



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

December 17, 2013

Jets-Sabres Preview

By Jordan Garretson

Associated Press

December 17, 2013

Evander Kane provided a spark for the Winnipeg Jets in his return from injury. The Buffalo Sabres are hoping Cody Hodgson can do the same.

Winnipeg looks for its seventh straight victory in the series Tuesday night when it travels to Buffalo.

Kane, who hadn't played since Nov. 29 when he suffered a lower-body injury, made an immediate impact in a 3-2 win at Columbus on Monday. He tallied the game-winning goal at the 10:35 mark of the third period and also assisted on Mark Scheifele's goal in the second.

The Jets (15-15-5) went 2-3-1 without him and had dropped three in a row prior to Tuesday's victory. His seven goals at the time of injury were tied for the second most on the team.

"I put on my skates and I tried to help this team win - that's just how I am," Kane said.

Buffalo (7-23-3) which hasn't beaten Winnipeg since a 6-5 overtime victory at home Nov. 8, 2011, is hoping to get Hodgson back for Tuesday's contest. He sat out the Sabres' last two games due to a lower-body injury but practiced Monday. Interim coach Ted Nolan told the team's website that defenseman Alexander Sulzer - who missed the club's last five games with an upper-body injury - is also likely to come off injured reserve.

Hodgson leads Buffalo with 18 points.

"I obviously want to play and I want to contribute," Hodgson, who owns a minus-3 rating in four games against Winnipeg with one assist, told the team's website. "I think I can help the team, so I just have to make sure everything's good."

The Sabres' power play - already one of the league's worst this season, scoring on just 13.1 percent of chances - floundered in Saturday's 2-1 overtime loss to Calgary. Matt Moulson was responsible for the lone goal while Buffalo was scoreless on five opportunities with the man advantage. The Sabres have two power-play goals on 27 chances (7.4 percent) over their last nine games.

Hodgson is responsible for four of the team's 13 power-play goals.

While his return should be a boost, the Sabres are expected to be without center Cody McCormick for four to six weeks after he suffered an injury while blocking a shot in Saturday's loss.

Al Montoya stopped 22 saves in Winnipeg's win Monday. He earned the nod in favor of Ondrej Pavelec after Pavelec surrendered five goals in Saturday's 6-4 loss to Dallas. Pavelec has struggled of late, going 0-3-1 over his last four starts with a 4.03 goals-against average.

Tuesday could be a favorable stage for Pavelec, however, as he's started each of Winnipeg's six straight victories in the series, allowing exactly one goal in each while stopping 161 of 167 shots (.964 save percentage).

Meanwhile, Ryan Miller has struggled, recording a 3.41 GAA in his last five starts against the Jets.

Hodgson, Sulzer return to Sabres' lineup

By Amy Moritz

Buffalo News

December 17, 2013

Cody Hodgson didn't say much about his injury or status in the lineup. Only that he's ready to play.

Hodgson, who missed two games with a lower body injury, fully participated in practice Monday morning with his teammates and anticipates being in the lineup tonight when the Sabres host the Winnipeg Jets.

He skated on a line with Marcus Foligno and Matt D'Agostini.

"It was good practicing with Marcus and Matt," Hodgson said. "I feel ready. That's all I can really tell you. ... Obviously I want to play and I want to contribute and I think I can help the team."

"Today is a new day and he looks good," interim coach Ted Nolan said. "So hopefully he feels the same way tomorrow. He'll be in the lineup."

Also expected back in the lineup is defenseman Alexander Sulzer, who has missed five games with an upper body injury.

But it looks like Cody McCormick might move back to the injured reserve list after suffering an upper body injury while blocking a shot in Saturday's 2-1 overtime loss to Calgary.

McCormick missed four games from Nov. 24 to Nov. 30 while being on the injured reserve and the physical-playing forward can't seem to catch a break in the health department.

"He is fearless," Nolan said of McCormick. "He puts himself in front of shots that are going 90 miles an hour and sometimes they hit you in the wrong spot. Unfortunately that's what happened to Cody last game. But he's a tough guy. He'll bounce back and be ready to go."

...

The offense is still the glaring problem for the Sabres, who have scored two or fewer goals in 11 of their last 12 games.

For 13 games, Nolan has been looking for solutions and different ways to practice what needs to be done in order to turn opportunities into actual offense.

On Monday, they used a fire hose on the ice in practice, setting up a perimeter to force two-on-two battles close in front of the goaltender.

