



# **Buffalo Sabres**

## **Daily Press Clips**

*January 13, 2015*

## **Sabres' McCormick out of hospital after blood clot treatment**

By Staff Report

Associated Press

January 12, 2015

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Buffalo Sabres forward Cody McCormick has been released from the hospital after being treated for having a blood clot in his leg.

Coach Ted Nolan said following practice Monday that McCormick is recuperating at home. Nolan called it a good sign, but cautioned there is no timetable for the player's return.

McCormick was hospitalized over the weekend after the clot was discovered. He scored his first goal of the season in a 2-1 loss at Tampa Bay on Friday.

The Sabres called up forwards Phil Varone and Zac Dalpe from their AHL affiliate in Rochester.

Dalpe has yet to play for the Sabres since signing with the team last summer. Varone is back in Buffalo after playing three games last week.

Buffalo hosts Detroit on Tuesday night.

## **Red Wings happy to be part of tribute to Hasek**

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

January 12, 2015

After all the Vezina and Hart trophies, after No Goal and the killer overtime losses in Games Six and Seven against Pittsburgh that finally ended his Buffalo career in 2001, Dominik Hasek forced a trade to Detroit to pursue his Stanley Cup.

It turned out Hasek got two of them, one as the Red Wings' key man in goal in 2002 and the other as Chris Osgood's backup in his 2008 swan song to the NHL.

So it's more than appropriate the Wings will be on the other side of the ice tonight when the No. 39 made famous by The Dominator gets retired to the rafters of First Niagara Center prior to the Sabres' game against Detroit.

"It's outstanding," Wings coach Mike Babcock said after his team practiced here Monday. "Dom was involved in two Cups for us, is one of the greatest players to ever play in the game. He dominated the league there for a six-year run. He was flat-out the best player in the league.

"He gave Buffalo an opportunity to win every night. He was an absolute star and did it his own way. I enjoyed Dom a lot when he played in Detroit. He's a good man."

"I'm really happy they picked our game to do it," added veteran Detroit Henrik Zetterberg. "Obviously he has a big history with our team and myself and it's going to be special for me to be a part of that. When we heard it was our game, it made all of us very happy."

The Sabres are reminding fans to be in their seats at 6:45 for the ceremony. All fans will receive a replica blue and gold banner, and limited edition autographed hats, pucks and lithographs to benefit Hasek's Heroes will be on sale in the 100-level Pavilion.

Hasek posted 234 wins during his nine seasons in Buffalo and 114 more in a pair of two-year stints in Detroit (2001-02/2003-04 and 2006-07 and 07-08).

The teams will pay a pretty big compliment to Hasek with the goaltending matchup. The greatest goalie ever to come out of the Czech Republic will watch two fellow Czechs who idolized him, as Buffalo's Michal Neuvirth is expected to oppose Detroit's Petr Mrazek, a 22-year-old with just 20 games of NHL experience.

Neuvirth, 26, is coming off a 45-save night Friday in Tampa. He went head-to-head with Mrazek on Dec. 23 in Detroit, when the Wings scored the game's final five goals to rally for a 6-3 victory. Buffalo coach Ted Nolan admitted the all-Czech matchup is playing into his thinking and pretty much confirmed Neuvirth will get the call.

Said Nolan: "With Dominik, with what he's done in his career in Buffalo and having our young Czech goaltender, I think that will be a great game for him to play to kind of honor his fellow countryman."

"This will be a special thing for everyone here who played with him or for me, as he was my growing-up hero," said Mrazek. "I'm pretty excited for that."

The Wings are also without regular backup Jonas Gustavsson (shoulder) and have called up Cambria native Tom McCollum from Grand Rapids of the AHL to serve as backup. McCollum, a first-round pick in 2008, was a Sabres fan who played his youth hockey in Wheatfield and attended the first game in then-Marine Midland Arena between Buffalo and Detroit in 1996 as a 7-year-old.

"I grew up watching the guy every game. I grew up watching him play in this building," McCollum said of Hasek. "So I'm definitely excited to be here for it. You always wondered how he made saves. At times it just seemed like he always guessed right.

"But then the more you watched him, you realized he studied the game so well and was that far ahead at reading plays. He knew what you were gonna do before they did it and he's just really a pioneer."

Mrazek was 6 when Hasek led the Czech Republic to its memorable gold medal in the 1998 Nagano Olympics, capped by a 1-0 shutout in the gold medal game.

"I stayed home with my dad and mom watching the semifinal against Canada and final against Russia," Mrazek said. "He played differently and that was his style and it didn't matter. It only matters if you stop the puck. When we were younger on the street and playing outside hockey for fun, everyone tried to be Hasek or Jaromir Jagr."

Zetterberg's favorite memory of Hasek was one longtime Buffalo players have discussed in recent months as Hasek was inducted into the Sabres Hall of Fame and the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

"He got really mad if you scored a goal on him," said a laughing Zetterberg. "Every practice he was battling really really hard. For me as a young player to come in and see the battle he put in at practice kind of helped me to go even harder."

Hasek was 27-10-3 for the Wings as a 43-year-old in 2007-08, but Babcock famously swapped him out of the net early in the playoffs and Osgood became the man as the Red Wings eventually went on to win the Cup. It was the last season of Hasek's NHL career.

