



# **Buffalo Sabres**

**Daily Press Clips**

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## **Rangers could end Sabres' playoff hopes**

By John Vogl

The Buffalo News

April 19, 2013

The Buffalo Sabres have been counted out since the opening weeks of the season. A brutal start seemed to doom them. After a brief rally, a midseason slump appeared to seal their fate.

Yet with just one week left on the schedule, they have defied the odds and are still alive for a playoff spot.

They might take their last breaths tonight, though.

The Sabres host the New York Rangers, and a regulation loss would eliminate Buffalo from postseason contention. The Sabres have 44 points, four fewer than the eighth-place Rangers (48) and seven fewer than the seventh-place New York Islanders (51).

If the Sabres lose, the highest point total they could accumulate would be 50 – the same number New York would have upon exiting First Niagara Center. Because the Rangers hold the tiebreaker, Buffalo's slim hopes for a Stanley Cup chance would disappear for good.

"It's a must-win hockey game for us," Sabres right wing Brian Flynn said Thursday.

When playoff bubble teams reach this point in the season, they become fans of other organizations. Scoreboard watching increases, and rooting interests are clearly defined.

The Sabres need to wave the foam fingers of Carolina, Washington, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Florida and Montreal for a chance at a playoff spot.

Obviously, the Sabres need a lot of help. The first step will be helping themselves. If they don't get at least a point against the Rangers, there won't be a second step.

"We definitely need help," alternate captain Steve Ott said, "but we need to win our games and let other teams hopefully take care of themselves."

The Islanders will be nearly impossible to catch for multiple reasons. In addition to needing just one point to close out the Sabres, all of their remaining games are against teams outside of a playoff spot: Winnipeg, Carolina, Philadelphia and Buffalo.

The possible fork in the Isles' postseason road is every game is away from home.

The Rangers face four teams outside the top eight of the Eastern Conference: Buffalo, Florida, Carolina and New Jersey, which they play twice in their only remaining home games.

Winnipeg visits Buffalo and Montreal, while it welcomes the Islanders and Washington.

"You never want to be banking on other teams to help you out, but that's the position we're in now," Buffalo defenseman Mark Pysyk said after a brief practice in Northtown Center at Amherst. "We're feeling like we can do it. Guys haven't given up or anything like that. The message is we still have to win and move on from there."

The Sabres have been winning more often than not, especially since engaging in what was supposed to be a season-ending fire sale. They are 6-2 in their last eight games, including seven without the departed trio of Jason Pominville, Robyn Regehr and Jordan Leopold.

“I don’t think anybody really gave us a chance, but we’re right in the race,” center Cody Hodgson said. “We’ve stuck around even though we’ve been written off. In the room, we haven’t written off each other.”

The Sabres, winners of three straight, get another chance to set a season-high winning streak. It’s the fourth time they’ve won three in a row, but they’ve yet to make it to four. If there was ever a time to do it, it’s now.

“We all want a chance at the dance,” Ott said. “That’s something we’ve been committed to from Day One and said that’s what we want to be, a playoff team. It doesn’t matter if you’re a minor-league guy that’s called up or a guy straight out of college. You all want that same goal.”

## **Sabres notebook: Vanek originated Boston salute**

By Mike Harrington

The Buffalo News

April 19, 2013

There are two lasting images from Wednesday night in TD Garden.

One was the emotional national anthem started by longtime Boston crooner Rene Rancourt and finished by the fans. The other was the stick salute both teams gave to the sellout crowd after the Sabres completed their shootout victory over the Boston Bruins.

The sign of unity the Sabres and Bruins showed in the face of the Boston Marathon bombings was a huge national topic Thursday morning on network news shows and across the Internet. Still pictures have landed in newspapers and websites all over North America.

Where did the idea come from? Bruins players said Wednesday night it was the thought of Sabres star Thomas Vanek.

“Even though they play in that city, it doesn’t matter where you’re from,” Vanek said after practice Thursday in the Northtown Center at Amherst. “Buffalo, my case Europe, or whatever. Everyone gets affected by it.

“We didn’t think about the publicity it’s getting. For us, it was just to appreciate the people who came. The atmosphere was unbelievable. It’s a few hours away from something you have to not think about. It was good for everyone, a good few hours.”

“It was a no-brainer for everyone I think on both sides,” Boston center Patrice Bergeron said. “And I think it was the perfect way to end the game.”

