



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

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Karlsson scores 2 in Ducks' 5-1 win over Sabres

By John Wawrow

Associated Press

October 13, 2014

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — A week ago, William Karlsson wasn't sure he made the Anaheim Ducks' roster until the center boarded the team flight for a season-opening four-game eastern road swing.

On Monday afternoon, the rookie 21-year-old center was celebrating his first two NHL goals following a one-sided 5-1 win over the winless Buffalo Sabres.

"I had a goal to make the team, but I was ready to go back to Norfolk," Karlsson said, referring to the Ducks' Virginia-based AHL affiliate. "But now I'm here. And now my next focus is the next game."

Karlsson has certainly earned his opportunity filling the third-line center role in place of injured forwards Dany Heatley (groin) and Kyle Palmieri (ankle). He put the Ducks up 2-0 at 8:15 of the second period by snapping a shot in from the slot. Karlsson then made it 4-0 early in the third period, when he batted in his own rebound.

Coach Bruce Boudreau held out Karlsson in the Ducks' opener at Pittsburgh, before giving him a shot in a 3-2 win at Detroit on Saturday.

"We put him in, and it was, 'Not bad. Let's see what he's got again,'" Boudreau said. "And tonight, I thought he was our best player."

Ryan Kessler scored on a third-period penalty shot and Corey Perry and Matt Beleskey had a goal each in a game Anaheim outshot the Sabres 44-12.

The Ducks (2-1) were so dominant — and Sabres so inept — that Anaheim was outshooting Buffalo 40-10 when Kessler beat goalie Michal Neuvirth with a low shot inside the left post with 7:35 remaining.

Tyler Ennis scored the Sabres' lone goal, spoiling Frederik Anderson's first career-shutout bid at the 6:36 mark of the third period.

"It was like an NHL team playing against a Pee Wee team. They dominated us from start to finish," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said. "We weren't strong enough, not committed enough, not smart enough. No desperation."

Neuvirth held his own by stopping 39 shots in making his first start. The trouble was, the Sabres provided little offensive support after being outshot 29-7 through 40 minutes.

The Sabres hardly look improved in coming off a last-place finish in which they scored an NHL post-expansion-era-low 150 goals, and lost a franchise-worst 51 games. Before last year, Buffalo had never opened a season 0-3. Now the Sabres have done it in consecutive years.

Following a 6-2 loss at Chicago, Buffalo has been outscored by a combined 14-4 and outshot 131-57.

"We need to be mad and get angry," Ennis said, looking ahead to Buffalo's game at Carolina on Tuesday. "We need to play really hard tomorrow and we will."

The only downside to the Ducks' victory was forward Patrick Maroon not returning after hurting his left leg 11 minutes into the second period. Maroon was driving up the right wing, when his left knee was clipped by Sabres defenseman Josh Gorges' hip check near the boards. Maroon lay on the ice for several minutes and required help to be escorted to the locker room.

Maroon was spotted leaving the Ducks' locker room with his left leg immobilized.

Boudreau said it was too early to determine the severity of the injury, but added there was no chance Maroon will play at Philadelphia on Tuesday.

Perry opened the scoring with a power-play goal at 15:30 of the first period. Anaheim then sealed the victory in the first four minutes of the third, when Beleskey and Karlsson scored 18 seconds apart to make it 4-0.

The crowd was so unhappy that it cheered when Cody McCormick shot the puck the length of the ice and into an open Anaheim net after the whistle blew following a delayed penalty against Buffalo late in the first period.

NOTES: Before the game, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman was in Buffalo to announce the Sabres had been selected to host the 2016 draft. ... Sabres LW Marcus Foligno did not play after getting, what coach Ted Nolan called, "banged up" in a 6-2 loss at Chicago on Saturday. Flynn made his season debut in Foligno's place. ... Ducks G Andersen matched a career best by winning six in a row dating to last season.

Buffalo selected to host 2016 NHL Draft

By John Wawrow

Associated Press

October 13, 2014

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The Buffalo Sabres are already hosting the NHL's annual pre-draft scouting combine in each of the next two years. Now, they're getting the 2016 draft.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman formally announced Buffalo's selection at a news conference shortly before the Sabres' home game against the Anaheim Ducks on Monday afternoon.

"Awarding the 2016 NHL draft to Buffalo honors the passion of its fans for our sports and reflects the commitment Terry and Kim Pegula to the Sabres and to Buffalo," Bettman said, referring to the Sabres owners.

Bettman said that awarding the draft to Buffalo also builds on the growing buzz taking place in the city after the Pegulas completed their purchase of the NFL Buffalo Bills last week.

"They're great owners," Bettman said. "The fact that they have so invested themselves in Buffalo and the Buffalo sports scene is great news for the city."

It will mark the third time Buffalo will be home to the league's annual draft. The Sabres previously hosted the draft in 1991 and '98.

The draft is scheduled for June 24 and 25, 2016.

Aside from Montreal, which was home to the draft from 1963-'84, Buffalo will become the NHL's first market to hold the event more than twice. Next year's draft will be held in Sunrise, Florida.

The timing of the announcement further boosts Buffalo's reputation as a major North American hockey market.

In August, the NHL selected Buffalo to host the next to rookie combines, which had previously been exclusively held in suburban Toronto. Buffalo has played host to two of the past three USA Hockey All-American Prospects games.

Next month, the Pegulas' privately financed \$172 million two-rink hockey/entertainment complex called HarborCenter is scheduled to open across the street from the Sabres' downtown arena.

"When Terry and Kim came here three-and-a-half years ago, we wanted to transform Buffalo into a premier hockey destination," Sabres president Ted Black said. "And I think we're at a tipping point. A lot of the heavy lifting has taken place, and it's wonderful to see the efforts the Pegula family has made to push it over the goal line."

And Black added, "It's not over yet."

The Sabres have also said they intend to bid for the right to host the 2018 World Junior Hockey championships after previously hosting the event in 2011.

Bettman hinted the Sabres could be due an outdoor game, after they successfully hosted the first outdoor regular-season game in the United State at Ralph Wilson Stadium in 2008. He also suggested the Sabres should submit a bid to host an NHL all-star game.

The Sabres estimate the draft will create about \$9.2 million in economic impact for the city.

"This announcement is a confirmation of the great vision of Terry and Kim Pegula, who have set out to make Buffalo one of the best places in the world for hockey, from peewee to professional," Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown said.

Bettman credited the Terry Pegula for his commitment to Buffalo in owning the Sabres, and now the Bills.

"My first reaction when I heard that he was interested was the NFL would be lucky have him," Bettman said.
"He's a terrific owner and I know how committed he is to Buffalo."

Sabres don't measure up against the Ducks

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

October 13, 2014

Ted Nolan was going to be nice and not say anything about his team. Instead, the Sabres' coach delivered a harsh – yet entirely accurate – assessment.

"That was like an NHL team playing against a peewee team," Nolan said Monday after a 5-1 loss to Anaheim. "They dominated us from start to finish. ... This is one of the premier teams in the league, and it shows you exactly how far we've got to go."

Buffalo's second lopsided loss in a row was ugly from the opening minute. Andre Benoit took a penalty just 18 seconds in, and the Sabres were a step behind the Ducks the rest of the game.

