



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

December 29, 2013

Capitals-Sabres Preview

By Jeff Bartl

Associated Press

December 28, 2013

If Alex Ovechkin is having an off night, the Washington Capitals know Nicklas Backstrom often will help pick up the slack.

Washington looks to win back-to-back games for the first time in 2 1/2 weeks when it visits the league-worst Buffalo Sabres on Sunday.

Ovechkin leads the NHL with 30 goals and had scored one in four straight games - with Backstrom assisting on two - before going scoreless in the last two contests.

Backstrom, among the league leaders in assists with 34, scored in each of those games and added an assist on Eric Fehr's game-winning goal in the third period of Friday's 3-2 victory over the New York Rangers.

"He's handling the puck with confidence, and he's making great plays," Fehr said. "It's what we expect of him, but it's pretty unbelievable to watch."

Backstrom has four goals and 13 assists while recording at least one point in seven of his last eight.

"He's playing great, he's obviously in a groove," coach Adam Oates said. "We count on him so much for so many touches in a game."

Fehr has two goals and three assists over his last six.

"Last year by far he was our most versatile player," Oates said of Fehr. "He is kind of an opportunist player."

The Capitals (20-14-4), though, had lost three of their previous four and haven't won consecutive games since a three-game winning streak Dec. 7-10.

Washington has won three straight meetings with the Sabres, with Ovechkin recording a goal in each. Backstrom has a goal and eight assists in his last seven against Buffalo, which had won three of four before falling 4-3 in a shootout to Toronto on Friday.

The Sabres (10-24-4), who have the fewest wins and points in the NHL, got a power-play goal from Steve Ott with 25 seconds left in regulation but missed all three chances in the tiebreaker. They led 2-0 after one period but gave up three goals in the second.

"I thought we started off real well, but the second period shows you how you can get yourself in trouble when you keep turning the puck over," interim coach Ted Nolan said. "If there's any merit to what we deserved, it's what we got. It's one of

those things where we played as bad as we could play and still get a point. We got what we deserved."

Matt Moulson and John Scott scored for the Sabres, who were outshot 17-5 in the second.

"That was one of the worst periods we've played all year," said Moulson, who has three goals and three assists over his last six. "Obviously, they took advantage of that."

Ryan Miller made 39 saves, and he's 4-1-1 with a 1.78 goals-against average over his last six. He could be in net again for this contest, though he's 2-5-0 with a 2.76 GAA in his last seven against the Capitals.

Washington backup Philipp Grubauer made his second straight start Friday as Braden Holtby is 1-2-1 with a 4.92 GAA over his last five outings. It's unclear if Grubauer, who is 5-1-1 with a 2.18 GAA, will get the nod against Buffalo.

"Goalies - like everybody - have their waves," Oates said. "Right now, it looks like he's playing with confidence, and he's giving the players confidence."

Buffalo has won three straight at home, while Washington is 4-1-2 over its last seven on the road.

The Capitals' Great Eight is lighting the lamp, as per usual

By Amy Moritz

Buffalo News

December 29, 2013

He is the leading goal scorer in the NHL and as the saying goes, you can not necessarily stop Alex Ovechkin. You can only hope to contain him.

That's the task for the Buffalo Sabres defense when the team battles the star forward for the first time this season. Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals come to First Niagara Center for a 5 p.m. faceoff.

The 28-year-old Russian has 30 goals this season, the best in the league. His 62 goals also ranks first in the NHL for the 2013 calendar year.

"Some years the media is all over him that he doesn't score or something and he always scores over 30-40 goals," said Sabres defenseman Henrik Tallinder. "That guy, he never sleeps. It seems like he is awake all the time on the ice. It's tough."

Ovechkin scores goals and finds a way to produce offense. It's what has won him three league MVP honors and three scoring titles and he's likely on his way to No. 4 for both again this season. The quest will be interrupted briefly as Ovechkin stars for Team Russia at the Sochi Olympics in February.

"Those types of players, the Crosbys and the Malkins and the Ovechkins, you don't try to say they're not going to get any chances because they will," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said, also referencing Penguins stars Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin. "You've got to limit their opportunities and make it a tough game on them. That's the only way you're going to hopefully have some success."

Ovechkin is a minus-7 in 30 career games against the Sabres, but he hasn't exactly slept-walked through every meeting with Buffalo. He has 20 goals, 10 of them on the power play, and 32 points lifetime versus the Sabres.