Vanek broached the idea at the morning skate with fellow alternate captains Steve Ott and Drew Stafford and took it to Buffalo’s training staff. They relayed it to the Bruins’ side of the room, and the plan was finalized on the ice during the pregame warm-up when Vanek briefly chatted with Boston captain Zdeno Chara.

“It was spectacular I thought,” said Sabres interim coach Ron Rolston. “Just seeing that picture, you don’t see that a lot in sports.”

“We were all playing for Boston,” added Ott. “It puts it in perspective. When you’re a hockey player, to be able to live through that experience and that game, it was absolutely surreal.”

Vanek and several of his teammates walked to the barricades on Boylston Street on Tuesday night and saw a barren landscape in the place of the bustling street’s normal activity.

“Seeing it on the news and seeing it in person is a lot different,” Vanek said. “People were upbeat, positive. That goes a long ways. Anytime something like that happens, you put hockey and whatever you’ve got on the side. You think about your own family and the other families. It’s a tough thing.”

...

As for the anthem, it's almost sure to become a time-tested YouTube classic. Veteran hockey reporters were comparing it Thursday to the version nearly drowned out by the roaring crowd at the 1991 All-Star Game in old Chicago Stadium, played at the start of the Persian Gulf War. Rancourt told WEEI Radio in Boston on Thursday morning he was concerned about getting too emotional to finish the song and a Bruins official suggested letting the crowd help him.

"It was unbelievable. It was cool," Vanek said. "It was one of those moments you're happy you were part of it. The atmosphere was electric. Even as a visiting team, it seemed like it was one big happy crowd. It was a good game. It was something I won't forget and I'm sure a lot of guys won't either."

"I had chills just looking around," said winger Brian Flynn, a Massachusetts native. "I don't think there was one person in the stands that wasn't singing."

...

According to the Elias Sports Bureau, Ryan Miller's 41 saves Wednesday gave him an NHL-high four wins this season when facing 40-plus shots. Miller entered Thursday's game leading the NHL in shots against (1,183) and saves (1,082). He has faced 66 more shots and made 48 more saves than any other NHL goalie.

Miller's .928 save percentage in five-on-five play is equal to what he had in his Vezina Trophy year of 2009-10. Where his overall numbers have suffered are on opponents' power plays (.860) and opponents' short-handed situations (.875).

...

Miller has excellent numbers against the New York Rangers, the opponent in tonight's key game in First Niagara Center. He's 8-2-4 in his last 14 games against the Rangers with a 1.71 goals-against average and .943 save percentage, allowing three or more goals just twice in those 14 games. It would be Miller's 498th career game. ... The Rangers will be without Brian Boyle for tonight's game after he suffered a leg injury Tuesday in Philadelphia. They called up Chris Kreider from Connecticut of the AHL. ... Vanek's first-period goal Wednesday was the 247th of his Buffalo career, tied with Mike Foligno for sixth all-time in franchise history.

## **Sabres moved by Wednesday's emotional moments in Boston**

By Bill Hoppe  
Olean Times Herald  
April 19, 2013

BUFFALO – The Sabres first talked about a postgame salute beside the Boston Bruins for fans inside the TD Garden prior to Wednesday's emotional game, the city's first major sporting event since the Boston Marathon bombings killed three people and injured 180 on Monday.

Sabres assistant captains Steve Ott, Drew Stafford and Thomas Vanek spoke with trainer Tim Macre and equipment manager Rip Simonick about a special tribute for the more than 17,000 spectators in attendance.

Vanek then talked to Bruins captain Zdeno Chara at center ice during warm-ups.

Following the Sabres' 3-2 shootout win, both teams skated back out on the ice and raised their sticks together as the crowd cheered one final time.

"It was spectacular, I thought," interim coach Ron Rolston said Thursday following the Sabres' short practice inside the Northtown Center in Amherst. "Just seeing that picture, you don't see that a lot in sports. ... It was amazing."

The iconic moment will likely live in Boston and hockey lore forever.

"As we talked about it, we didn't really think about, I guess, the publicity it's getting for us," Vanek said. "It's just to appreciate the people that came. The atmosphere was unbelievable. Even for us, it's a few hours away from something."

Ott called Wednesday's game "probably the most emotional game I've ever been a part of for so many reasons."

