



# **Buffalo Sabres**

**Daily Press Clips**

*December 23, 2014*

## **Sabres-Red Wings Preview**

By Chris Altruda

Associated Press

December 22, 2014

The Detroit Red Wings are due to break out, and the Buffalo Sabres are just trying to hang on.

Out to end the frustrations that have come with a six-game losing streak, the Red Wings look to extend their home mastery of the injury-ravaged Sabres on Tuesday night.

Detroit (17-8-9) has gotten four points via shootout losses during its skid, but it hasn't lost seven straight since Nov. 4-19, 2013. The Red Wings' lack of scoring again led to their downfall Sunday in a 2-1 shootout defeat to Colorado, leaving them with six goals during their losing streak.

"We need to find a way to score goals," coach Mike Babcock said. "We had lots of opportunities and didn't finish. We need to find a way to get the second point. Two adds up better than one."

Babcock did his part, changing lines to put stars Pavel Datsyuk and Henrik Zetterberg together, and the pair clicked on a power play early in the third period as Zetterberg set up Datsyuk for his 13th goal. While the scoring chances were there - Detroit outshot Colorado 35-23 - the results were not.

"I think we created 35 shots," said Zetterberg, who has one goal and seven assists in 13 career games against Buffalo. "There's a lot of chances that we thought the puck was going in but (Calvin Pickard) came up and made the saves."

Detroit has gone 0-1-4 in its last five at home - its longest run of futility at Joe Louis Arena since going 0-2-6 from Oct. 21-Nov. 19, 2013. Playing the Sabres in Hockeytown, though, usually results in a positive outcome.

The Red Wings have won five straight at home over Buffalo and are 13-0-1 since their last regulation loss to the Sabres in Detroit - a 3-2 defeat March 6, 1994.

Buffalo (13-18-3) suffered its third straight loss with a 4-3 overtime defeat at Boston on Sunday, while injuries and the flu have taken a toll. The Sabres played without Tyler Myers, Cody McCormick, Torrey Mitchell, Tyson Strachan, Mike Weber, Matt Moulson and Patrick Kaleta before losing Brian Gionta and Marcus Foligno to injuries, forcing coach Ted Nolan to play with three lines for most of the game.

"I thought they really held their own," Nolan told the team's official website. "We got stronger going down to three lines and one extra guy. It hurts. We could've had two points. You couldn't not be happy with the effort. The only thing you're disappointed with is the outcome."

Foligno will not play this game after getting injured fighting Bruins defenseman Matt Bartkowski, whose collision with Gionta resulted in the veteran leaving with a head injury.

There is a chance Moulson - fourth on the team with 15 points - and Kaleta could return for this contest, but it's uncertain who will be in goal since Michal Neuvirth is still dealing with flu-like symptoms.

Jhonas Enroth, who made 33 saves Sunday, is 0-1-0 in two appearances against Detroit and hasn't faced the Red Wings since stopping all 12 shots he faced in a relief appearance Jan. 16, 2012. Neuvirth is 2-1-1 with a 3.10 goals-against average against the Wings and turned aside 36 shots in a 3-2 shootout victory Nov. 2. He denied Datsyuk, Zetterberg and Gustav Nyquist in the tiebreaker.

The Sabres are winless in their last four on the road and have struggled on the penalty kill there at 69.8 percent, yielding 16 goals in 53 opportunities.

## **Sabres' Schaller enjoys life in NHL**

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

December 22, 2014

DETROIT – Taking a look at college free agents has been a recent trick that has provided the Buffalo Sabres some success, as in the additions of forward Brian Flynn and defenseman Chad Ruhwedel.

Center Tim Schaller is another signing in that mold, a former Hockey East Defensive Player of the Year at Providence whom the Sabres took a chance on in 2013. Schaller has been a standout this season in Rochester and just completed a weekend where he scored a goal in three straight days.

The first two were in the AHL. The third one was the biggest of his life, as his first NHL goal nearly stood up as the winner before the Boston Bruins rallied to hand the Sabres a 4-3 overtime defeat Sunday in TD Garden.

The flu- and injury-riddled Sabres took Monday off and Schaller might get another chance at NHL action Tuesday against the Detroit Red Wings in Joe Louis Arena.

Schaller took a feed from Nicolas Deslauriers and scored at 1:27 of the third period, jamming the puck under Boston goaltender Tuukka Rask. It gave Buffalo a 3-2 lead that held up until Boston's Dougie Hamilton got the tying goal with just 1:31 left.