“I think it’s all consistency again,” Nolan said. “We did some more drills today about net-front presence. You have to go to that net. A few players told me in the past their father’s always told them, if you want to score goals, go to the net. We’ve got to go to the net. We’ve got to create some traffic, get some screens, get some tips, get some rebounds. That’s how we’re going to score.”

...

Life hasn’t been easy for the Jets, who come into town tonight for their second game in as many nights. They played in Columbus Monday night.

The Jets are coming off a three-game homestand with two losses and a shootout loss to Colorado. They have a home winless skid that has run to 0-3-3. After a 6-4 loss to Dallas on Saturday, the frustration level on the team was high.

After the game, forward Blake Wheeler was particularly outspoken:

“What I say doesn’t matter,” Wheeler said. “It’s what you do out on the ice. You can blow smoke as much as you want in the media. We’ve been blowing smoke for three years, everyone, myself, everyone that’s stood in front of a microphone in the last three years, we’ve said the same” stuff.

“What do you want me to say? That’s about it. I don’t know what else to say.”

...

Janice Cavaretta became the first woman to receive the J. Michael Duffett Memorial Award, the Sabres announced on Monday. Cavaretta will receive the honor when the Sabres host Boston on Thursday.

The award, which was established in 1984, is named after Duffett, a coach for the Buffalo Bisons and Amherst Hockey Association who worked in the Sabres hockey department at the time of his death after a battle with cancer.

The award is present to a coach or administrator for contributions to amateur hockey in Western New York.

Cavaretta is an assistant coach in the Buffalo Regals organization and served in positions with USA Hockey for 10 years .

She was the Executive Director of the Western New York Amateur Hockey League for 14 years.

Sabres show promise in defensive zone

By Amy Moritz

Buffalo News

December 17, 2013

There were so many problems with the product on the ice when Ted Nolan took over as interim coach, the question wasn't what to fix but where to begin.

The starting point was the defensive zone.

While the Sabres continue to struggle to find the back of the net and produce offense, that defensive zone coverage has improved and is a reason why the Sabres are starting to pick up points.

In the last seven games, Buffalo has collected four points. The Sabres have cut down on opponents' shots on goals with the opposition averaging 27 shots over the last seven, down from averages that soared above 36 earlier in the season.

In the last three games the Sabres have given up only four goals in regulation.

Slowly but surely defensive zone play is improving and is putting the Sabres in positions to win games.

They will have another opportunity to try and turn good defense into a regulation win tonight when they host the Winnipeg Jets in First Niagara Center.

"I think it's pretty simple. I think as a five-man unit we're just helping each other out so much more than we were before," said defenseman Tyler Myers. "We're talking to each other, letting each other know what options there are and then we're executing. I think the communication has been a lot better. All the guys have really noticed it in the D-zone. We're making crisp plays. There's always room for improvement but it's definitely a better feeling."

Among the points of emphasis for Nolan has been communication, trust and accountability. As the defensive corps is starting to look like it has some depth, the forwards are taking better care of their responsibilities in their own end.

"I think guys just are on the same page, communicating a lot more." said forward Cody Hodgson. "There are reads in-game that once things break down, it's tough to compensate for unless you're talking to each other. I think we're doing a lot better job talking and working together."

The more you talk, the better your defensive coverage and the fewer times your goaltenders will have to bail you out. While Ryan Miller has been consistently solid for the Sabres this season, a better overall defensive game has helped to take off some of the burden.

“We were forcing our goalies to make a lot of saves with some primetime opportunities for the other team.,” said forward Matt Moulson. “They still make big saves for us now but I think we’ve limited those very high quality scoring chances. I think it’s everyone doing their job, being responsible for their coverage and guys talking out there.”

While the forwards are getting better at their defensive responsibilities, the defensive corps continues to be big. With Alexander Sulzer expected back from injured reserve, the Sabres will have eight healthy defensemen on the roster. That means two will find themselves as healthy scratches, pending roster moves. In the last few games Mark Pysyk, Brayden McNabb and Mike Weber have spent time in the press box.

“We want to make sure it’s a competitive lineup,” Nolan said. “We want to make sure that guys who are in it want to stay in it and guys who are out of it want to fight to get in it. It’s not really a rotation, it’s just some guys continue to have little rough ones and we have to replace them. Until we find that consistent effort, it will stay the same.”