Prior to the contest, the Bruins played a stirring video tribute to the victims, the community and first responders. Some fans hung a No. 8 Bruins jersey with "Richard" on the back, a tribute to 8-year-old Martin Richard, who died in the attacks, on the Bobby Orr statue outside.

"When you watch the memorial and you see that little boy with a Boston Bruins jersey on and just see the support of the community through everything, it was tough," Ott said. "It was great to see the fans so loud, cheering, 'We are Boston.' That community and the Bostonian people, it was really first class."

Then anthem signer Rene Rancourt stopped singing and turned the microphone over to the crowd, creating another moment for the ages.

"It was unbelievable. It was cool," Vanek said about the fans singing together. "It was one of those moments you're happy you're a part of it. The atmosphere was electric."

Ott had difficulty getting through the anthem.

"You're welted up from the ceremony right away," he said. "I think every single guy has been watching a news network for the last couple days."

Sabres rookie Brian Flynn, who grew up in nearby Lynnfield and lives in South Boston now, had about 30 or 40 family members and friends watching his first hometown NHL appearance. The winger felt chills looking around during the anthem.

“I don’t think there was one person in the crowd who wasn’t singing,” Flynn said.

Ott said “we were all playing for Boston” on Wednesday.

“To be able to live through that in that game was absolutely surreal,” he said.

On Tuesday, Ott and some teammates visited the bombing site to pay their respects. Seeing Boylston Street, normally a vibrant area, so quiet was “eerie,” Ott said.

“The chaos the whole city was going through,” Ott said, “it was almost like a movie there with the National Guard, police officers, machine guns. ... It’s a crazy world we live in some days, and it doesn’t make any sense.

“In a time like that, you try to pull things together. I think that’s the great thing about sports is it can bring a community together in a hurry.”

After the FBI released images of the two bombing suspects later in the day, Ott tweeted, “The FBI is seeking help. Find these two and torture them in front (sic) of the world. No need for court. #Justice #Boston”

## **Sabres know a loss to Rangers would likely end playoff hopes**

By Bill Hoppe  
Olean Times Herald  
April 19, 2013

**BUFFALO** – The Sabres have shattered the widespread belief they would finish a lost season meekly and perhaps contend for a lottery pick instead of making an unlikely run at the Eastern Conference’s final playoff spot.

In dealing captain Jason Pominville and two other respected veterans for draft picks and prospects prior to the April 3 trade deadline, general manager Darcy Regier openly talked about the future and shifting the focus to next season.

The current campaign, most believed, was all but over.

Barely two weeks later, the 10th-place Sabres, winners of three straight games and six of the last eight, are in the thick of the playoff chase with four games remaining.

“They still believe with every ounce of their body that they’re going to be in the playoffs,” said interim coach Ron Rolston, whose Sabres host the eighth-place New York Rangers tonight. “You just feel it on the bench.”

Tonight’s tilt against the Rangers inside the First Niagara Center is huge. The Rangers defeated the Florida Panthers 6-1 on Thursday, opening up a four-point lead (48-44) on the Sabres.

A victory keeps the Sabres’ slim playoff hopes alive. A loss kicks them out of the race.

The Sabres basically need to run the table in regulation and get some help to have any chance at the final spot.

“Obviously, (tonight’s) game is pretty much our season in (the) aspect of where we are, if we can continue this push,” Sabres winger Steve Ott said Thursday following the Sabres’ short practice inside the Northtown Center in Amherst. “It’s a huge game that we all have to be ready for just as if it was the last game for our lives. For us, that’s a mindset we have to take.”

Ott added: “We all want a chance at the dance.”

How have the Sabres kept climbing?

Not only is Pominville, arguably the team’s best all-around player for years, gone, so are defensemen Jordan Leopold and Robyn Regehr. Tyler Myers, their alleged franchise defender, is finished for the season after breaking a bone in his leg in last Thursday’s 5-1 loss to Montreal.

That brutal home defeat seemed to extinguish whatever faint playoff hopes the Sabres still held.

But the Sabres allowed only one goal while beating Philadelphia and Tampa Bay at home over the weekend before Wednesday’s emotional 3-2 shootout win in Boston, a game they tied on the power play with 27 seconds left.

“I think people have thought we were done for a long time,” Rolston said. “But I think the guys in the room have a lot of resolve. I think they’ve built that up over the course of the year. Each event that happened to them has kind of made them stronger and been able to bounce back from adversity even more so. The experiences they’ve went through and how they’ve stuck together is a credit to them. ...