"They were two steps ahead," Nolan corrected.

A feel-good vibe filled First Niagara Center during training camp. It was long gone by the time the 0-3 Sabres boarded a plane for their game in Carolina tonight.

"We need to go into Carolina and win," said Sabres goal-scorer Tyler Ennis. "We need to be mad. We need to get angry. We need to play really hard, and we're going to."

They should have plenty of energy left. The Sabres took just 12 shots as the Ducks toyed with them from the outset. Anaheim had a 17-3 shots advantage after one period, a 29-7 margin after two and finished, 44-12. The visitors built a 4-0 lead before Ennis scored his second of the season with 13:24 remaining.

"You just try to shoot the puck down the ice 15 times, you might hit the net 10 times," Nolan said. "It was bad."

At least the 18,912 fans got a free "OneBuffalo" T-shirt for their troubles. All Michal Neuvirth got was a workout. The Sabres' backup goaltender was a busy man in his season debut.

"It was a tough one to swallow," Neuvirth said. "We've all got to be 100 percent better."

The Sabres have been outscored, 14-4, this season. It's 9-2 during the last four periods, including Saturday's 6-2 loss in Chicago.

"Out of position, not strong enough, not committed enough, not smart enough, no desperation," Nolan said. "That probably to me is the most frustrating. We haven't got a whole lot of superstars on our team. The guys we do have, the only way you're going to stay in this league is you've got to play with some kind of desperation."

"It's very frustrating, to say the least. We'll sort this out and find out who really, actually wants to play. If we have to play two lines and four defense, so be it."

If that's the case, at least the Sabres are used to playing short-handed. Buffalo took eight penalties, including four during the first period. Anaheim's opening goal, by Corey Perry with 15:30 gone, came on the power play.

"You keep giving them chances, and you can only hold them off for so long," Sabres captain Brian Gionta said. "We're just playing with fire taking that many penalties."

Benoit took two in the first period. He was already in Nolan's doghouse after a rough showing in Chicago, and the defenseman might get the season's first benching tonight.

"Myself taking too many penalties in the first period, that kind of put us behind the eight-ball, gave them momentum," Benoit said.

The Ducks put the Sabres away with a four-goal third period, including a penalty-shot goal by Ryan Kesler with 7:35 left. It sent many of the fans to the exits, and it sent Anaheim to its second straight victory.

"They did all the right things," Nolan said, "and we did everything we could do wrong."

Sabres' feeble performance adds to lost weekend

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

October 13, 2014

One Buffalo. Sure thing.

That's been the theme of the holiday weekend. There's a Web site with a nifty logo pairing Bills red and white with Sabres blue and gold. There was a photo-for-the-ages card trick Sunday in the Ralph, T-shirts with the logo draped over every seat Monday in First Niagara Center. It's been a lovefest, a Pegulapalooza.

It continued Monday with Gary Bettman on hand to formally announce the 2016 NHL Draft is coming to town, a coup for the city with an estimated economic impact of more than \$9 million. And there's no way it comes without the 20-story Marriott hotel going up at HarborCenter.

Kim Pegula sat in the front row for Bettman's announcement, just as she did for Friday's epic news conference her husband held in Orchard Park. (Memo to the Bills and under-siege NFL: Wouldn't it have made sense to have paraded a new female owner in front of the cameras front and center?). Terry Pegula stood to the side, smiling at yet another off-the-field victory his operation has worked for the city.

When a still picture of their smiles from Sunday made it on the Jumbotron Monday, the crowd let out pretty much their loudest cheer of the day. All in all, it was a crummy weekend.

The Bills played Washington Generals to Tom Brady's New England Patriots just when you thought they were finally ready to make a real statement. As for the Sabres, the only statement they're making is leaving you to wonder if Connor McDavid would be their best player – right now. Not three years from now.

It's hard to fathom why the Pegulas' football team saw fit to not include Sammy Watkins in Sunday's game plan. And it's hard to fathom that their hockey team is as bad as it looks.

Coach Ted Nolan dropped the peewee bomb to reporters following the 5-1 stinker against the Anaheim Ducks. As in his club played like one.

From what I saw, it was an insult to peewees.

That was easily one of the most feeble performances the Sabres have ever put out on home ice. The Ducks outshot them, 44-12, took 46 more attempts at goal (76-30), and won 45 of 66 faceoffs. If there was a football-style time of possession clock on the puck, Anaheim easily had it on a string for 45 of the 60 minutes. Maybe more.

The tanking mob must have loved it. Bettman, by the way, couldn't get away from that topic fast enough when I brought it up to him after Monday's news conference.

"It's early October. Everybody wants to win. Everybody wants to make the playoffs," Bettman insisted. "Based on my knowledge of the owners, the executives and the players in this league, that is simply not an issue."

We'll see. The Sabres are not supposed to be absolutely putrid but they've played Columbus, Chicago and Anaheim in succession too. Maybe it should have been expected. The next two games, tonight at injury-ravaged Carolina and here Friday against Florida, should be a better gauge.

The Sabres have four goals in three games, two apiece from Tyler Ennis and Zemgus Girgensons and exactly none from anybody else.

That means none from Matt Moulson, or Cody Hodgson or new captain Brian Gionta. None from Chris Stewart or Drew Stafford, pending free agents whom the team would like to puff the value of for deadline day. None from Tyler Myers either.

Put it in numbers the Pegulas understand and it's a combined goose-egg thus far from six guys making more than \$28 million of their money this season.

Nolan gritted his teeth when trying to explain this one. He should take some of the blame. He promised changes on defense after Saturday's third-period meltdown in Chicago but opted to leave struggling veterans Andre Benoit and Andrej Meszaros in the lineup, when it made for more sense for them to be finding a spot next to me in the press box popcorn line.

They proceeded to reward Nolan by incurring three penalties — including a tone-setter by Benoit after 18 seconds — and adding a Benoit takedown of Ryan Kesler that led to a penalty shot goal.

Nikita Zadorov, who struggled some in preseason, and Tyson Strachan should have played Monday. It's almost certain that one and maybe both of them will play tonight.

The players went en masse to Sunday's Bills game, many in blue and gold gear, to show their support for the Pegulas. Wonderful gesture. They might want to support the new royalty of Buffalo who gave them the cushy locker room and the cushy bank accounts with some semblance of play on the ice too.

One Buffalo is a terrific concept for two teams who are not. One has a coach who seems lost with game management. The other has a coach who correctly said his team didn't even look like it belonged in its league. Yikes.

Good times, Terry and Kim. Carry on.

Rookie Karlsson's two goals pace Ducks past Sabres

By Joe Yerdon

NHL.com

October 13, 2014

BUFFALO -- The Anaheim Ducks wanted to play the perfect road game and they came as close to getting it on Monday with a 5-1 win against the Buffalo Sabres at First Niagara Center.

Rookie forward William Karlsson scored his first two NHL goals to lead the Ducks. Corey Perry, Matt Beleskey, and Ryan Kesler scored and goalie Frederik Andersen made 11 saves to help Anaheim earn its second consecutive win.

"That's one of the better efforts I've seen a team play. Not just offensively, but defensively as well," Kesler said after the Ducks outshot the Sabres 44-12. "We didn't give them much and the chances we did give them, [Andersen] was there. I think it was a full team effort tonight. It wasn't just one or two lines, it was everybody pulling the same direction. When you get that, you get a result like that."