He has taken a league-leading 190 shots this season. That's 32 more than Phil Kessel, who ranks second. Ovechkin also leads the NHL in power-play goals with 12, which means the Sabres need to not only limit Ovechkin's chances but limit their time in the penalty box as well.

"He's obviously a big threat with not only his shot but how many shots he takes in a game," Sabres defenseman Tyler Myers said. "It's the same with any player really, you want to limit his time and space and try to force him to make a play he doesn't want to make."

"He likes to sneak behind the D-men a lot coming out of their D-zone. So you always have to watch a guy like that. He's a big weapon in the league and you always have to be aware of him."

There is a comfort level for the Sabres playing at home recently, where they have won their last three games over Phoenix (overtime), Boston and Winnipeg.

While tonight's task is against a quality opponent in the Capitals, who not only have twice as many wins as the Sabres but also have a 6-2-2 mark in their last 10 games, December has been a month of momentum building and results producing for the Sabres.

Buffalo is 4-4-2 this month and of their 10 wins this season, seven have come at First Niagara Center.

The focus for the Sabres remains on working hard and simplicity, while letting the results take care of themselves.

"You can see it turn the corner," Myers said. "You can see a different team than we were at the start of the season. For us it's just a matter of making sure we keep focusing on taking steps forward. The position we're in we can't take any days off. We can't take any shifts off, periods off.

"We have to realize what we have as a group right now. The big thing is we have to keep it simple."

Sabres notebook: Players try to learn from letdown

By Amy Moritz

Buffalo News

December 29, 2013

It was a bad second period. The Buffalo Sabres watched their two-goal lead turn into a one-goal deficit as the game unraveled in Toronto.

Although the Sabres battled back with a solid third period and earned a point in the 4-3 shootout loss to Toronto on Friday night, that second period breakdown was a valuable learning moment.

Interim coach Ted Nolan said he chose not to call a timeout to settle his team down, opting instead to have them work through it.

“Sometimes you get frustrated as coach,” Nolan said. “You just want them to work themselves through it. We’re not in kindergarten where you have to hold hands and direct them through every tough situation. They have to find a way themselves. Sometimes you let them battle through it and sometimes you have to call a timeout. Last night it was one of those things I tried to let them battle through it.”

Instead of battling, they barely survived the second period, being outshot 17-5 and outscored 3-0. The Sabres regrouped for the third period, generating 13 shots and tying the game on a last-minute power-play goal, but in the future, the Sabres would rather find a way to regroup earlier rather than later.

“Every team is going to bleed at some point in the game,” defenseman Henrik Tallinder said. “But when we’re bleeding we need to stop the bleeding right there and then. ... It’s easy to come back between periods and say, ‘Hey, we didn’t play that well in that period.’ But if we can do it sooner, during the period, that’s what good teams do. They stop the bleeding quick.”

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The trio dubbed the “flu line” in the shootout loss at Toronto skated better at Saturday’s practice at Bud Bakewell Ice Rink at Riverside Park.

Linus Omark, Ville Leino and Marcus Foligno weren’t at their best on Friday night but seemed to have more energy Saturday and Nolan said he thinks the team is finally rid of the illness bug.

“The guys who had the flu were skating much better today,” Nolan said after the team’s 45-minute practice.

On the ice and fully participating were forwards Brian Flynn and Matt Moulson. Flynn had a scar across his nose from where he took an inadvertent high stick on Friday while Moulson seemed fine after being cross-checked into the goal post.

Cody Hodgson, still sporting a cast on his left thumb and wrist, worked on the ice before practice with fellow-injured forward Cody McCormick.

Steve Ott was the only Sabre missing from practice but Nolan said it was a maintenance day for the captain.

“He battles and battles so we gave him a rest day today,” Nolan said.

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Starting with today’s game, fans can bring their gently used mobile phones to First Niagara Center as the Buffalo Sabres’ Green Team joins with the non-profit Cell Phones for Soldiers. Donated cell phones will be sent to ReCelluar for recycling and every donated phone provides two and a half hours of free talk time for deployed troops with family members back home.

