



# **Buffalo Sabres**

## **Daily Press Clips**

*November 12, 2013*

## **Kings-Sabres Preview**

By Kevin Chroust

Associated Press

November 11, 2013

Nearly a quarter of the way into the season, the Buffalo Sabres have yet to win in their own arena.

They'll try to avoid matching the worst 10-game home start in NHL history Tuesday night against the Los Angeles Kings, a team they've dominated in Buffalo for two decades.

The Sabres are 0-8-1 at the First Niagara Center. The 1983-84 Pittsburgh Penguins are the only team in NHL history to go winless through its first 10 home games, and that club started 0-9-0 with two ties before securing its first home win.

The Sabres (3-15-1) have been outscored 32-14 at home.

"We're facing a lot of adversity right now," center Cody Hodgson told the team's official website after its last home loss Nov. 2 to Anaheim. "We can say as much as we want, but at the end of the day, it's what we do on the ice and right now, it's not good enough."

Buffalo's home history against the Kings, though, has been quite different.

The Sabres are 10-1-0 with one tie when hosting Los Angeles since the start of the 1993-94 season, and they've won the past four meetings in Buffalo by a combined score of 27-6.

Buffalo returns home from a three-game road trip to California that saw it beat San Jose in a shootout before consecutive losses to Los Angeles (11-6-0) and Anaheim.

Ryan Miller played the first two periods in Friday's 6-2 loss to the Ducks and allowed six goals on 34 shots.

"It was a disaster to be part of," Miller said. "I've been a part of many disasters in my career. You just have to turn the page and move on."

Miller is 2-11-0 with a 3.40 goals-against average, but he's 3-1-0 with a 1.75 GAA and .953 save percentage in four home starts against Los Angeles.

The Kings have strung together back-to-back wins after Saturday's 5-1 victory against Vancouver. They've outshot their last nine opponents and won five of seven as they head into a four-game trip against Eastern Conference teams.

Tyler Toffoli scored twice and had an assist against the Canucks, giving him at least one point in each of his three games since being recalled from AHL affiliate Manchester on Nov. 2.

His minor league teammate, Linden Vey, made his NHL debut in Thursday's 2-0 win against the Sabres and earned his first point Saturday with an assist on Jordan Nolan's first-period goal.

"It's exciting for them, and they bring that enthusiasm into games," said center Mike Richards, who has three goals and five assists in the last four games. "They have the confidence to make plays, and they're both smart passers."

Richards has 27 points in 23 career games against Buffalo.

Jonathan Quick has allowed one goal on 45 shots in the Kings' last two games. He's 3-0-0 with a 1.78 GAA and .918 save percentage in four matchups with the Sabres.

Buffalo coach Ron Rolston said he believes defenseman Christian Ehrhoff will return from a lower-body injury after missing Friday's game. Fellow defenseman Mike Weber practiced Monday but is waiting to be cleared to return from his seven-game absence due to a thumb injury.

Kings center Jarrett Stoll and defenseman Matt Greene have missed two games with upper-body injuries and are questionable.

## **Sabres still searching for a home win**

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

November 12, 2013

Maybe the Buffalo Sabres need to switch uniform colors. Maybe they need to stay in a hotel the night before a game. Maybe they need to wear earplugs so they don't have to listen to their understandably surly fans.

Or maybe they just need to pull up their socks and give a complete effort for the folks at First Niagara Center and not look so spooked on the ice.

Whatever the theory, something has to change for the Sabres at home. They're 0-8-1 downtown, the only winless team in its own barn in the NHL. And they're enduring their worst start at home since they came into the NHL in 1970.

In a season full of riches on the embarrassment scale, this one ranks pretty high heading into tonight's visit by the Los Angeles Kings.

"On the road you know you have to bring your ultimate game to have a chance to win. The compete and work ethic have to be there from the get-go," captain Steve Ott said after practice Monday, the team's first in Buffalo in more than a week after it returned from its California trip.

"At home, you're kind of trying to prevent that because you know teams are coming in feeling the same way and trying to play that way by going hard against you right off the bat. We have to start with a compete level and a mindset of a road game."

The Sabres have lost seven straight at home in regulation for just the second time in their history since getting their lone point in the Oct. 8 overtime loss to Tampa Bay. They have scored 14 goals in their nine games.

Buffalo started 0-6-1 at home three years ago and was 0-7 in 1993 before ripping off a 7-1-1 run at Memorial Auditorium, but it's hard to imagine a bounceback streak like that this year. No other seasons in franchise annals come close to this one for home struggles out of the gate.

"Our fans definitely deserve better," said defenseman Christian Ehrhoff.  
"Hopefully we can get a win for them and put a good 60-minute effort for them."

"It's kind of a snowball effect. You have to build some confidence and it starts with little things. Get a good first shift in, build confidence and stick with it. We haven't done that enough."