“When I got here, when bad things happened, they reacted a whole lot differently than they do now. And that’s part of how resilient they are and they just find a way.”

Players have seized the opportunities the departures created.

“That’s the message since Day One we had when we started trading people away for picks,” Sabres winger Thomas Vanek said. “It’s just new opportunities. Keep going. It’s not over until it’s over.”

Sabres rookie Brian Flynn added: “Everyone’s just kind of buying into how we have to play to win hockey games.”

Don’t forget, there’s still the ninth-place Winnipeg Jets, who visit Monday. The Rangers and Jets (48 points) have only played 43 games. Destiny is out of the Sabres’ hands.

“We need help,” Ott said. “With (teams ahead) having games in hand, we definitely need help.”

Vanek has told teammates “we can only control how we play and how we get points.”

“We have done, for the most part since the trade deadline, our part,” he said. “The rest is not up to us.”

That’s why Rolston would consider pulling his goalie at the end of a tie game in regulation. The Sabres need to need keep the Rangers and Jets from getting a consolation point.

“You have to think everything at this time of the year,” Rolston said. “I don’t think you can erase the fact that we have to get every point, and you have to do what you have to do to get those points.”

Rolston and his players said they would be cheering for the Panthers on Thursday.

“Any opponent that’s playing somebody in front of us we’re probably a fan of at this part of the year,” Rolston said.

## **Sabres challenge in crowded NHL playoff picture**

By Kevin Allen

USA Today

April 18, 2013

When the Buffalo Sabres traded captain Jason Pominville and two veteran defensemen, the league-wide assessment was the franchise was entering a rebuilding phase.

The Sabres had a different viewpoint in their dressing room.

"As a group, we just shook our head at that," Sabres defenseman Mike Weber said. "We were a group that was still positive, a group that thinks it can make the playoffs, and still thinks we could do extremely well in the playoffs."

Although the players were disappointed to lose Pominville, Jordan Leopold and Robyn Regehr, they have banded together to make a run at qualifying for the postseason. It's still an uphill climb, but the Sabres are in the mix for the final two spots in the Eastern Conference, along with the New York Islanders, New York Rangers and Winnipeg Jets. Conveniently, the Sabres will play all three of those teams in the final 10 days of the regular season.

"I don't think there is a bigger game in the NHL (Friday) than the game in Buffalo when we play the Rangers," Weber said.

A month ago, the Sabres ranked 14th in the East, but since have gone 9-4-2. They have a three-game winning streak, while the No. 8-seeded Rangers have points in seven of their last nine games

"This has been a real resilient group," said Sabres interim coach Ron Rolston. "Obviously, we fired a coach (Lindy Ruff) who was here for 15 years, and it's the coach many of these guys have had their whole career. Then, a new coach comes in and we hit some speed bumps. Then, the trade deadline comes, and we get rid of veterans. ... But they've been able to stay focused on being in the game."

The Sabres' quest to make the playoffs is one subplot of a hazy NHL playoff picture that has 11 playoff spots undecided. In the Western Conference, the Columbus Blue Jackets are making a serious bid to earn their second postseason berth, while the Detroit Red Wings could have their run of consecutive playoff appearances ended at 21.

Buffalo probably must win its four remaining games to have a true shot at qualifying. But the Sabres aren't looking at it quite like that.

"We haven't looked too far ahead in terms of the big picture because I think early it would have been too momentous to think about catching up," Rolston said. "We have kind of been focused on one game at a time and that has worked."

After the moves, the Sabres are among the NHL's youngest teams.

"In the transition now, you now have a new leadership group in the room," Rolston said. "We have a different energy about us."

Steve Ott was named an alternate captain after the trades. With Regehr and Leopold gone, Christian Ehrhoff "has stepped up and been more of a vocal leader over the past two or three weeks," Weber said.

He said both Ryan Miller and Thomas Vanek have always been leaders, but "they have had a bigger voice" in trying to encourage the team in the stretch drive.

Several Buffalo players have seen the changes as their opportunity to redefine their status on the team.

"We are an extremely young team and we have bought in to coach Rolston's plan of keeping it simple," Weber said. "We don't always play the most exciting games or the prettiest games, but we are doing a lot of simple things right."

