



# **Buffalo Sabres**

## **Daily Press Clips**

*November 5, 2013*

## **Buffalo at San Jose**

Associated Press

November 4, 2013

A visit from the lowly Buffalo Sabres might provide the San Jose Sharks with a good opportunity to end their minor rough patch.

They'll look to avoid a third straight loss while trying to halt their recent struggles against the Sabres by handing them a fifth consecutive defeat Tuesday night.

Though San Jose (10-1-3) has earned at least one point in four straight games since a 2-1 loss at Boston on Oct. 24, it's failed to hold a lead in each of the last two contests. The Sharks had a one-goal lead in the third period of Wednesday's 4-3 overtime loss at Los Angeles and a 2-1 second-period advantage during a 3-2 shootout defeat to Phoenix on Saturday that snapped a 5-0-0 home start.

San Jose recorded 50 shots and had six power-play chances against the Coyotes, but managed one goal with the man advantage. Though the Sharks are 3 for 21 on the power play in the last six games, they felt as if a point was left on the ice for a second straight contest.

"Probably watching the tape over again you probably deserved the two points," said forward Joe Thornton, who has three assists in four games. "That's how it works some days, but the guys competed hard and that's how we want to play."

Veteran defenseman Dan Boyle scored in his return from missing the previous seven games with a concussion.

"That definitely felt good," he said. "It's unfortunate we got the loss. We probably deserved better."

San Jose, which has earned a point in 28 of 30 home games since the start of last season (22-2-6), would appear to be in good shape to bounce back versus Buffalo (2-13-1).

The Sabres' five points are the fewest in the league and they've allowed 15 goals during a four-game slide that followed a 3-1 victory at Florida on Oct. 25. Cody Hodgson gave Buffalo a 1-0 second-period lead against Anaheim at home Saturday, but the Ducks scored five in a row en route to a 6-3 victory.

"We're facing a lot of adversity right now," said Hodgson, who has recorded four of his team-leading five goals in the last seven games. "We can say as much as we want, but at the end of the day it's what we do on the ice. Right now it's not good enough."

Matt Moulson added two assists Saturday and also has two goals in three games since being acquired by the Sabres in a deal that sent Thomas Vanek to the New York Islanders on Oct. 27.

Buffalo's Ryan Miller has a 3.58 goals-against average during a six-game skid, but he's posted a 1.00 GAA and recorded consecutive shutouts while in net the whole time during the Sabres' four-game winning streak against the Sharks

Though the teams last met March 1, 2012, the Sabres have outscored the Sharks 13-4 in the last four.

Thornton has been held without a point in those contests.

After serving a 10-game suspension for his hit on Columbus' Jack Johnson on Oct. 10, Buffalo forward Patrick Kaleta cleared waivers and was assigned to the team's AHL affiliate in Rochester.

## **Sabres hope trip West keeps season from heading South**

By Amy Moritz

Buffalo News

November 4, 2013

The other day, Matt Moulson joked about being old. The recently acquired forward for the Buffalo Sabres turned 30 on Friday. And with that age the six-year NHL veteran has gained a bit of wisdom.

He understands the benefits that can come with extended road trips, like the one the Sabres begin tonight at San Jose. This week-long, three-game road trip to California may be what the team needs to change its fortunes.

“It’s never a bad thing,” Moulson said. “Sometimes trips like these can change a season and really mold a team. Hopefully that’s the case on this trip and we come away with some W’s and come back home. I know the fans definitely want some wins here.”

“I think it’s going to be good for us to head out West and maybe get a fresh perspective on things,” said 28-year-old Drew Stafford.

Sometimes it’s the change of scenery that helps. Or perhaps what the team needs is some forced time together to work out those chemistry kinks and to find a way to play with, and for, each other.

West Coast trips have been a springboard for the Sabres in the past. In the 2011-12 season, the team picked up three straight wins, including back-to-back shutouts by Ryan Miller of Anaheim (2-0 on Feb. 29, 2012) and San Jose (1-0 on March 1, 2012) followed by a 5-3 win in Vancouver.

The Sabres missed the playoffs but made a push, going 10-6-0 in March.

But this is a Buffalo team that’s not looking for a playoff push. While it desperately needs a few wins, it also needs to develop team chemistry and get everyone working together.