Jets seek another road win against Sabres

By Brian Hunter

NHL.com

December 16, 2013

JETS (15-15-5) at SABRES (7-23-3)

TV: TSN-JETS, MSG-B, BELL TV

Last 10: Winnipeg 5-4-1; Buffalo 2-6-2

Season series: This is the first of two games between the Winnipeg Jets and Buffalo Sabres, who will play at MTS Centre on New Year's Eve. The Jets swept three games from the Sabres during the 2012-13 season, with Ondrej Pavelec allowing one goal in each win.

Big story: Desperate to put together some sort of extended win streak and climb a bit closer in the Western Conference playoff race prior to the New Year, the Jets go for a second road victory in as many nights.

Team Scope:

Jets: Evander Kane's return to the Winnipeg lineup couldn't have come at a better time. After missing six games with a lower-body injury, Kane set up the first goal of the game Monday by Mark Scheifele and scored what turned out to be the game-winner in a 3-2 win against the Columbus Blue Jackets, snapping a three-game losing streak.

"I put on my skates. I try to help this team win. That's just how I am," Kane said. "I was able to do that tonight and I hope it continues."

Kane's eighth goal of the season came sandwiched between a pair of third-period goals by the Blue Jackets all in a span of under three minutes, but Al Montoya was flawless otherwise. He made 22 saves in place of the struggling Pavelec and earned his fifth win.

Sabres: Since Ted Nolan took over as interim coach, Buffalo has slowly but surely started to cut down on the number of shots against goalies Ryan Miller and Jhonas Enroth. Miller has faced 40 or more shots seven times this season, including a high of 51, but only one of those instances has come under Nolan.

"It's the mentality Teddy brought in. It's making sure everyone is accountable in the D zone," defenseman Jamie McBain said in the Buffalo News. "The talking and communication has been a lot better and that makes a big difference in this stretch."

Miller stopped 30 of 32 shots Saturday against the Calgary Flames, but Matt Moulson's goal wasn't enough for the Sabres' 30th-ranked offense (1.54 goals per game) in a 2-1 overtime defeat.

Who's hot: Bryan Little has two goals and two assists during a four-game point streak for the Jets. ... Zemgus Girgensons has two goals and three assists in his past seven games for the Sabres.

Injury report: Winnipeg has Kane back, but will be without forward Matt Halischuk (forearm) indefinitely after he underwent surgery over the weekend. Defensemen Paul Postma (blood clot) and Zach Bogosian (groin) and forward Jim Slater (sports hernia) are on injured reserve. ... Buffalo forward Cody McCormick (upper body) is expected to miss 4-6 weeks, but defenseman Alexander Sulzer (undisclosed) and forward Cody Hodgson (lower body) could be ready to play Tuesday.

Jets vs. Sabres

Winnipeg Free Press

December 17, 2013

Tonight, 6 p.m.

First Niagara Center

TSN Jets, TSN 1290

"Ø"Ø ABOUT THE SABRES:

The Sabres, 2-6-2 in their last 10, have the worst record in the NHL at 7-23-3. They are coming off Saturday's home overtime loss to Calgary.

All season, Buffalo has led just three games after the second period (2-0-1). They have 20 losses in the 20 games they have trailed after two periods.

"Ø"Ø WINNIPEG JETS

31 Ondrej Pavelec

35 Al Montoya

2 Adam Pardy

5 Mark Stuart

7 Keaton Ellerby

8 Jacob Trouba

9 Evander Kane

12 Olli Jokinen

14 Anthony Peluso

16 Andrew Ladd

17 James Wright

18 Bryan Little

22 Chris Thorburn

24 Grant Clitsome

26 Blake Wheeler

27 Eric Tangradi

33 Dustin Byfuglien

39 Toby Enstrom

40 Devin Setoguchi

44 Zach Bogosian

55 Mark Scheifele

67 Michael Frolik

70 John Albert

"Ø"Ø BUFFALO SABRES

1 Jhonas Enroth

30 Ryan Miller

3 Mark Pysyk

4 Jamie McBain

6 Mike Weber

8 Cody McCormick

9 Steve Ott

10 Christian Ehrhoff

19 Cody Hodgson

20 Henrik Tallinder

21 Drew Stafford
23 Ville Leino
26 Matt Moulson
27 Matt D'Agostini
28 Zemgus Girgensons
32 John Scott
37 Matt Ellis
44 Brayden McNabb
57 Tyler Myers
63 Tyler Ennis
65 Brian Flynn
72 Luke Adam
82 Marcus Foligno

-- Tim Campbell

"Ø"Ø UP NEXT

Panthers at Jets

Friday

MTS Centre, 7 p.m.