## **THE TASK AT HAND**

By Brian Duff

Sabres.com

April 18, 2013

With 4:07 to go in game 44 of this shortened season, it was as if the house had won. "Twenty one" had the black and gold faithful roaring with approval. In front of an otherwise empty net, a left leg save by Boston's Andrew Ference - on his numerical counterpart Drew Stafford no less - helped preserve the Bruins one-goal lead during a sequence of play that went more than seven minutes without a whistle.

But when the whistle finally did blow, something strange happened. Ference's good fortune had come to an end.

It was he who was going off for delay of game - puck over the glass - with only 48 seconds to play. And in typical sporting fashion, a role reversal, an ironic twist was about to come to pass.

Stafford, pointless in his last nine games and undoubtedly frustrated by his earlier miss, was again patrolling the left point on the power play, something he's been thrust into in each of the past three games.

And after a rare-for-this-night faceoff win by the Sabres (courtesy of Steve Ott) the puck found its way to Stafford. Four seconds later it was in the back of the net. Cody Hodgson from Vanek and Stafford at 19:33, tying the game up and bringing hope back to the bench. Not to mention some relief to one of Buffalo's most snakebitten scorers.

Incredibly it was the first time since game one of the season against Philadelphia that Buffalo had scored more than one power play goal in a game.

But Stafford wasn't done. In case his assist wasn't noticed, Stafford produced the only goal of the three-round shootout.

The 11th shootout in the head-to-head history of the Sabres and Bruins went the way of the road team, as Buffalo claimed the season series three wins to two, winning both of their visits to the Garden. The result affording us at least one more opportunity to breakdown the schedules remaining for the those in the hunt for eighth in the Eastern Conference, and focus on what the Sabres must do, for the first time this season, if they are to snag the final spot.

As of Thursday morning, the Rangers remained in eighth place with 46 points and six games to go. Based on quality of opponents remaining they have by far the easiest schedule. New York's six games are all against teams that not currently in a playoff position. Two versus Florida (0-1 this season); a Friday matchup here in Buffalo, where the Rangers were dumped 3-1 March 12; and the Rangers are 2-0 vs. the Hurricanes this season and will visit them next Thursday in their penultimate game. They also have a pair with their arch rivals from across the Hudson, the Devils, who are currently riding a 10-game losing streak, but have managed to split a pair with the Rangers so far.

The Winnipeg Jets also have 46 points, but have five games remaining. Having won four in a row, their homestand continues with games against Carolina (2-1-0 vs. them) and the Islanders (1-1-0 vs. NYI). After that the Jets will be in Buffalo (2-0 vs. Sabres) on Monday, followed by a quick turnaround into D.C. the following night (1-3 vs the Capitals). The Jets will play their season finale next Thursday when they host the struggling Canadiens, but they are 0-2 against Montreal this season.

In all likelihood the Sabres must run the table over their final four games to post 52 points on the season and hope that it's good enough. This would mean that the Rangers must do no better than 2-3-1 over their final six, while the Jets would have to finish no better than 2-2-1 to leave the door open for Buffalo.

Buffalo of course plays the Rangers on Friday, then will meet the Penguins (1-1-0) in Pittsburgh on Saturday. The Sabres return home for their final two games: Monday vs. Winnipeg, and Friday against the surging New York Islanders.

The Sabres are riding their fourth three-game winning streak of the season. They have yet to win four in a row. When there were 22 games remaining, my belief was that they would need to go 18-4 to make it. They have gone 10-5-3 to date.

But before you consider writing them off - again - consider what we've witnessed in this most recent three game surge: a game-winning goal scored off the end boards by Christian Ehrhoff vs. Philadelphia; a clean two-on-one featuring Kevin Porter and Brian Flynn that required the side boards to rescue an errant pass before the puck was put home by Porter vs. Tampa Bay. That goal gave them a three-goal cushion in a game for the just the fourth time this season.

And then, a last-minute puck-over-the-glass penalty by the Bruins that allowed Buffalo to score its second power play goal of the game, against the number one penalty killing unit in the NHL. That oddity followed by a shootout win with Stafford getting the deciding goal.

There's that "21" reference again. It's time to play the remaining cards as they are dealt. Four of a kind is the goal, to be part of a season-ending lucky seven, and just maybe a spot in the top eight.

## **Rangers-Sabres Preview**

By Jon Palmieri  
Associated Press  
April 18, 2013

The New York Rangers are safe in the knowledge that they control their own fate in the race for a playoff spot.