"Something I strive to do every shot is get pucks to the net," said Schaller, 24. "Nicky made a nice play to the net there, I got the puck to the crease and it went under his feet, it slid in and there was a big smile from there."

Schaller's brother and girlfriend were in the crowd. So were his parents, who were getting an early Christmas gift after the game.

"I'm excited to get the puck to them," Schaller said. "That will be really good for them."

Schaller played 11:01 in the game, which was his third of the season in the NHL. He had two shots on goal, three hits and went 7-5 on faceoffs. The Sabres were pretty much down to three lines in the final two periods after Brian Gionta was injured following a tough hit by Boston's Matt Bartkowski and Marcus Foligno hurt his hand in a fight with Bartkowski following the hit at 14:02 of the first period.

"You got to go against Patrice Bergeron and it's quite a tall order, especially when we had only three lines going," said coach Ted Nolan, referring to Boston's standout two-way center. "Facing who he faced, I thought he did a good job for us."

With the Amerks this year, Schaller has a team-high eight goals and has compiled 18 points. He had 11 goals in Rochester last year, leading the team's rookies and earning the club's Most Improved Player award. Nolan had big praise for Schaller in September as one of the Sabres' training camp surprises.

Schaller scored a penalty shot goal Friday in a 3-2 win against Adirondack and a more traditional tally in Saturday's 4-2 loss to Milwaukee. He joined Mark Pysyk in flying into Boston early Sunday morning, a major career moment for a former New England collegian who is a native of nearby Merrimack, N.H.

"I was pretty much speechless when I got the call to go to Boston," he said.

Schaller and Johan Larsson scored their first NHL goals on consecutive nights. The Sabres had not had a pair of players so that since Mike Ryan and Nathan Paetsch tallied on March 2-3, 2007.

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Bartkowski got a major penalty and game misconduct for his hit of Gionta but that's all he will get as the NHL's Department of Player Safety ruled there would be no suspension or fine on the play.

The DPS issued an explanation of its Gionta-Bartkowski decision Monday afternoon via Twitter.

"Bartkowski/Gionta is an example of incidental head contact on an otherwise full body check," the league said. "The head is not the main point of contact. Also, Gionta puts himself in a vulnerable position making contact with his head unavoidable. Bartkowski neither extends upward, nor does he 'pick' the head."

Bartkowski's penalties forced him to miss roughly the final 49 minutes of play. That's pretty close to a one-game suspension on its own.

With the off day, the Sabres issued no updates on their 10 sick or injured players regarding their status for Tuesday's game.

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Center Sam Reinhart, the Sabres' top pick in the June draft, and presumptive 2015 No. 1 pick Connor McDavid have been named alternate captains for Team Canada for the World Junior Championships.

Ottawa Senators prospect Curtis Lazar, who scored his first NHL goal in Buffalo last week against the Sabres and was then released for the tournament, was named captain.

Sweden announced that goaltender Jonas Johansson, the Sabres' No. 3 draft pick in June, will miss the tournament due to an undisclosed injury. Johansson was likely to be Sweden's No. 1 netminder in the tournament.

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The Red Wings will likely get forward Stephen Weiss back tonight from a shoulder injury and they need him. Detroit is in an 0-4-2 rut and has scored just six goals in those games. The Wings are 8-1-2 with Weiss in the lineup and 9-7-7 without him.

Goaltender Jimmy Howard (groin) practiced lightly Monday and could dress tonight after missing the last two games. If he doesn't, Petr Mrazek will start in goal and Wheatfield's Thomas McCollum would back up.

Detroit coach Mike Babcock isn't taking the Sabres lightly. Said Babcock of Buffalo after practice Monday: "Everyone was talking about McDavid or Eichel going there. It doesn't look like either one is going there."

The Sabres have lost five straight here and haven't won in The Joe since Oct. 13, 2006.

## **Sabres, Red Wings dealing with injury concerns**

By Adam Kimelman

NHL.com

December 22, 2014

**SABRES (13-18-3) at RED WINGS (17-8-9)**

**TV: MSG-B, BELL TV, FS-D**

**Season series:** Zemgus Girgensons scored in the third round of a shootout and Michal Neuvirth stopped Henrik Zetterberg to seal a 3-2 win for the Buffalo Sabres against the Detroit Red Wings on Nov. 2 in Buffalo. The Red Wings had won seven straight against the Sabres; Buffalo's previous victory against Detroit was a 6-2 win Oct. 13, 2009.