The Sabres are 3-7-0 and noticeably better on the road, with wins at the New York Islanders, Florida and San Jose. They've also had one-goal losses at Detroit,

Chicago and Tampa Bay and also played well last week in their 2-0 loss at Los Angeles.

“We’ve played a lot better on the road. That’s just finding the right ingredients,” said coach Ron Rolston. “At times here, we try to make better plays for the crowd and play to that whereas on the road, we really don’t care. It’s a road game and if we make a mess of it, we try to find success any way we can. And that’s going to have to be our mentality at home.”

The Sabres were pretty happy with the first two games of the road trip, the shootout win at San Jose and the good performance at Los Angeles.

“And obviously the third game wasn’t what we want to look like,” Ehrhoff said, referring to Friday’s 6-2 sleepwalk in Anaheim. “But the first two games there were a lot of good things, especially the San Jose game. We skated for 60 minutes and that’s what we have to bring every night.”

Rolston agreed with the notion that having a recent look at the Kings just five days earlier should be a big help for the Sabres tonight.

“We were on the road and able to play a decent hockey game,” he said. “Now they’re going to be hungrier too so we have to up the ante. They’re going to be playing a road game like we were. We’re going to have to be simple, execute well and have a lot of effort.”

Ott said the effort will be noticed by the cranky crowd, especially if it starts to produce results that have been missing.

“The fans have acknowledged our work ethic during games by recognizing strong shifts and those type of things,” Ott said. “We just have to be consistent and not be hit or miss. It’s a hard-working community, a hard-working town. We have to bring that work ethic and there will be recognition of that.”

## **Rolston splits up Sabres' top line after benching**

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

November 12, 2013

Buffalo Sabres coach Ron Rolston benched his entire top line for the final 26 minutes and made veteran Ville Leino a healthy scratch for Friday's dreary 6-2 loss in Anaheim.

When the team returned to practice Monday in First Niagara Center, the lines were pretty jumbled and newcomer Matt Moulson — who told The News Friday the benching was the most embarrassing moment of his NHL career — said he and Rolston had mended fences.

"I want to help this team win," said Moulson, who joined Cody Hodgson and Tyler Ennis in getting nailed to the bench Friday. "I had a good talk with Coach today and we're going to move on from that. In sports, you've got to put things behind you pretty quickly. Just get a mindset to come work today."

"He's a professional. He'll be there," Rolston said of Moulson. "He's been there for us the whole time. We want to make sure everybody is accountable and that's the only way we're going to have success."

Rolston wouldn't delve into much detail about his reasons for his moves but he moved Ennis off the top line Monday and put Steve Ott with Moulson and Hodgson.

"We have to try to get some 'heaviness' on that top line," Rolston said when asked about Ott.

"He wants to make sure we're working," Moulson said. "When you're relied upon to produce in this league on a top line of any team, obviously you have to be the best line out there each game. Obviously the staff didn't feel we were the last game. I didn't think we were, and we'll move on from there."

Ennis was back at center Monday, between Leino and Drew Stafford. The third line had Marcus Foligno between Zemgus Girgensons and Brian Flynn while Cody McCormick was centering Mikhail Grigorenko and Corey Tropp.

Hodgson said he had not engaged Rolston in any follow-up on his benching.

"You want to play and you want to help the team and contribute but that stuff is up to the coach," he said. "I did my best to encourage other guys."

"He's a top-line player for us and you can see what other top lines have done when they've come to this building or on the road," Rolston said, referring to Anaheim's Ryan Getzlaf and his seven points in two games against Buffalo. "Your best players have to be your best players. How was Getzlaf on the road? Those guys make plays and they make a difference."

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Defenseman Christian Ehrhoff will return to the lineup tonight against Los Angeles after missing Friday's game with a lower-body injury. Fellow blueliner Mike Weber, who has been out since breaking a thumb Oct. 25 in Florida, ruled himself ready to go but Rolston said Weber would not play tonight and could be ready for the home-and-home set this weekend against Toronto.

Weber worked out in the arena last week with scout Dennis Miller while the team was in California.

"It's kind of like coming back from the summer I guess," Weber said. "It was pretty lonely in this locker room for the last week being the only one in here."

When Weber is ready, the Sabres will have to open a roster spot because he is on injured reserve. The team could send Nikita Zadorov back to junior because he can play only two more games before his entry-level contract kicks in.

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The Sabres announced Monday that beginning with tonight's game, all fans entering First Niagara Center will be subject to a handheld magnetometer (wand) screening upon entry.

The wand has been used on a limited and random basis since last season as part of gradual security enhancements. It is now being expanded to include all fans to comply with league-wide policies for all teams in the NHL.

In honor of Veterans Day, Sabres players will be wearing camouflage jerseys during pregame warm-ups tonight and the jerseys will then be put up for auction on the NHL.com auction site immediately following the game. The auction runs through Nov. 20 and proceeds benefit the Sabres Foundation.

