



# **Buffalo Sabres**

**Daily Press Clips**

*September 22, 2013*

## **Maple Leafs end Sabres' unbeaten preseason with a 3-2 shootout win**

Associated Press

September 21, 2013

BUFFALO, N.Y. – The Toronto Maple Leafs rallied for two goals in the third-period and then went 15 rounds in the shootout to earn a 3-2 win and hand the Buffalo Sabres their first loss of the preseason Saturday night.

Jay McClement scored for the Leafs in the shootout, while James Reimer stopped all 15 Buffalo shooters and made 38 saves in regulation.

Jamie Devane scored for Toronto at 9:53 of the third and McClement tied the score with 4:37 to play.

Buffalo went up 1-0 at 10:20 of the second when defenseman Mark Pysyk beat Reimer over his left shoulder.

The Sabres doubled their advantage just over two minutes later when Marcus Foligno finished off a 2-on-1 through Reimer's legs.

The Sabres outshot Toronto in the first period, 17-10, and 41-34 overall. The game included three fights.

## **Sabres notebook: Sulzer feeling good as he hopes to earn roster spot**

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

September 22, 2013

Where he stands on the Buffalo Sabres defense corps remains to be seen. But the biggest point Alexander Sulzer is making during this preseason is that he's back on the ice and competing for a job in the NHL less than seven months after suffering a serious knee injury.

Early in the first period of the Sabres' Feb. 23 loss to the New York Islanders that was Ron Rolston's first home game as the team's coach, Sulzer collided with Colin McDonald along the boards and limped off the ice.

His right knee throbbing, Sulzer was nonetheless stunned when a team doctor told him in the locker room he had torn his anterior cruciate ligament.

"I felt the pop in my knee and it was really painful. I knew it was not going to be good," Sulzer recalled prior to Saturday's game against Toronto in First Niagara Center. "As soon as they came in the room, the doctor looked at it and told me, and I was pretty close to tears to be honest with you.

"I would say that was the worst possible timing for me in my career to get hurt. It was really unfortunate and I felt sorry for myself for a couple weeks. I had to turn around and get my head straight."

Sulzer had started to develop a good rapport playing alongside fellow German Christian Ehrhoff but his season was suddenly over. He had surgery March 11 in Buffalo and then endured the rigorous rehab process.

In his first preseason game, Sulzer played 17 minutes, 13 seconds in Tuesday's win at Columbus. That was his first official confirmation the knee was 100 percent.

"It was a really long road and I was just really excited to be back skating with the guys," he said. "The game in Columbus was really exciting. I was a little nervous because you never know how it actually is until you play a game but it was all good and I'm happy with it.

"In the second period, I got hit four or five times hard in the corner in about four shifts. But it feels good."

Sulzer played 17:31 on Saturday. The knee got another test when he got pushed feet-first into the boards in the second period by Toronto's Josh Leivo but emerged unscathed.

Sulzer's path to the blue line is obviously crowded, with 10 players fighting for jobs. The list includes veterans Henrik Tallinder and Jamie McBain, acquired in offseason trades, and No. 1 draft picks Rasmus Ristolainen and Nakita Zadorov.

"It's not an easy situation but every team I've played on has always had nine or 10 NHL-ready defenseman," Sulzer said. "I was really curious to see the young guys and they're really good players. It's good for them to get their feet wet.

"They're obviously hoping for a spot too. They're your competition but we're all in the same situation. It's just I'm 29 and they're 18. I've been through it. I know what to expect."

Rolston only saw Sulzer for less than four periods until the Columbus return but has been happy with what he's seen.

"He's very smart, moves the puck well and has good vision," Rolston said. "He's a player that is really positive when he walks in every morning. So he's been a real good influence on the younger guys in the locker room."

The Sabres re-signed Sulzer over the summer to a one-year, \$725,000 deal. For now he seems like he can be some relatively cheap insurance.

"There was a lot of uncertainty. You never know what the plans of the organization are," he said. "I thought when I was in the lineup I always played pretty well. They knew what they get from me and I wasn't a wild-card. I was hoping to come back here. I like it and I found a spot and I would love to continue."

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The teams combined to go 1 for 30 in the shootout as the goalies split 24 saves and five shots missed. One of Jhonas Enroth's 13 saves came when Leafs defenseman Paul Ranger kicked his stick to propel the puck toward the net. Enroth slashed at Ranger as he skated past the crease.

"My first reaction was that he tried to embarrass me there a little bit," Enroth said. "But when I look at now it's good that he's trying to be creative."

The Sabres did not use Zemgus Girgensons in the shootout and coach Ron Rolston said the rookie suffered a hand injury in overtime and was unavailable. Rolston did not have an update on Girgensons' status.

Had the shootout been in regular season play, it would have tied the longest in NHL history. That was set when the New York Rangers beat Washington in 15 rounds on Nov. 26, 2005. The Sabres' record is an 11-round loss to Colorado with Patrick Lalime in goal on Jan. 9, 2010.

Cracked winger Steve Ott: “At one point I think both refs were just going to call it a draw old-school and kind of pick up the puck and go home.”

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Rolston said after the morning skate the Sabres would probably cut the roster to the range of 26-28 players after tonight’s game in Toronto but the Sabres got a head start on the moves Saturday afternoon by sending Dan Catenacci, Jerome Gauthier-Leduc, Tim Schaller, Phil Varone and Jamie Tardif to Rochester (Tardif pending waivers).

The Sabres also released forward Colton Gillies from his tryout contract. The roster now stands at 35 (20 forwards, 12 defensemen and three goaltenders).

## **Foligno hitting his markers with Sabres**

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

September 22, 2013

The Sabres are putting Marcus Foligno in position to score. He's taking advantage of both the opportunity and the position.

Foligno, who's back at left wing after ending last season at center, found the net Saturday night for the third time in the preseason. It wasn't enough to keep the Sabres from sustaining their first setback. Toronto came back from a 2-0 hole to earn a wild 3-2 shootout victory in First Niagara Center.

Buffalo fell to 3-0-1 by failing to score in its 15 shootout attempts. The Maple Leafs' Jay McClement finally solved Jhonas Enroth to end the breakaway challenge in front of 19,070 fans.

The teams play the second of back-to-back games tonight in Air Canada Centre. Buffalo hosts Columbus on Wednesday and closes the exhibition schedule Friday in Carolina.

Foligno has reached the score sheet in both his preseason outings. He scored twice Tuesday in Columbus while skating alongside center Cody Hodgson and right wing Thomas Vanek. The left winger was on the first line again versus the Leafs, this time with Tyler Ennis and Drew Stafford.