The collection drive continues at Sabres games on Jan. 4, Jan. 7 and Jan. 9. Donations may also be made at the Account Services window of First Niagara Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

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Tonight’s game will be on WGR 550 with the opening faceoff scheduled for 5 p.m. The Buffalo Bills game, scheduled for 4:25 p.m., will be moved to WBEN 930. ... Friday night’s shootout loss was the first of the season for Buffalo. The Sabres had won the previous four shootouts they were in this season. ... The 2-0 lead was the first of the season for the Sabres and the first time in 56 games they took a 2-0 lead. The last time was March 19 against Montreal.

Sabres look to continue home success vs. Capitals

NHL.com

December 28, 2013

CAPITALS (20-14-4) at SABRES (10-24-4)

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

Last 10: Washington 6-2-2; Buffalo 4-4-2

Season series: This is the first of three games between the Washington Capitals and Buffalo Sabres. The Capitals won all three games last season.

Big story: The Sabres, who started the season winless in nine home games, are 7-4-1 in their past 12 games at First Niagara Center, including three straight wins.

Team scope:

Capitals: Washington salvaged the final game of a three-game homestand with a 3-2 victory over the New York Rangers on Friday. Eric Fehr had the game-winning goal with 5:09 left in the third period, breaking a 2-2 tie.

"It's always important for us to try and win in regulation. I think too often, we rely on overtime and the shootout and come playoff time, that's not going to be there for us," he said after the win. "We have to find ways to be a better team in the third period and close out games and win it 5-on-5."

The Capitals have been in 14 overtime games this season with a 2-1 overtime record and an 8-3 record in shootouts.

"It felt great. We've kind of toyed with between winning games in regular time or else we've gone to a lot of overtime and a lot of shootouts, which, we are getting our points but it's a lot better when we finish off in regulation," defenseman Mike Green said.

Sabres: The Sabres' offense has improved with three or more goals in three of their past five games, and the team is 3-1-1 over that stretch. Friday, they suffered a 4-3 shootout loss to the Toronto Maple Leafs after holding a 2-0 first period lead -- their first 2-0 lead of the season. Steve Ott scored with 25 seconds remaining to force overtime; Ryan Miller had 42 saves, including two more in the shootout.

"When you have a 2-0 lead in this League, you can't expect to win. It's hard work for 60 minutes no matter how much you are up," Moulson said.

The Sabres allowed 17 shots and three second-period goals to the Maple Leafs.

"I thought we started off real well, but then the second period shows you how you get yourself into trouble if you keep turning the puck over. Close to 19 turnovers in that second period," interim coach Ted Nolan said

Who's hot: Nicklas Backstrom has a goal in each of his past two games for the Capitals. Troy Brouwer has registered a point in four of five games (one goal, five assists). ... Moulson has three goals and three assists in six games for the Sabres. Miller has stopped 227 of 241 shots in December, good for a .942 save percentage.

Injury report: Sabres center Cody Hodgson missed the game Friday with a broken finger. Wings Kevin Porter (leg) and Cody McCormick (upper body) are on injured reserve. ... Defenseman Jack Hillen (tibia) and wing Michael Latta (lower body) are on IR for the Capitals. Forward Brooks Laich (groin) missed the game Friday.

Sabres rookie Zemgus Girgensons developing into offensive threat on No. 1 line

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

December 29, 2013

BUFFALO – Sometimes, Sabres winger Matt Moulson said, he forgets Zemgus Girgensons is still a teenager. Take, for example, the rookie's brutish assist early in Friday's 4-3 shootout loss in Toronto.

Girgensons held the puck almost eight seconds, skating from the bottom of the right circle into the left dot. The Maple Leafs' Peter Holland began hectoring Girgensons behind the net.

Still, he couldn't knock the 6-foot-2 Latvian winger off the puck. Girgensons skated into the circle with Holland draped on him before shooting as he fell to the ice. Moulson, who called Girgensons an "ox," knocked the rebound in.

"He made a great play on that," Moulson said Saturday inside the Riverside Ice Rink. "He made a bunch of extremely good plays that have ended up as goals over the last couple games. He protected the puck well. He's kind of a bull. He's going to get the puck to the net."

That rapid development is one reason Girgensons, Moulson and slick center Tyler Ennis have quickly become the Sabres' top line.

The combination, the lone one interim coach Ted Nolan has kept intact recently, has goals in the last three games entering tonight's tilt against the Washington Capitals inside the First Niagara Center.