Perry's power-play goal opened the scoring with 4:30 left in the first period. His goal came on the Ducks' fourth power play of the period and helped them settle into the game. Anaheim outshot Buffalo 17-3 in the first.

"Perry's goal was huge," Kesler said. "It's the difference between a 0-0 game and a 1-0 game where you're 0-for-4 on the power play in the first, so that was a huge goal. We were getting chances, we were getting zone time, but we just couldn't bury them and finally Corey got one."

The Ducks took a one-goal lead into the second period when Karlsson, a 21-year-old from Sweden, made it 2-0 when he scored at 8:15 of the second. Karlsson took a pass from defenseman Hampus Lindholm and fired a high wrist shot in the slot past Sabres goalie Michal Neuvirth. The goal came as a penalty to Sabres defenseman Mike Weber expired.

"I had a lot of time aiming there," Karlsson said. "I shouldn't have that much time, actually, but I got it in."

Karlsson followed that with his second of the game at 3:14 of the third period that gave the Ducks a 4-0 lead when he batted a loose puck out of the air and past Neuvirth. His goal came 18 seconds after Beleskey's first goal of the season made it 3-0.

"It feels great," Karlsson said. "I want to contribute every night. To get the two first goals helps me go and then [I don't have] to think about it in the coming games."

Sabres forward Tyler Ennis scored his second goal at 6:36 of the third. Ennis chipped the puck past Andersen after a pass from behind the net by Matt Moulson. The goal was the first scored by the Sabres in the third period this season.

"That's the first I think I've ever experienced that," Ennis said about the Sabres' 12 shots on goal. "So we need to learn from it. We need to be mad. We need to be angry."

The Sabres have been outshot by their opponents in each of their first three games and 131-57 overall.

"Sometimes if you have nothing good to say, it's better not to say too much, especially after an outing like this," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said. "That was like an NHL team playing against a peewee team. They dominated us from start to finish. They did all the right things. Everything that we could do wrong we did do wrong."

Penalties were a problem for the Sabres; the Ducks went 1-for-6 on the power play and had a penalty shot goal from Kesler at 12:25 after he was taken down by Sabres defenseman Andrew Benoit on a breakaway.

Anaheim will visit the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday.

"It's important to string wins together," Kesler said. "That's what good teams do, they string them together and they string them together on the road. With having this back-to-back here, we know the first one's important. You stress the first one and once you get that, you stress the second one. If we get [Tuesday] night, that's going to turn out to be a great road trip."

Neuvirth had 39 saves in his first start of the season and first career Sabres start at home.

"It was a tough game, a tough one to swallow," Neuvirth said. "It's a pretty good team over there, one of the best in the NHL and we can't have teams with great skills and the best players in the world like Anaheim or Chicago have 50 shots."

Ducks forward Patrick Maroon sustained a lower-body injury at 11:10 of the second period and did not return. Maroon was helped off the ice after he took a hit from Sabres defenseman Josh Gorges. He started the game on the Ducks' top line with Perry and captain Ryan Getzlaf, and assisted on Perry's first-period goal.

"Well, it was low. Low and ... I don't know if it was late, but it was definitely low," Ducks coach Bruce Boudreau said of the hit. "It wasn't a real hard hit but it was definitely a low hit."

"It could be a big loss but the one thing I've always loved about this team is the resiliency and we had an awful lot of man games lost last year, especially the first half of the year and we pushed through. We'll just rebound and see how tomorrow goes."

Nolan: 'That was like an NHL team playing a peewee team'

By Ryan Dadoun

NBC Sports

October 13, 2014

The Buffalo Sabres have only played in three games, but they've been very bad so far. Despite some members of the Sabres trying to portray the team as capable of defying expectations before the 2014-15 campaign got underway, Buffalo still looks like a team more likely to win the draft lottery than a playoff game.

Sabres coach Ted Nolan isn't willing to accept that the Sabres are in a race for the bottom though as he tried to light a fire under the squad after Monday's 5-1 loss to the Anaheim Ducks.

"That was like an NHL team playing a peewee team," Nolan said, per the Buffalo News' John Vogl. Buffalo was outshot 44-12 in the defeat.

"You just try to shoot the puck down the ice 15 times, you might hit the net 10 times," Nolan remarked. "It was bad."

He vowed to "sort this out" though and "figure out who wants to play," per the Sabres' Twitter account.

The 0-3-0 Buffalo Sabres will play against the 0-2-0 Carolina Hurricanes tomorrow. They are the only two teams left in the NHL without a point.

Buffalo Sabres selected to host 2016 NHL Draft

By Chris Peters

CBS Sports

October 13, 2014

The city of Buffalo is all abuzz with the work Sabres and new Bills owner Terry Pegula has been doing. With a number of high-profile hockey events already tabbed for Buffalo, another one is coming to the city soon. The NHL announced Monday that the 2016 NHL Entry Draft will be held at First Niagara Center, home of the Sabres.

The Draft will take place from June 24-25, 2016. It will be the third time the Draft has come to Buffalo and first since 1998.

"This is yet another proud day for our organization and Western New York," said Sabres president Ted Black in a statement. "The NHL Draft represents the league's bright future and no place has a brighter hockey future than Buffalo. We're eager to work with the NHL to showcase its next generation of players and provide a first-class venue for one of the hockey world's premier events."

With the addition of the Pegula-built HARBORCENTER, a multipurpose facility that will also house the Sabres' practice rink, the organization has been bidding on and winning just about everything hockey related it seems.

The Sabres hosted the recent All-American Prospects Game and will do so again in 2016 (a nice preview for that year's draft with possible top pick Auston Matthews in attendance). The team also has two World Championship events including the International Ice Hockey Federation World Women's Under-18 Championship and World Sled Hockey Championship coming to Buffalo in early 2015.

The NHL also has moved its scouting combine to Buffalo for the next two years.

Lastly, the city is expected to bid on the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship when the US is slated to host the increasingly popular tournament. It held the event in 2011 and was considered wildly successful

Black has been on record as saying the organization wants "all roads to the NHL go through Buffalo." It seems like they're serious about making that a reality as more than 200 players will literally see their NHL journey begin in Buffalo in June 2016.

Sabres face possible 0-3 start as they host Ducks today

By Bill Hoppe
Olean Times Herald
October 13, 2014

BUFFALO — If you're a glass-is-half-full type, the Sabres have stayed in both of their games until the third period. If you're a half-empty type, they're 0-2 and, overall, playing pretty terribly.

The Sabres never lost their first three games in regulation until last season, when they began the worst campaign in franchise history 0-3 and 0-6-1.

Now, they could be 0-3 again. The Anaheim Ducks, who won 31 more games than the Sabres last season, visit the First Niagara Center this afternoon.

In Saturday's 6-2 loss in Chicago, the Sabres unraveled late, allowing four third-period goals after battling back from an early 2-0 deficit to the Blackhawks, one of the NHL's powerhouses.

"Old habits are hard to break," Sabres coach Ted Nolan told reporters Saturday in Chicago. "It was almost like we were more content to keep it close. In third period, their star players turned it up a notch. We didn't."