**Sabres team scope:** The Sabres canceled practice in Detroit on Monday, mostly because coach Ted Nolan wants to make sure a flu bug that already has affected forwards Patrick Kaleta and Matt Moulson doesn't spread any further. Their status for Tuesday is unknown, as is the status of captain Brian Gionta. Gionta sustained a hard hit from the Boston Bruins' Matt Bartkowski at 14:08 of the first period and did not return to the game because of an upper-body injury. In addition, Marcus Foligno sustained an upper-body injury fighting Bartkowski after the hit on Gionta and did not return to the game. If the Sabres decide to recall a forward from Rochester of the American Hockey League, it might not be in time for the morning skate Tuesday.

**Red Wings team scope:** Goaltender Jimmy Howard practiced Monday, but his status for Tuesday remains unknown. Howard injured his groin in the first period of a 2-1 loss to the New York Islanders on Friday and left about halfway through practice Monday, according to MLive.com. "I was surprised [Howard] was out there on his own, then I was surprised he was in the net," coach Mike Babcock said Monday, according to MLive.com. "I gave him the boot out of the one net to say are you starting tomorrow. I don't know if he is. We'll know tomorrow morning." Petr Mrazek will start if Howard can't, but Howard told MLive he's feeling positive he'll be able to go. "There's a chance, but I don't know. I'll probably have to talk a little bit more to [the training staff] to see what's best for myself and for the team. It's responded every single day with treatments. It felt good out there on the ice today, so hopefully tomorrow, another good work day, and you never know."

## **Buffalo Sabres experience growing pains at all levels of organization**

By Jason Chen

Hockey's Future

December 22, 2014

Despite the return of their top scorers, an influx of new talent, and the continuing development of its top prospects, the Rochester Americans are having a disappointing season. After making the AHL playoffs in three consecutive years, the Amerks sit last in the North Division and 14th in the Western Conference. The team has just two wins in their past 10 games.

For the Buffalo Sabres, the good news is that many of the organization's top prospects are delivering good performances, but the bad news is that many of them still suffer from bouts of inconsistency.

### **AHL**

#### **Jordan Samuels-Thomas, LW/RW, 24**

In 20 games with the Amerks, Samuels-Thomas has just three goals to go with 25 penalty minutes. He has played mostly on the fourth line or otherwise spent time as a healthy scratch, held back by his lumbering skating, though he does protect the puck well. His future on a team stacked with prospects is unclear but he does add some much-needed size.

#### **Tim Schaller, C/LW, 23**

Schaller has elevated his offensive game in his second season as a pro with 18 points in 29 games after scoring 18 points in 72 games the previous season. A strong two-way player who consistently gets pucks deep, he has been one of head coach Chadd Cassidy's most outstanding performers this season and earned two games with the Sabres.

Schaller has been used mostly in a third-line role with the Amerks and will likely do the same in the NHL. He shows good instincts on the ice and plays a positional, conservative style, which brings something different to the table in a system stocked with scorers.

#### **Phil Varone, C/RW, 23**

The diminutive center continues to dazzle on offense and will probably lead the Amerks in scoring for the second straight season. His strong offensive play earned him a nine-game stint with the Sabres the previous season but so far has made little headway in making the jump full-time.

Varone has shown more eagerness to engage in the physical part of the game without sacrificing too much of his offensive production. Though undersized, he has shown a consistent ability to play center, but recently moved to the right wing, giving Cassidy a chance to stack his top line.

#### **Johan Larsson, C/LW, 22**

A second-round pick from 2010, Larsson's future prospects in the NHL remain a mystery. He failed to impress in 28 games with the Sabres last year and has a goal and an assist this year. He is getting the opportunities but not always making the most of them, which casts doubts on his future with the club. This does not mean that Larsson has topped out, but the Sabres have not been able to get much out of him in the NHL.

#### **Kevin Sundher, LW/RW, 22**

The scoring prowess that made Sundher a four-time 20-goal scorer in the WHL has not yet translated to the pros, and entering his third season he has yet to show any significant improvement. Sundher plays passively, so when he does not provide offense he does not bring much to the table. He has been a regular healthy scratch and even played one game in the ECHL to keep him fresh. Sundher will not improve if he does not dress, and consequently, he will be hard-pressed to get a contract extension.

### **Joel Armia, RW, 21**

A talented goal scorer playing in the pros as a teenager in Finland, Armia's rookie AHL season was spoiled by a hand injury that bothered him all season. He finished the season with just seven goals in 54 games, but found his groove in the playoffs with six points in five games.