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Former Sabres defenseman Jordan Leopold won't be in the St. Louis lineup when the Blues play here Nov. 19 because he is going to need surgery to repair ligament and tendon damage in his right hand. Leopold was injured Thursday in Calgary and will miss at least eight weeks.

Leopold has two assists in 13 games this season while averaging nearly 16 minutes of ice time per game. He was acquired from the Sabres at the trade deadline last season for a second- and fifth-round pick.

The Sabres used the second-round pick in June to take Williamsville native Justin Bailey, who is playing for the Kitchener Rangers in the OHL.

## **Kings start Eastern road trip by facing Sabres**

By David Kalan

NHL.com

November 11, 2013

KINGS (11-6-0) at SABRES (3-15-1)

TV: FS-W, MSG-B, BELL TV

Last 10: Los Angeles 7-3-0; Buffalo 2-8-0

Season series: The Los Angeles Kings beat the Buffalo Sabres, 2-0, in their only previous game this season on Nov. 7 at Staples Center. Their meeting Tuesday night in Buffalo will be the final time the two teams face off in 2013-14.

Big story: After facing off just five days earlier, the Kings and Sabres will wrap up their season series on Tuesday as Los Angeles opens up a four-game road trip through the East.

Team scope:

**Kings:** With wins in 10 of their last 14 games, few teams in the NHL can claim to be playing as well as the Kings, but it just so happens those few teams might all be in Los Angeles' division. Despite a record that would have them either tied or near first place in either Eastern Conference division, the Kings are currently fifth in the ultra-competitive Pacific Division, with a nine-point gap separating themselves from the first-place Anaheim Ducks.

If the stiff competition in the Western Conference is a problem, the Kings have a ripe opportunity to pick up ground on their rivals. L.A. opens a four-game road trip Tuesday night that will pit it against the Sabres, New York Islanders, New Jersey Devils and New York Rangers, four teams with a combined 23-39-9 record.

The Kings had as good a launching point for their impending road swing as one could hope for, beating the Vancouver Canucks, 5-1, Saturday night, courtesy of a three-point night by center Tyler Toffoli, who is only on the roster due to injuries.

"I'm trying to earn my spot on the team," Toffoli said. "I'm just trying to stay in the lineup, so we'll see how things keep going."

**Sabres:** The Sabres are returning home from a three-game road trip through California, which started with an impressive 5-4 shootout win against the San Jose Sharks, but ended with consecutive losses at Los Angeles and Anaheim. Despite the four-goal outburst in San Jose, however, Buffalo's struggles remain. That win was the first time all season the Sabres had scored four goals in a game,

and they're averaging just 1.63 goals per outing, the second-lowest figure in the League.

While the Sabres remain in the League basement with just seven points in 19 games, they will be getting reinforcements Tuesday night, as John Scott is expected to return to the lineup following a seven-game suspension for an illegal hit on Boston Bruins forward Loui Eriksson, and defenseman Christian Ehrhoff will be back after missing Buffalo's last game with a lower-body injury.

Defenseman Mike Weber, who has missed seven games with a thumb injury, practiced with the team Monday, but may not be in the lineup Tuesday night.

"He's close," coach Ron Rolston said Monday. "I doubt that [he'll be ready Tuesday]. Today was his first day of practice."

After hosting the Kings on Tuesday, the Sabres will have a home-and-home this weekend with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Who's hot: In his first two games back from injury, Kings center Mike Richards totaled two goals and three assists. ... Sabres center Mikhail Grigorenko has two goals and an assist in the past three games.

Injury report: Center Jarret Stoll (upper body) and defenseman Matt Greene (upper body) are both questionable for the Kings after missing two games, while center Jeff Carter (lower body) is on injured reserve. ... Ehrhoff (lower body) told media on Monday afternoon that he is ready to return after missing Buffalo's game against the Anaheim Ducks this past Friday. Weber (thumb) skated with the team on Monday, but his return is uncertain.

## **Sabres hoping to finally win at home, earn crowd's support**

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

November 12, 2013

BUFFALO – Fifteen days ago, as the Sabres began clawing back from a three-goal deficit against the Dallas Stars, the atmosphere inside the First Niagara Center shifted dramatically.

For one of the few times this trying season, the building buzzed with positive energy. The same fans who had booed and groaned all month cheered the Sabres' strong effort.

The players felt the crowd's support.

“That’s how it should be every game. We got to bring the effort,” defenseman Christian Ehrhoff said Monday after the Sabres, a wretched 0-8-1 at home, prepared for tonight’s tilt here against the Los Angeles Kings. “I think that game we got rewarded by the fans for the effort.”

Ultimately, the Sabres fell 4-3. But, as Ehrhoff said, just seeing their team compete fiercely pleased the spectators.