"I think all three of them are competing hard," Nolan said. "I think everybody knows Ennis' skill level. You see young Girgensons and his work ethic and Matty, the way he scores. But the one ingredient they all have is they like to compete and they like to play."

Ennis added: "Just a good blend of grit, hard work. Matty's a great scorer. I'm just trying to find those guys. We get along really well, too."

Girgensons' effort to create Friday's goal didn't surprise Nolan.

"He's been doing that lately (the) last couple times," Nolan said. "You noticed the way he practices. The harder you practice, the easier the games become. He's been doing that for us."

Girgensons, who has three goals and seven points in 10 games this month, said the line has "a little bit of everything."

“I give it some energy, Moulson finishes,” the 19-year-old said. “I think it’s just we kind of complete each other.”

What’s each player’s role?

“I don’t want to give away too many secrets,” Moulson joked. “I think, obviously, ‘Gus, with his speed, he gets in on the forecheck. He does a great job of hunting down pucks and carrying the puck through the neutral zone. Enzo, he’s great at finding those holes where he can jump through and get the puck and make plays.

“So I think my job is to kind of get out of those guys’ way, give them the puck and get open in front.”

Moulson, the left winger, has been getting open often recently. After compiling only two goals and five points over 15 games, he has three scores and six points in the last six contests. He has 13 goals and 26 points in 36 total games this season.

The 30-year-old “definitely” thinks this recent run has been his best stretch since being acquired from the New York Islanders on Oct. 27.

“I think when you mesh well together, for whatever reason that is, it’s fun to go out there and play,” Moulson said. “It’s always fun to be in a role where you’re counted on to produce. I think we’re having a good time with that.”

Ennis called Moulson, a Cornell graduate, a “really smart guy.”

“He’s kind of that wily veteran, knows where to get on the ice, knows how to calm things down, knows when to pick things up,” Ennis said. “He just knows how to put the puck in the net.”

So does Ennis, who scored a nifty tying goal late in Monday’s 2-1 win against Phoenix after grabbing Girgensons’ pass and zooming to the net. Four scores in his last 10 games has him brimming with confidence following a slow start.

“I feel very good, just real confident, having fun again, playing like my old self,” Ennis said. “A lot of the credit goes to Matty and Zemgus. We’re clicking. I think we can only improve. It’s still raw. It’s still young. The line is three weeks in. But there’s a lot of optimism, and hopefully we can keep this line around for a long time.”

Sabres bring intensity ahead of Washington

By Pat Malacaro

WGR 550

December 28, 2013

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- The Buffalo Sabres took to the ice at Bud Bakewell Ice Rink on Saturday afternoon, and you could tell the players were ready to work after losing to the Toronto Maple Leafs on Friday.

Head coach Ted Nolan was critical of his team's effort in the second period last night, and for good reason. The blue and gold squandered a two-goal lead, and had to play from behind before trying the game in the final minute of regulation. The final drill of the day brought out the competitive nature of the team, something Tyler Myers welcomed. The defenseman liked the intensity of the one-on-one drill, adding that, "when you get a little battle drill like that it's never a bad thing to, you know, get that feeling. Especially, you know, after a break continue that feeling after the game and making sure we are ready for tomorrow."

Myers is starting to show more and more flashes of why he won the Calder Trophy as the league's top rookie back in the 2009-10 season. Last night he picked up an assist on the game-tying goal in the third for his efforts pinching in from the blue line. That is one thing the Houston, TX product has done more since Nolan took over behind the bench on November 13, and he is not the only one.

We have seen Mark Pysyk join the play both before and after his brief stint with the Rochester Americans. There is no better example than his determination on the "butt goal" that gave the Sabres the win over the Phoenix Coyotes this past Monday. Christian Ehrhoff has been paired with the second-year NHL rear guard for much of the year and has liked what he has seen, adding that Pysyk has "played really good all season. For a player of his age, he shows some really good consistency too, which is often the problem with young defensemen."

This is definitely not the same Sabres team since Ron Rolston and Darcy Regier were relieved of their respective duties with the Sabres. The team is more aggressive, and you rarely get the feeling that they are out of a game. Ehrhoff agrees, saying that, "it feels a lot better going into the games, and you know, always being in the games. And even when we're down, we feel confident that we can still tie the game up and move forward." The 2-1 win over Phoenix, or 4-2 win against the Boston Bruins on December 19 would be good examples of that.

