



# **Buffalo Sabres**

## **Daily Press Clips**

*November 19, 2013*

## **St. Louis at Buffalo**

Associated Press

November 18, 2013

The St. Louis Blues ran into a hot team and suffered a rare regulation loss their last time out. Their next opponent may not provide nearly as stiff a challenge.

The Blues look to rebound as they visit the last-place Buffalo Sabres on Tuesday night.

St. Louis (13-3-3) came into Sunday's matchup with surging Washington having gone 5-0-1 in its previous six, but lost 4-1 despite outshooting the Capitals 47-20.

The Blues posted a season high in shots despite playing for the second straight day and third time in four days. St. Louis trailed 3-0 after the opening 20 minutes and was mostly shut down by Capitals goaltender Braden Holtby.

"We had lots of shots, but we didn't have any real penetration, or good shots," said defenseman Jay Bouwmeester, who notched an assist on Vladimir Sobotka's power-play goal and has a goal and four assists during a four-game point streak. "That wasn't our best game, for sure."

The Blues had scored first in their previous 10 games.

"First period, we were a step behind," Bouwmeester said. "To get down like that against a tough team like that, it's tough."

Alexander Steen failed to record a point for just the second time this season. Washington's Alex Ovechkin pulled even with him for the league lead with 17 goals by scoring twice.

Steen will try to bounce back as St. Louis plays the second of a three-game trip looking for a third consecutive win over Buffalo (5-16-1), which has the fewest points in the league. The Sabres, whose 68 goals allowed are tied for second-most in the Eastern Conference, had won a season-high two in a row before falling 4-2 at Toronto on Saturday.

Like St. Louis, Buffalo lost despite dominating the shots category while playing for the second time in as many days. The Sabres held a 35-22 advantage overall and 17-5 in the third period.

The Sabres scored twice in the third to cut the deficit to one but gave up a power-play goal with 1:04 remaining.

"We got off to a little bit of a slow start but I was more impressed with the game tonight than I was with last night," said Ted Nolan, who coached his second game since making his return to the bench for Buffalo. "I thought the majority of the

play was in their zone the whole third period and the last part of the second period. We have some corrections we have to make and I'm looking forward to doing that."

Buffalo's usually feeble power play has been effective over the past three games, going 3 for 8 while scoring in each contest. The Sabres have converted 15.4 percent of their chances on the season.

The Blues have also been producing with the man advantage, going 5 for 14 in the last three contests.

Ryan Miller seems likely to return to the Buffalo net after Jhonas Enroth got the call in the second game of the back-to-back. Miller, who's been solid in allowing three total goals in his last two outings after a rough start to the season, is 1-3-0 with a 3.03 goals-against average in four career starts versus St. Louis.

It's uncertain who will be in goal for the Blues after Jaroslav Halak was pulled in favor of Brian Elliott on Sunday after allowing three goals on six shots in the first 15:41. Elliott made 13 saves and has given up two or fewer goals in three of his four starts this season.

He's 8-0-2 with a 1.67 GAA in his career against the Sabres.

The Blues have won 12 of 14 in the series.

## **Sabres roster changes coming**

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

November 18, 2013

Ted Nolan rose to coaching prominence by winning championships in junior hockey, so he knows the difference between an NHL team and a developmental squad.

“We have so many young guys here, and it’s almost like going back to junior hockey in some sense,” the Sabres’ coach said Monday.

That’s going to change now that Nolan and Pat LaFontaine have a say in the matter.

Buffalo’s coach and new president of hockey operations have met the players, watched two games and had an off day to reflect on the roster. They want more NHL-ready skaters in the lineup, and the changes could start tonight when the St. Louis Blues visit First Niagara Center.

“You see some good organizations and how they go about it,” Nolan said. “You don’t force-feed somebody and say we’re a rebuild. Rebuild is important, but how you rebuild is really important.

“Patty and I have been talking about it since we got involved. I think you can have some young kids, a few of them, but not as many as we have.”

This season’s original plan, put in motion by former General Manager Darcy Regier and owner Terry Pegula, was to lose with young players and get a high draft pick. The Sabres have four teenagers – forwards Mikhail Grigorenko and Zemgus Girgensons, and defensemen Nikita Zadorov and Rasmus Ristolainen – plus five other players under age 24.

“Some of these guys haven’t matured into their bodies yet, and matured mentally and physically,” Nolan said. “Girgensons, for example, he seems a little bit more mature for his age. Those type of guys can play. You look and some other people maybe just need a little extra hug and tender care with them and be able to be in a situation where a mistake doesn’t cost you a hockey game.

“I didn’t realize how young they really were and the positions that they’re in and the capabilities of what they can do besides playing here. There’s some maneuvering room we can do here.”

Zadorov and Grigorenko, both scratched during Nolan’s opening two games, can return to their junior teams. Ristolainen, center Johan Larsson and right wing Brian Flynn can play in Rochester. With defenseman Mike Weber ready to come off injured reserve, at least one player is going somewhere.

As of Monday afternoon, the Sabres had not yet talked with Quebec coach Philippe Boucher about returning Grigorenko to juniors, according to a Remparts spokesperson. Zadorov hadn't heard anything.

"I'm just working hard," he said. "We'll see what's going on, if I'm in the lineup. I'm just waiting."

Nolan made it clear anyone who departs shouldn't take it the wrong way.

"It is part of their growth," Nolan said. "Sometimes you look at it as a demotion. It's not really a demotion. It's an enhancement of your career."

"We're going to try to get this thing on proper footing going forward and putting people in position of success versus force-feeding them."