“They want us to compete, and this is a town where hard work is first and foremost the precedent,” Sabres captain Steve Ott said. “That’s (what) we need to start with. The work ethic usually leads to winning games.”

So far, the hapless Sabres, a stunning 3-15-1 overall, have been awful at home, getting outscored 32-14 and outshot 317-258.

“We know the fans here are passionate,” Sabres center Cody Hodgson said. “They’re passionate when we win. They’re passionate when we lose. If we give them something to cheer about, I know they’ll always support us.”

But there’s been very little to cheer about during the worst home start in franchise history. The Sabres have only held a lead for 12:02 this season inside the FNC.

Another loss and the Sabres would record a home winless streak of 10 or more games for the third time in team history, according to a local statistician.

Not surprisingly, they’ve started most games horrendously. Incredibly, they’ve been outscored 11-2 during home first periods and outshot 113-66.

“We haven’t really put together a full 60-minute effort, and most of the games our starts have been bad,” Ehrhoff said. “We just got to try to get in the game good.”

The Sabres keep creeping back into games late. By then, however, many fans have already started getting restless or chanting “Fire Darcy” for general manager Darcy Regier.

“I think it’s a combination of the whole season,” Ott said about the home woes. “We have to come out playing the right way to win a hockey game. At home, we haven’t, obviously, really done that.”

Clearly, it’s a terrible learning environment for the Sabres’ six rookies.

“Finding the right ingredients” has helped the Sabres perform better on the road, coach Ron Rolston said.

“I think at times here we’ve tried to maybe try to make better plays for the crowd and play to that, where on the road we really don’t care,” Rolston said. “If it’s a road game and if we make a mess of it, we try to find success any way we can on the road, and that’s going to have to be our mentality on the road.”

Ott said the Sabres have “seen glimpses” of the work ethic they must bring into road games.

“That’s why we’re scared for our lives in that we could be blown out,” he said. “That’s something, if you’re playing the wrong way, things go south in a hurry.”

Things went south quickly early in Friday’s embarrassing 6-2 loss in Anaheim. The Sabres trailed 4-1 following the first period. Still, they opened their three-game California trip well, upsetting the Sharks in an exciting 5-4 shootout last Tuesday before falling 2-0 to the Kings on Thursday.

“In terms of five-on-five play, I thought both those games were a positive in how we wanted to play and the energy level that we wanted to play with,” Rolston said. “A lot of areas of our game are getting better in allowing us to create some more offense.”

Ehrhoff added: “Probably the game in San Jose was the best game we played. We skated for 60 minutes, and that’s what it’s all about. We got to bring that effort every night.”

If they can do that, then perhaps Sabres fans won’t voice their frustrations.

“The expectations have been pretty high these last few years since Terry (Pegula) bought the team,” Ehrhoff said. “Everybody, me included, thought it would go in a different direction. It’s just gone downhill so far.

“I certainly understand the frustration. But we also need the fans’ support to get out of the hole. But it starts with us putting a good effort on the ice.”

## **Ron Rolston switches up Sabres' lines, puts captain Steve Ott on top combination**

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

November 12, 2013

BUFFALO – Top NHL lines rarely get benched long, especially on anemic teams with little or no depth.

So why did coach Ron Rolston sit the Matt Moulson, Cody Hodgson and Tyler Ennis trio the final 26 minutes of the Sabres' 6-2 loss Friday in Anaheim.

"I'm not going to discuss that," Rolston said Monday inside the First Niagara Center after the Sabres prepared for tonight's contest against the Los Angeles Kings.

As expected, the 3-15-1 Sabres, who have just 31 goals, mixed up their lines Monday.

Captain Steve Ott went on the right wing beside Moulson and Hodgson. Meanwhile, Ennis centered Drew Stafford and Ville Leino, a healthy scratch Friday.

Moulson clearly didn't want to discuss the benching, although he said he "had a good talk with coach today."

"We're going to move on from that," said Moulson, who has two goals and six points in six games since his Oct. 27 acquisition from the New York Islanders. "Obviously, in sports you got to put things behind you pretty quickly."

What did Rolston want the line, which hadn't been scored on, to do differently?

"Just to make sure we're working," Moulson said. "I think when you're relied upon to produce in this league on a top line, obviously, you have to be the best line out there each game. Obviously, the staff didn't feel like we were last game. I didn't think we were. So move on."

Rolston said about Moulson: "He's a professional. He'll be there."

Hodgson said he hadn't spoken to Rolston.

"That's up to the coach," the center said about sitting. "I just did my best to encourage the other guys."

Ott's presence gives the Sabres' No. 1 trio some grit.

"We have to try to get some heaviness on that top line," Rolston said.

Ott said he doesn't "think there's a first or a fourth line right now."

"I think it's more of a combination of who's going and who's not going on a nightly basis," he said. "We need our line to be going to have any chance of success."