The organization’s emphasis is on developing younger players.

The Sabres have six NHL rookies, with five getting regular playing time – Zemgus Girgensons (age 19), Rasmus Ristolainen (19), Mark Pysyk (21), Mikhail Grigorenko (19) and Johan Larsson (21).

Nikita Zadorov (18) has played in six games for the Sabres.

Add to the young player list Corey Tropp (24, in his second NHL season) and Marcus Foligno (22, in his third season).

The youth movement has been inconsistent at best and the veterans haven't helped smooth the learning curve.

The Sabres have suffered through slow starts marked by hesitation and have faltered in getting shots on goal. Also noteworthy is the lack of team play, allowing inevitable mistakes to become game-breakers. Then there's the, "here-we-go-again" mentality in which a few bad plays and bad breaks cause an uncontrollable downward spiral in the face of adversity.

So perhaps this extended road trip will help the veterans and rookies work through the chemistry issues.

"Hopefully that happens," said 23-year-old Cody Hodgson, who is in his fourth NHL season. "We're banking on it. There's not a lot of positives so far, so hopefully we can get out there, bond and come together and become closer on the ice, too."

Creating chemistry is one thing. Having it translate to victories on the ice is another, particularly against the teams on this trip.

The Sabres will face San Jose, Los Angeles and Anaheim — teams with a combined record of 30-10-4.

Buffalo has a league-worst mark of 2-13-1. If you're looking for a bright spot, both wins have come on the road.

Tonight the Sabres face a San Jose Sharks team tied for first in the Pacific Division with the Ducks. The Sharks are 10-1-3 overall and 5-0-1 at home.

Their plus-26 in goal differential is the best in the NHL while the Sabres sit at minus-23, tied for the league worst with Edmonton.

## **Sharks hope to re-discover winning ways**

By Jon Lane

NHL.com

November 4, 2013

SABRES (2-13-1) AT SHARKS (10-1-3)

TV: MSG-B, BELL TV, CSN-CA

Last 10: Buffalo 2-8-0; San Jose 6-1-3

Season Series: The Buffalo Sabres and San Jose Sharks play the first of two games in 2013-14. The last time these teams played, Ryan Miller's 39 saves led the Sabres to a 1-0 win against the Sharks in San Jose on March 1, 2010. The teams meet again in Buffalo on Feb. 28.

Big Story: The Sabres need to get on a roll and quickly. Buffalo is off to its worst start to a season in franchise history, losing seven of its past eight games and 14 of 16 overall.

"We're facing a lot of adversity right now," Sabres center Cody Hodgson said. "We can say as much as we want, but at the end of the day it's what we do on the ice. Right now it's not good enough."

It doesn't get any easier in San Jose. The Sharks are thriving in a competitive Pacific Division, where they ended October tied for first place with the Anaheim Ducks, one point ahead of the Phoenix Coyotes and two ahead of the Vancouver Canucks.

"What are we? Fourteen games in? It's going to be that way all year. I don't see it changing one bit," Sharks coach Todd McLellan said.

Team Scope:

Sabres: The Sabres' woes continued Saturday with a 6-3 loss to the Anaheim Ducks, a game where the Ducks scored five straight goals after Cody Hodgson had given the Sabres a 1-0 lead in the second period. Buffalo was outshot 29-17, the sixth straight game that's happened, and barely tested Anaheim goalie Jonas Hiller.

"It's a mentality right now for us, wanting to make a better play, I think," Sabres coach Ron Rolston said. "I think that's the same with a lot of our turnovers now through the neutral zone. We want to make a better play than what is there and we're not taking what is there."

Sharks: The Sharks come off their first home loss of the season after five consecutive regulation wins. The 3-2 shootout defeat against the Coyotes also was the first time San Jose has gone two straight without a win.

In the loss the Sharks welcomed back defenseman Dan Boyle after he missed seven games with a concussion.

"He's maybe one of the top two or three quarterback defensemen in the League," McLellan said. "It's his poise, his experience, his knowledge and reads of what's going on."

Boyle scored, Logan Couture had a career-high 10 shots and Antti Niemi made 28 saves against the Coyotes.