Weber may not be the only addition to the lineup. Nolan and LaFontaine have taken a look at the roster of the Amerks, who are 7-4-4 and lead their division.

"There's a couple players playing exceptionally well down there that deserve an opportunity," Nolan said.

Forward Luke Adam is tied for the American Hockey league lead with 13 goals in 15 games. Defenseman Brayden McNabb has 10 assists, 12 points and a plus-5 rating. Forward Phil Varone averages better than a point per game (13 assists, 17 points) and center Mike Zigomanis is just off the pace with seven goals and 14 points.

Nolan said he likes the Sabres' first and fourth lines, but "we've just got to tweak in the middle." He's more impressed with the team in person than he was watching the pitiful performance on television last Tuesday, the 3-2 shootout win over Los Angeles in Ron Rolston's last game on the bench.

"From the perception I had from that game to the game we played in Toronto was night-and-day difference," Nolan said. "These guys, they're not that bad. We just need some direction on how we're going to play and make these guys feel good about themselves."

## **Miller ready for more work but up to a point**

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

November 18, 2013

After getting a look at both of his goaltenders this weekend, Ted Nolan said he planned to “ride the horse” in regards to Ryan Miller. The Buffalo netminder said Monday there will be times he needs to stay in the stable.

The NHL schedule is condensed this season because of the two-week Olympic break in February. It will be hard for teams to use one goaltender exclusively regardless of how well he is playing.

Through the Sabres’ opening 22 games, Miller has made 15 starts and Jhonas Enroth made seven. Miller is going to make at least the next two, tonight against St. Louis in First Niagara Center and Thursday in Philadelphia.

“It’s going to be up to me to play well and up to me to just kind of keep it going,” Miller said. “But it is a tight schedule, Olympic season, we’re going to have to figure in rest and everything. We’ll get caught up further down the line here. I think he’s just trying to get a feel for everything, and we can have that discussion further on about rest and timing and stuff like that because it is going to be a factor, something where I want to maximize the way I’m playing and sustain this for the long haul.”

Ever since his 76-game season in 2007-08, Miller has strived to balance playing with downtime. He performs better with occasional breaks, and he wants to remain in peak form so USA Hockey names him to its Olympic team.

Miller is just 4-11 with a 3.13 goals-against average and .919 save percentage, but he’s faced 568 shots (third in the league) and made 522 saves (also third).

“Over 40 shots on a consistent basis, I don’t care who you are, you’re going to get tired,” Nolan said. “I probably would have played him back-to-back the other night, but because of the system, the way it was organized previous, I didn’t. Now we’ve put our own stamp on it.

“We’re going to try to limit those shots down a little bit, watch his practice time and keep him as fresh as we can for as long as we can.”

Enroth, who hopes to make Sweden’s Olympic team, is 1-5-1 with a 2.88 GAA and .906 save percentage. Nolan would have liked him to stop two of the goals that went in Saturday during Toronto’s 4-2 win over Buffalo.

“I thought Jhonas has played really well this year,” Miller said. “He’s had some really strong starts. The idea is that you try and balance it and make it a partnership. That’s been the recipe for success for a lot of teams lately.”

...

Defenseman Mike Weber is expected to return to the lineup tonight. He's missed 10 games since breaking his thumb on a shot block Oct. 25 in Florida.

"I'm ready to rock," said Weber, who practiced alongside Jamie McBain during the Sabres' drills.

Weber has no points in 11 games and is minus-12. Only Edmonton's Nail Yakupov (minus-14) and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins (minus-13) are worse.

Rookies Rasmus Ristolainen and Nikita Zadorov practiced as Buffalo's fourth pairing.

...

The Sabres have a major test in their goal to limit the opponent's shots. St. Louis leads the NHL with a plus-85 shot differential in November, which has helped it go 6-2-1 this month. The Blues have outshot their opponents in eight straight games, including their 47-shot barrage against Washington on Sunday.

The Blues are a league-best 30-9-5 in interconference play since 2010-11. Forward Alexander Steen had a points streak of 13 straight games snapped during Sunday's 4-1 loss in Washington, but he entered Monday's schedule leading the league with 26 points and tied with Alexander Ovechkin for the lead in goals with 17.

St. Louis also has former Sabres center Derek Roy, who has five goals and 11 points in 19 games. It will be Roy's first game in Buffalo since being traded to Dallas for Steve Ott in July 2012.

"We know what they have," Nolan said. "We know how well they're coached. We know how big they are. If you want to get into a slugfest with the St. Louis Blues, you ain't going to fare too well. We have to come up with a different game plan against them."

## **Adam, McNabb should be part of Sabres roster moves**

By Kevin Oklobzija  
Democrat and Chronicle  
November 18, 2013

Now that Ted Nolan has been the Buffalo Sabres coach for five days and has assessed his roster, changes are coming.

At least one roster move must be made when injured defenseman Mike Weber does indeed come off injured reserve to play in Tuesday night's home game against the St. Louis Blues.

It's a pretty easy move to make, too: Nikita Zadorov goes back to the OHL's London Knights. He's only 18, and he has great potential, but he's not NHL ready. There's no reason to start the clock ticking toward UFA status, either (if he plays 10 NHL games this season, it counts as a full season toward his years-of-service status).

Other roster moves aren't that difficult to make, either:

- Mikhail Grigorenko goes back to junior. The second-year centerman is wasting away right now. Being forced to compete and battle in practice is beneficial, but he is just 19 and he needs to play game. Even if it means exacerbating his chronic bad habits.

The agreement between the NHL and Canadian Hockey League prohibits Grigorenko from playing in the American Hockey League right now. It's a rule set up to protect teams in the QMJHL, OHL and WHL, and in most cases it makes sense; the NHL relies heavily on the player development provided by the Canadian junior leagues.