The other lines Monday: Zemgus Girgensons, Marcus Foligno and Brian Flynn; Corey Tropp, Cody McCormick and Mikhail Grigorenko.

Johan Larsson and John Scott appear to be the spare forwards.

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Defenseman Christian Ehrhoff (muscle strain) will return tonight following a one-game absence, he said.

Meanwhile, Mike Weber (broken thumb) practiced fully Monday. The defenseman, out the last seven games, could return this weekend, Rolston said.

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Starting tonight, all fans entering the FNC will be subjected to a handheld magnetometer screening, the Sabres announced Monday.

The club began using the wands on a limited basis last season. To further comply with NHL security policies, the screening has been expanded.

## **Sabres Weber is back**

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

November 11, 2013

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- Mike Weber didn't go on the Sabres west coast trip nursing a broken finger. He practiced with the team for the first time since the injury on Monday. Weber hopes to be medically cleared later on Monday, but won't play Tuesday against the Kings. Ron Rolston said he hadn't practiced enough.

Christian Ehrhoff missed one game with a lower body injury. He was also at practice and said, "Today felt pretty good. Three days off and treatment really helped me and I'll be ready to go tomorrow."

Weber broke his thumb right through the padding of his glove. He said, "It felt good. I didn't get to go on the sunny trip to California, but stayed behind, skated all week, worked out all week so it feels as good as it's going to feel so I'm ready to get back at it."

As far as how it happened Weber said, "It hit me right on top of the padding, so it's pretty tough when a D-man walks in as the fourth guy into the rush and walks in from the blue line and rips one, but that's my job, it's part of the cost of playing the way I do"

It's one thing to be working out by yourself, but to actually be back at practice with your teammates Weber said, "It's kind of like coming back from the summer, it's been pretty lonely in this locker room with no one in here, so it's nice to have everyone back and it's exciting for me just to get back to full practice with the boys."

Weber hated having to watch the games from his living room, but he also got some perspective, "We put together a good game and a couple periods of a good game on the road trip. I think the main focus is our consistency and how we come out every shift. There's too many lulls and in some cases I don't think we're playing nasty enough, we're not playing desperate enough, so those are the things that I'm going to try to bring when a doctor gets me cleared."

When Weber is ready, they will have to open a roster spot. They could send Zadorov back to junior, send Ristolainen, Larsson, Girgensons or Flynn to Rochester or waive somebody.

## **Moulson and the Sabres get back to work**

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

November 11, 2013

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- Ron Rolston benched his top line of Cody Hodgson, Tyler Ennis and Matt Moulson for the final 26 minutes on the game Friday in Anaheim. After the game Ennis said he knew why while Moulson said he had never been so embarrassed in his career. After two days off the ice, Ron Rolston took Ennis off the line and replaced him with Steve Ott. When asked about Hodgson Rolston said, "He's a top line player for us and you can see what other top lines have done when they either come to this building or are on the road, so your best players have to be your best players. How was Getzlaf on the road? Those guys make plays, they make plays, they make a difference. Top players have to make a difference and they have to be your best players every night."

Matt Moulson scored two goals his first game here and hasn't scored since. He has added assists. He said, "I want to help this team win and I had a good talk with coach today, so we're going to move on from that." Moulson added, "Obviously we didn't play the way we wanted to play last game, our line especially and we know we have to be better."

Rolston wouldn't comment on talking to the players, but Moulson said, "Just to make sure we're working. I think when you're relied upon to produce in this league on the top line, you have to be the best line out there each game."

The other lines in practice were:

Moulson-Hodgson-Ott

Leino-Ennis-Stafford

Girgensons-Ennis-Flynn

Grigorenko-McCormick-Tropp (Larsson)

John Scott really didn't have a line.

## **EHRHOFF READY, WEBER SKATES WITH TEAM**

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

November 11, 2013

Buffalo Sabres defenseman Christian Ehrhoff said after practice at First Niagara Center on Monday that he's ready to return from a lower-body injury that sidelined him against the Anaheim Ducks on Friday.

His fellow veteran blueliner Mike Weber, who has been on injured reserve the past seven games with a thumb injury, said he hoped to be cleared by the doctors later today. Monday marked his first practice with the team since sustaining the injury.

"It feels as good as it's going to feel, I guess, but it feels good so I'm ready to get back at it," Weber said. "I think that phone call's going to be today, so we'll see what's up. But if it's up to me, I'm ready to go."

Sabres coach Ron Rolston, however, said that while he thinks Ehrhoff will be back for the team's game against the Los Angeles Kings at First Niagara Center on Tuesday, Weber might not be available until the home-and-home series against Toronto this weekend.

"Christian Ehrhoff said he's feeling good, so he'll be ready and Webby'll be close. He's close," Rolston said. "I doubt that [he'll be ready Tuesday]. Today was his first day of practice."