It's a big boost from the end of last year. After failing to putting up numbers on the wing, Foligno became a third- and fourth-line center down the stretch. Though he did well in the faceoff circle, the role wasn't what folks expected from a guy who recorded 13 points in 14 games the previous season.

"I don't think he was happy with the way the end of the season turned out," coach Ron Rolston said. "Whether they think it's me or them, they have to make that change. He took the ownership on that.

"He really had to come back. He wants to be an elite player in this league. He had to come back and show that."

The Sabres' preseason goal leader has shown the drive the coach wants.

"I think he's brought it," Rolston said. "He's moving really well out there. He's big, he's strong. He's making room, making things happen out there with his size. That's the way he's got to play.

"He's been really good in camp. For him now it's just to continue that consistency to be the player we want to see. This is the player we saw for some of the games last year but just not a consistent level."

The 22-year-old Foligno took lessons and wants to put them to use.

“I learned a lot last year, and I feel really good,” he said. “I think the preparation was the biggest thing. I wanted to be in shape and mentally focused. I think that’s the stage I’m at now, and I think that’s a good way to start.”

For a preseason game, Saturday’s contest featured a lot of passion. The rivalry between the fans started as soon as the puck dropped, with Toronto fans showing they are in regular-season form with a “Go, Leafs, go” chant. The hostilities carried onto the ice with a pair of opening-period fights starring Buffalo’s Cody McCormick and Steve Ott.

The game was scoreless until midway through the second, when Buffalo continued its trend of defensemen making a difference.

Mark Pysyk accepted a pass from Stafford just inside the Toronto blue line, danced around one defender and shot before the other could slide over. Goaltender James Reimer got only a piece of the high blast.

The Sabres’ blue-liners recorded two goals and seven points in the opening three games, and Pysyk added another point when he assisted on the second goal. The defenseman set up Ennis for a two-on-one, and Foligno fought off a tripping penalty and put Ennis’ pass between Reimer’s pads.

The Leafs rallied in the third with a pair of goals. Jamie Devane got fans of the visiting team out of their seats with 10:07 left in regulation. Jay McClement put the shootout on the agenda by driving the net with 4:37 to play and tipping home a pass from Carter Ashton.

Enroth finished with 32 saves. Reimer made 38 stops.

“We probably should have closed that one out,” Enroth said. “They had a couple good bounces and just bad luck on the goals.”

## **Sabres assign five to Rochester, release Gillies**

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

September 21, 2013

Sabres coach Ron Rolston said this morning he planned to trim the roster after this weekend's games. Buffalo got a jump on the transactions this afternoon.

The Sabres have sent Dan Catenacci, Jerome Gauthier-Leduc, Tim Schaller, Phil Varone and Jamie Tardif to Rochester. Tardif will join the Amerks if he clears waivers.

The Sabres have also released forward Colton Gillies from his tryout contract. The former first-round pick by Minnesota showed little in the Sabres' last preseason game.

Buffalo's roster still features 20 forwards, 12 defensemen and three goaltenders. The team must get down to a maximum of 23 players for opening night.

## **Roundup: Maple Leafs win 1-goal, 15-round shootout**

NHL.com

September 22, 2013

Toronto Maple Leafs goalie James Reimer made 38 saves then went 15-for-15 in the shootout for a 3-2 preseason win against the Buffalo Sabres at First Niagara Center.

Jay McClement, on the 30th attempt, scored the only shootout goal after he had tied the game with 4:37 left in the third period.

"At one point I think both refs were just going to call it a draw and kind of pick up the puck and go home and be old-school NHL there for a second and call it a tie," Sabres forward Steve Ott said, according to The Canadian Press. "But both performances by both goalies in the shootout was pretty spectacular to watch. I've never seen that before."

Jhonas Enroth made 32 saves for the Sabres before stopping the first 14 shootout attempts he faced. Paul Ranger, in the 10th round, tried a kick-shot to beat Enroth, which upset the goaltender at the time.

"My first reaction was that he tried to embarrass me there a little bit, but when I look at it now, it's good [the] guy's trying to be creative, I guess," Enroth said.

Toronto's Jamie Devan scored a third-period goal for the Maple Leafs, who trailed 2-0. Buffalo defenseman Mark Pysyk had a goal and an assist, and Marcus Foligno scored for the Sabres.

Reimer's final save in game action was on a Jamie McBain breakaway right before the overtime buzzer. The goalie was 0-5 in shootouts last season.

"It's good to get out there and for me to stop some pucks and for guys to get some reps, but it's exhibition and it's a little looser," Reimer said. "I think it's a little different when it's during a game and two points are on the line."

The longest regular-season shootout is 15 rounds between the New York Rangers and Washington Capitals, won by a goal, the seventh of that tiebreaker, from New York's Marek Malik on Nov. 26, 2005.

## **Sabres search for lines for Foligno, Grigorenko**

NHL.com

September 21, 2013

Entering the 2013-14 season, the Buffalo Sabres already know what to expect from veterans Ryan Miller (strong goaltending), Thomas Vanek (timely scoring) and Steve Ott (agitating opponents).

But when it comes to finding the right spot for young up-and-coming prospects, coach Ron Rolston is tinkering with his lineup.

That will continue to be the case Saturday night when the Sabres take on the Toronto Maple Leafs at First Niagara Center (7 p.m. ET, NHLN-US, CBC).

It starts with wing Marcus Foligno, who has played well this preseason and will flank the team's top line alongside Tyler Ennis and Drew Stafford. Foligno scored two goals in his prior preseason appearance against the Columbus Blue Jackets, flourishing on a line with Vanek and Cody Hodgson. His second was a highlight-reel goal that held up as the game-winner in Buffalo's 3-1 win.

"That's where I'm most comfortable (wing), but center or wing doesn't matter," Foligno told the Buffalo News earlier in camp. "I'm happy to be on the wing though. Board play is kind of where my size comes in and I can get the pucks out and get up ice quicker."

The insurance goal was scored by center Mikhail Grigorenko, another prized prospect who has been moved around the Sabres lineup with the hopes of finding him a permanent spot. After scoring the shootout winner in the preseason opener against the Montreal Canadiens, Grigorenko centered Corey Tropp and fellow prospect Zemgus Girgensons against Columbus.

Against Toronto, Grigorenko will see more ice time centering the team's second line between veteran wings Ott and Ville Leino.

"It doesn't really matter who I play with. The most important thing is to make the team," Grigorenko said prior to the Sabres' 5-2 win Thursday against the Carolina Hurricanes. "I've already played in the NHL and know all the guys. My confidence is getting high."

