed Tuesday's game (lower body).

"It's been a real tough couple years always sitting," Weber said. "We've got a great team in here. We've always had a great D-corps. So I've always just had to kind of stay patient and know that I'm a top-six defenseman and just make the best when I get in.

"I'm not a flashy player. I just keep it simple, try to play a solid game. Our organization does a great job with bringing in great defensemen, great people. So it's always been a challenge my whole time here. Now it's nice to get in and hopefully stay."

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The Sabres were off Wednesday.

## **Slumping Sabres visit red-hot Bruins**

By Davis Harper

NHL.com

January 30, 2013

SABRES (2-3-1) at BRUINS (5-0-1)

TV: MSG-Buffalo, NESN

Season series: This is the first of five meetings between these Northeast Division rivals. Boston won four of six against Buffalo last season, including all three at TD Bank Garden.

Big story: One of the hottest teams in the NHL will face off against one of the coldest -- the Bruins have yet to lose in regulation and are coming off three consecutive wins, while the Sabres have dropped four straight - including an agonizing 4-3 overtime loss to Toronto on Tuesday.

Team Scope:

Sabres: After starting the season 2-0-0, Buffalo suffered a home-and-home series sweep at the hands of Carolina and a 3-2 loss in Washington to the Capitals. On Tuesday, Buffalo returned to the First Niagara Center hoping to get back on track against Toronto, a team the Sabres beat 2-1 nine days ago. The Leafs struck first, however, and led 3-2 after two periods. That's when Mikhail Grigorenko, the Sabres rookie who found out early Tuesday he would be staying with Buffalo until season's end, stepped up to the plate. Grigorenko scored on a backhand from the slot, using his first NHL tally to send the game to overtime. Though Toronto won it in the extra period with a last-second goal from Matt Frattin, Buffalo captain Jason Pominville indicated that getting a point was a step in the right direction.

"We weren't able to get two points, but sometimes you have to start with one and hopefully this little stretch will make us stronger and we'll learn that we've got to play complete games," Pominville said. "You can never give up until the end."

Bruins: The Bruins took the ice at TD Bank Garden Tuesday night less than 24 hours after a hard-fought 5-3 win in Carolina and faced a stern test in New Jersey. Like Boston, New Jersey had yet to lose in regulation, and the fresher Devils led 1-0 through two periods. The Bruins battled back in the third, however, and forced overtime when Nathan Horton scored with less than five to play. After a scoreless overtime, Brad Marchand - in his first-ever shootout attempt - earned the extra two point for the Bruins.

"They're a very tough team to play against. They really don't give you a whole lot of time and space, especially our second game in two nights, they didn't give us a whole lot," Marchand said. "But we did a great job at getting the two points."

"We did a good job. We were resilient and we showed we can win in all situations, whether we're up or down or tied, it doesn't matter."

Who's hot: Horton has goals in his last two games, but the real story for Boston is Tuukka Rask. The goalie is off to a 4-0-1 start, and his save percentage (.932) and goals-against average (1.74) are both fifth in the League. ... Thomas Vanek recorded an assist against Toronto, giving him seven in his past five games.

Injury report: Robyn Regehr (lower body) is listed as day-to-day after missing Tuesday's game. Forward Patrick Kaleta didn't make the trip to Boston after spending Tuesday night in a hospital with a neck injury sustained when he was boarded by Toronto's Mike Brown. Kaleta was released on Wednesday. Look for Nathan Gerbe to take his spot in the lineup. Cody McCormick (finger) and Ville Leino (strained right hip) are on injured reserve. ... Boston's Adam McQuaid sat out Monday and Tuesday due to a death in his family but is likely to return Thursday. Marc Savard (post-concussion syndrome) is on long-term IR. "

## **Barnaby sues former fiancée for return of engagement ring, SUV**

By Thomas Prohaska

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In 2012, onetime Buffalo Sabre Matthew Barnaby was living with a former beauty queen in his Clarence home and gave her a \$50,000 diamond engagement ring and a Cadillac Escalade.