Weber, who was injured on Oct. 26 in Tampa Bay, did not travel with the team for their three-game road trip in California. He said he worked out every day on his own back in Buffalo, skating and working on defensive drills.

"Pretty lonely in this locker room for the last week here with no one here," he said. "Just some locker room guys and some scouts and things like that helping me out. It was pretty lonely but it's nice to have everyone back and obviously it's exciting for me to just get back into a full practice with the boys."

Weber seemed eager to get back and feels that he can help the team through their recent struggles.

"I think the main focus is just our consistency and how we come out every shift. There are too many lulls and in some cases, I don't think we're playing nasty enough," he said. "We're not playing desperate enough. So those are the little things that I'm going to try and bring if, hopefully, the doctor gets me cleared here."

The Sabres will face the Kings for the second time in six days. Despite losing 2-0 in Los Angeles on Thursday, the team felt they played well against the Kings in even-strength situations. Both Los Angeles goals came on the man advantage. Rolston said they'll look to build off that game and their 5-4 shootout win in San Jose on Monday.

“I think we talked about it that we thought that we had two solid games there,” Rolston said. “Obviously the power play in L.A. right away put us behind the eight ball in terms of penalties, but in terms of 5-on-5 play, I think both those games were a positive in terms of how we wanted to play and the energy level and the effort that we wanted to play with. A lot of areas of our game are getting better and allowing us to create some more offense.

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Rolston shook up the lines at practice Monday.

He had benched the top line of Cody Hodgson, Matt Moulson and Tyler Ennis for the final 26:11 against Anaheim on Friday. At practice, captain Steve Ott skated with Hodgson and Moulson.

“Steve will probably be in the mucking it up a little more, but I’m sure we’ll be able to read off him and hopefully have some chemistry and be successful,” Moulson said.

Moulson also said he talked with the coaching staff about the benching and is looking forward to putting in a solid effort against the Kings.

“Obviously I want to help this team win. I had a good talk with coach today, so we’re going to move on from that,” he said. “Obviously in sports you’ve got to put things behind you pretty quickly, so I think just getting the mindset [of being] ready to come work today. Obviously we didn’t we didn’t play the way we wanted to play last game, our line especially. We know we have to be better. We’ll be ready to go tomorrow.”

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9 Steve Ott – 19 Cody Hodgson – 26 Matt Moulson  
25 Mikhail Grigorenko – 8 Cody McCormick – 78 Corey Tropp / 22 Johan Larsson  
28 Zemgus Girgensons – 82 Marcus Foligno – 65 Brian Flynn  
23 Ville Leino – 63 Tyler Ennis – 21 Drew Stafford  
32 John Scott

10 Christian Ehrhoff – 3 Mark Pysyk  
20 Henrik Tallinder – 57 Tyler Myers  
6 Mike Weber – 55 Rasmus Ristolainen  
61 Nikita Zadorov – 4 Jamie McBain

30 Ryan Miller  
1 Jhonas Enroth

## **SABRES PROSPECT REPORT**

By Kris Baker – SabresProspects.com

Sabres.com

November 11, 2013

Connor Hurley (2013, second round) showed the promise that made him a high-profile draft target last week.

He compiled 10 points (3+7) in four games as the U.S. Junior Selects successfully defended their gold medal at the 2013 World Junior A Challenge in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Hurley's point total was second only to the 12 posted by teammate and North Dakota-commit Nick Schmaltz.

Hurley was a key weapon on the power play Tuesday, leveraging his strength and vision to collect a goal and three assists as USA kicked off the tournament with an 8-3 win over Russia. The Notre Dame commit shined again on Friday with two goals and two helpers as the Americans downed Switzerland 7-4 to advance to the final. In Sunday's gold medal game, Hurley picked up an assist on the game-winning goal in a 4-1 victory over Russia.

Waterloo Black Hawks goaltender Calvin Petersen (2013, fifth round) played three of the four tourney games for the United States, earning a 3-0 record while posting a 2.67 GAA and .873 save%.

### **OHL**

In Sunday action, Justin Bailey (2013, second round) scored a regulation goal and then the clinching tally in the shootout as Kitchener snapped their eight-game skid with a 4-3 victory over Ottawa. Bailey has connected for goals in three of his last four outings to give him 13 points (6+7) through 17 games for the Rangers.

Justin Kea (2012, third round) capped an impressive five-point week Sunday with a Gordie Howe hat trick. He recorded a goal, an assist, and a fighting major to earn the game's third star as Saginaw skated to a 9-4 triumph at Kingston. On Friday, Kea was named the game's number one star with an empty-net goal, an assist, and several key faceoff wins as the Spirit toppled Belleville 5-3. Kea is currently tied for second in team scoring with 21 points (9+12).

Kea's Saginaw mate, Eric Locke (2013, seventh round), notched a goal and three assists Sunday in the Spirit's rout of Kingston. The four-point effort was the second in 10 days for Locke, who has amassed a productive 21 points (7+14) in 14 games.