Based on the play of Grigorenko, 19, and Foligno, 22, so far this preseason, each forward could find himself on Buffalo's top two lines opening night, which would inject some youthful energy into a team looking to improve in 2013-14.

## **Marcus Foligno impressing Sabres again early after forgettable season**

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

September 22, 2013

BUFFALO – When Marcus Foligno’s dismal, five-goal season ended in April, the 22-year-old could’ve laid the blame on others or taken responsibility, Sabres coach Ron Rolston said.

“Whether they think it’s me or them, ultimately they got to make that change, and I think he took that ownership on that,” Rolston said Saturday prior to the Sabres’ 3-2 exhibition shootout loss to the Toronto Maple Leafs before a capacity crowd of 19,070 fans inside the First Niagara Center.

Ten days into a new season, Rolston said Foligno has “brought it” to training camp.

“He wants to be an elite player in this league, and he had to come back to camp and show that,” Rolston said, “and he’s shown that.”

Foligno scored his third preseason goal in just his second appearance Saturday, sweeping a second-period shot past Toronto goalie James Reimer from in close after Tyler Ennis fed him.

The winger also scored twice in his exhibition debut Tuesday in Columbus, seizing his opportunity beside Cody Hodgson and Thomas Vanek, the Sabres’ top duo.

“Whenever you get a chance to play on a big line like that, you got to impress and do something, just contributing or making space for those guys,” Foligno said Friday.

He added: “I want to be a top player on this team. You get a lot of confidence when the coaches and general managers and staff think that you can play that role.”

Foligno was back with Ennis and Drew Stafford against the Leafs, the linemates he stormed into the NHL beside late in 2011-12.

A rollicking 13-game stretch in which Foligno compiled six goals and 13 points quickly established him as a top power forward and raised expectations for last season, his first full NHL campaign.

But Foligno, who played well in Rochester during the lockout, struggled when the NHL season started in January, rarely using his 6-foot-3, 223-pound frame to effectively attack the net and be a dominant presence down low.

He only scored once in the first 25 games. Rolston, Foligno's AHL coach, scratched him March 2, just weeks after taking over for Lindy Ruff. Foligno ended the season mired in a 14-game goal drought. He even played some center and was demoted to the fourth line.

"You review and reflect and then you get back to work," Foligno said about his poor season. "That's what I did this summer, and I feel great this year."

Foligno and Rolston clearly trust each other. Rolston helped the youngster develop into the organization's best prospect two years ago.

"I feel very comfortable with him on the bench," Foligno said. "He's vocal. He'll tell you things. He's not the one that's going to scream at you on the bench. But he'll come up to you and let you know what you did wrong and what you did right."

Before Foligno left Buffalo in the spring, the two chatted about Rolston's belief Foligno can play "crucial roles" for the Sabres.

"My expectations are very high, and that's what they should be," Foligno said. "They shouldn't be anything lower than that. I've got to keep myself held up to those high expectations and have responsibilities."

To reach those expectations, Foligno must keep showcasing consistency, Rolston said.

"This is the player we want to see, and this is the player I thought we saw for some of the games last year, but just not at a consistent level," he said. "... He's moving really well out there. He's big, he's strong. He's making room. He's making things happen out there with his size. That's the way he's got to play."

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Incredibly, Jay McClement scored the shootout's only goal in the 15th round.

While the Elias Sports Bureau doesn't track preseason stats, the shootout matches the regular-season record between Washington and the New York Rangers on Nov. 26, 2005, according to the Sabres.

In the 10th round, Paul Ranger zoomed in on Sabres goalie Jhonas Enroth and kicked his stick, sending the puck over the net. Enroth then mildly slashed Ranger as the defenseman skated by him.

The odd shot – perhaps the weirdest ever attempted since the NHL instituted the shootout in 2005 – initially irked Enroth.

“I didn’t really like it,” Enroth said. “I felt like he was embarrassing me there. But it’s good to see, I guess, trying to be creative, too. When I think about it now it’s fine.”

Mark Pysyk scored the Sabres’ other goal. Enroth made 32 saves.

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Sabres winger Zemgus Girgensons hurt his hand in overtime and didn’t participate in the shootout. Rolston didn’t have an update.

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The Sabres sent five players – forwards Daniel Catenacci, Tim Schaller, Jamie Tardif (pending waivers) and Phil Varone and defenseman Jerome Gauthier-Leduc – to Rochester on Saturday.

In addition, the Sabres released forward Colton Gillies from his professional tryout. The 24-year-old, a first-round pick by Minnesota in 2007, scored once in two appearances.

The Sabres, who play tonight in Toronto, have 35 players – 20 forwards, 12 defenseman and three goalies – left in camp.

Rochester opens its camp Monday

## **Sabres turn to Tyler Ennis for center help; goalie Jhonas Enroth to start against Leafs**

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

September 21, 2013

BUFFALO – On Friday, coach Ron Rolston said the Sabres “would look at all options” to find another center, even if it meant moving someone over from the wing.

Sure enough, Tyler Ennis was centering Marcus Foligno and Drew Stafford this morning as the Sabres prepared for tonight’s preseason contest against the Toronto Maple Leafs at the First Niagara Center.

Where does Rolston see Ennis winding up eventually, center or wing? The 23-year-old has played both positions extensively.

“That’s a good question,” Rolston said. “We’re going to see. ... The thing with Enner is he’s got to have the puck. If he’s going to be the player we want him to be, he’s got to have the puck on his tape. We’re just trying to get that right combination so we can do that.”

Tonight’s combination will be an old one. Ennis, Foligno and Stafford played together late in 2011-12, quickly becoming the NHL’s hottest line.

“I think just a good blend of speed and size and scoring and hard work,” Ennis said about why the line worked.

But they couldn’t recapture that elite form during some stints last season.

“Trying to reignite the flame, get the magic going,” Stafford said. “The first time we’ve played together all camp.”

Meanwhile, the Sabres will start Jhonas Enroth in net. Matt Hackett will back him up.

After struggling for more than a year, Enroth ended last season scorching, going 4-1-1 with a 1.47 goals-against average and .956 save percentage in his last six starts.

“He kind of saw where he was and that he needed to have a good finish in terms of where his career was headed and his future,” Rolston said. “He has aspirations to be a No. 1 goaltender. We feel that’s certainly the case.”

Here’s the rest of the lineup:

Forward lines (left to right): Steve Ott, Mikhail Grigorenko, Ville Leino; Zemgus Girgensons, Kevin Porter, Brian Flynn; Matt Ellis, Cody McCormick, Patrick Kaleta.