The Sabres also began the third period of Thursday's 3-1 season-opening loss to the Columbus Blue Jackets tied.

"They're tightening up with their sticks and their plays," Nolan said. "It's not naturally doing things that are instinctively right. They're just really tense for whatever reason."

He added: "Getting over that hurdle to try to win a game versus trying to stay close to hope to win one is a big difference."

Clearly, the Sabres are still getting outclassed. They got outshot 40-22 in the opener and 47-23 on Saturday. Chicago had a 19-4 third-period advantage.

Sabres goalie Jhonas Enroth faced 40 or more shots twice in 28 appearances last season.

Enroth could be rested soon. The Sabres also play Tuesday in Carolina. Backup goalie Michal Neuvirth will likely start one of the two contests.

The Sabres will almost certainly change their struggling defense corps.

The Andre Benoit-Andrej Meszaros pair has performed brutally. Meszaros was a minus-4 on Saturday and is already a minus-5 overall. Benoit's a minus-3.

The Sabres have two extra defensemen, veteran Tyson Strachan and 19-year-old Nikita Zadorov.

"You might see a change now," Nolan said about his lineup. "That's two games now. We can't continue going this way."

One bright spot for the Sabres? Second-year center Zemgus Girgensons, who has goals in both games.

"The reason we came back was a guy like Girgensons, and the one thing I think people can take from him is his effort," Nolan said. "He just works. If you get everybody to do that, we'll be OK. But, for whatever reason, we had too many passengers."

Girgensons also scored opening night last season. The Latvian scored his second goal Dec. 7, the team's 29th game.

Sabres goalie Michal Neuvirth to make first start this season; Marcus Foligno likely out

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

October 13, 2014

BUFFALO – The Sabres will make one lineup change for this afternoon's tilt against the Anaheim Ducks, but it won't be on defense.

Sabres coach Ted Nolan said goalie Michal Neuvirth, who endured an awful preseason, will make his first start this season. The Sabres also play Tuesday in Carolina, so Jhonas Enroth needs some rest.

"Neuvy's been well-rested," Nolan said inside the First Niagara Center. "He's got some great work in the last few days. So he should be ready to go."

Neuvirth has never started a regular-season home game with the Sabres.

The Sabres will likely make one change up front, inserting Brian Flynn for winger Marcus Foligno, who Nolan said is "very questionable."

Foligno was injured in Saturday's 6-2 loss in Chicago. He could play Tuesday, Nolan said.

Update: Foligno is scratched.

The struggling defense tandem of Andre Benoit and Andrej Mezaros will be broken up, Nolan said.

"They're both experienced guys," Nolan said. "To say after one or two games you switch, you have to give them the benefit of the doubt. They have to rebound and respond."

He added: "They weren't the only two struggling."

Nolan said Flynn will skate with Cody McCormick and Nick Deslauriers; Torrey Mitchell will skate beside Sam Reinhart and Brian Gionta; Cody Hodgson will skate with Zemgus Girgensons and Chris Stewart.

Gary Bettman hints Sabres could host another outdoor game

By Bill Hoppe
Olean Times Herald
October 14, 2014

BUFFALO – The Sabres officially have the 2016 NHL Entry Draft. They plan to bid on an NHL All-Star game. The team has already secured the league's scouting combine for the next two years.

Hmmm, what other big event could be in the works?

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said owner Terry Pegula and his wife, Kim, mentioned Monday the Sabres would be interested in hosting another outdoor game.

The Sabres had the first Winter Classic in 2008 at Ralph Wilson Stadium, a venue the Pegulas now operate as the Buffalo Bills' owners.

"Just to tantalize you more," Bettman said, "over lunch, Kim and Terry were saying, 'Well, you know, it's coming up 10 years, the outdoor games, maybe you should bring one of those here, and I said, 'That's interesting, especially since I can get a better lease on the stadium this time.' So as it relates to NHL events, this is square and center on our radar screen."

Bettman, who was in town for the draft announcement, has a long history of supporting Buffalo. When the Sabres went bankrupt in 2003, he stood by as the franchise trudged on without an owner.

These days, the Sabres have an owner pouring money into the city and team. The HarborCenter rink facility connected to the First Niagara Center is scheduled to open in a few weeks.

"This market's always been important," Bettman said. "I have a history of recognizing the importance of this market. There were times where circumstances were close to dire and we stood by this franchise and we stood by this city. So the importance of Buffalo is not some new discovery to us at the NHL."

When the Sabres submit a formal application for the NHL All-Star game – team president Ted Black said they will – "Buffalo will get strong consideration," Bettman said.

"We do not have a specific timetable," Bettman said.

The Sabres hosted one game, in 1978. They held the draft in 1991 and 1998.

More from Bettman's news conference prior to the Sabres' 5-1 loss to the Anaheim Ducks:

– On the Pegulas purchasing the Bills: "My first reaction when I heard he was interested was the NFL would be lucky to have him. He's a terrific owner, and I know how committed he is to Buffalo."

– On the recent draft lottery changes – most notably, the odds of the last-place team getting the No. 1 pick have decreased from 25 percent to 20: "The competitive balance we have is so great the differences were not as profound as the way we had it laid out before."

"The difference between missing the playoffs and making the playoffs, the difference between just missing the playoffs and being six or seven slots below in terms of the standings was a handful of points, a handful of games, could have been an injury. So the modifications we've made were really a reflection of our incredible competitive balance."

– On if he's worried about teams tanking for a chance to draft super prospects Connor McDavid or Jack Eichel: "Not at all. I don't believe that based on my knowledge of the owners, the executives, the players in this league. That is simply not an issue."

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Sabres players attended the Buffalo Bills' 37-22 loss to the New England Patriots on Sunday at Ralph Wilson Stadium, the Pegulas' first game as Bills owners.

"The guys decided they wanted to go there to show their unity, their support for the great day, for the happy day for the Pegulas, and they wanted to be there to help celebrate with them," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said. "So I thought it was a real classy move on the players' side. They never got free tickets. They all bought their own tickets. It's just a real good sign of support."

Shouldn't the Sabres be able to score some free tickets now?

"We might have the inside track on some of the freebies once in a while," Nolan joked.

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The Sabres made one lineup change, inserting Brian Flynn for injured winger Marcus Foligno, who could play tonight in Carolina against the Hurricanes, Nolan said.

Notes: Sabres rookie Sam Reinhart lost all 11 faceoffs he took Monday. ... Sabres winger Matt Moulson played his 400th NHL game. ... The Sabres passed out "One Buffalo" shirts like Bills fans received Sunday.

Sabres look feckless in embarrassing loss to Ducks

By Bill Hoppe
Olean Times Herald
October 14, 2014

BUFFALO – Three straight losses. Two goal scorers. One hapless Sabres team barreling toward another lottery pick.

Five days into the new campaign, the Sabres, the NHL's laughingstock last season, look just as bad as the wretched 2013-14 outfit that finished 30th overall.

Monday afternoon's embarrassing 5-1 loss to the powerhouse Anaheim Ducks might rank as one of the ugliest home losses in team history.

The Western Conference power throttled the Sabres from the get-go, outshooting them 17-3 in the first period and a stunning 44-12 overall.

For the second straight season – and only the second time in franchise history – the Sabres have started 0-3. The team has never started 0-4.