But this is one case where the player is far too good for junior but not good enough for the NHL. Grigorenko didn't come out of QMJHL with much of a work ethic so he's probably not going to find it when he goes back. That said, sitting in Buffalo is worse. He at least will realize while back in the QMJHL that life in the NHL is pretty nice.

- Rookie defenseman Rasmus Ristolainen comes down to the Rochester Americans.

At 18, Ristolainen has shown promise and at times he looks very much at home on the Sabres blue line. But only at times.

He will benefit from playing big minutes -- in all situations -- with the Amerks. While he may be physically mature enough to play in the NHL, the psyche is still fragile for most 18-year-olds. Why play him in an environment where the pressure is intense yet the chances for team success are slim to none?

A stint in Rochester will be very good for his long-term development.

- Center Johan Larsson rejoins the Amerks.

He has produced just one assist in 17 games, and he hasn't played since the Nov. 8 debacle in Anaheim.

Larsson is 21, but this is just his second season in North America. He's much like Ristolainen in that big minutes in all situations with the Amerks will enhance his development. That way, when he goes up later in the season or starts in Buffalo next year, he's ready for full-time duty.

- Center Luke Adam goes up to Buffalo.

He's done everything that was asked. He has worked very hard, he has gone hard to the net with the puck, he has been determined to get the puck back if he loses it, and he has been much more aware of his defensive responsibilities.

He started hot and he still is. His 13 goals (in 15 games) are tied for most in the AHL (with Nikita Kucherov of Syracuse). He ranks 11th in scoring (13-5-18).

Adam produced in the first 20 games of the 2011-12 season when Thomas Vanek and Jason Pominville were his linemates. He must be given another chance to show what he can do.

- Defenseman Brayden McNabb makes the ride to Buffalo with Adam.

A year ago at this time, the NHL was locked out and the best Sabres' already-turned-pro prospects were playing for the Amerks; guys like Cody Hodgson and Marcus Foligno.

McNabb also was with the Amerks, but he wasn't playing like an on-the-verge NHLer. Too many mistakes, too many risky plays, and a great deal of failed execution.

He did, however, finish strong and this season he has been even better. The third-year defenseman is becoming more difficult to play against, he is moving the puck more wisely in his own zone, and safe, smart plays are becoming the norm.

He also ranks fourth on the Amerks in scoring with 2-10-12, and he has the best plus/minus among defensemen at plus-5.

Oh, and who's not going up right now:

- Patrick Kaleta.

Kaleta was sent to the Amerks two week ago to make adjustments to his game. He needs to align his style with what the game now being played in the NHL.

In other words, no more checks after the puck is gone, no more hits that involve an opponents head, and no shoves from behind or 15-foot runs at a player on the end boards.

He was suspended for 10 games in October for a hit to the jaw of Columbus defenseman Jack Johnson, taking up for more than a month a roster spot in Buffalo even though he couldn't play.

The league made it very clear that punishment for future transgressions will be even more severe.

As an Amerk, Kaleta has been working to change, and he has played the game that his expected. He has taken one hooking minor in five games (1 goal, 2 assists).

There's no question that Kaleta would be a Nolan-type player. His game has been based on hard work forever.

But, let's not forget where Pat LaFontaine was working before he became president of hockey operations for the Amerks. He was in NHL front office, serving as vice president of development and community affairs. You can bet he shares the league's viewpoint when it comes to Kaleta's need to change.

At some point Nolan will put Kaleta in his lineup. It just won't be right now.

That leaves 22 on the Sabres roster, or just one extra forward and defenseman. Which, with no long road trips coming up, is just fine. Guys like Phil Varone, Alex Sulzer, Kaleta, Larsson and Ristolainen will know that one spot is just waiting to be filled.

## **Sabres go for third straight at home as Blues visit**

By Brian Hunter

NHL.com

November 18, 2013

BLUES (13-3-3) at SABRES (5-16-1)

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

Last 10: St. Louis 7-2-1; Buffalo 3-7-0

Season series: This is the first of two meetings between the St. Louis Blues and Buffalo Sabres. In their most recent matchup, on Jan. 21, 2012, David Backes scored a pair of goals and set up two others as the Blues recorded a 4-2 victory at Scottrade Center.

Big story: While the Blues' goal is to compete for a Stanley Cup this season, the Sabres are trying to build a perennial contender. It's a process that figures to take time, but there's renewed vigor in Buffalo with the returns of Pat LaFontaine and Ted Nolan to the organization. Nolan's first weekend back as coach resulted in the split of a home-and-home with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"He's an exciting personality," assistant coach Teppo Numminen told The Buffalo News. "We've got good, positive energy around, so it's been a good couple days."

Team Scope:

Blues: One of the NHL's most lethal offenses despite a 4-1 loss to the Washington Capitals on Sunday, St. Louis already has nine players with at least 10 points and Vladimir Sobotka will join them with his next goal or assist.

Believe it or not, though, the Blues still have potent weapons they're trying to get going. Patrik Berglund, who sat out against the Capitals with an upper-body injury, has scored at least 17 goals in four of the past five seasons but has just one in 2013-14, scored way back on Oct. 5.

"I think a lot of people go through this in their career," Berglund told The St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "It's kind of my first time that I shoot and shoot but it won't go in. For me, as long as I feel like I'm helping the team out there, I know it will come. It's just not about scoring. I'm killing penalties. I'm playing against some very good lines. I'll get my chances and one will go in."