Defense: Christian Ehrhoff and Mark Pysyk; Mike Weber and Jamie McBain; Alexander Sulzer and Rasmus Ristolainen.

## **Leafs Prevail Over Sabres 3-2 in Marathon Shootout**

WGR 550

September 21, 2013

Down 2-0, the Leafs battled back against the Sabres on Saturday before prevailing 3-2 following a 15-round shootout, featuring 30 total skaters. The loss marks Buffalo's first of the preseason.

Both sides were kept out of the net during the first period, but not for lack of trying. The Sabres peppered James Reimer with 17 shots in the opening frame while Jhonas Enroth stopped all 10 he faced. Cody McCormick and Steve Ott both found themselves in scraps during the first. McCormick landed a couple of big blows while scrapping with David Broll, but Carter Ashton got the better of Ott in their dustup in front of the benches.

The Sabres grapped the lead at 10:20 of the second on a wrist shot by Mark Pysyk. The defenseman joined the rush and beat Reimer glove-side to put Buffalo ahead 1-0. Marcus Foligno made it 2-0 just 2:06 later when his cross-crease pass to Tyler Ennis went off Reimer's pads and into the net.

Toronto cut the lead in the half 9:53 into the third. Jamie Devane got the Leafs on the board, shoveling a loose puck past Enroth. Jay McClement was credited with the tying goal later in the period, when his pass attempt deflected and landed in the Buffalo net.

Dion Phaneuf provided the Leafs with an excellent chance just 12 seconds into overtime, but his big shot caromed off the post. Enroth kept the game going, coming up with several big stops during the extra frame during a Leafs power play. The Sabres had a quality chance, but Zemgus Girgensons couldn't capitalize on a 2-on-1 break with Drew Stafford. Buffalo's best chance to end it in overtime came right at the final horn, but Jamie McBain was denied by Reimer on a breakaway opportunity.

The two sides headed to a shootout, where Enroth and Reimer went toe-to-toe, stopping each shooter until McClement finally beat the Buffalo netminder in Round 15. (Scroll down for a complete list of the shooters.) Enroth finished with 32 saves in the loss while Reimer stopped 38 shots. The Sabres fall to 3-1 in the preseason and head to Toronto for the back half of a home-and-home on Sunday. Hear the call with Rick Jeanneret and Rob Ray on ESPN 1520.

1st Period

Goals

None

Penalties

1:25 - BUF - Steve Ott (2 min., tripping)

6:17 - TOR - Jamie Devane (2 min., roughing)

13:06 - BUF - Cody McCormick (5 min., fighting)  
13:06 - TOR - David Broll (5 min., fighting)  
13:06 - BUF - Cody McCormick (2 min., unsportsmanlike conduct)  
13:06 - TOR - David Broll (2 min., unsportsmanlike conduct)  
15:41 - BUF - Steve Ott (5 min., fighting)  
15:41 - TOR - Carter Ashton (5 min., fighting)

## 2nd Period

### Goals

10:20 - BUF - Mark Pysyk (1) (Drew Stafford)  
12:26 - BUF - Marcus Foligno (3) (Tyler Ennis, Mark Pysyk)

### Penalties

1:49 - TOR - Joe Colborne (2 min., high sticking)  
7:04 - BUF - Mike Weber (2 min., holding)  
13:12 - TOR - Troy Bodie (2 min., boarding)  
16:51 - TOR - Jamie Devane (2 min., illegal check to the head)  
19:48 - TOR - Jake Gardiner (2 min., tripping)

## 3rd Period

### Goals

9:53 - TOR - Jamie Devane (2) (Josh Leivo, Mark Fraser)  
15:23 - TOR - Jay McClement (1) (Carter Ashton, Nikolai Kulemin)

### Penalties

2:21 - BUF - Brian Flynn (2 min., tripping)  
17:54 - BUF - Patrick Kaleta (5 min., fighting)  
17:54 - TOR - Troy Bodie (5 min., fighting)

## Overtime

### Goals

None

### Penalties

0:25 - BUF - Mike Weber (2 min., roughing)  
0:25 - TOR - Dion Phaneuf (2 min., roughing)  
1:38 - BUF - Too many men on the ice (2 min., served by Zemgus Girgensons)

## Shootout

BUF - Tyler Ennis - MISS  
TOR - Mason Raymond - MISS  
BUF - Mikhail Grigorenko - MISS  
TOR - Tyler Bozak - MISS  
BUF - Drew Stafford - MISS  
TOR - Nikolai Kulemin - MISS  
BUF - Ville Leino - MISS  
TOR - Phil Kessel - MISS

BUF - Marcus Foligno - MISS  
TOR - Josh Leivo - MISS  
BUF - Brian Flynn - MISS  
TOR - Jake Gardiner - MISS  
BUF - Steve Ott - MISS  
TOR - Trevor Smith - MISS  
BUF - Jamie McBain - MISS  
TOR - Joe Colborne - MISS  
BUF - Mark Pysyk - MISS  
TOR - Stuart Percy - MISS  
BUF - Kevin Porter - MISS  
TOR - Paul Ranger - MISS  
BUF - Patrick Kaleta - MISS  
TOR - Dion Phaneuf - MISS  
BUF - Christian Ehrhoff - MISS  
TOR - David Broll - MISS  
BUF - Rasmus Ristolainen - MISS  
TOR - Carter Ashton - MISS  
BUF - Cody McCormick - MISS  
TOR - Carl Gunnarsson - MISS  
BUF - Alexander Sulzer - MISS  
TOR - Jay McClement - GOAL

#### Goaltending

TOR - James Reimer (38 saves, 40 shots)  
BUF - Jhonas Enroth (32 saves, 34 shots)

#### Penalties

TOR - 0 of 4  
BUF - 0 of 5

## **HAMILTON: Sabres Ennis gets first game at center**

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

September 21, 2013

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- Tyler Ennis has been playing wing all through training camp, but he showed up for Saturday's game and found out he's moving back to center and being reunited with his old line.

Marcus Foligno and Drew Stafford are on the wings. Ennis didn't score in the first period, but he was skating very well and got the puck more which is what Ron Rolston wants. Rolston said, "The thing with Enner is he's got to have the puck. If he's going to be the player that we want him to be, he's got to have the puck on his tape." Rolston added, "I don't think he's gotten the puck enough, enough touches during the games"

In his first shift, Ennis was off to the races and was all over the ice.

Buffalo had one power play Ennis provided board support twice for Foligno to help keep a cycle going and keep the pressure on.