The Buffalo Sabres can only wish for that kind of luxury.

A regulation win against the Sabres on Friday night would move the visiting Rangers a step closer to a postseason berth while eliminating Buffalo from contention.

New York rebounded from a lackluster 4-2 loss at Philadelphia on Tuesday with a 6-1 win over league-worst Florida on Thursday. Rick Nash had a goal and an assist in the first period for the Rangers (22-17-4), who moved to 6-2-1 in their last nine games and matched a season high in goals.

"It's a huge game," Nash said. "We've got to get a win (Friday) night. We'll enjoy this for a couple of hours, then go back to work tomorrow morning."

Henrik Lundqvist made 34 saves and reached 20 wins for the eighth straight season despite this lockout-shortened, 48-game slate. He has allowed two goals or fewer in 13 of his last 15 starts, posting a 1.68 goals-against average during that span.

The win kept the Rangers tied with Winnipeg for eighth in the Eastern Conference, four points ahead of Buffalo. New York has a game in hand on both teams and can eliminate the Sabres with a win in regulation.

"It's important. We don't need help," coach John Tortorella said of the standings. "I think it's an opportunity for some guys to step up. You shouldn't feel the pressure and shy away from it.

"That's the way you need to take it as an individual and as a group."

Center Derek Stepan had an assist Thursday, giving him five goals and six assists in his last nine games. He has a goal in both meetings against Buffalo this season.

This game is the third of seven straight for the Rangers against teams below them in the standings. That run started against the Flyers and ends with the regular-season finale April 27 versus New Jersey.

Although the Sabres (19-19-6) are chasing New York, they are enjoying one of their best stretches of the season. They've won three straight and six of eight despite a revamped roster due to trades and injuries.

The postseason appeared to be slipping further away with the Sabres trailing the Bruins by a goal in the final minute Wednesday before Cody Hodgson tipped in Thomas Vanek's pass on a power play with 26.6 seconds left. Drew Stafford scored the only shootout goal to lift Buffalo to a 3-2 victory in the first sporting event in Boston since Monday's marathon bombings.

"We have a chance to just write our own story," said Ryan Miller, who made 21 of his 41 saves in the third period and overtime. "We have to win our own hockey games and maybe get some help along the way. Tonight we helped ourselves a little bit and we still have games against teams ahead of us (in the standings)."

Hodgson's score gave the Sabres multiple power-play goals in the same game for the first time since a season-opening win over Philadelphia on Jan. 20.

Miller is 8-2-3 with a 1.70 goals-against average in his last 13 starts against the Rangers. He stopped 26 shots in a 3-2 shootout loss at Madison Square Garden on March 3.

Jhonas Enroth was in net for Buffalo's 3-1 home win March 12.

## **Sabres host Rangers in must-win game**

By Tal Pinchevsky

NHL.com

April 18, 2013

RANGERS (22-17-4) at SABRES (19-19-6)

TV: MSG, MSG-B

Last 10: Buffalo 6-3-1, New York 6-3-1

**Season series:** This is the third and final meeting this season between these teams. They've split the first two, with the New York Rangers winning 3-2 in a shootout at Madison Square Garden on March 3 before the Buffalo Sabres earned a 3-1 home win nine days later.

**Big story:** This is the Sabres' season. They enter the game trailing the eighth-place Rangers by four points in the Eastern Conference playoff race. Anything less than a regulation win traded away some of their top veteran players at the Trade Deadline, the Rangers looked to add pieces to their roster. Despite their contrasting approaches to the deadline, both teams are currently battling for the final playoff spot in the East, with the Sabres trailing eighth-place New York by four points and the Rangers holding a game in hand.

**Team Scope:**

**Rangers:** With a 5-1-1 record to start April, the Rangers appeared to be getting hot at just the right time. But their hopes of earning a playoff spot hit a snag Tuesday night as they were downed 4-2 by the Flyers in Philadelphia. The Rangers looked to rebound from that loss at home against the Florida Panthers Thursday night.

New York stormed out early against Florida, scoring two power-play goals in the first period. But momentum shifted late in the period when Panthers rookie Jonathan Huberdeau halved the Rangers lead with a highlight-reel goal. Following a slowed pace to start the third, the Rangers came alive late in regulation, scoring three goals in a 3:25 span to wrap up a 6-1 win. Mats Zuccarello and Derick Brassard, neither of whom was even on the Rangers roster three weeks ago, both scored twice. Rick Nash added a goal and two assists.