Who's hot: Sharks center Joe Pavelski has scored goals in three straight games and is tied with Couture for the team lead in points (13). Niemi was named one of the NHL's Three Stars for October with a 9-1-2 record, a 1.72 goals-against average, a .924 save percentage and two shutouts. Center Tomas Hertl was named the NHL Rookie of the Month after he led all rookies with eight goals and 11 points in 13 games. Defenseman Marc-Edouard Vlasic (3-7-10) earned "Sharks Player of the Month" honors.

Injury report: Sabres defenseman Mike Weber (upper body) remains on injured reserve. John Scott is serving a seven-game suspension for his hit on Boston Bruins left wing Loui Eriksson. ... Right wings Brent Burns (face), Raffi Torres (knee) and Adam Burish (back) remain injured for San Jose

## **Struggling Drew Stafford sad to see teammates leave, wants to stay with Sabres: 'I'm not going to quit'**

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

November 5, 2013

BUFFALO – Drew Stafford started shaking his head. The veteran winger paused before answering a question about seeing so many teammates and friends depart the hapless Sabres recently.

With Thomas Vanek gone, only goalie Ryan Miller's tenure outranks Stafford, who joined the Sabres early in 2006-07. When the 28-year-old looks around the dressing room these days, he mostly sees young, unfamiliar faces.

"It's just times have changed, you know?" Stafford said last week inside the First Niagara Center. "A little bit of a changing of the guard. It's bound to happen sooner or later. Right now, we're full speed ahead in a rebuild. Yeah, it's definitely a little weird looking around. But slowly over the years, losing a lot of great friends, some great teammates – they're just getting younger and younger.

"But ... it was bound to happen sooner or later. We're in one right now. It's a process, but you can only go up from here."

That's for sure.

The bottom-feeding Sabres, losers of four straight, begin their three-game road trip tonight in San Jose against the Sharks with an NHL-worst two wins and five points.

While the rebuilding Sabres' youth has certainly hurt them – they're already the first team to play four teenagers in a season since 1995-96 – most of the remaining veterans have performed poorly.

Stafford has just one goal and three points through 16 contests, an awful five-goal, 15-point pace for an 82-game season.

The Milwaukee native compiled seven goals and 16 points over a torrid 10-game stretch to end March 2012.

But Stafford, who's in the third season of a four-year, \$16 million contract, hasn't done much since then. He mustered only six goals and 18 points in 46 games last season.

So far, Sabres coach Ron Rolston hasn't scratched Stafford, something he did twice in 2012-13. But a benching might be in the works if he doesn't start producing.

Rolston has mostly been skating Stafford on the fourth line. In last Monday's 4-3 loss to Dallas, he played only 6:13, his lowest total in years. He skated with Cody McCormick and Ville Leino in Saturday's 6-3 loss to Anaheim.

"It's just about sticking with it, wherever I'm at in the lineup, making sure I'm working, winning my battles, just doing my best to be hard to play against," Stafford said. "You have to respect what Ron's doing with the lineup."

At the end of September, Stafford spoke optimistically about the upcoming season, saying he felt "refreshed" following his "nightmare" season and the "future is definitely bright here in Buffalo."

Obviously, this season has been much tougher than Stafford expected.

"We've won two games, one regulation win," Stafford said. "Losing is not fun. There's nothing fun about it. It's a constant struggle. It's a constant battle to try to stay positive and stick with it, and in this case, obviously, record-wise, I haven't lost this much ever before, really. So it's definitely new for me."

"At the same time, it's not easy, but you have to find a way. You have to find a way to stick with it."

How long will the Sabres stick with Stafford? Rumors swirled prior to last season's trade deadline they would deal him. Given their focus on youth, Stafford's limited production and a \$4 million salary, the Sabres would probably like to trade him.

Of course, they might have trouble finding a taker.

"You got to ignore the noise," Stafford said. "It's part of the business. There's going to be stories out there. It's part of our job to answer those questions."

Stafford said last season and during training camp he wants to stay and be a part of the solution. An arduous month hasn't changed his mind.

"I'm here. I signed a contract here," he said. "I want to fulfill that contract and be a part of that solution, so absolutely. I'm not going to quit. I'm not going to stop."

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Rolston told reporters in San Jose rookie winger Joel Armia, out since breaking his hand during the preseason, will join Rochester to practice.