The line had a real nice 3-on-2 where it was quick, precise passing. Ennis relayed the puck quickly to Stafford giving him a great chance on James Reimer.

Just a minute or so later, Ennis went down the slot, got behind the D and made himself available. He got the pass and got a sweet spinning one-timer off.

If Ennis wants to consistently play like he did in that period, he'll live up to his potential.

Number 63 had seven shifts for 4:55 of work in the first period. The downside, he only won one of five faceoffs.

Ennis was in on Buffalo's second goal and on the ice for both. He broke up ice quickly giving Mark Pysyk a good target to produce a 2-on-1. Ennis fed Foligno perfectly and he banked it on off Reimer's pad.

I didn't like the last power play he was on. He was careless with a few passes that wound up down ice.

After two periods Ennis is +2, played 15 shifts for 10:22, He's won three of nine faceoffs.

Early in the third Ennis got a puck up to Foligno who set up Stafford down the slot. Again, all three skating well to produce the opportunity.

Ennis steals a pass and almost gets in on goal after it was 2-1.

Ennis was on the ice for the second Leaf goal and was in front, but thought Christian Ehrhoff had his man covered. He did, but let him go.

Overall, I think that line looked a lot like it did two years ago when Foligno came up and they had great success. Ennis is going to make it difficult for the coaching staff to decide where they want him.

## **Sabres cxl tonight's Carpet Event. Grigorenko plays again**

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

September 21, 2013

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- Due to inclement weather, the Buffalo Sabres have canceled the Blue & Gold carpet event at First Niagara Center this evening.

The Sabres will give Jhonas Enroth the full game tonight in the arena against Toronto. Matt Hackett will back him up.

The forward lines are Marcus Foligno with Tyler Ennis and Drew Stafford, Mikhail Grigorenko between Steve Ott and Ville Leino, Kevin Porter will center Zemgus Girgensons and Brian Flynn and Matt Ellis anchors the fourth line with Cody McCormick and Pat Kaleta.

This game is Ennis' first chance to play center this preseason. Rolston hasn't decided where he wants the kid to be, "That's a good question, we're going to see. The thing with Enner is he's got to have the puck. If he's going to be the player that we want him to be, he's got to have the puck on his tape." Rolston added, "I don't think he's gotten the puck enough, enough touches during the games"

The defensive pairs are Mike Weber with Jamie McBain, Alex Sulzer plays with Rasmus Ristolainen and Christian Ehrhoff pairs with Mark Pysyk.

With home and home games this weekend with the Leafs, players need to make a final imprerssion because Rolston wants to get down to 25 to 27 players soon, "That's where we're hoping to be. I think this weekend is hopefully going to answer some more evaluation questions and where we're at. We'd like to be there by Monday."

## **Sabres Enroth is in a good place**

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

September 21, 2013

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- When Jhonas Enroth left in April he didn't know if he'd be the Sabres starting goalie this season or still be Ryan Miller's backup. The one thing he did know is he was heading to the World Championships to play for Sweden. Enroth said, "My summer was good, especially the first part of the summer when we won the World Championship in my hometown."

Now fast forward to how Enroth prepared not knowing if Ryan Miller would still be here. Does that make it harder to prepare? Enroth said, "No not really, I'm just trying to focus on myself and getting better every day so I really don't think about that too much."

Enroth finished last year playing nine games after Lindy Ruff left starting March 7th in New Jersey. He started seven of those games and gave up just 11 goals. That's a 1.55 goals against in those starts. Enroth said, "I just started to trust myself and start trying to tell myself that I belong here and just go out and relax and go out and have fun."

Ron Rolston gave Enroth a clean slate after Lindy Ruff had destroyed his confidence. The goalie said, "I really like Ron, he's very personal and he's talking to me a lot, seeing how I'm doing every day so I really like that and I guess that gave me a little bit of confidence right away. He came in and I saw it as an opportunity to get a fresh start and get rolling again. I was kind of lucky maybe that we switched coaches last year." Enroth didn't have to sit a month in between starts and he said, "It goes hand in hand with playing well and Ron starting to trust in me more. I guess Lindy didn't really trust me at the end there for obvious reasons, so I guess Ron trusts me a little bit more."

The way Rolston sees it, he gives all the credit to his goaltender, "Part of it was Jhonas. He saw where he was and he needed to have a good finish in terms of where his career was headed and in the future. He has aspirations to be a number one goaltender. We feel that's certainly the case." Rolston added, "He was able to build his confidence and I think he just built that along the way and then you start feeling better about yourself."

Rolston also believes winning the World title was huge for Enroth, "In that tournament with the teams that he played against in the situations he was in, pressure situations, a shootout against Canada. Anytime you're in those and you have to be 'The guy', it certainly gives him that confidence."

Enroth gets the full game after splitting the game in Montreal. He likes the progression of preseason, "The first couple of games it's nice just to get 30 minutes in to get the feel of it, but now it's just a couple of more games before the season so yes, I want to start playing full games and I'm excited for that."

## **Sabres Lose in 15th Round of Shootout**

WKBW

September 21, 2013

BUFFALO, NY (WKBW) - It was a game that kept going... and going... and going before the Maple Leafs finally won it. Toronto's Jay McClement beat Jhonas Enroth in the 15th round of the shootout to give the Leafs a 3-2 win over the Buffalo Sabres on Saturday night. McClement's tally was the only goal of the shootout.

Mark Pysyk and Marcus Foligno scored second period goals for the Sabres.

Jamie Devane and McClement scored third period goals for Toronto.

The same two teams play at Air Canada Centre on Sunday night.

## **SABRES FALL IN ONE-GOAL, 15-ROUND SHOOTOUT**

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

September 21, 2013

**BUFFALO** – It was the shootout that wouldn't end.

The Buffalo Sabres and Toronto Maple Leafs went through 29 shooters combined before Jay McClement scored in the bottom of the 15th round to give Toronto a 3-2 preseason win Saturday night at First Niagara Center.

The shootout was the longest in Sabres history, including both preseason and regular season games. According to Elias Sports Bureau, it tied the NHL regular-season record set on Nov. 26, 2005 by the New York Rangers and Washington Capitals. Preseason shootouts are not included in their records.

Jhonas Enroth made 32 saves for the Sabres while Maple Leafs goaltender James Reimer stopped 38. And those didn't include the shootout attempts.

Mark Pysyk and Marcus Foligno scored in regulation for Buffalo. Jamie Devane and McClement were credited with the Leafs goals, which were both scored in the third period.