Armia's playoff performance was just a taste, and he started the season where he left off, but again, the tantalizing forward was beset by injury, one that kept him out of the lineup until late December. On the season he has seven goals and nine assists through 21 games.

### **Daniel Catenacci, LW, 21**

Catenacci recently appeared in his 100th AHL game, a mark recently matched by Schaller and Chad Ruhwedel, but unlike them, Catenacci has relatively little show for it. He has just 14 goals in his AHL career, a far cry from the consecutive 30-goal campaigns in his last two years in the OHL. Inconsistency has been Catenacci's biggest problem, whose energy and aggressiveness often varies shift to shift.

On the bright side, Schaller and Ruhwedel are a couple of years older and have more experience playing against more mature competition in the NCAA, so there is still hope for Catenacci, who has just three goals in 25 games this year. He is still drawing into the lineup regularly and has been moved around the lineup in an effort to get him going, which means the Sabres still believe he can be a valuable contributor.

### **Mikhail Grigorenko, C, 20**

Pegged by Hockey's Future to have a breakout season, Grigorenko is the Amerks' top center with 19 points in 29 games. The 20-year-old had a tough time the past two seasons, jumping from league to league, but once it was established that the highly skilled playmaker would stick with the Amerks for the season, his performances have been much better. Grigorenko was recently recalled to the NHL, where he has played in three games this year.

### **William Carrier, LW/RW, 19**

Playing mostly on the team's bottom two lines, what has been most impressive about the 19-year-old's game is how responsible he is on defense. He currently leads the team with a plus-six rating, which is even more impressive since he has scored just five points in 24 games. At various times, Cassidy has put Carrier on the top line with Grigorenko and Armia produced good results, trusting his youngest player to serve as the line's defensive conscience.

The most important thing for Carrier is to stay healthy. He suffered a few setbacks during his QMJHL career with various ailments and was held out of the lineup a few times this year already. He is a promising two-way player and his aggressive style and strong skating ability should make him an effective NHL player.

### **Chad Ruhwedel, D, 24**

The NHL should not be too far away for Ruhwedel, who has proven that he is a capable AHL player, en route to another successful campaign with 17 points in 30 games. The scoring has cooled off after a hot start and he will never quarterback a power play in the NHL, but he has the ability to be a solid two-way defenseman on the second or third pairing.

Despite being undrafted, it is clear that playing big minutes during his three years with UMass-Lowell has helped Ruhwedel prepare for the rigors of the AHL. He is physically mature and reads the game better, which puts him in a favorable position to get a call-up from the Sabres.

### **Jake McCabe, D, 20**

Like defensive partner Ruhwedel, McCabe has adapted quickly to the AHL after spending three years in the NCAA. One of the last cuts in training camp, McCabe has 10 points in 27 games this season in his first pro season. The transition has been seamless in part because of his familiarity with Cassidy, who coached McCabe during their time with the NTDP.

Cassidy is very aware that McCabe is an aggressive player who plays hard every night, and pairing him with the more conservative Ruhwedel gives the Amerks a solid pairing that can be used in all situations.

### **Mark Pysyk, D, 22**

If Larsson is the enigma on forward, Pysyk is the one on defense. A smooth skater with an excellent first pass, Pysyk's NHL potential and future role with the Sabres remains cloudy. His play with the Amerks has been inconsistent and existing concerns about his strength and what sort of unique talents he brings to the table continue to persist. He suffers from lapses in defensive positioning and still has trouble containing stronger and bigger forwards.

Scoring points, as Pysyk has done with nine in 25 games, will not be enough to impress the brass and his offensive skills are not considered elite. His minus-nine rating is a red flag, though the entire team has struggled at times this season.

### **Jerome Leduc, D, 22**

He has been much more consistent this season, but the former offensive whiz from the QMJHL is still finding it tough to score points in the pros. Often paired with Pysyk to form a mobile puck-moving pair, Leduc has three points in 30 games and a minus-11 rating, the worst among the team's defensemen.

The Amerks have tried Leduc on the right wing and Cassidy likes what he sees. Even if Leduc is not entirely comfortable yet, it adds versatility to his game and offers a chance to draw into the lineup more often and make use of his offensive abilities. Long-term, however, Leduc will likely remain on defense, but his lack of strength and explosiveness prevents him from being a point producer.