Sabres: Even though Buffalo couldn't build on a 3-1 win against the Maple Leafs in Nolan's debut Friday, dropping the matchup Saturday by a 4-2 score, the coach said in many ways their effort was more commendable in defeat, as Jamie McBain and Tyler Ennis cut into a 3-0 deficit in the third period.

Nolan has spent his first several days back with the team trying to pump up the young Sabres and pump life back into a franchise that has fallen on hard times since qualifying for the Stanley Cup Playoffs in 2011.

"Ted came in and basically had one-on-ones with every guy in the room," defenseman Tyler Myers told The Buffalo News. "One of the things he brought up was don't be afraid to jump up as much as you can. There's mistakes that are going to be made, and that's part of hockey. Don't worry about it. It was a good feeling to hear that."

Who's hot: Blues defenseman Jay Bouwmeester has one goal and four assists during a four-game point streak. ... Sabres goalie Ryan Miller has only won four of his 15 decisions, but he has a .919 save percentage and it's at .928 over his past five starts, including three 40-plus save performances.

Injury report: Berglund is day-to-day for St. Louis while defenseman Jordan Leopold (finger) is on injured reserve. ... Buffalo defenseman Mike Weber (upper body) is on injured reserve.

## **Maple Leafs: Dion Phaneuf shrugs off ‘Princess’ shot**

By Mark Zvolinski

Toronto Star

November 18, 2013

Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf put little stock in the “Princess” quip directed at him by Buffalo Sabres big man John Scott.

“I’ve been called a lot of things before, but I’ve never been called Princess,” Phaneuf said Monday with a dismissive tone.

Scott was not impressed with Phaneuf after Saturday night’s game, in which he had the Leafs captain lined up for a hit before Phaneuf, in the Sabre’s words, “bailed.” A skirmish began during which Scott was wrestled to the ice from behind. He drew 14 minutes in penalties, including a game misconduct, while Phaneuf took a minor for cross-checking.

“All of a sudden I’m not allowed to hit him anymore,” Scott said afterward. “He’s Princess Phaneuf. It’s a joke.”

The name-calling heightened the intensity between the rivals, who meet again Nov. 29. But Phaneuf and his teammates insist the incident is no longer an issue.

“To be really honest with you, there’s a lot more stuff I’m focused on than what happened and a name I’ve been called,” Phaneuf said.

## **Hodgson Not A Rattled Sabre**

By Chris Lomon

NHLPA.com

November 15, 2013

In a season of struggle and change in Buffalo, forward Cody Hodgson is playing some of the best hockey of his career.

It has been a difficult start so far in 2013-14 for the Sabres, with the team sporting a 4-15-1 record, placing them last in the league with just nine points.

A few days ago, hiring's and firings saw Ted Nolan in as interim head coach and former Sabre star and Hall of Fame inductee Pat LaFontaine taking over the reins as president of hockey operations.

Throughout all the turmoil, tough times and trades (Thomas Vanek was dealt to the New York Islanders for Matt Moulson last month), there have been some positives, including the efforts of Hodgson.

Just don't tell him that.

"It's really hard to think about things in individual terms when you're trying to turn things around as a team," said the 23-year-old forward. "If I'm playing well and it leads to wins, that's what I'm looking for. That's what everyone is focusing on."

After Vanek, a four-time 30-goal scorer, was traded to the Isles, Hodgson stepped up his game, recording eight points in seven games since the deal.

He's also had great chemistry with Moulson. In a recent 3-2 home shootout win over the Los Angeles Kings, Hodgson scored twice, with Moulson assisting on both, a game that represented the first home win on the campaign for the Sabres.

Hodgson has no shortage of superlatives for his new teammate.

"Matt's an exceptional player and I thought things went really well right from the start," said Hodgson, of the three-time 30-goal scorer who had two tallies in his Sabres debut on October 28. "When you are able to click like that early on, it gives you a lot of reason to be optimistic going forward. Hopefully, it's able to continue."

Hodgson, the Canadian Hockey League Player of the Year in 2009, has carried over his strong form from 2012-13 into this year.

Last season, he had 15 goals and 34 points in 48 games with Buffalo. Hodgson has five points in his past five games and is on pace for 29 goals and 62 points in 2013-14.

As for what's at the core of Hodgson 's emergence as a legitimate offensive star, the Toronto native chalks it up to confidence.

“When you feel comfortable and don't overthink things, it really makes a difference in how you perform,” said the centreman. “When you believe in yourself and you know your teammates do, it takes your confidence to another level.”

And as his play suggests, a confident Cody Hodgson could be a win-win situation for the Buffalo Sabres.

## **Preview: Blues vs. Sabres**

By Jeremy Rutherford  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
November 18, 2013

### **BLUES AT SABRES**

When • Tonight at 6

Where • First Niagara Center

TV, radio • FSM, KMOX (1120 AM)

**Blues** • The Blues will looking to rebound from Sunday's 4-1 loss in Washington. The club registered a season-high 47 shots on goal, but it marked the first game this season that it failed to score at least two goals. Alexander Steen's NHL-leading point streak ended at 13 games in the loss. The Blues are looking to rebound against a Buffalo team that has struggled this season but has received a respectable performance from goaltender Ryan Miller (.919 save percentage).

**Sabres** • Buffalo is last in the NHL standings with 11 points. The Sabres recently fired general manager Darcy Regier and head coach Ron Rolston and hired Hall of Famer Pat LaFontaine as president of hockey operations. LaFontaine, who was born in St. Louis and played with the Sabres from 1991-96, hired Ted Nolan as interim head coach. The Sabres are 1-1 under Nolan, splitting a home-and-home series with Toronto.