"I thought we played well. We had a couple mistakes there in the third to give up the lead, but overall I thought we played well," Sabres coach Ron Rolston said.

Enroth and Rolston both recalled that they had previously experienced a long shootout when they were with the Rochester Americans in 2011-12. Rolston said that skills competition lasted 17 shooters, leaving only one player available to shoot for the Amerks.

The Sabres elected to shoot first against Toronto, so as shooter after shooter failed to score, the burden on Enroth to continue stopping pucks increased. Enroth, however, didn't seem fazed.

"I felt pretty relaxed in the shootout, so it was a good feeling," he said.

In the bottom of the 10th round, Paul Ranger attempted a trick shot that appeared to have him simultaneously shooting and kicking the puck. After the failed attempt, Enroth gave him a slap on the backside with his stick.

Initially, Enroth thought Ranger was trying to make him look bad, but cooled on that feeling by the time he stepped into the dressing room.

"I didn't really like it. I felt like he was trying to embarrass me maybe, but it's good to see, I guess, [a player] trying to be creative too. So when I think about it now, it's fine," Enroth said.

Rolston said that Sabres left wing Zemgus Girgensons did not go out for the shootout because of a hand injury that is being evaluated.

The game was the first of a home-and-home series between the two teams.

To open the scoring, Pysyk and right wing Drew Stafford connected on a give-and-go on the rush over the Maple Leafs line. Pysyk gave the puck to Stafford and continued his stride in on goal as Stafford hit him with a pass. Pysyk skated in and wristed a shot high over Reimer to give Buffalo a 1-0 lead with 9:40 remaining in the second.

Rolston said that Pysyk has been building on the end of the 2012-13 season, when he made his NHL debut, playing 19 games for the Sabres. Jumping into the play is a part of his game that Rolston said is continually developing.

“He has that ability. Right at the end [of last season], he was showing it a little bit, but I think the more comfortable he gets, he’ll be able to jump in those holes,” Rolston said. “He’s a smart player offensively. I think he’ll be able to help us there.”

Pysyk’s goal was the team’s League-leading eighth of the preseason scored by rookies.

On Buffalo’s second goal with 7:34 left in the second, Pysyk once again started the play by banking the puck up the boards and up to Tyler Ennis, who then fed Foligno a cross-ice pass. Foligno reached to accept it and then threw it on goal, beating Reimer between the legs.

“I was just getting it out of the zone. I was just trying to make a strong play and get it across the blue line,” Pysyk said. “Obviously it was lucky how it turned out.”

Toronto got within one goal with 10:07 to go in regulation. A shot from the left point by Mark Fraser deflected off Josh Leivo and to Devane, who was parked to the left of Enroth. He lifted a backhand into a gaping net to make it 2-1.

They tied it with 4:37 left when Ashton redirected an effort toward the goal from McClement. McClement. Carter Ashton had beelined to the crease down the left slot but the puck went off a Sabres defenseman and into the net.

“The last 10 minutes, [we had] some neutral zone breakdowns that kind of cost us and left Jhonas out a little bit,” Sabres left wing Steve Ott said. “...But all in all, Jhonas was very solid. I liked our attempts at the net. I think we had 40-something shots on goal. I think we can take a lot of positives from that game.”

Among the many chances both teams had to pick up the winning goal in overtime, including a power play opportunity by Toronto. Perhaps the best

chance came when Sabres defenseman skated in on a breakaway with under five seconds to play. Reimer made a left pad save as the horn sounded to signal the end of regulation.

Players and fans alike were quickly reacquainted to the Sabres-Maple Leafs rivalry. With 6:54 left to play in the first period, Cody McCormick and David Broll traded haymakers in a fight that ended in front of the Sabres bench. Ott and Carter Ashton exchanged pleasantries 3:35 later and served five minutes each for fighting.

Then with 2:07 to play in regulation, Patrick Kaleta and Troy Bodie dropped the gloves for the third fight of the night.

Christian Ehrhoff served as the Sabres' captain for the game. Ott and Stafford served as alternates. Rolston said he'll rotate the captaincy throughout the preseason before settling on a permanent captain.

Puck drop between the Sabres and Maple Leafs is set for 7 p.m. at Air Canada Centre.

## **ENNIS IN THE MIDDLE**

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

September 21, 2013

**MORNING SKATE 10:30 a.m.**

As the Buffalo Sabres experiment with different line combinations throughout the preseason, one line that's had success in the past is being put back together.

For the first time at training camp this season, Tyler Ennis was playing center. He skated between left wing Marcus Foligno and right wing Drew Stafford and will take the ice with them when the Sabres host the Toronto Maple Leafs at First Niagara Center on Saturday at 7 p.m.

The trio was arguably Buffalo's best line at the end of the 2011-12 season, but wasn't able to click last year.

"I've been on the wing. I've been working hard. I felt comfortable [at left wing] and I'm going to test out center tonight," Ennis said after practice. "I'm going to work hard at it and hopefully we can rekindle some of that chemistry tonight and see how it goes from there."

While he hasn't scored a point yet this preseason, Ennis has had a noticeable jump in his step in the two preseason games he's played in so far.

He's also played with different linemates in each game. He played left wing in Columbus on Tuesday with rookies Johan Larsson and Joel Armia. On Thursday against Carolina, he was with center Mikhail Grigorenko and right wing Brian Flynn.

Sabres coach Ron Rolston said part of the reason for the switch is that Ennis hasn't had the puck enough in those first two games. He indicated that playing Ennis with two left-handed centers may have played a role as well.

"The thing with [Ennis] is he's gotta have the puck. If he's going to be the player that we want him to be and we know he can be, he's gotta have the puck on his tape," Rolston said. "We're just trying to find that right combination so he can do that."

Ennis started last season at center before moving to the wing as the year wore on. Ennis said that it's important to have that versatility.

"I think it's good to be able to play both positions. The first two games, I felt good on the wing. Hopefully I can pick up where I left off in the middle at some points last year and play well tonight," he said.

Jhonas Enroth will start for the Sabres and is expected to go the full 60 minutes.  
Matt Hackett will be backing him up.