TSN Jets, TSN 1290

Ted Nolan still evaluating Sabres' defense corps, wants group to keep battling for playing time

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

December 17, 2013

BUFFALO – Ted Nolan wants healthy competition between his defensemen. So with seven or eight at his disposal, the interim Sabres coach plans to keep tinkering until he finds the six he can play regularly.

Nolan hasn't stopped evaluating a month into his tenure. That's one reason Mark Pysyk, one of the NHL's better rookie defenders, was scratched Saturday.

"Sometimes you like to take them out whenever they play a great game versus a so-so game," Nolan said Monday inside the First Niagara Center. "It was just one of those things, it was numbers, and Mark's a younger player. We had to get Brayden (McNabb) in at some point."

McNabb, a rookie who had sat five of the previous six games, played in the Sabres' 2-1 overtime loss. Meanwhile, Jamie McBain made his fifth straight appearance, skating 24:03 against Calgary.

McBain, a scratch four straight games late last month as Nolan evaluated other players, has been skating big minutes beside Christian Ehrhoff on the No. 1 defense pairing.

"We want to make sure that guys are in it want to stay in it," Nolan said after the Sabres prepared for tonight's home contest against the Winnipeg Jets. "Guys who are out want to fight to get in it. So it's not really a rotation. It's some guys continue to have real rough ones, so we have to replace them.

"Until we find that consistent effort it'll stay the same."

Still, the results have been encouraging with the changing blue line. Team defense has been the Sabres' biggest improvement in their 13 games with Nolan.

They've allowed 33 goals since Nolan replaced Ron Rolston on Nov. 13 (2.5 a game). They allowed 63 in 20 under Rolston (3.2 a game). The shots against have dwindled from 37 a contest to 30.

How have the Sabres tightened up under Nolan?

"I think the difference has been our D-zone as a five-man unit," Sabres defenseman Tyler Myers said. "All five guys on the ice now are competing harder defensively. A big part of it has been the communication in the D-zone. That helps everyone out.

“I think it’s more our overall team defense than focusing on one or two guys on the back end.”

McBain said Nolan has been continuously “preaching” communication.

“That communication, making sure we’re taking care of our defense first and (taking) care of the middle of the ice first, I think it’s been a good transition for us,” McBain said.

Nolan said about the defensive zone coverage: “We’re happy, but you’re not happy until you really get it. Last couple games we’ve had to look over our shoulder a couple times, and those couple times are the ones that come and bite you in the rear once in a while.”

That’s why the defense might keep changing.

Only Ehrhoff, Myers and Henrik Tallinder have played every game under Nolan. With Alexander Sulzer ready to return from a five-game absence (lower body), Nolan could make another move.

“I’m sure it’s going to be frustrating at times for guys, but I think that healthy competition, I think all the guys, their personalities, aren’t going to take anything personally against each other,” Myers said about so many defensemen sitting.

Nolan kept scratching McBain because the 25-year-old “had the least amount of problems.” In essence, his solid game cost him playing time.

“We all understand that when you go in, you got to make sure you’re putting your best foot forward because someone just as capable’s sitting out,” McBain said. “That was my case early on. It’s kind of still being the case with us kind of rolling through some guys.

“We got eight guys here who can play. So we know that every night we got to bring our A game because whether you’re in or you’re out, someone’s always looking to take your spot.”

Now, his play has made it hard for Nolan to yank him. McBain has skated at least 20 minutes in each game since returning, including a career-high 26:16 in Thursday’s 2-1 loss in Ottawa.

“I feel very good about my game,” McBain said. “I feel very comfortable since I’ve been in. No one wants to be sitting. ... With the minutes I’m getting, I assume that the coaches are happy with my game as well.”

Pysyk said he isn’t sure why he was scratched Saturday. The 21-year-old believes his late interference penalty Thursday forced a change.

Sabres' Cody McCormick sidelined 4-6 weeks after blocking shot; Ted Nolan says roster move coming

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

December 17, 2017 BUFFALO – Sabres forward Cody McCormick suffered an upper body injury blocking a shot in Saturday's 2-1 overtime loss to Calgary and will miss four to six weeks, interim coach Ted Nolan said Monday.

“One thing about doing what Cody does, unfortunately, sometimes that's going to happen,” Nolan said after the Sabres prepared for tonight's game against the Winnipeg Jets inside the First Niagara Center. “He's fearless. He puts himself in front of shots that are coming 90 mph. Sometimes they hit you in the wrong spot.”