## **Sabres getting used to the West**

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

November 4, 2013

San Jose, CA (WGR 550) -- Before signing with Buffalo, Christian Ehrhoff had spent his entire career in the Western Conference with Vancouver and San Jose.

The Sabres flew out to San Jose a day early on Sunday to try to get used to the time change. With setting the clocks back on Saturday, it's actually a four hour difference to get used to. Who better than Ehrhoff to figure out if it's harder to go east to west or west to east, "I think it's probably a little harder going this way because the games for you are basically in the middle of the night when you're used to going to sleep, so that's an adjustment."

The team had a fast paced, competing practice on Monday. Ehrhoff said that should serve the players well, "Yes for sure, especially tomorrow night, it's going to be a 7:30 game and with the hour we lost for adjusting the times, it's basically a four hour time difference so that puts you at an 11:30 game, so that's usually the time guys will already be in bed, so it's good to come a day early and try to go to bed a little later yesterday, just to try to catch up as quick as you can to those hours." Ryan Miller said, "Falling back an hour, it's a little bit of an adjustment, even when you're at home, so it's good to get out here early and it's nice to see a different part of the world for some of the young guys here who've never been this way and it's good."

Miller has been living in Los Angeles during the past few off seasons so he knows all about time changes too. He said, "I thinking coming this way is harder because we do our job in the evening and it's a little bit later for us." He did add, "We're actually pretty lucky to have the kind of schedule we have and the kind of travel we have, so you just try to get your rest." Miller also likes coming early, "I think it's a smart idea to come out here a little bit earlier and hopefully it provides us a chance to have a little more energy."

Ron Rolston did many different drills Monday in practice that emphasized pace and compete. It lasted a little over an hour and he said, "Guys have to adjust to the time change and that's why we come out a couple days before so guys can get acclimated. I know a lot of guys were probably up early this morning, get up at five instead of 7:00, but that's part of it, it's part of being in the league and traveling, you've got to adjust to it and you can't have excuses."

Rolston also liked what he saw on the ice too, "We had a good day today. We wanted to have good pace and add some battle to it and I thought guys had a lot of energy out there so it was a good day."

The Sabres are in San Jose Tuesday, Los Angeles Thursday and Anaheim on Friday before returning home Saturday morning.

## **Sabres Foligno may find himself sitting out**

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

November 4, 2013

San Jose, CA (WGR 550) -- Marcus Foligno had done a nice job with shutting down Steven Stamkos of the Lightning not once, but twice. Against Anaheim on Saturday Foligno was very soft on coverage twice that turned into Ducks goals.

Mikhail Grigorenko took his place in practice on Monday with Foligno working into the line. Foligno showed a lot of determination in practice that was filled with competing drills. The forward said, "The last game was bad so you want to make up for it and a player like me, I'm all about hard work and showing up to the rink every day so, you don't want to make it two games in a row where you're going like that, you want to shut it down early and then have a chance against San Jose to get back on track."

Foligno had put together a nice stretch before Saturday which he said was a learning experience, "I just need to make simple choices, that's the biggest thing. Just simplify what I do against some pretty good players. I need to make sure I'm on those guys and not around them and not coughing up pucks. If you give those guys space and time, they can shove it down your throat."

As far as Foligno playing against the Sharks, practice would tell us he's likely not, but you never know. Foligno said, "I hope it's not a sit game. I think I'm a player that needs to play on this team, especially against a lineup like San Jose's, so I think I need to play, that's how I can learn from it, so hopefully it's not a sit game."

Jamie McBain was back practicing with the top six defensemen with Nikita Zadorov the odd man out.

Ron Rolston confirmed that Joel Armia will start practicing with Rochester on Tuesday.

## **SABRES SHAKE OFF JET LAG**

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

November 4, 2013

SAN JOSE – After flying for five hours on Sunday and adjusting to a time change, the Buffalo Sabres worked on shaking off any jet lag during practice Monday afternoon.

Sabres coach Ron Rolston put his team through many battle drills at practice at SAP Center

Hits were thrown in some of those drills along the boards in one of the most physical practices the Sabres have run all season. In one rep, defenseman Tyler Myers knocked down rookie center Mikhail Grigorenko.