**Injuries** • Blues — C Patrik Berglund (upper-body injury) and D Jordan Leopold (hand), out. Sabres — D Mike Weber (thumb), out.

## **Zadorov move in works**

By Ryan Pyette

London Free Press

November 18, 2013

Ted Nolan hinted Monday that defenceman Nikita Zadorov could be London-bound soon.

The Buffalo Sabres interim head coach and new president of hockey operations Pat LaFontaine have talked extensively about how to properly develop the crowd of youngsters on the team's roster right now.

"We're going to try to get this thing on proper footing going forward and putting people in position of success versus force-feeding them," Nolan told The Buffalo News. "You see some good organizations and how they go about it. You don't force-feed somebody and say we're rebuild(ing). Rebuild is important, but how you rebuild is really important.

"Patty and I have been talking about it since we got involved. I think you can have some young kids, a few of them, but not as many as we have."

The 18-year-old Zadorov has played in seven games and has scored a goal. The Sabres can use him twice more before burning the first year of his entry-level contact.

The 6-foot-5 Russian has been scratched in five of the last seven games, but said last week he believes he is ready and belongs in the NHL to stay.

When the season started, London envisioned a top defensive pairing of Zadorov and 19-year-old Olli Maatta, who remains an every-day player with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Losing Maatta was a massive blow, but recovering Zadorov would be some much-needed salve for that blue-line wound.

Ted Nolan Comes Home: Named Interim Coach of Buffalo Sabres  
By Sam Laskaris  
Indian Country Today  
November 18, 2013

He's back. Ted Nolan, once named NHL Coach of the Year, has rejoined the franchise with whom he had the most pro success.

Nolan, an Ojibwe from northern Ontario's Garden River First Nation, was named the interim head coach of the Buffalo Sabres on November 13th.

Nolan coached the Sabres for two seasons in the mid-90s. During his second season, 1996-97, he guided them to a 40-30-12 record and received the Jack Adams Trophy, which is awarded annually to the league's top coach.

Despite that successful season, Nolan was not brought back, reportedly due to a rift with the Sabres former General Manager John Muckler. Nolan had to wait almost a decade before his next offer came to coach in the NHL. He guided the New York Islanders from 2006-08.

The hiring of Nolan was part of a major shakeup by the Sabres last week, who were off to a horrendous start, winning just four of its first 20 games. It was the worst start in franchise history. Nolan replaced Ron Rolston, who was relieved of his coaching duties.

"There aren't enough words inside me to express how happy I am," Nolan said during a press conference. "It's great to be back."

Sabres General Manager Darcy Regier was also fired last week. Buffalo brought in one of its former star players, Pat LaFontaine, to serve as the club's president of hockey operations.

In a press conference, LaFontaine said Nolan would be the interim head coach until the club hires a new G.M. And that individual will determine whether Nolan will be retained.

With Nolan's hiring, there are now two Natives currently employed as head coaches in the NHL. Craig Berube, who is Cree, is the bench boss of the Philadelphia Flyers.

This is believed to be the first time in NHL history that two Natives have been head coaches at the same time.

Sabres owner Terry Pegula believes Nolan's presence behind the bench is just what the struggling Sabres require.

"He's a class individual," Pegula said. "And he's going to add a lot of energy to our organization."

The Sabres were successful during Nolan's first game back, downing the visiting Toronto Maple Leafs 3-1 on Friday. But Buffalo wasn't able to get back-to-back victories, losing 4-2 to the Leafs on Saturday.

During Nolan's eight-season pro career, he suited up for 78 NHL contests, 60 of those with the Detroit Red Wings and the remainder with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Both of Nolan's sons made it to the NHL.

His eldest son, Brandon, spent most of his pro career in the minors, but suited up for a half-dozen contests with the Carolina Hurricanes during the 2007-08 season. Several concussions eventually forced him to retire.

Nolan's youngest son, Jordan, 24, is in his third season with the Los Angeles Kings, and helped them capture the Stanley Cup in 2012.

## **Sabres tough guy John Scott ready to seize opportunities from Ted Nolan: 'He respects guys that play the game like me'**

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

November 19, 2013

BUFFALO – The “meathead” hockey player, someone John Scott describes as a goon who plays three minutes, fights and calls it a day, well, the 6-foot-8 winger doesn't care for him too much.

“I don't want to do that,” Scott said Monday after the Sabres prepared for tonight's tilt against the St. Louis Blues inside the First Niagara Center. “I want to help my team. I don't think just going out there playing two minutes is doing anything. I don't think it's really intimidating. I think it serves no purpose.”

Interim Sabres coach Ted Nolan agrees. He's not interested in watching Scott scrap and detests staged fights.

“I told John I don't want to see him doing it,” Nolan said. “I want to see what kind of player he can be. You have to be able to play this game in order to stay here. So I want to see him play. Fighting will always take care of itself.”

Through two games, Nolan, who took over for Ron Rolston on Wednesday, has consistently given Scott shifts on the fourth line beside Cody McCormick and Corey Tropp.

Expect Scott to keep playing regularly throughout the season. Nolan has utilized tough guys his entire NHL coaching career.

“If you haven't got a fourth line that can get out there to give you some minutes, you're going to wear it out real quick,” Nolan said. “I'm really happy with Cody and Tropp and Scott. I thought they did a great job. Our fourth line is as good as any in the league.”

Scott added: “He has a little more confidence in the fourth line, and he just didn't see us as like a burden. It seems like with Ron, he didn't trust us that much. And Ted, he likes the way we play. He wants us to be physical, play the way we're supposed to play.”

Scott said Nolan, a fierce competitor in his playing days, “seems like he's cut from the same cloth a little bit.”