Sudbury Wolves forward Nicholas Baptiste (2013, third round) added five points (3+2) to his season haul last week to give him 15 goals (tied for fifth in league) and 27 points (15th) through 20 games. The speedy winger scored twice and

added an assist Thursday to guide Sudbury to a 4-3 win at North Bay, and then followed up with a goal and a helper in Friday's shootout win over Peterborough.

London defenseman Brady Austin (2012, seventh round) netted a plus-two rating in the week's three games. The steady defender has collected three goals, six assists, and a plus-13 rating in 19 games this season.

#### WHL

Logan Nelson (2012, fifth round) was shut out last week as Victoria won twice in three tries. After the first 22 games of the year, the Minnesota native continues to lead the Royals attack with nine goals and 21 points.

#### NCAA

Anthony Florentino (2013, fifth round) upped his point streak to three games Saturday with a pair of assists as No. 6 Providence earned the weekend sweep with a 4-2 doubling of Merrimack. The freshman defender, who picked up an assist in Friday's 1-0 victory, has collected two goals, seven points, and plus-nine rating through his first eight collegiate contests.

Senior defenseman Mark Adams (2009, fifth round) was a healthy scratch for both contests. The Friars hit the road next weekend with a set at Vermont.

Sean Malone (2013, sixth round) recorded two shots on goal Saturday from the top-line center spot as Harvard lost to Clarkson 2-1. The West Seneca, N.Y. native will look for his first collegiate goal when the Crimson visits #5 Quinnipiac on Friday.

Christian Isackson (2010, seventh round) centered the fourth forward unit Friday as #1 Minnesota was dealt their first loss of the season 4-1 at No. 4 Notre Dame. Isackson was a healthy scratch as the Gophers earned the split with a 5-4 win on Saturday. Minnesota hosts Minnesota State on Friday.

Freshman centerman J.T. Compher (2013, second round) enjoyed his first weekend break of the season as No. 2 Michigan prepared for this weekend's set at Nebraska-Omaha. Compher has gathered five assists through his first eight games.

Defenseman Jake McCabe (2012, second round) and checking winger Brad Navin (2011, seventh round) were also off last week. The No. 13 Badgers travel to No. 7 Miami this weekend.

#### USHL

Judd Peterson (2012, seventh round) scored a third-period goal Wednesday as Cedar Rapids dropped a 6-5 decision at Muskegon. The second-year man has connected for seven goals on just 17 shots this season (41.2 percent). The RoughRiders host Dubuque on Tuesday to complete the Oct. 12 contest that was

postponed due to a player being severely injured. Peterson was suspended for that game and will not dress.

#### Swedish Hockey League (SHL)

MODO was off last week, and that was a good thing, with the international break giving Gustav Possler (2013, fifth round) time to heal after injuring his knee on Nov. 3 versus HV 71. Possler's prognosis was better than expected, with the right winger likely to return to action before the end of November. The 19 year old leads MODO with eight goals, 13 points and 47 shots on goal.

MODO goaltender Linus Ullmark (2012, sixth round) will look to continue his stellar play Tuesday when play resumes versus Orebro HK. The 20-year-old stalwart, who has logged his first two SHL shutouts in the last two weeks, ranks second in the league with a 1.68 goals against average and tops all stoppers with a .947 save percentage.

## **WIT AND WISDOM PAVED NEALE'S WAY TO THE HALL OF FAME**

By Kevin Snow

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TORONTO -- It was Alexander Graham Bell who not only invented the telephone, but famously said, "When one door closes, another door opens." Harry Neale was an NHL head coach who once quipped, "I'd rather be coach FOR the year, not coach OF the year." When Neale suddenly found himself out of work in December of 1985, he took a phone call that would change his life.

Neale had been a head coach with the WHA's New England Whalers and Minnesota Fighting Saints, before making the jump to the NHL's Vancouver Canucks from 1978-82. He was then hired by the Detroit Red Wings prior to the 1985-86 season. The Wings got off to an 8-23-4 start that season, and Neale was sent packing just after Christmas. Two days after being let go, Neale received a call from Don Wallace of CBC Sports asking if he'd be interested in doing some broadcast work for the network. Neale was about to unknowingly open a door that would lead him to the Hockey Hall of Fame almost 28 years later.

Neale would go on to spend 20 years as a color commentator with Hockey Night in Canada, and then another seven with the Buffalo Sabres broadcast team alongside Rick Jeanneret from 2007-13. Neale worked 20 Stanley Cup Finals for CBC, along with three Olympic Games (1998, 2002, 2006) and two World Cups (1996 and 2004).