Anytime the Washington Capitals come to town you have to worry about where Alexander Ovechkin is on the ice. Already this year the Washington captain has 30 goals to lead the league, and 41 points which puts him in a tie for sixth through 36 games this year. Ehrhoff believes that Buffalo is going to have to play a simple game on Sunday, in order to shut down Ovechkin and the Capitals. His head coach agreed, adding, "you gotta limit their opportunities and you gotta

make it a tough game on them. That's the only way you're gonna have some success."

Steve Ott was the only regular missing from practice, but Nolan said the captain was just given a maintenance day off. With the exception of Ott, the line pairings remained the same among the forwards:

Matt Moulson-Tyler Ennis-Zemgus Girgensons
Drew Stafford-Brian Flynn
Matt D'Agostini-Matt Ellis-John Scott
Linus Omark-Ville Leino-Marcus Foligno

Cody McCormick and Cody Hodgson were on the ice working with Jhonas Enroth before the rest of the team arrived at Riverside.

The Sabres and Capitals drop the puck just after five o'clock on Sunday afternoon. Catch all of the action, including pregame coverage with Brian Koziol at 4 p.m. on the flagship home of the Sabres Radio Network - WGR Sports Radio 550.

SABRES PREPARE FOR OVECHKIN, CAPITALS

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

December 28, 2013

Coming off a shootout loss on the road Friday night to the Toronto Maple Leafs, the Buffalo Sabres were back on the ice Saturday afternoon at Riverside Ice Arena.

The Sabres are 4-0-1 in their past five home games and will look to keep that going when they host the Washington Capitals at 5 p.m. on Sunday at First Niagara Center.

Now that he has the players committed to not letting up in their effort during games, Sabres interim coach Ted Nolan seems to have turned his attention a bit more toward Buffalo plays a more structured game.

“I think we all play within the confines of our ability and the confines of our system which we have to play. If we don’t do it, we’re going to be in trouble,” he said.

The Sabres found themselves in some trouble in the second period against Toronto. The Maple Leafs scored three goals in the period and none of the players after the game were happy with the way that 20 minutes played out.

“That was evident last night. We got away from it totally in the second period and Toronto took it to us pretty good,” Nolan said on Saturday. “We have to play with some kind of structure.”

Captain Steve Ott did not practice. He was given the day off by the coaching staff for maintenance.

The Maple Leafs tried to create some matchup problems against the Sabres by throwing top scorers like Phil Kessel and James van Riemsdyk and Nazem Kadri against Buffalo’s third and fourth lines. That some Sabres players were still feeling the effects of the flu that caused four of them to miss the game on Monday certainly played a role in Toronto’s strategy.

While the Sabres will have the last change against Washington, it’s likely that the Capitals will try and prey on some of the players trying to regain their strength.

Matt Ellis was one of the players faced with a few tough matchups against Toronto.

“When our line does get matched up against a line like Kessel and Kadri, there are certain things we need to do: get the puck out of our zone as quick as possible, get the puck in and limit the turnovers,” he said. “It’s all about having that awareness and knowing what to do in certain situations.”

Nolan stressed the importance of receiving an honest effort from every player on the team so that, when situations like that arise, anyone on the bench can be counted on to play a role on the ice.

“We have what we have. If you try to shorten our bench down to six or seven players, it’s going to be a long game, it’s going to be a long year,” he said. “That’s exactly what I told the guys today. In order for us to have any kind of success, we need everybody.”

Nolan also said he thought the players who had the flu, including Ville Leino, Marcus Foligno, Linus Omark and Alexander Sulzer, skated well in practice.

The Sabres defense will also be presented with a big challenge in containing Alexander Ovechkin. The Capitals captain has 30 goals and 11 assists in 36 games this year.

“He’s obviously a big threat with not only his shot, but how many shots he takes in a game,” Tyler Myers said. “It’s the same with any player, really. You want to limit his time and space and try to force him make a play he doesn’t want to make.”

Myers’ partner, Henrik Tallinder, is aware of the problems Ovechkin poses, but is confident that the Sabres can find a way to neutralize him and the Capitals offensive attack.

“That guy, he never sleeps. It seems like he’s awake all the time on the ice,” he said. “It’s tough but we’ve done it before. Let’s do it again.”