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#### SABRES LINEUP

82 Marcus Foligno – 63 Tyler Ennis – 21 Drew Stafford  
9 Steve Ott – 25 Mikhail Grigorenko – 23 Ville Leino  
28 Zemgus Girgensons – 12 Kevin Porter – 65 Brian Flynn  
37 Matt Ellis – 8 Cody McCormick – 36 Patrick Kaleta

10 Christian Ehrhoff – 3 Mark Pysyk  
6 Mike Weber – 4 Jamie McBain  
52 Alexander Sulzer – 55 Rasmus Ristolainen

1 Jhonas Enroth  
31 Matt Hackett

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#### MAPLE LEAFS LINEUP (via MapleLeafs.com)

(12)Raymond-(42)Bozak-(81)Kessel  
(46)Broll-(63)Bolland-(41)Kulemin  
(37)Ashton-(22)Colborne-(40)Bodie  
(23)Smith-(11)McClement-(59)Devane

(3)Phaneuf-(36)Gunnarsson  
(15)Ranger-(51)Gardiner  
(50)Percy-(2)Fraser

James Reiner  
Drew MacIntyre

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#### SESSION TWO 12:30 p.m.

Forwards: Luke Adam, Joel Armia, Daniel Catenacci, Colton Gillies, Cody Hodgson, Johan Larsson, Tim Schaller, John Scott, Corey Tropp, Philip Varone, Thomas Vanek, Mike Zigomanis

Defense: Drew Bagnall, Jerome Gauthier-Leduc, Brayden McNabb, Tyler Myers, Chad Ruhwedel, Henrik Tallinder, Nikita Zadorov

Goaltenders: Ryan Miller, Matt Hackett

## **Toronto-area coverage of Sabres-Maple Leafs (September 21):**

### **Reimer shines as Leafs edge Sabres in wild shootout**

The Canadian Press

Septemeber 21, 2013

None too happy about Paul Ranger trying to kick the puck past him in the shootout, Buffalo Sabres goaltender Jhonas Enroth slashed the Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman as he skated by.

"My first reaction was that he tried to embarrass me there a little bit, but when I look at it now, it's good (the) guy's trying to be creative, I guess," he said.

'It's good to get out there and for me to stop some pucks and for guys to get some reps, but it's exhibition and it's a little looser. I think it's a little different when it's during a game and two points are on the line.'- Maple Leafs goalie James Reimer

Enroth had plenty of time to think because the shootout went an incredible 15 rounds, including 29 combined shooters who didn't score a goal. When it was over the Leafs had a 3-2 victory Saturday night thanks to Jay McClement's winner, but the Sabres got their kicks out of the pre-season marathon.

"At one point I think both refs were just going to call it a draw and kind of pick up the puck and go home and be old-school NHL there for a second and call it a tie," Sabres forward Steve Ott said. "But both performances by both goalies in the shootout was pretty spectacular to watch. I've never seen that before."

Leafs goaltender James Reimer stopped all 15 shots he saw after making 38 saves in regulation and overtime. Reimer went 0 for 5 in shootouts last season with a .625 save percentage, and wasn't making much of this.

"It's good to get out there and for me to stop some pucks and for guys to get some reps, but it's exhibition and it's a little looser," Reimer said. "I think it's a little different when it's during a game and two points are on the line."

Ranger probably wouldn't have tried this in a real game. He learned his "kick shot" from a friend at the age of 10 or 11 and perfected it enough that it beat goalies in practice plenty.

"It's gotten to the point where I can rip it pretty good, I feel like," he said. "The cool part of it is I have no idea where it's going, and the goalie doesn't either because I sure don't."

Asked about Enroth's slash and the idea that it was not the right thing to do, Ranger said: "Not the right thing to do? I'm trying to score. Quite honestly it's fun and, to be honest, I'm not trying to show boat, and if he thought that, then it is what it is. Whatever."

Ott gave Ranger credit for the kick being a "pretty heavy shot." But it was a deke by McClement that finally ended things.

"A lot of light-heartedness taking place on the bench," Leafs coach Randy Carlyle said. "A lot of guys betting on Jay, so we waited right till the end."

Before the shootout, the game had the chippiness normally reserved for the regular season. It featured three fights, including Troy Bodie taking on Patrick Kaleta after the Sabres agitator went after captain Dion Phaneuf.

From the Leafs' perspective, Ott started the trouble before that dust-up.

"I think Ott intentionally shot the puck at Dion," Carlyle said. "That's what it appeared from where we were. Those are the kind of things that in exhibition are kind of questionable at this point."

The Leafs and Sabres played on the edge all night. Carlyle said it the 15-round was something he had never seen before, but even for those with similar experiences this was something unique.

"We had one in Rochester, I think we went through everybody except for maybe Joe Finley. I think we had a call-up score," Rolston said. "(This one) was bizarre, especially with no goals."

## **Maple Leafs beat Sabres after 15-round shootout**

By Kevin McGran

Toronto Star

September 21, 2013

BUFFALO—In a game designed for players on the bubble to give their coaches something to think about, Paul Ranger gave the hockey world something new: The kick shot.

It was a strange night — a 3-2 shootout win Saturday by the Maple Leafs, who'd rallied from a 2-0 deficit with 10 minutes to go in the third on goals by Jamie Devane and Jay McClement.

The shootout was remarkable on its own: Not only did the Leafs win one — a rarity — but only one shooter actually scored — McClement. He was the 30th shooter overall.

But it was an attempt by Ranger, trying an NHL comeback after three years out of hockey and last year in the AHL, that had everyone's attention. The 10th Leaf shooter, he skated in on Sabres goalie Jhonas Enroth and then kicked his stick—the puck on the blade—toward the net.

It didn't go in, but it fooled everyone.

"I skate in hard and post up and literally just step into it," said Ranger. "It's a kick shot. I don't know how else to describe it. I learned it when I was 10, 11 years old. I've been practising it ever since."

It was the first time he'd used it in a game.

"It was a fun time to do it," said Ranger. "I've wanted to try it. I've scored on it a few times in practice. A little left, or a little right, it would have.

"The cool part of it is, I have no idea where it's going. The goalie doesn't either. It's a fun shot."

Enroth appeared to slash Ranger after the attempt, apparently unhappy that Ranger tried to show him up.

"I didn't really like it," said Enroth. "I felt like he was trying to embarrass me there. But it's good to see the guys trying to be creative, too. When I think about it now, it's fine."

Ranger said he was not trying to show up anybody.

"Not the right thing to do? I'm trying to score," said Ranger. "I'm not trying to showboat."

For most of the night, the Maple Leafs on the bubble looked more like they were trying to nail down a job with the Marlies.

Then the game hit the 50-minute mark and got really interesting, lasting all the way to a 15-round shootout.

Devane — a slugger who's showing an offensive touch in the pre-season — got the Leafs' first goal, with 10:07 left in the third period.

Then McClement scored on a rush — that started with Joe Colborne blocking a pass at centre and a good feed from Carter Ashton.