“He's a tough guy. I respect him,” said Scott, who played a season-high 7:31 on Friday, Nolan's debut. “He respects guys that play the game like me and Cody and Corey. ... It's nice to have a guy you can kind of look up to and respect.”

If Scott, who has one NHL goal in 189 NHL games, seizes this chance and showcases his talents, then perhaps the 31-year-old will start changing some opinions about his game.

“I’d like to be out, play six, seven, eight minutes a game, maybe 10, you never know, just make the other team worry about me, hit guys, like, be a force out there,” Scott said.

Critics of enforcers and fighting have been flaying Scott all season, telling him to leave the league.

“It just seems like every few weeks there’s something else going on,” Scott said. “But, whatever. It’s one of those things that’s never really happened to me. It’s just my team, I like them. My fans here in Buffalo seem to like it. So that’s all that matters.”

Scott’s problems began after igniting a Sept. 22 preseason brawl by chasing down Toronto star Phil Kessel. The cries grew louder following his hit to Boston’s Loui Eriksson’s head Oct. 24.

On Saturday, his second appearance since his seven-game suspension ended, Scott received 14 penalty minutes for doing nothing notable in a mini-melee.

Following the game, he called Toronto captain Dion Phaneuf, who had fallen down with the puck as Scott approached him, “Princess Phaneuf,” a comment he said Monday that he regrets.

“He’s a fun guy, not afraid to say what’s on his mind,” Sabres goalie Ryan Miller said. “You get things like, ‘Princess Phaneuf’ and stuff coming out of his mouth. He just wants to be respected as a hockey player.”

Scott said he doesn’t care what people think of him.

“I know who I am,” he said. “I know how I play. I think the guys on my team know and the people in the league know I’m a decent hockey player. I’m not just going out there being a goon. I can play a regular shift.

“If people want to think I’m a goon, then (heck), it’s perfect. I can just go out there, fly under the radar and surprise them.”

Miller, who sits next to Scott in the dressing room, said it’s up to Scott “to bring it” now.

“He’s got to play minutes where he’s a responsible player,” Miller said. “He’s got to get to the net, and he’s got to get that body to the net. I’d like to see him get some points, contribute, for sure. He’s capable of it. He doesn’t have hands of stone. He can shoot the puck. He can get there and tip and shovel pucks.

“He just needs to get his body in front, and I think that’s the next thing you want to see out of John is making some plays and just getting in front and causing some havoc.”

## **Sabres tough guy John Scott regrets ‘Princess Phaneuf’ comment; Roster moves coming**

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

November 18, 2013

BUFFALO – Sabres tough guy John Scott said Monday his “Princess Phaneuf” comment about Maple Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf was a “slip of the tongue.”

“Obviously, a little emotional at the time,” Scott said inside the First Niagara Center following practice about his comment Saturday. “I haven’t trademarked it. I kind of regretted it.”

Following the Sabres’ 4-2 loss in Toronto, Scott said Phaneuf “bailed” as he approached him. A mini-melee ensued, and Scott received 14 penalty minutes for doing very little, effectively ending his night.

“All of a sudden I’m not allowed to hit him anymore,” Scott told MSG. “He’s ‘Princess Phaneuf.’ It’s a joke. ... I guess you’re not allowed to hit the star guys anymore in this league.”

Scott called the nickname a “non-issue.”

“I just once again kind of shoot my mouth off, a little too fired up after the game and said something, didn’t really realize it was going to get the traction it’s kind of gotten,” he said.

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Interim Sabres coach Ted Nolan said defenseman Mike Weber (broken thumb, 10 games) should return tonight against the St. Louis Blues, meaning a roster move must be made.

The Sabres could send one or two of their youngsters back to junior or the AHL.

Nolan has been talking with Pat LaFontaine, the new president of hockey operations, about moves. The Sabres have four teenagers on the roster.

“I didn’t realize how young they really were, the positions that they’re in and the capabilities of what they could do besides playing here,” said Nolan, who took over for Ron Rolston on Wednesday.

The Sabres could also recall some players from Rochester, he said.

“There’s a couple players playing exceptionally well down there that deserve an opportunity,” Nolan said.

Nolan said he wants to stop “force-feeding.”

“Everything is subject for change right now,” he said.

The easiest move might be sending rookie defenseman Nikita Zadorov back to the Ontario Hockey League’s London Knights.

Nolan said reassignments can enhance careers.

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Nolan on meeting Sabres goalie Ryan Miller: “You can tell how much he loves Buffalo and how much of a competitor he really is and how disappointed he is with the season. That was enough for me right there. You can see why he’s one of the league’s best goaltenders.”

Expect Miller, who’s played 15 of the 22 games, to receive even more action. Nolan wanted to play him Saturday, although backup Jhonas Enroth was already slated to start.

“But now we’re putting on our own stamp on it,” Nolan said.

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Nolan, who first watched the Sabres on Tuesday against Los Angeles, a game they won 3-2 in a shootout despite getting outshot 45-17, said he sees a “night-and-day difference” in the team after coaching two games.

“Now these guys, they’re not that bad,” Nolan said. “We just need some direction with how we’re going to play and then make them feel good.”

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Former Sabres center Derek Roy will make his first appearance here since the Sabres traded him to Dallas in July 2012. Roy has five goals and 11 points in 19 games in his first season with the Blues. He’s been playing wing.

## **Sabres average age likely to rise**

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

November 18, 2013

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- Mike Weber should be ready to play Tuesday against St. Louis which means Buffalo needs to make a roster move. Talking to Ted Nolan today, his philosophy on how to develop young players differs from Darcy Regier's.