Buffalo’s defense was active in the Toronto zone and it’s likely that will continue against Washington.

Ott’s game-tying goal with 24.1 seconds left against the Maple Leafs came as a result of Myers holding onto the puck at the blue line and waiting for the right moment to put the puck on net.

“I’m starting to figure out all this game is about is confidence,” Myers said. “I’ve been feeling really comfortable with my game and where I’ve taken it. It’s just a matter of making sure I keep working towards improving every day.”

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP: DAY 3

By Kris Baker

Sabres.com

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Rasmus Ristolainen scored his first goal of the 2014 IIHF World Junior Championship on Saturday, but Finland was unable to overcome a brilliant effort by Sweden en route to suffering a 4-2 defeat.

With the teams deadlocked 1-1 at the first intermission, Ristolainen and the Finns endured a bumpy ride for the entire middle frame as Sweden dominated the play in all three zones of the ice. Ristolainen, who earlier in the period took a delay of game penalty to put the Finns down two men, couldn't chip a puck out from deep in his zone to allow the Swedes to capitalize with an Andreas Johnson (TOR) tally in the 34th minute to take a 2-1 lead.

After Sweden went ahead 3-1 at the end of two periods, Ristolainen gave Finland a boost in the early stages of the third when he filled a lane and followed up on his initial shot attempt to make it a one-goal game. Instincts allowed Ristolainen to jump into the four-on-four play, and athleticism allowed him to leap over a sprawling defender and bury the second chance for the highlight reel goal.

The 19-year-old defender logged major minutes in the defeat, rounding out his effort with a minus-one rating and four shots on goal. Finland gets back to work Monday when they take on Russia.

Mikhail Grigorenko

Russia will enter their meeting with the Finns looking to remaining undefeated in pool play after capturing their second win in as many tries.

Mikhail Grigorenko scored his second goal of the tournament, and Nikita Zadorov pocketed one official assist as the Russians smoked Switzerland 7-1.

Grigorenko was all over the ice in the Russian triumph, displaying his hands and vision on several occasions en route to firing a total of four shots on goal. He finally connected midway through the third period when he parked at the side of the crease on the power play and buried a Pavel Buchnevich (NYR) feed for the final Russian marker of the evening. Through two games, Grigorenko has four points (2+2) while winning 18 of 32 faceoffs.

Zadorov, who earned a secondary helper on Grigorenko's tally, continued to impress on the back end with his long reach and crisp passing out of the zone. The towering defender was initially credited with the second Russian goal when he adjusted to a pass at his feet and fired a shot through traffic that ended up in the back of the Swiss net. The goal was later given to defensive partner Andrei

Mironov while Zadorov's work was left off the official score sheet. Still, Zadorov three points (2+1) are tied with USA's Will Butcher (COL) for tops among tourney defenders through two games.

In other action, Team USA shot out to an early three-goal lead and was able to hold off Slovakia for a 6-3 victory. Highly regarded 2015 draft prospect Jack Eichel went five-hole off a rush for his first goal of the tournament and later added an assist to pace the American attack. Matt Grzelcyk (BOS) produced a goal and a helper of his own, while Jon Gillies (CGY) backstopped the United States with 27 saves to earn his second-straight win. Martin Reway (MTL) scored twice for Slovakia to give him six points (3+3) through two tournament tilts.

Highly rated 2014 draft prospects Sam Reinhart and Aaron Ekblad each scored regulation goals as Canada was stunned by the Czech Republic 5-4 in a shootout. The Czechs got on the board first, and the teams traded goals the rest of the way in the most exciting game of the tournament to date. In all, six different players recorded a single point for the Czech Republic, but it was a fabulous move by undrafted forward Dominik Simon that ended it in the shootout. The Czechs will look to keep it rolling Monday against Germany.

Canada may be down following Saturday's loss, but they are certainly not out. After all, the United States was beaten by Canada in a pool play shootout at the 2010 tournament before clawing back to earn an overtime victory in the gold medal game. Canada's quest resumes Monday with a matchup versus Slovakia.

Round robin action continues on Sunday with the United States looking to remain unbeaten in Pool A when they battle Germany (9 a.m., NHL Network). In Pool B, host Sweden goes for their third win in a row when they square off with Norway.

For more on all the youngsters in the Sabres pipeline, check out Kris Baker's web site - 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.