### **Brady Austin, D, 21**

A big, tough stay-at-home defenseman at 6'4 and 225 pounds, Austin has played exactly that role for the Amerks on the team's third pairing. Coming into his rookie pro season, he has neither exceeded nor fell below expectations, though there were not many expectations to begin with for the seventh-round pick.

In 23 games this year, including a one-game stint with the ECHL's Elmira Jackals, Brady has one assist, 12 penalty minutes and a minus-eight rating. He serves as a depth defenseman at this point and is a long shot to make the NHL.

### **Nathan Lieuwen, G, 23**

After snagging the starting job from Matt Hackett last year and appearing in seven games with the Sabres to reward his efforts, Lieuwen has taken a step back this season. His 3.29 goals-against average and .883 save percentage are career-lows.

Granted, the defense in front of Lieuwen has not been particularly good, but he has not shown the ability to keep his team in games. Lieuwen's performances have been good, but not outstanding, and he needs to be outstanding for the Sabres to keep him around.

## **Merrimack's Schaller living the NHL dream**

By Alex Hall

New Hampshire Union Leader

December 22, 2014

Growing up, Tim Schaller spent many nights at the TD Garden watching the Boston Bruins take the ice. Sunday night, the Merrimack native returned to the Garden, this time as a member of the Buffalo Sabres.

And what a night it was.

In just his third NHL game, Schaller scored on a wraparound shot that went through Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask to give the Sabres a 3-2 lead at 1:27 in the third period. The Bruins rallied to beat the Sabres, 4-3, in overtime.

"I couldn't have asked for a better night or better team to score my first one against. I idolized the Bruins coming up ... facing off against Patrice Bergeron was another reality check that I made it, and to score on Tuukka was that much better."

Schaller admitted he wasn't sure how to react after scoring the goal.

"I pretty much blacked out after I scored. I didn't know what to do with myself," said Schaller. "I think that makes it to No. 1 on my list of best hockey moments. That takes the cake for sure."

Schaller said he had about 20-30 people in the stands cheering for him Sunday night, including his brother David and parents Bob and Susan, who still live in Merrimack.

The Merrimack High and Providence College grad gave his parents the puck from his first goal and was able to talk with them after the game.

"They said, 'Just keep going,'" said Schaller. "To be honest, I didn't have the best game, but they said, 'Just take it one shift at a time and you scored, so just work off that.'"

Mark Pysyk and Schaller were called up from the Rochester Americans of the American Hockey League earlier Sunday because the Sabres were short seven regular roster players heading into their game with Boston. In 29 games with Rochester this season, Schaller has tallied a team-high eight goals along with 10 assists.

The 24-year-old forward is in his second season as a professional and the loss Sunday night was his third game with Buffalo. Schaller made his NHL debut Nov. 29 at Montreal.

"It was a dream come true," said Schaller. "After one of our games, (Rochester) coach (Chad Cassidy) called me in and said I was playing in Montreal the next night. It's something I had been waiting to hear all last year and this year."

After a drive from Rochester to Montreal that included a few wrong turns and traffic jams, Schaller finally got to the Bell Centre and started to prepare for his debut.

"I was a little nervous at first. I had some of the guys tell me to go out and look at the arena before to get my nerves out of the way," Schaller said.

Schaller was on the ice for 11:52 in his first game and recorded one shot on goal in a 4-3 shootout win for the Sabres.

"I grew up hating the Canadiens pretty much so I felt a little bit of that rivalry in my blood. It was fun to play my first game there," Schaller said.

Schaller played his first home game for the Sabres on Dec. 2 in a 2-1 shootout win over the Tampa Bay Lightning.

"Being up there was everything I've ever read about and dreamed about. It's living the dream," said Schaller. "If I can be a day-to-day guy in Buffalo and stay up there for a career, that's something to strive for and I'm working hard to get there."

Schaller believes that the best way to achieve his goal of becoming an everyday player for the Sabres is to simply make life difficult for his opponents.

"The big thing for me is just to be hard to play against," said the 6-foot-2, 206-pound Schaller. "I'm not a small guy. If I can get the puck low in the corner and have the (defense) work to get the puck from me and keep it away as long as possible, I think that can get me to the national league. It's one thing that will carry my career longer."

Schaller's NHL career will extend at least one more game. He will suit up for the Sabres tonight at 7:30 against the Detroit Red Wings at Joe Louis Arena.

## **Sabres prospects report**

By Kris Baker

Sabres.com

December 22, 2014

If the Barrie Colts included goals on their holiday wish list, it's safe to say that **Brendan Lemieux** (2014, second round) delivered in a big way last week with his last-minute shopping.