McCormick had played five straight games after missing four contests with an undisclosed injury. He left 6:50 into the second period and didn't return.

“He's a tough guy,” Nolan said. “He'll bounce back and be ready to go.”

In other injury news, Nolan said center Cody Hodgson (lower body, two games) looked “very good” Monday and could play tonight if he feels the same way.

Also, Alexander Sulzer (lower body, five games) is ready to return, the defenseman said.

Nolan said the Sabres planned to activate Sulzer from injured reserve and they would be making another roster move Monday, although nothing was announced.

“We're thinking of something right now,” he said early Monday afternoon. “We'll probably have something for you soon, I think.”

Pysyk, McNabb, Adam all Rochester bound

WGR 550

December 17, 2013

Buffalo Sabres' interim head coach Ted Nolan joined WGR for his weekly spot on Tuesday morning. Nolan said that three Sabres' players will be sent down to the AHL and spend time with the Rochester Americans.

Mark Pysyk, Brayden McNabb and Luke Adam will join the Amerks this week.

Nolan did not say which players will be coming back to Buffalo.

McCORMICK OUT 4-6 WEEKS; SULZER, HODGSON ALMOST READY

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

December 16, 2013

While two players closer to returning from injuries, the Buffalo Sabres will have to put another on the shelf.

Center Cody Hodgson was back at practice at First Niagara Center on Monday after missing the past two games with an injury and defenseman Alexander Sulzer, who has missed five games with an upper-body injury, is ready to come off injured reserve, according to interim coach Ted Nolan.

Hodgson took the pregame warmup Saturday afternoon against the Calgary Flames, but he ended up being a scratch.

“I obviously want to play and I want to contribute,” Hodgson said. “I think I can help the team, so I just have to make sure everything’s good. But obviously I want to play.”

Nolan put Hodgson at about 80 percent healthy on Saturday and has said he wants the 23-year-old center as close to 100 percent as possible before putting him back in the lineup. His status for Buffalo’s home game on Tuesday against the Winnipeg Jets will depend on how he feels in the morning.

“He looks very good today. Today’s a new day and he looks good,” Nolan said. “Hopefully he feels the same way tomorrow and be in the lineup.”

On the flip side, Nolan announced after practice that Cody McCormick will be out approximately four to six weeks with an upper-body injury. McCormick left the game on Saturday against Calgary 7:26 into the second period after blocking a Mark Giordano slap shot and did not return.

McCormick missed four games earlier this month with a different upper-body injury. In 25 games this season, he has one goal and four assists.

“He’s fearless,” Nolan said. “He puts himself in front of shots that are coming in 90 miles an hour and sometimes they hit you in the wrong spot. Unfortunately, that’s what happened to Cody last game. But he’s a tough guy. He’ll bounce back and be ready to go in time when he’s healed.”

Pending any roster moves, the Sabres will have eight healthy defensemen on the roster when Sulzer is activated from injured reserve. Mark Pysyk, Brayden McNabb and Mike Weber have found themselves in and out of the lineup over the

past few games. Nolan wants to see players working hard in both practice and games for the opportunity to see game action.

“We want to make sure it’s a competitive lineup. We want to make that guys who are in it want to stay in it and guys who are out of it want to fight to get in it,” Nolan said. “It’s not really a rotation, just some guys continue to have little rough ones and we have to replace them. Until we find that consistent effort, it’ll stay the same.”

Pysyk was the Sabres’ scratch on Saturday, but Nolan said it wasn’t necessarily the rookie defenseman’s play on Thursday in Ottawa that kept him out of the lineup against the Flames. Pysyk played 16:41 with two shots on net in that game.

“He’s a younger player. Sometimes you like to take him out when he played a great game versus a so-so game,” Nolan said. “It’s just one of those things. It’s just numbers. Mark’s a younger player. We had to get Brayden in at some point instead of just sitting here so it was a numbers game more so than what his play was.”