"Sometimes if you have nothing good to say, it's better not to say too much, especially after an outing like this," a visibly agitated Sabres coach Ted Nolan said. "That was like an NHL team playing against a peewee team. They dominated us from start to finish, they did all the right things. Everything that we could do wrong we did do wrong."

Nolan is usually measured in his remarks, never letting his emotions overwhelm him. Monday's words were arguably his most pointed in his 11 months as coach.

Opponents have pumped at least 40 shots on the Sabres each game. They're being outshot 131-57 overall. Two players – Tyler Ennis and Zemgus Girgensons – have scored the team's four goals.

Only 79 games left, Sabres fans.

"You look at two forwards," Nolan said, "probably those are the only two guys that worked. ... This game is hard enough to play when you're giving your best and giving everything you've got. When you don't, these game like tonight are going to happen."

Penalty trouble doomed the Sabres early. Eighteen seconds into the tilt, Andre Benoit, a defenseman one mistake away from the press box, was whistled for hooking.

"That seems to be the theme right now," Ennis said. "We're in the box way too much, especially in the first period. We're killing for eight minutes of the 20-minute period. They're going to have momentum."

Torrey Mitchell took a hooking penalty minutes later. Benoit earned another hooking call later in the period. When Andrej Meszaros, Benoit's struggling partner, went off for boarding, Corey Perry opened the scoring at 15:30.

"Two steps ahead, and we try to catch up and out of position, not strong enough, not committed enough," Nolan said. "No desperation, that's the bottom line. To me, that's probably the most frustrating."

He added: "We haven't got a whole lot of superstars on our team. ... The only way you're going to stay in this league is you got to play with some kind of desperation, some kind of want that you actually want to play."

The Sabres play the Hurricanes tonight in Carolina in a matchup of the league's only pointless teams. Expect some lineup changes.

"I told the guys yesterday, 'Don't confuse my patience with avoidance. Never do that,'" Nolan said. "It's very frustrating."

The Sabres have two spare defensemen, Tyson Strachan and Nikita Zadorov, ready to play.

"We'll sort this out and find out who really actually wants to play," Nolan said. "If we have to play two lines ... so be it."

Nolan wants to see how some fresh players react.

"If they react the same way, we know what we got," he said.

Ducks rookie William Karlsson scored his first two NHL goals. Matt Belesky also scored. With the Ducks up 4-0 late, Ennis scored for the second straight game.

Ryan Kesler scored on a penalty shot minutes later after Benoit hauled him down on a breakaway.

Many of the 18,912 fans then streamed out of the First Niagara Center.

"This is one of the premier teams in the league," Nolan said. "It shows you exactly how far we need to go."

Generating at least a little offense would help the Sabres.

"You just try to shoot the puck down the ice 12, 15 times, you might hit the net 10 times," Nolan said. "It was bad."

Ennis said about the shot total: "That's the first I think I've ever experienced that. So we need to learn from it. We need to be mad. We need to be angry."

The Sabres actually won the last home game an opponent outshot by 32 or more, a 2-1 triumph against Washington on Dec. 29.

Former Sabres goalie Ryan Miller starred that day. On Monday, goalie Michal Neuvirth, fresh off a terrible preseason, made his first start this season.

"I felt good," Neuvirth said. "Five goals against, that's a lot, and that's too much."

Sabres turn to Neuvirth

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

October 13, 2014

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- Ted Nolan will go with Michal Neuvirth in goal this afternoon against the Ducks. With back to back games, Nolan will likely go back to Jhonas Enroth Tuesday in Carolina.

Nolan will also make a lineup change, but it's not the one that you're thinking it is. Marcus Foligno has a minor injury and can't go. Brian Flynn dresses in his place and will play on the fourth line with Nic Deslauriers and Cody McCormick.

Nolan said he'll move Torrey Mitchell up with Sam Reinhart and Brian Gionta. That means Cody Hodgson plays with Zemgus Girgensons and Chris Stewart. The Ennis line remains the same.

After the game in Chicago Nolan said there would be changes on the defense, but he decided against that. Andrej Meszaros has struggled and to a lesser degree, Andre Benoit has also. Nolan said, "We're going to switch the pairs up today and you're right, they struggled, but they're both experienced guys and to say after one or two games you switch, no. You have to give them the benefit of the doubt that they have to rebound and respond, so we're going to give everybody an opportunity to do that." Nolan warned, "Those aren't the only two that have to play better."

All the players went to the Bills game on Sunday as it was the day the Pegula's were announced as the team's owner. Nolan is very proud of the reason why the players wanted to do it, "Our team and the guys decided they wanted to go there and show their unity and their support for the great and happy day for the Pegula's and they wanted to be there and help celebrate with them, so I thought it was a real classy move on our players side, they never got free tickets, they all bought their own ticket, so it's just a sign of good support."

Join Schopp and the Bulldog for the pregame at 2:00 when they're joined by Ted Nolan and will also have the Gary Bettman press conference at 2:30 announcing the 2016 NHL Draft coming to Buffalo.

Ducks cruise past Sabres 5-1

By Dan Cave

WGR 550

October 13, 2014

Rookie center William Karlsson scored twice — his first two NHL goals — and Ryan Kesler converted a penalty shot for the Ducks on Monday, good for a 5-1 win over the Sabres at First Niagara Center. Buffalo was outshot 44-12.

Anaheim dominated Buffalo in the opening period, outshooting the Sabres 17-3 with four power play opportunities, but managed only one goal. Corey Perry whipped one from the slot at 15:30 of the first, beating Michal Neuvirth on the man advantage for the 1-0 Ducks lead.

Karlsson made it 2-0 in the second period, sending a shot over Neuvirth's shoulder for his first-ever NHL goal. Later in the period, Sam Reinhart, playing in his third career game, had an opportunity to cut the lead in half, but his point-blank opportunity was denied by Frederik Andersen. With about six minutes remaining in the second, Neuvirth prevented the Ducks from going by three, getting a pad on an odd-angle Perry shot that nearly snuck over the goal line.

Anaheim pulled away early in the final frame with quick back-to-back goals. Matt Beleskey, parked to the left of Neuvirth got his stick on a Ben Lovejoy shot and redirected the puck into the net. Only 18 seconds later, Karlsson added his second of the afternoon, putting the Ducks ahead 4-0. The Sabres finally got on the board at 6:36 of the third period on their 10th shot of the game. Tyler Ennis banked a shot into the net off Andersen's shoulder, making it 4-1.

Ryan Kesler sent a penalty shot between Neuvirth's pads at 12:25 of the third for the 5-1 Anaheim lead. Kesler was awarded the chance after being tripped up on a breakaway by Andre Benoit. In net, Andersen had a light night, facing only 12 Buffalo shots and stopping 11 of them. Neuvirth turned aside 39 of 44 shots for the Sabres, including 16 out of 17 in the first period.

The Sabres (0-3-0) return to action on Tuesday evening, facing the Carolina Hurricanes at PNC Arena for a 7:30 p.m. faceoff.