Lemieux was a man on a mission Friday, returning from a two-game suspension to post a career-high four goals in the Colts' 8-3 victory over Sudbury. The haul, which included three power-play markers and one while shorthanded, earned the feisty winger an obvious first-star selection.

On Saturday, Lemieux kept it going with two more goals including the game-winner to earn back-to-back first-star honors as Barrie downed Ottawa 3-1. The big weekend gives Lemieux 11 goals in six December contests heading into the holiday break.

With a net-crashing mentality and a knack for deflecting pucks, Lemieux's scoring pace this season has been nothing short of exceptional. His 25 goals through 27 games rank third among Ontario Hockey League scorers, while his .926 goals-per-game and 13 power-play tallies are best in the league.

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### **OHL**

**Justin Bailey** (2013, second round) notched one goal and one assist last week as Kitchener won once and lost once. After getting a helper in Tuesday's overtime loss to London, Bailey quickly converted a turnover for his 18th goal of the year in Kitchener's 5-1 win over Sault Ste. Marie on Friday. The third-year winger continues to lead the Rangers with 36 points in 31 games.

**Nicholas Baptiste** (2013, third round) potted his ninth goal of the year Friday as Erie downed Niagara 6-5 in a shootout. Baptiste picked up a secondary assist in Saturday's loss at Guelph, leaving him with six points (3+3) in eight games since being dealt to Erie.

**Eric Cornel** (2014, second round) registered two assists Thursday as Peterborough fell to Belleville 5-4. The second point came off an excellent individual effort below the goal line that saw him leverage his agility and vision to post a highlight-reel helper. On Friday, Cornel logged an even rating in the Petes' 3-1 win over Kingston to finish the week with 28 points (8+20) through 31 games.

**Jean Dupuy** returned to action Thursday after missing the previous three games with a sprained knee as Sault Ste. Marie edged Guelph 3-2 in overtime. Dupuy finished with an even rating Friday while leading a busy penalty killing unit as the Greyhounds saw their four-game winning streak come to an end with a 5-1 loss to Kitchener.

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### **USHL**

In Friday action, **Christopher Brown** (2014, sixth round) was blanked on his four shots on goal as Green Bay earned their third straight victory with a 3-2 shootout decision over Dubuque. Brown, who entered the night with 16 points in his last 16 games, continues to lead the Gamblers' attack with 10 goals and 21 points in his first 25 games.

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### **World Junior Pre-Tournament**

**J.T. Compher** (2013, second round) scored in each of Team USA's pre-tournament games over the weekend to state his case for a spot on the 23-man roster. On Friday, Compher buried a shot from down low for USA's fourth

goal in a 5-2 victory over Boston University. The University of Michigan sophomore was back at it Sunday, breaking down the left wing and cutting inside for the game's first goal in a 5-2 win over Germany.

Budding power forward **Hudson Fasching** picked up an assist for Team USA in Sunday's win over Germany. A returnee from last year's squad, Fasching was given a night off on Friday as his camp mates rolled past the Terriers. Team USA closes the pre-tournament schedule Tuesday versus Sweden.

**Sam Reinhart** (2014, first round) scored his first goal of pre-tournament competition Sunday when he finished off a give-and-go with Joe Hicketts (DET) as Canada defeated Sweden 5-2. On Friday, Reinhart's line with Max Domi (ARI) and Anthony Duclair (NYR) led the way with several prime chances as Canada produced 53 shots on goal in a 2-1 overtime loss to Russia.

**Victor Olofsson** (2014, seventh round) was blanked in Sweden's loss to Canada on Sunday. Tied for second in points among U20 SHL skaters, Olofsson skated on a line with Axel Holmstrom (DET) and University of Minnesota winger Leon Bristedt.

Goaltender **Jonas Johansson** (2014, third round) did not play for Sweden as Samuel Ward allowed five goals on 23 shots to take the loss to Canada on Saturday. The only returning backstop from last year's silver medalists, Johansson is still returning to form after battling a bacterial throat infection at the start of the season.

**Vaclav Karabacek** (2014, second round) saw his World Junior hopes dashed as he was released by the Czech Republic on Saturday. Karabacek was held without a point while taking a boarding minor in a 2-1 overtime loss to Finland the night before. The 18-year-old winger returns to Gatineau of the QMJHL, where he has collected 10 goals and 23 points in 29 games.