26 Matt Moulson – 63 Tyler Ennis – 28 Zemgus Girgensons
9 Steve Ott – 23 Ville Leino – 21 Drew Stafford
82 Marcus Foligno – 19 Cody Hodgson – 27 Matt D’Agostini
32 John Scott – 72 Luke Adam – 37 Matt Ellis – 65 Brian Flynn

10 Christian Ehrhoff – 4 Jamie McBain
20 Henrik Tallinder – 57 Tyler Myers
44 Brayden McNabb – 3 Mark Pysyk
52 Alexander Sulzer – 6 Mike Weber

30 Ryan Miller
1 Jhonas Enroth

Power Play
First Unit
Moulson – Hodgson – Ennis
Stafford – Ehrhoff

Second Unit
Foligno – Ott – Leino
McBain – Myers

SABRES PROSPECTS REPORT

By Kris Baker

Sabres.com

December 16, 2013

NCAA

Brad Navin (2011, seventh round) scored a backhand goal and an assist in regulation Saturday, then added a second helper on the overtime game winner as No. 15 Wisconsin defeated Colorado College 4-3. The career-high three points was Navin's first multiple-point outing since a two-point effort (1+1) on Dec. 10, 2011 against Minnesota-Duluth. The third-year man has five points (3+2) in 14 games this season while leading all Badger forwards with a plus-five rating.

Jake McCabe (2012, seventh round) contributed five shots on goal in Wisconsin's weekend sweep of Colorado College. The mobile, two-way defenseman has produced 10 points in the Badgers' first 10 games, but has just one in his last four.

J.T. Compher (2013, second round) saw his five-game point streak come to an end Wednesday as No. 3 Michigan played to a 2-2 tie with No. 4 Ferris State. The freshman center, who joined Team USA over the weekend as the Americans look to defend World Junior gold, is tied for Michigan's team lead in points with 14 (5+9) in as many games.

OHL

Justin Kea (2012, third round) raced to fill a lane and cash a shorthanded marker Wednesday as Saginaw smoked Plymouth 6-2. The goal, Kea's third shorty of the year, ups his season point total to 28 (13+15) through 32 games.

Nick Baptiste (2013, third round) notched his 20th goal of the year Friday plus an assist as Sudbury doubled up Oshawa 4-2. Baptiste, whose even-strength strike made him the first Sabres prospect to hit the 20-goal mark this season, has amassed 42 points through 33 games to place 20th overall among league scorers.

Justin Bailey (2013, second round) snapped his five-game point drought Friday with a goal and an assist as Kitchener dropped a 5-2 decision to Owen Sound. The Williamsville, NY-native followed that up on Sunday by firing his 11th goal of the season as the Rangers got hammered 5-1 by Sault Ste. Marie.

On Saturday, Brady Austin (2012, seventh round) converted a wrist shot to add a fifth goal to his season resume as London lost a 4-3 shootout decision to the CHL's top-ranked club, Erie. The big defender has collected 16 points and a plus-18 rating with exactly one half of the regular season schedule (34 games) in the books.

WHL

Victoria Royals leading scorer Logan Nelson (2012, fifth round) missed the week's three games with an upper body injury. Nelson is listed as day-to-day.

USHL

In Friday action, Cal Petersen (2013, fifth round) made 39 saves to earn the game's number one star as Waterloo earned a 5-3 victory over league front-runner Omaha. The following night, Petersen came on in relief early in the middle frame and stopped 21 of 22 shots to spark the Black Hawks to a come-from-behind 6-4 win over Team USA. Petersen now heads home for the holidays with a 13-2-1 record, 2.60 GAA and a .918 save%.

Judd Peterson (2012, seventh round) scored his 10th goal of the year Friday and was named the game's number three star as Cedar Rapids came up short in a 4-1 loss to Chicago. Peterson heads to the break as the RoughRiders third-leading point-getter with 16 (10+6) in 22 games.

Connor Hurley (2013, second round) went without a point in the week's two games as Muskegon logged a pair of losses at Indiana and Chicago. Hurley, who has produced seven assists but no goals in his last 14 contests, will look to resume his playmaking ways when the Lumberjacks return to work Dec. 29 versus Youngstown.

Swedish Hockey League (SHL)

Goaltender Linus Ullmark (2012, sixth round) started all three games for MODO, stopping 33 and 35 shots respectively in losses to AIK and Lulea HF before posting a 21-save performance Saturday in a 6-3 doubling of Leksands IF. Ullmark has earned eight wins in 18 starts this season while amassing a 2.05 GAA (3rd in SHL) and .933 save% (2nd). With the SHL off to break, the talented netminder will join Team Sweden for the Channel One Cup from Dec. 19-22.

MODO winger Gustav Possler (2013, fifth round) returned from a two-game hiatus, posting an assist in Saturday's win over Leksands IF. The 19-year-old gunner, who enters the break as MODO's co-leader in points with 15 (8+7), reported to Sweden's National Junior Team training camp over the weekend as his country prepares to host the 2014 IIHF World Junior Championship.

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.