1st Period

Goals

15:30 - ANA - Corey Perry (4) (PPG) (Patrick Maroon, Sami Vatanen)

Penalties

0:18 - BUF - Andre Benoit (2 min., hooking)
3:38 - BUF - Torrey Mitchell (2 min., hooking)
4:42 - ANA - Patrick Maroon (2 min., tripping)
12:32 - BUF - Andre Benoit (2 min., hooking)
14:41 - BUF - Andrej Meszaros (2 min., boarding)

2nd Period

Goals

8:15 - ANA - William Karlsson (1) (Hampus Lindholm, Jakob Silfverberg)

Penalties

0:12 - ANA - Ryan Kesler (2 min., high sticking)
6:08 - BUF - Mike Weber (2 min., interference)
12:27 - BUF - Mike Weber (5 min., fighting)
12:27 - ANA - Tim Jackman (5 min., fighting)
20:00 - ANA - Hampus Lindholm (2 min., interference)

3rd Period

Goals

2:56 - ANA - Matt Beleskey (2) (Ben Lovejoy, Ryan Getzlaf)
3:14 - ANA - William Karlsson (2) (Cam Fowler, Jakob Silfverberg)
6:36 - BUF - Tyler Ennis (2) (Matt Moulson, Drew Stafford)
12:25 - ANA - Ryan Kesler (2) (PS) (Unassisted)

Penalties

10:59 - BUF - Cody McCormick (2 min., roughing)
10:59 - ANA - Corey Perry (2 min., unsportsmanlike conduct)
12:25 - BUF - Andrej Meszaros (penalty shot awarded to ANA., tripping)
18:02 - BUF - Cody McCormick (2 min., cross checking)

Goaltending

ANA - Frederik Andersen (11 saves, 12 shots)
BUF - Michal Neuvirth (39 saves, 44 shots)

Power Plays

ANA - 1 of 6
BUF - 0 of 3

Buffalo to host 2016 Entry Draft

By Staff Report

WGR 550

October 13, 2014

During a press conference held at the First Niagara Center Monday afternoon, NHL commissioner announced Buffalo would host the 2016 NHL Entry Draft. The Draft will be held on June 24th and 25th of 2016. The Sabres last hosted the draft in 1998, two years after the arena opened its doors. The 2016 Draft will come just a couple of years after Harbor Center opens at the foot of First Niagara Center.

In his comments, Bettman said that after their purchase of the Buffalo Bills, the NFL will find out something he already knew. "Terry and Kim Pegula are terrific owners," Bettman said. "Obviously when you look across the street at Harbor Center, they're showing a commitment to this community that I think is going to make a difference in quality of life on a day to day basis."

Bettman and Sabres President Ted Black also made reference to other events that could be in Buffalo's future.

"I could see bringing an All-Star Game here," Bettman said. "Just to tantalize a little more, over lunch Kim and Terry were saying 'you know it's coming on 10 years of the outdoor game, and maybe you should bring one of those here.'" The Sabres hosted the inaugural Winter Classic in 2008.

In the meantime, Black said he intends on making a push to bring an All-Star Game to First Niagara Center.

Previously, The Draft was held at Buffalo Memorial Auditorium in 1991, when Eric Lindros was selected first overall. In 1998, Vincent Lecavalier was selected first overall by the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Karlsson scores twice in Ducks' victory

By Mark Ludwiczak

The Sports Xchange

October 13, 2014

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- Rookie center William Karlsson didn't know he had made the Anaheim Ducks' roster until he was on the plane to the team's season opener in Pittsburgh.

He won't be heading back to the Ducks' farm team any time soon. The 21-year-old scored the first two goals of his career in the Ducks' resounding 5-1 win over the Buffalo Sabres Monday afternoon.

"I had a goal to make the team, and I was ready to go back to Norfolk," Karlsson said. "But now I'm here. And now my next focus is the next game."

Karlsson was part of a dominating Ducks effort over the hapless Sabres. Anaheim outshot Buffalo 17-3 in the opening period and finished the game outshooting Buffalo 44-12 overall.

"I thought it was really a good build off of the one in Detroit and to do it for 60 minutes," Anaheim head coach Bruce Boudreau said. "Because I had fear after the first period, we outplayed them so bad that you're worried, OK, they're going to turn it on, and we came back and I thought we played just as good in the second period ... (and) we played solid in the third as well. I know it's an early season but lately we haven't had a 60-minute game as complete as that."

Right winger Corey Perry, left winger Matt Beleskey and center Ryan Kesler also scored for the Ducks (2-1-0). Anaheim goalie Frederik Anderson made 11 saves.

The Ducks may need to rely on Karlsson, a 2011 second-round pick, to provide more offense in the coming weeks following an injury to left winger Patrick Maroon. Maroon took a low hit to his left knee with 8:50 left in the second period from Sabres defenseman Josh Gorges and couldn't put any weight on his leg afterward. He was escorted back to the locker room by team trainers.

Boudreau had no immediate update after the game on Maroon.

"It didn't look like he put a lot of pressure on his lower body. I've got to believe we'll know more tomorrow, but I would have to say there's no chance for tomorrow's game," Boudreau said.

On the hit, Boudreau replied: "It was low. Low and ... I don't know if it was late, but it was definitely low. It wasn't a real hard hit but it was definitely a low hit."

Sabres head coach Ted Nolan was particularly displeased with his team's effort. The Sabres were under constant pressure in their own end and only managed 12 shots on goal.

"It was like an NHL team playing against a pee-wee team," Nolan said. "They dominated us from start to finish. They were two steps ahead and we were trying to catch up, out of position. We weren't strong enough, not committed enough, not smart enough. No desperation."

Center Tyler Ennis scored the lone goal for Buffalo (0-3-0). Sabres goalie Michal Neuvirth made 39 saves.

"It was a tough game, a tough one to swallow," Neuvirth said. "It's a pretty good team over there, one of the best in the NHL, and we can't have teams like that with great skills and the best players in the world like Anaheim or Chicago have 50 shots."

Anaheim's dominance was obvious from the opening whistle.

With Anaheim's pressure right of the bat, Perry opened the scoring with 4:30 remaining in the first period on a wrist shot from the high slot. Maroon found Perry open with a backhand from the right circle, and Perry's shot beat Neuvirth on the blocker side.

"I've seen Neuvirth play out of his mind and I'm going, I hope this isn't one of those nights," said Boudreau, who coached the Sabres goalie in Washington. "I thought he played really good, but I didn't want frustration to set in on the players so it was nice that we got that one."

Karlsson made it 2-0 with a blast from the slot right after a Sabres penalty expired 8:15 into the second. Following a pass from defenseman Hampus Lindholm, Karlsson had plenty of time to sit and tee up his shot and he made no mistake, rifling a shot into the top right corner of the net.

The Ducks iced the game with two quick goals in a span of 19 seconds at the beginning of the third period. Beleskey tipped a pass from defenseman Ben Lovejoy into the back of the net 2:56 into the third, and Karlsson pounced on a loose puck in front of the Sabres net at 3:14 for his second of the afternoon. Kesler made it 5-1 on a penalty shot with 7:53 remaining.

The Sabres got one back on Ennis' second of the year 6:36 into the third.