One of the first moves will likely be Nikita Zadorov back to London of the OHL. Nolan said, "I didn't realize how young they really were. There's some maneuvering room that we can do here. We've checked the farm team to see who's going well down there, a couple of players are playing exceptionally well down there that deserve an opportunity. Everything's subject to change, we're going to try to get this thing on proper footing going forward and putting people in position of success vs. force-feeding them."

The biggest fight I have is convincing fans that sending a player to junior or the AHL isn't always a penalty. I think most young players should start in the AHL. Nolan said, "It's part of their growth. People look at it as a demotion, it's not really a demotion, it's an enhancement of your career. Look at the old Montreal Canadiens back in the day, a lot of those guys spent a lot of time developing their skills in the American Hockey League and junior hockey." Nolan added, "Some of these guys need to mature into their bodies yet, mature mentally and physically."

Nolan said he's seen enough of these kids to know what to do, "You see good organizations and how they go about it, you don't force-feed somebody and say 'Rebuild'. Rebuild is important, but how you rebuild is more important. You can have some young kids, but a few of them, not as many as we have."

The Sabres have Zadorov who's 18, Ristolainen, Grigorenko and Girgensons who are 19, Pysyk and Larsson who are 21. Nolan said he's getting to know both these kids and the vets, "I'm starting to get to know which buttons to push. Some guys on this team I can tell already they need a good swift kick in the rear and some people might need a little hug"

Many fans have the perception that all Nolan wants to see his players do is brawl. You might be surprised at what his philosophy is, "Everybody knows Scott can fight, I'm not interested in seeing him fight. I think there's fighting in this game for a reason, but these staged ones where two people stand in the faceoff circles and say, 'Hey, want to go', I could never figure it out. They don't even get mad at each other anymore. I don't think there's any room for it in our game, but when people are competitive, they're banging each other, there's aggression, there's something to make them get into that. I've told John I don't want to see him doing it, I want to see what kind of player he can be." Nolan added he's told Cody McCormick the same thing, "Yes, Cody and Tropp, I mean you look at where he

got hurt, the guy was about 6'9 and he looked like he was 4'2. Toughness is a state of mind, we're not in grade school seeing who the toughest kid on the block is, we're in the National Hockey League."

The Sabres host the Blues on Tuesday.

## **NOLAN OPEN TO ROSTER CHANGES**

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

November 18, 2013

With the possible return of one veteran player, some younger players on the Buffalo Sabres may soon be filling different roles.

Defenseman Mike Weber said he feels like he's ready to return to the lineup Tuesday night against the St. Louis Blues and interim coach Ted Nolan said after practice on Monday that Weber will likely be back in.

"All indications are he's ready to go," Nolan said at First Niagara Center.

Weber has been out since Oct. 26 with a thumb injury. He skated with Jamie McBain at practice, who scored on Saturday in Toronto.

When the team activates Weber from injured reserve, a roster move would have to be made.

With seven rookies on the team, the Sabres are currently the youngest team in the NHL and have many players that are eligible to play either in the American Hockey League or at the junior level without having to clear waivers.

Nolan said that he has had discussions with President of Hockey Operations Pat LaFontaine about which players might be best served developing elsewhere in the short term.

The Sabres currently have four teenagers on the roster and are the first NHL team since 1995-96 to dress four teenagers during the course of a season. That year, the Sabres joined Florida and Winnipeg as the last teams to dress at least four teenagers in a season. Jay McKee, Martin Biron, Wayne Primeau, Vaclav Varada and Curtis Brown were Buffalo's four teens. Florida dressed four teenagers during that season and Winnipeg played six.

Zemgus Girgensons, Mikhail Grigorenko, Rasmus Ristolainen and Nikita Zadorov, the four teens currently on the Sabres roster, have been relied on in both even-strength and special-teams play this season.

"I didn't realize how young they really were in the positions they're in and the capabilities of what they can do besides playing here," Nolan said.

According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the Sabres are the first team to dress four teenagers in a single game since March 30, 1996, when Winnipeg dressed four 19-year-old players (Shane Doan, Chad Kilger, Deron Quint and Oleg Tverdovsky) in a 5-2 loss to Detroit. The only other time the Sabres have dressed four teenagers simultaneously was in the 1982-83 season, when forwards Dave

Andreychuk and Paul Cyr and defensemen Phil Housley and Hannu Virta all played in 21 games together.

Nolan believes that sending young players down a level or two shouldn't be seen as a demotion, but as an important part in the development of their careers. He also said that he and LaFontaine are looking at possibly giving players currently with the Rochester Americans a chance with the Sabres.

"You see good organizations and how they go about it. You don't force feed somebody and then say, 'we're [in a] rebuild.' Rebuild is important, but how you rebuild is really important," Nolan said. "Like I said, Patty and I have been talking here since we got involved. I think you can have some young kids, a few of them, not as many as we have.

"...Everything's up for change right now and we're going to try to get this thing on a proper footing going forward and putting people in a position of success versus force-feeding them."

Nolan said that he's still learning about all of the players and has talked with the assistant coaches and training staff to get more and information about them. Not every player responds the same way to certain type of motivation from a coach.

"You have to find out those buttons that need to be pushed," he said. "Some guys on this team already, they need a good swift kick in the rear and some people might need a little hug. So we'll go through that once we find out the personalities of the player."

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

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

30 Ryan Miller  
1 Jhonas Enroth

## **SABRES PROSPECTS REPORT**

By Kris Baker – SabresProspects.com

Sabres.com

November 18, 2013

With action heating up in the college and junior ranks, a pair of former teammates with the U.S. National Team Development Program scored their first-ever collegiate goals over the weekend.