On Monday, the 76-year-old Neale was honored by the Hockey Hall of Fame as the recipient of the 2013 Foster Hewitt Memorial Award, recognizing his outstanding contribution to the game during his colorful career in hockey broadcasting. Neale becomes the third Sabres broadcaster to receive this honor, joining Jeanneret (2012) and Ted Darling (1994). Also honored by the Hall of Fame on Monday was longtime newspaper writer and columnist Jay Greenberg, who received the Elmer Ferguson Award for excellence in hockey journalism.

Neale said he's still pinching himself at becoming part of such illustrious company, but also wanted to remember the people that helped him get this far in his career.

"First of all, it was a gigantic surprise to get the call. I'm very proud to follow many of the people that I have admired who won this award before me," Neale said following the ceremony. "The part that I want to emphasize is that it's a team award, and somehow I was elected to accept it on behalf of 'the team' – the producers, the people in the truck, the play-by-play commentators, stats men, and everybody else who helps us do the job on a telecast."

Looking back on his start with CBC, Neale said he had to put his trust in those around him, because he truly had no idea what he was doing.

“I was just hoping I could get by the first broadcast. There are some things that you can’t imagine are going on that you have to learn to do. One of them was speaking while the producer was speaking to me at the same time; I didn’t know whether to listen to myself or listen to him. I soon learned to listen to the producer because they’re the guy in charge,” said Neale. “Then they’d tell me I had 25 seconds to talk about something. Once I got started I didn’t know whether it was 25 or 55. There were some things that you definitely had to learn. But the one common denominator was, I was in the business that I loved so much. I go to play for a while, coach for a while, and broadcast for a while.”

While it was Neale’s quick wit that made him a fan favorite, it was his thoughtful analysis of the game that was refreshing to both players and management. Former NHL head coach and GM Pat Quinn said Neale was a special talent in the broadcast booth.

“It was his ability behind the microphone. He not only knew the game real well, he had an ability to tell us what was going on out there. Even when we thought we knew everything about the game we played, we didn’t know enough,” Quinn said. “After listening to Harry, you started to figure some things out about this game. And he did it with not only good analysis, but great humor. It didn’t matter who they put him with, they were always a great team.”

The man who served as Neale’s partner for the better part of 20 years at CBC was Bob Cole. The pair served as the main voices of Hockey Night in Canada for two decades, becoming synonymous with some of the game’s most memorable moments. While the two men seemed to have an incredible on-air chemistry, Cole couldn’t pin it to any particular reason other than they both love the game of hockey.

“I really don’t know if there’s anything specific that made it work. I just did the game, and Harry was of the same feeling I believe. He was a hockey fan,” explains Cole. “I think hockey broadcasting is changing. I don’t know, I suppose it’s for the better if you ask certain people. I liked it when we just did the game, and whatever happened in the game, Harry just climbed right aboard. And he was so astute, way ahead of the game. If you wanted color, you sure had it in spades with Harry. His mind is so quick.”

Cole has many great memories of working with Neale, particularly one from 1988 in New Jersey.

CBC was carrying the Devils/Bruins Eastern Conference Finals series that became famous thanks to New Jersey head coach Jim Schoenfeld’s memorable “have another doughnut” jab at referee Don Koharski following Game Three. Schoenfeld was suspended by the league for Game Four, but a legal battle ensued that resulted in the start of the game being delayed. As is the nature of live television, Cole and Neale found themselves having to fill air time while the mess

was being cleared up. As time ticked away, the pair found themselves killing time on their precarious perch in the arena.

Cole explains the details.

“We were filling for over an hour. For that game, they had Harry and I up in the rafters of the building. And when I say the rafters, I literally mean, the rafters. When we left our booth position, we had to balance ourselves on these 2” x 16” boards. We talked and talked, and he was getting so caught up with everything, he was throwing his arms up while he was speaking. Keep in mind that we’re on TV now, and everytime he threw his arms up, he was hitting the cable from my headset – which was also my microphone. Everytime I saw his arm go up, I had to brace my head so that he wouldn’t jerk me off camera. But he kept doing it.

“Finally, when we were running out of things to say, I said, ‘Harry I tell ya, if you hit my arm one more time, I’m wrap this cable around you!’ It was a funny moment and one that we still talk about today.”

Neale, who is now working as select number of games for LeafsTV in Toronto, spent the past seven years on the Sabres crew. Having lived in Buffalo for so many years prior, Neale jumped at the chance to be able to work alongside his good friend, Rick Jeanneret.

“It was terrific. I knew Rick long before I got to work with him, and I thought it would be great to do a couple of games with Rick just to be part of it. When I got a chance to do that it was just great, even not knowing how long it was going to last.”

Jeanneret was in attendance for Monday’s ceremony in downtown Toronto, along with Cole and Joe Bowen – Neale’s three main partners throughout his broadcast career. Neale knows these three men were the most important part of his various “teams” over the last 28 years.

“As I said during my speech, the three play-by-play guys that I did maybe 85 or 90 percent of my games with, are the three major reasons why I won this award. And with Rick being the award winner last year, that made it even more special.”