NOTES: LW Marcus Foligno, D Nikita Zadorov and D Tyson Strachan were scratched for the Sabres. Foligno missed the game due to an unspecified injury. ... D Bryan Allen (lower body), D Mark Fistic and RW Rickard Rakell were scratched for Anaheim. Allen did make the trip to Buffalo and could return at some point during the team's four-game road trip. ... This game began the first of 12 sets of back-to-back games this season for the Ducks. ... The teams will meet again on Wednesday, Oct. 22, in Anaheim. ... This was the 29th game all-time between Buffalo and Anaheim. Buffalo leads the all-time series with a 15-11-3 record.

Ducks out-shoot Sabres 44-12 in 5-1 blowout

By Steve Vesey

WIVB

October 13, 2014

BUFFALO, N.Y. - Anaheim dominated the Sabres in just about every aspect Monday afternoon, drilling Buffalo 5-1.

"It was like an NHL team playing against a peewee team. They dominated us from start to finish, they did all the right things. We did everything that we could do wrong, we did wrong," said head coach Ted Nolan.

The Ducks out-shot the Sabres 44-12 in the win, with William Karlsson leading the way with two goals. Corey Perry, Matt Belesky, and Ryan Kesler also found the net for Anaheim.

Tyler Ennis scored the Sabres' lone goal in the third to avoid a shutout.

The Sabres, 0-3 on the season, head to Carolina Tuesday night for a 7:30pm matchup against the Hurricanes.

Neuvirth to make season debut in net against Anaheim

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

October 13, 2014

Michal Neuvirth will make his season debut in goal as he'll start for the Buffalo Sabres against the Anaheim Ducks. Faceoff is scheduled for 3 p.m. at First Niagara Center.

The Tops Gamenight Pregame Show begins at 2:30 p.m. on MSG-B and Bell TV.

Jhonas Enroth opened the season as the starting goaltender and will get a day of rest after stopping 78 of 87 shots through two games.

It'll be Neuvirth's first regular-season game since March 13 when he made 51 saves. It marked the first time a Sabres goaltender had made at least 50 saves in a game when Dominik Hasek stopped 55 shots on March 1, 1996.

The Sabres will travel to Carolina after the game for a match against the Hurricanes at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

"Sometimes even when the goaltender's playing hot, it depends on how many games he goes," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said. "We have to make sure we manage the rest time and make sure our goaltenders are rested as much as we [can]."

FOLIGNO UNLIKELY TO PLAY

Marcus Foligno's availability is doubtful for Monday. Nolan said he "got banged up" against Chicago on Saturday but hopes the wing will be ready to play Tuesday night.

Nolan plans on inserting Brian Flynn into the lineup for the first time this season and will then shuffle up some of the lines.

DEFENSIVE CHANGEUP

The pairing of Andre Benoit and Andrej Meszaros are a combined minus-8 through two games. Nolan said after the loss in Chicago on Saturday that he may switch up which defensemen dress, but both Benoit and Meszaros will get another chance against Anaheim albeit with new defensive partners. They each signed one-year contracts with the team in July.

"They struggled but they're both experienced guys and to say after one, two games, you switch and all that," Nolan said. "You have to give them the benefit of the doubt that they have to rebound and respond. We're going to give everybody and opportunity to do that. Those aren't the only two that have to play better."

MONDAY'S PROJECTED LINEUP

26 Matt Moulson – 63 Tyler Ennis – 21 Drew Stafford
19 Cody Hodgson – 28 Zemgus Girgensons – 80 Chris Stewart
17 Torrey Mitchell – 23 Sam Reinhart – 12 Brian Gionta
44 Nicolas Deslauriers – 8 Cody McCormick – 65 Brian Flynn

4 Josh Gorges – 57 Tyler Myers
61 Andre Benoit – 55 Rasmus Ristolainen
6 Mike Weber – 41 Andrej Meszaros

34 Michal Neuvirth
1 Jhonas Enroth

Healthy Scratches: 24 Tyson Strachan, 51 Nikita Zadorov

Injured: 82 Marcus Foligno

Injured Reserve: 3 Mark Pysyk, 29 Jake McCabe, 31 Matt Hackett, 36 Patrick Kaleta

Sabres outshot heavily in loss to Ducks

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

October 13, 2014

The Buffalo Sabres were behind the eight ball from the very start Monday afternoon. A hooking penalty called on Andre Benoit just 16 seconds into the game set up the first of six power plays for the Anaheim Ducks at First Niagara Center.

Buffalo was called for four minor penalties in the first period, culminating in one Ducks goal. Anaheim spent 5:53 on the power play in the opening period and put nine shots on net. Buffalo was outshot 17-3 in the first 20 minutes.

Anaheim ended up with a total of 9:51 on the man advantage. The Sabres power play went 0-for-3.

"We shot ourselves in the foot," Sabres captain Brian Gionta said. "You spend that much time in your own end – the first period we spent half the period on the penalty kill – you tax too many guys, you give them too many opportunities and they're just going to wear you down. That's what we did, took too many penalties early on."

The Ducks used that momentum and extended zone time to power their way to a 5-1 victory. Rookie William Karlsson scored twice – the first goals of his NHL career – and Frederik Andersen needed to make just 11 saves to pick up the win in net. Over the course of the game, Anaheim outshot the Sabres 44-12.

Tyler Ennis was Buffalo's lone goal scorer. He's now scored in consecutive games.

ROUNDS OF SHOTS

Michal Neuvirth started in goal, his first regular-season game since March 13 in which he made 51 saves. He was pretty busy Monday afternoon as well, stopping 39 shots, including 16 in the first period alone.

"It was a tough game, a tough one to swallow," Neuvirth said. "It's a pretty good team over there, one of the best in the NHL."

The Sabres weren't able to generate much of anything offensively. Most of their chances either went wide or were blocked. Buffalo became the second team to be outshot by 32 this season, according to Elias Sports Bureau. The other was Colorado in a 5-0 loss to Minnesota on Thursday.

"They were two steps ahead and we were trying to catch up," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said. "[We were] out of position, not strong enough, not committed enough, not smart enough. No desperation – that's the bottom line. To me, that's probably the most frustrating [thing]."

WHO SCORED AND WHEN

Corey Perry opened the scoring during Anaheim's fourth power-play opportunity with 5:30 to play in the first period. Karlsson netted his first 8:15 into the second to make it 2-0.

The Ducks then came out strong in the third, scoring two quick goals. Matt Belesky scored 2:56 into the final frame and Karlsson added his second of the night at the 3:14 mark.

Ennis made it 4-1 when he took a behind-the-net pass from Matt Moulson and scored short side 6:36 into the third.

Ducks forward Ryan Kelser capped off the scoring when he converted on a penalty shot with 7:35 remaining in the final period.

It was the first successful penalty shot against the Sabres since Chris Kunitz beat Jhonas Enroth on Oct. 5, 2013. Neuvirth stopped Sean Bergenheim on the last attempt against the Sabres on March 7 in Florida.

A NETWORK GAME NEXT

The Sabres have little time to dwell on the loss. They face the Carolina Hurricanes in Raleigh, North Carolina on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. (NBCSN, WGR 550)

"We need to get mad. We need to get angry," Ennis said. "We need to play really hard tomorrow and we're going to. We're going to head into Carolina and we're going to play really competitive hockey, stay out of the box but we need one tomorrow for sure."

Marcus Foligno missed the game due to injury. Brian Flynn made his season debut in his place. Before the game, Nolan hoped Foligno would be ready for Carolina.