"Every game means so much," Nash said. "We need to pour it all in every game now. We're desperate for points."

**Sabres:** Hockey was an afterthought for a while Wednesday night as the Sabres participated in the first Boston sporting event since the tragic bombing at the Boston Marathon two days earlier that killed three people and injured dozens more.

Following a series of poignant tributes to the victims of the attack, both teams provided a welcome escape to the tragedy of recent events. And the Boston faithful got an emotional burst early in the game when Daniel Paille opened the scoring for the Bruins. Thomas Vanek and Chris Kelly traded goals from there before Cody Hodgson tied the game with 27 seconds remaining in regulation. The power-play goal came moments after Andrew Ference was assessed a delay of game penalty and Ryan Miller had been pulled for an extra attacker.

Drew Stafford scored the lone shootout goal to give Buffalo a much-needed 3-2 victory. But with both teams saluting the crowd together at center ice, it was clear that the final score was of lesser importance on this night.

"As an American, and even just as a member of this society where we live and we're free, you hate to see these things happen," Miller said. "It transcends what nationality you are, we're all people. It was horrible to see all the people injured."

Who's hot: For the Rangers, Zuccarello has three goals in his past two games while Brassard has five points in his current four-game point streak. ... Vanek has three points in his past two games while Christian Ehrhoff has three points in his three-game point streak. Miller has allowed two goals or fewer in seven of his past 10 games.

Injury report: New York is without defensemen Marc Staal (eye) and Michael Sauer (concussion) while wing Derek Dorsett will not play this season due to a collarbone injury. Center Brian Boyle missed Thursday's game with a lower-body ailment and also will not play Friday. ... The Sabres are missing defensemen Tyler Myers and Alex Sulzer, who are both gone for the rest of the season with leg injuries, while wing Ville Leino is out indefinitely with an upper-body injury.

## **A veritable building boom in Buffalo**

By James Fink

Business First

April 18, 2013

A heavy list of developments within downtown Buffalo's Canalside District may lead the way for a new wave of private sector-fueled investments.

Sam Hoyt, Empire State Development Corp. regional president, said with work underway at the One Canalside Building, former Memorial Auditorium and Webster Block sites, he expects the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp. to issue RFPs for a site that sits just south of the One Canalside — the former Donovan Building — by the end of the year.

"We're at the point where there is real critical mass building," Hoyt said. "So, it's time to let people kick the tires and see what fits best here."

Hoyt made his comments in conjunction with Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy, who made his second tour of the Canalside District in the past six months. Duffy and local leaders including Mayor Byron Brown were on hand for the formal groundbreaking of the \$5 million "East Canal" urban park project. The park is set for a parcel located between Main and Washington streets and just south of the One Canalside Building.

The park is due to be ready by the end of the year.

Duffy's latest visit comes at a time when nearly \$225 million of construction projects are underway within a compact, four-block area of Canalside.

"I tend to measure progress by the number of (construction) cranes in the air," Duffy said. "No Upstate city has this amount of construction going on. Everyone working together, putting a lot of skin in the game, lead us to this point."

Besides the East Canal park, Benderson Development is investing more than \$30 million to transform the former Donovan State Office Building into the One Canalside Building that will house the Phillips Lytle law firm and a 96-room Courtyard by Marriott hotel and just across Scott Street, the Buffalo Sabres have started work on the \$172.2 million HarborCenter project. HarborCenter will be anchored by a pair of hockey rinks and a 200-room brand name hotel.

The former Aud site is being transformed into a series of replica Erie Canal waterways. Explore & More Children's Museum is raising \$6 million for its proposed 40,000-square-foot museum that will also go on a portion of the Aud land.

"When have you ever seen so many cranes in the air in Buffalo at one time?" Brown asked.

Brown said Buffalo currently has more than \$1.7 billion worth of new construction projects underway or in the planning pipeline.

Canalside is the focal point for much of the economic development activity, along with the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, which also saw Roswell Park Cancer Institute Thursday morning break ground on its \$40 million medical center project.

Canalside is expected to host more than 750 events this summer and attract more than 700,000 people. Those numbers coupled with the other projects are catching the eye of the private sector, Brown said.

“We have laid the ground work, so the public sector will follow,” Hoyt said. “That’s what this is all about.”