After practice, Grigorenko said he thought having that type of practice after a long trip will be beneficial to getting off to a fast start against the San Jose Sharks on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. back in Buffalo.

“I thought that was a really good idea to have a really intense practice because we had a five-hour flight last night and the three-hour time difference,” Grigorenko said. “It was a little bit different. I thought we need to get some kind of energy practice, so we could come back and just kind of [get] a fast tempo.”

Rolston said he liked the energy the players showed and thought they had a good workout. He said that it’s important that players for players to not get down on their 2-13-1 record, and with some of the drills, it’s about creating an atmosphere that both challenges the players, but also allows them to loosen up a bit.

“When you’re in the situation we’re in, we’re obviously not happy with where we’re at record-wise, but we have to stay with the process and guys have to get better. In order to do that, you have to make the environment fun and challenging at the same time when they come to the rink,” Rolston said. “At any point when guys are dreading coming to the rink and guys are dreading coming to the rink, then the process is probably going to slow down or stop.

“We’re trying to do that and I think the energy’s still been good in terms of the players out on the ice. Even with the record, guys trying to make improvements and the energy’s been there. As a staff, we’re making sure that we’re paying close attention to that.”

The team flew out of Buffalo a day early to allow the players to adjust to the time change. On top of that and the long flight, the clocks turned back an hour to accommodate for daylight savings.

“Falling back an hour, it’s a little bit of adjustment even when you’re at home, so it’s good to get out here,” Sabres goaltender Ryan Miller said. “And it’s good to see a different part of the world for some of the young guys here who have never been this way.”

Rolston has often talked about the team’s compete level. Alternate captain Christian Ehrhoff thought that the practice on Monday can help them bring a tougher mindset into games.

“It’s something we have struggled with, but it’s something that usually it shouldn’t even be addressed,” he said. “That should be a gimme and we have to pick up that intensity as a team and a practice like today, where we had a lot of battles and worked hard, it’s going to help us moving forward.”

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Ehrhoff played for the Sharks from 2003 until 2009. While he said he enjoys coming back and seeing old friends, he doesn’t necessarily miss the travel teams in the Western Conference have to deal with.

“In the West Coast, every trip feels like it’s a week-or-two-long road trip,” he said. “Guys here who never played in the West don’t even realize the big difference.”

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A number of Sabres are taking part in Movember this month, growing moustaches for charity. Miller showed off his ’stache, which is developing a bit of a Rollie Fingers curl.

“I was anticipating Movember here and the guys like to take it down and grow during the whole month and I needed a little head start,” he said. “So I’ve had about a month-and-a-half on the beard so I wanted to give her a little bit longer. It’s got a little curl going here and see if we can get the full hoop going by the end of it.”

In how to maintain it, he said he’s looking for some advice.

“I’d appreciate it if people could maybe give me some pointers on what’s some good kind of gel or wax or something,” he said.

Fans can donate to their favorite player or broadcaster’s efforts here.

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## **"MOVEMBER" IS UNDERWAY IN BUFFALO**

By Kevin Snow

Sabres.com

November 4, 2013

There's something big growing on this month, as the Buffalo Sabres have announced that the team will take part in the "Movember" fundraiser campaign. Several Sabres players, staff and broadcast personalities are growing mustaches during the month of November to raise money and awareness to combat prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health.

With Steve Ott serving as Movember captain, fans will have the ability to donate to their favorite player and are also encouraged to join the Buffalo Sabres Movember team and raise money for the cause on their own by logging on to Sabres.com/Movember. The team will also be doing updates throughout the month on the players' mustache growing progress via Sabres.com as well as Facebook and Twitter.

From Movember.com:

"Movember encourages men to join the movement by growing a moustache for the 30 days of November. After registering on Movember.com, these generous Mo Bros start the month clean-shaven, then grow and groom their Mo (slang for moustache), asking friends and family to donate to their efforts. With their new moustaches, these Mo Bros bring much needed awareness to men's health issues by prompting conversations wherever they go."

More than three million people in 21 countries have become involved in the Movember campaign since it was started in 2003 in Melbourne, Australia. Last year, Movember raised \$147 million globally, with \$21 million of that coming from the more than 209,000 participants in the United States!