He seems to have lost all three.

But now he wants two of them back – the ring and the SUV.

Barnaby filed suit this week in State Supreme Court in Niagara County against Amber L. Lindke, of Lockport, a former Miss Buffalo and Miss Niagara County, charging that she refused to give him back the ring after the couple split in September.

Lindke's attorney, George V.C. Muscato of Lockport, said he has the ring and plans to file a counterclaim against Barnaby demanding money that the former hockey player allegedly owes Lindke for building his new website, [www.mattbarnabyhockey.com](http://www.mattbarnabyhockey.com).

"This isn't just about the ring. We have claims against Mr. Barnaby," Muscato said.

The lawsuit also seeks to force Lindke, 25, to sign over to Barnaby the title to the 2008 Cadillac Escalade, which is in his possession. Barnaby had previously signed over the title to Lindke.

Muscato said Barnaby is not entitled to retake the Cadillac. "It was a gift," the lawyer said. Asked how he can prove that, Muscato said, "My client has the title."

The suit says Barnaby, 39, gave Lindke the title to the vehicle in January of last year, after his driver's license was suspended because of a driving while intoxicated conviction.

The lawsuit says no money changed hands and that Barnaby continued to pay for insurance on the vehicle.

Barnaby had pleaded guilty Dec. 13, 2011, in Clarence Town Court to misdemeanor DWI, refusing to submit to a chemical test, operating with an unsafe tire and failing to notify the state Department of Motor Vehicles of a status change.

The plea came eight days after his arrest by an Erie County sheriff's deputy, who found Barnaby driving a Porsche Cayenne with a missing tire down Main Street.

Barnaby was hit with fines and surcharges of \$1,950 and was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service, talking to youths about the perils of drunken driving. He

lost his job as an ESPN hockey analyst after the DWI arrest. He now coaches local youth hockey.

The lawsuit claims that Barnaby viewed the Cadillac title switch as a temporary transaction so Lindke could drive him where he needed to go while he was without a driver's license. He has since regained the license.

In a more recent case, Barnaby was arrested in May for pounding on the garage door of his ex-wife's Getzville home. He received an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal.

Muscato declined to discuss how much money Barnaby allegedly owes Lindke for working on the website. "He paid some. We want the balance," Muscato said.

Lindke, a graduate of Lockport High School and Canisius College, won the Miss Niagara County title in 2005 and was crowned Miss Buffalo in 2007. She earned a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University and worked briefly for a TV station in Fort Myers, Fla. She now does marketing work in the medical field.

Lindke said she would not answer questions about her relationship with Barnaby, but she confirmed the account in court papers that she and Barnaby were living together in his home from January through September of last year.

She said Barnaby proposed to her and gave her the ring in June; the lawsuit says it happened in July. However, by fall the relationship was on the rocks, and Lindke said she moved out.

The lawsuit says Barnaby asked Lindke several times to give the ring back and sign over the SUV to him, but she refused.

Barnaby and his attorney, David H. Elibol, did not respond to requests to comment on the case.

State law seems to be on Barnaby's side in the dispute over the ring. The state's Civil Rights Law specifically allows lawsuits over unreturned engagement rings if the marriage never takes place.

Several State Supreme Court and Appellate Division rulings in engagement ring cases over the past decade have, in effect, established New York as a "no-fault engagement" state.

In other words, it doesn't matter why an engagement goes bust or whether one party or the other did something wrong. The person who gave the ring is entitled to get it back, according to law review articles by Joanna L. Grossman, a Hofstra University law professor regarded as a leading authority on engagement law.

Muscato said that he and Elibol had been trying to settle the dispute between Barnaby and Lindke without success and that Elibol told him he would file a lawsuit. "Breaking

up is sometimes hard to do,” Muscato said. “If they were married, this would be settled in the divorce. Since they weren’t married, we’re in court.”