Freshman centerman J.T. Compher (2013, second round) struck for his first two goals as fifth-ranked Michigan earned a non-conference split with Nebraska-Omaha. The Illinois product pounced on a power play rebound in Friday's 3-2 loss. On Saturday, Compher raced in on a short-handed breakaway and buried a forehand as the Wolverines earned a 4-3 victory over the Mavericks. Compher has gathered eight points (2+6) in 10 contests while manning the right point on the Wolverines' top power play unit.

West Seneca, NY native Sean Malone (2013, sixth round) notched his first collegiate goal and added an assist Saturday as Harvard downed Princeton 5-3. Malone, who produced a helper and five shots on goal the night before in a 3-2 loss to Quinnipiac, has five points (1+4) through his first eight games with the Crimson. The speedy pivot is making an immediate impact early as top-line player in Cambridge.

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### **OHL**

Sudbury Wolves right winger Nicholas Baptiste (2013, third round) was named the game's number one star Sunday after netting two goals and an assist as Sudbury edged Niagara 4-3 in overtime. Baptiste, who rounded out his busy effort with checking from behind and checking to the head minor penalties, enters late November tied for 15th among league skaters with 30 points (17+13) in 23 games played.

Saginaw captain Eric Locke (2013, seventh round) connected for his eighth goal of the year Friday as the Spirit was defeated at Sarnia 5-3. Locke, who left the game early after going hard into the boards, missed Saturday's win over Mississauga with an apparent upper body injury. Locke had his arm in a sling and could be out for an extended period, potentially forcing the Spirit to enter the trade market to secure some scoring punch.

Justin Kea (2012, third round) did not score in Saginaw's two games. The grinding power forward has collected 21 points (9+12) in 22 appearances this season, good for third in team scoring.

On Thursday, Brady Austin (2012, seventh round) tied a career high with three assists as London handled Ottawa 5-3. The 20-year old defender is currently tied

for ninth in the league with a team-best plus-16 rating, along with 12 points (3+9) in 22 games.

Justin Bailey (2013, second round) was held off the scoresheet as Kitchener won twice in three tries. At the 20-game mark, Bailey has amassed six goals, 13 points, and a minus-seven rating for the Rangers, who despite the week's results find themselves dead last in the Western Conference.

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#### WHL

Logan Nelson (2012, fifth round) buried a shot from the side of the net in overtime Friday as Victoria got past Seattle 2-1. The tally gives Nelson 10 goals on the year, including five game winners, and a team-leading 22 points through 24 contests.

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#### NCAA

On Saturday, Wisconsin defenseman Jake McCabe (2012, second round) lit the lamp on the power play as the 12th-ranked Badgers held on for a 3-2 triumph over No. 8 Miami. McCabe, who was a minus-one the night before in a 2-0 loss to the RedHawks, leads Wisconsin rearguards with eight points (3+5) heading into their B1G series with Minnesota beginning Nov.29.

Wisconsin forward Brad Navin (2011, seventh round) contributed three shots on net while manning his usual spot on the grind line. The third-year man has one goal and a plus-two rating after non-conference contests.

Anthony Florentino (2013, fifth round) recorded a combined five shots on goal as Providence swept their road set at Vermont with 3-2 and 2-0 victories. The true freshman is getting big minutes for the third-ranked Friars, posting two goals and seven points while leading all blueliners with a plus-10 rating through 10 outings.

Florentino's Providence teammate, Mark Adams (2009, fifth round), did not dress in either of the victories. The senior defenseman has one goal in three appearances this season.

Christian Isackson (2010, seventh round) was scratched on Friday and recorded one shot on goal in fourth-line minutes the following night as top-ranked Minnesota cruised to a pair of victories over Minnesota State. Isackson has recorded just one assist this season in limited duty.

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## USHL

Waterloo goaltender Cal Petersen (2013, fifth round) posted back-to-back 28-save performances as the Black Hawks earned a pair of wins over Sioux Falls and Omaha. The Iowa native has been victorious in seven consecutive starts, pushing his record to 8-1 with a 2.31 GAA and .926 save%.

Judd Peterson (2012, seventh round) scored into an empty net Saturday as Cedar Rapids downed Dubuque 4-1. Peterson, who is committed to St. Cloud State for the 2014-15, is currently tied with Buffalo Jr. Sabres product Andrew Poturalski for the team lead with eight goals through 14 games.

Connor Hurley (2013, second round) recorded an assist Friday to extend his point streak to four games as Muskegon was dealt a 5-3 loss at Youngstown. The Notre Dame commit was blanked on Saturday as the Lumberjacks took a 4-3 win in a rematch with the Phantoms.

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## Swedish Hockey League (SHL)

Gustav Possler (2013, fifth round) missed the week's three games while recovering from a knee injury. The 19-year old sniper continues to lead all MODO skaters with eight goals and 13 points despite missing four of the club's 22 games to date.

Goaltender Linus Ullmark (2012, sixth round) made 21 saves Saturday but received zero goal support as MODO was blanked by Skelleftea 3-0. MODO has employed a two-game goalie rotation (in for two, out for two) all season long, so it's reasonable to think that Ullmark, who has been rock solid with a 1.80 GAA and league-best .942 save%, gets the nod Wednesday when his club visits the Vaxjo Lakers.

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For more on all the youngsters in the Sabres pipeline, check out Kris Baker's web site - [sabresprospects.com](http://sabresprospects.com). You can also follow him on Twitter @sabresprospects for in-game updates throughout the week on any Buffalo prospects that are in action.