He also hinted at changes, particularly on defense. He mentioned the same after the loss in Chicago, but decided to give his six defensemen another opportunity.

"I mentioned to the guys yesterday, 'Don't confuse my patience with avoidance. Never do that,'" Nolan said. "It's very frustrating to say the least, but we'll sort this out and find out who really actually wants to play. If we have to play two lines and four defense, so be it."

Defensemen Tyson Strachan and Nikita Zadorov have been healthy scratches through the first three games. Mark Pysyk and Jake McCabe are currently on injured reserve but both could be close to returning.

Sabres prospects report

By Kris Baker

Sabres.com

October 13, 2014

While the top Under-20 American hockey players were in Lake Placid, NY this summer for the U.S. National Junior Evaluation Camp, Justin Bailey (2013, second round) was back in Buffalo working out with NHL players like Zemgus Girgensons in hopes of becoming a quicker, stronger forward.

Remaining in Buffalo was not by choice, though. Despite a 25-goal season that saw him earn the Kitchener Rangers' 2013-14 MVP award, and regardless of his attendance at the previous year's event, Bailey was surprisingly left off the roster of hopefuls for the 2015 IIHF World Junior Championship. With extra motivation provided, it's safe to say that the offseason work is paying early dividends for the native of Williamsville, NY.

Bailey recorded the second hat trick of his Ontario Hockey League career Saturday and added a shootout marker as Kitchener lost at Erie 5-4. Since returning from his second NHL training camp, the 19-year old has collected team highs of six goals and 10 points while ripping off the first five-game point streak of his OHL career. He has also converted both of his shootout attempts.

The season is still very young, but maintaining the productive pace could land Bailey back on the radar come December when Team USA builds their selection camp list.

In NCAA action, World Junior alum Hudson Fasching got his sophomore campaign off to a favorable start with goals in back-to-back games as No. 1 Minnesota captured their second straight Ice Breaker Tournament title. On Friday, the big winger redirected a shot for the game winning goal and added an assist as the Gophers downed Minnesota-Duluth 4-3. Fasching's continued net presence was rewarded in Sunday's championship tilt when he deflected home his second of the season as Minnesota blanked RPI 3-0.

OHL

Eric Cornel (2014, second round) had a solid statistical week, notching his first three goals of the year as Peterborough's winless skid hit four games. Cornel scored twice Thursday as the Petes were defeated by Windsor 5-4 in overtime. He saw his three-game point streak snapped in an 8-4 loss at Plymouth on Saturday, but resumed production the following day with a goal in a 6-3 defeat at Saginaw.

Brendan Lemieux (2014, second round) grabbed a goal and an assist Saturday as Barrie defeated Sudbury 6-4. Lemieux worked hard to advance a puck out of his zone for a first-period helper before cashing a feed from the doorstep a few shifts later. The rugged winger has amassed seven points (4+3) and 13 PIM through the first six games of the year.

QMJHL

After posting a team-high five shots on goal in a midweek loss to Moncton, Vaclav Karabacek (2014, second round) recorded one assist Saturday as Gatineau dropped a 5-2 decision at Baie-Comeau. The Czech winger, who was kept off the score sheet in Sunday's 5-2 triumph at Chicoutimi, has three goals and five assists in nine games since being returned from Buffalo.

WHL

Brycen Martin (2014, third round) registered one assist last week as Swift Current earned victories in two of three

games . At the 10-game mark, the all-situations defender has gathered four points (0+4) and a plus-one rating for the second-place Broncos.

NCAA

In a Tuesday exhibition, J.T. Compher (2013, second round) rang up one goal and one assist as No. 9 Michigan defeated the Team USA Under-18 team 7-4. Compher's goal came in the final minute of the opening period when he corralled a faceoff win and quickly fired the puck past Luke Opilka to give the Wolverines a 3-1 lead. Michigan returns to work this weekend with a set against New Hampshire as part of the Big Ten/Hockey East Challenge.

Anthony Florentino (2013, fifth round) came away with two points as No. 4 Providence split a pair of overtime decisions at Ohio State. The sophomore defender earned an assist in the 4-3 loss to the Buckeyes on Friday. Florentino picked up another even-strength helper Saturday as the Friars battled to a 2-1 victory.

Providence defenseman Mark Adams (2009, fifth round) finished with one shot on goal and an even rating in the road split. The Friars will next host Team USA U-18 for a recruiting exhibition on Thursday.

Freshman goaltender Cal Petersen (2013, fifth round) made his NCAA debut Sunday, stopping 26 of 29 shots as No. 13 Notre Dame was blanked 3-0 by Minnesota-Duluth in the third-place game of the 2014 Ice Breaker Tournament. Petersen served as backup on Friday as the Irish were defeated 3-2 by RPI.

Connor Hurley (2013, second round) also made his first collegiate appearance Sunday, centering Notre Dame's third line in the loss to Minnesota-Duluth. The 6-foot-2 freshman compiled 13 goals and 50 points last season in the USHL with Muskegon and Green Bay. The Irish host Lake Superior State next weekend for a pair of nationally televised contests on the NBC Sports Network.

Judd Peterson (2012, seventh round) opened his freshman campaign with fourth line duty as No. 6 St. Cloud State split a pair of 3-1 decisions with visiting No. 5 Colgate. The Huskies will take a week off before visiting Union for key non-conference set beginning Oct. 24.

Senior captain Brad Navin (2011, seventh round) produced eight shots on goal over the weekend as No. 12 Wisconsin lost both of their games at the Kendall Hockey Classic in Anchorage, Alaska. The Badgers, who were defeated by scores of 1-0 to Alaska and 4-2 to Alaska-Anchorage, return to their proper time zone this weekend to host Northern Michigan in Green Bay.

Christian Isackson (2010, seventh round) logged an even rating through Minnesota's two Ice Breaker victories. The senior centerman has been slotted into a fourth-line role for the top-ranked Gophers. Minnesota is back in action Friday, Oct. 24 against Bemidji State.

USHL

Christopher Brown (2014, sixth round) picked up an assist Saturday as Green Bay got past Madison 5-4 in overtime. The Boston College commit has four points (2+2) in his first four games with the Gamblers, who next travel to Tri-City for a pair of games on Friday and Saturday against the Storm.

SHL

Victor Olofsson (2014, seventh round) scored his fourth goal of the season Saturday as MODO's slide hit four games with a 4-1 loss to Luleå HF. Following an assist on Thursday, Olofsson enters the week with the second two-game point streak of his brief SHL career. He'll likely miss some time playing for Team Sweden at the 2015 IIHF World Junior Championship, but he's currently on pace for a 20-goal campaign.

Top line winger Gustav Possler (2013, fifth round) went without a point for the fourth straight contest in the loss to Luleå HF. His longest point drought a season ago lasted just two games. Through the season's first 10 outings, the 20-year old has recorded four points (1+3) and a team-high 33 shots on goal.

On Thursday, Linus Ullmark (2012, sixth round) was pulled early in the second period after allowing three goals on seven shots in MODO's 4-3 loss to Djurgårdens IF. The reigning Honken Trophy winner has posted a 1-4 record, 4.53 GAA, and .847 save% through his first six starts. Winless in four October outings, MODO looks to snap out of their funk Wednesday versus Linköping HC.