Suddenly a game that was all Sabres — except for some solid goaltending from James Reimer — was tied 2-2. Reimer made sure it stayed that way, stopping Jamie McBain on a breakaway in overtime and all 15 Buffalo shootout shooters.

“Usually shooters are so good,” said Reimer. “There's a lot of fluke and a lot of luck that goes into something like that.”

Reimer acknowledged the team has struggled in shootouts in the past.

“You can't put too much emphasis on it,” said Reimer. “It's good to take and a huge positive, but don't read too much into it.”

The two teams face each other again Sunday night at the Air Canada Centre with Jonathan Bernier getting the start. Reimer has won both his games, including the opener a week ago in London, Ont., against the Flyers.

“I felt a lot better today,” said Reimer. “I'm feeling better every day on the ice, seeing the puck better, reading situations. In the game I felt a lot more comfortable than I did in London.”

For most of the game, the Leafs played in their own zone. It was Reimer, with solid positioning, who kept the team in it. He was square to the puck when he needed to be. He used glove and he used his athleticism.

It was mostly a night for players on the bubble to show what they could do. The Leafs played only 10 NHL regulars, trotting out complete lines that could end up with the Marlies in a week's time. The Sabres had 14 NHL regulars, and the difference showed, with the Sabres dominating puck possession and shots.

A few highlights for Leafs on the bubble:

- Colborne got a ton of penalty killing time.
- Ashton made some big hits and beat up Steve Ott in a fight.
- Troy Bodie blocked a huge shot in the first period.
- David Broll got into a fight and got some first-line action when the Leafs needed a spark in the third.

•Ranger got burned on a 2-on-1 that led to Buffalo's second goal, but was otherwise solid.

"I never get too excited about being midway through an exhibition schedule," said Carlyle. "Some individuals played better than they had in other games. There are some individuals who really have to pick up their game."

## NOTES

Mason Raymond, the ex-Canuck in camp on a tryout, got a look-see on the top line with Phil Kessel and Tyler Bozak.

If Raymond makes the team, it will be as a third-line winger. But it's always good to have a versatile player, who can go up and down the lineup.

"I am comfortable with Mason (Raymond)," said Nonis. "I know what he's like as a person and as a player. It's how Randy sees him. How he fits into the lineup. Where does he fit in the lineup."

"We're pretty comfortable with the type of player he is and him as person. It's whether or not he's a fit for us. That will be up to the coaching staff."

Noticeable by his absence was Morgan Rielly, the prized rookie defenceman. Nonis was non-committal on Rielly's future but said the 19-year-old is making his decision hard.

"He's making it as hard as we thought he'd make it," said Nonis. "He's a quiet guy, but he worked very hard in the offseason. He came in here with high expectations of himself. He knew he was prepared. Whether he can do it, it's still too early to say."

"We're happy with what he's done. He's shown flashes of definitely being ready. As this moves along, he's going to play a lot of these games."

The point was made that if Rielly is returned to coach Mike Stothers with the Moose Jaw Warriors, his development might stagnate.

"First off, if he does go back, he has a good coach there," said Nonis. "That's one area you look at. He has a good coach, a good staff. Would he have a major impact on the world junior team? I think the answer there is yes. There are some things that could happen for him that would be good for him."

"It doesn't mean he should go back. If he is ready to play here and play a significant role, there's nothing wrong with keeping him here."

## **Paul Ranger's kick-stick shot in shootout is hilarious to everyone but Sabres goalie**

By Greg Wyshynski  
Yahoo Sports Canada  
September 22, 2013

The smile on Paul Ranger's face before his shootout attempt against the Buffalo Sabres – in the 10th round of a 15-round overtime skills competition – said it all: The veteran defenseman, in camp with the Toronto Maple Leafs, had something in his bag of tricks he was ready to unleash.

And here's the kicker ...

No, he literally was the kicker.

In a de facto homage to Toronto FC, Ranger executed a kick-stick shot that was more hilarious than effective but, still, hilarious.

OK, hilarious to everyone but Sabres goalie Jhonas Enroth, who promptly slashed him as he skated by.

Said Enroth, to the Canadian Press:

"My first reaction was that he tried to embarrass me there a little bit, but when I look at it now, it's good (the) guy's trying to be creative, I guess," he said.

(Could you imagine the emo-rant that Ryan Miller would have gone on after this kind of shot?)

Ranger, who had been attempting the shot since he was 10 years old, said that he probably wouldn't have made the kick-shot attempt in a regular-season game. A bold statement, considering no one's asked Ranger to participate in a shootout during his five NHL seasons.

On Enroth's slash, Rangers tells the CP:

"Not the right thing to do? I'm trying to score. Quite honestly it's fun and, to be honest, I'm not trying to show boat, and if he thought that, then it is what it is. Whatever."

Whatever indeed. The Leafs won the glorified scrimmage, 3-2, on Jay McClement's deke. But it was Ranger's goal that had everyone kicking themselves that they hadn't thought of it first.

## **Off-ice coverage:**

### **Sam takes the cake, shuffles off to Buffalo**

By Joe Birch

WMCTV

September 20, 2013

The Action News 5 team shared a few giggles at the expense of outgoing sports reporter-anchor Sam Korotkin.

The enterprising sports journalist managed to survive his Action News 5 farewell celebration with his cake intact.

The University of Missouri journalism school graduate has accepted his dream job: creating broadcast and web images for his hometown National Hockey League franchise, the Buffalo Sabres.

You'll be able to enjoy Sam's words and images in the future on sites like <http://sabres.nhl.com/>.

Anytime one of our team members announces that they're going to seek their fortunes elsewhere, we hold a little ceremony centered around humorous stories of the departing employee's tenure and a little cake. Given Action News 5's many outlets on the information super highway, all our team instinctively starts taking parting shots of our soon-to-be departing colleague via cell phone camera for presentation on [wmctv.com](http://wmctv.com), and Action News 5's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds. Being visual perfectionists (given our medium), someone enticed Sam to angle his cake to create an image with the young man's smile and the "Good Luck Sam K." message on the icing. That's when the cardboard holding the cake slid off the plastic base!

Amazingly, the agile sportsman managed A) to keep his cake intact, B) not stick his fingers in the icing, and C) create an entertaining exclamation point to his splendid year presenting news of the sporting world to our viewers at Action News 5. Ironically, the sports videographer was knocked to the ground by a charging high school football player while shooting a game from the sidelines on his next to last night of Action News 5 duty! Just like the cake, Korotkin emerged unscathed! Bravo, Sam! Thank you for all your hard work! You have single-handedly created a whole new population of Sabres fans far south of Buffalo!