"The hardest thing to do is to coach superstars at the end because Father Time gets us all. It just does," Babcock said. "But what's made them superstars is they never believed anything anybody told them negative. ... I'm a big fan of Dom's, he's done a lot in his career and you like to be around when those players are retired and honored."

## **Sabres notebook: Slumping Zadorov could sit it out again**

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

January 12, 2015

Nikita Zadorov is hoping his trip to the press box Friday night in Tampa was a one-game visit. Coach Ted Nolan isn't so sure.

The 19-year-old Buffalo Sabres defenseman was on the extra pair in practice Monday with fellow scratch Tyson Strachan and coach Ted Nolan would not commit to having him return for Tuesday night's game against Detroit in First Niagara Center.

"I'm feeling great. 19 years old. Not tired. In the best league in the world and I'm not going to be slow and disappointed," Zadorov said. "Life is good. Just move forward. The coaches wanted me to take a rest and I know we have eight 'D. Somebody is going to not play."

Zadorov sat out the first month of the season while the Sabres were trying to determine if they would send him back to junior hockey, although he and his agent seemed more interested in the KHL in Russia as an alternate stop.

But he cracked the lineup in November and was a standout for several weeks, posting a plus-5 rating over his first 19 games for a team that has had the worst goal differential in the league pretty much all season. Since then, however, Zadorov has struggled badly, with a minus-15 rating over his last 12 games.

"I don't think a lot has changed. It's just getting minuses is not good," Zadorov said. "We're losing games and someone has to get minuses. Some of them are my mistakes and some of them are not. I have to work harder to not get those because it's better for my team."

Nolan said he had his assistant coaches talking to Zadorov the last couple of days and planned a full sit-down with him later Monday afternoon. Only then will he decide if Zadorov will get back into the lineup.

"When he was trying to get in before, his attention to detail and work ethic in practice was really, really good," Nolan said. "The last little while, it's been slipping. Especially with young players, we're all creatures of habit. Those bad habits creep into your game and you're not gonna play so well."

"With a young player we have to make sure we straighten that out with him and he practices hard. He still could play junior hockey so we have to make sure we stay on top of him."

What did Nolan think of Zadorov's practice Monday?

"It was a little bit better today but better is not good enough," he said.

The breaking point for Nolan was clearly the short-handed goal the Sabres gave up to Travis Zajac on Tuesday in New Jersey following an ill-advised Zadorov pinch, combined by Thursday's minus-2 showing in Carolina.

Asked about the short-handed goal, Zadorov admitted, "It was kind of a risky play. No one was covering for me. I have to do better next time than make those mistakes."

Zadorov's game has suffered the last month when he has not been paired with Rasmus Ristolainen, but Nolan had hoped putting them with others would spread better play among all the pairs. It hasn't really worked.

"Life is like that. You're not choosing the partners. Coaches are choosing that," Zadorov said. "Maybe he thinks you've got to be better with other partners. It doesn't matter to me who I play with. I have to bring my game."

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The Sabres brought Phil Varone back from Rochester and recalled Zac Dalpe for the first time this year. Both should be in the lineup Tuesday. Dalpe, 25, signed with the club as a free agent in July and will be making his Buffalo debut. The 6-foot-1, 195-pounder has seven goals and six assists in 31 games for the Amerks. He's played 96 NHL games with Carolina and Vancouver, including 55 for the Canucks last year.

"I've been struggling a little bit as far as the scoring," Dalpe said. "But if you're a true fan and watch the game, you'll see I'm playing a lot better on both sides of the puck and that's something I've struggled with in the past."

Nolan thought highly of Dalpe in September and he was the Sabres' final training camp cut.

"You don't want to get sent down, but you take the positives out of it that you fought to the bitter end," he said. "You go down there and wait your turn and see what happens."

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The Sabres practiced for about 80 minutes Monday and it was a double-session, with Nolan sending his players off the ice and bringing them back on.

"You have to pay attention all the time," Nolan said. "We're going through some things, but I didn't think we were going through the proper way to do it so we just pulled their attention back."

Chris Stewart again missed practice with the flu, and Nolan said there's a good chance the Sabres are going to recall another forward in his place for Tuesday's game.

In other roster news:

- Torey Mitchell has been cleared and will play for the first time since the Dec. 15 shootout win over Ottawa. His absence exactly coincides with the team's current 1-10-1 slide.
- Cody McCormick is out of the hospital and getting treatment for a blood clot in his leg, but there's no timetable for his return.
- Nolan said the Sabres will be very cautious with Brian Gionta and it seems like they may hold the captain out of the four games this week and give him another week off for the all-star break before they bring him back.

## **Sabres recall Varone, Dalpe; still need 1 more Amerk**

By Kevin Oklobzija

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

January 12, 2015

After two days back in Rochester, center Phil Varone returned to the Buffalo Sabres on Monday morning and was joined this time by right winger Zac Dalpe.

But those weren't the only losses for the Rochester Americans. Another recall is expected today because Sabres winger Chris Stewart is ill.

The Amerks have a 6 a.m. flight on Tuesday for Cedar Park, Texas, so the Sabres can't take a chance that Stewart will be healthy to play in Tuesday night's home game against the Detroit Red Wings.

Varone scored two goals (both at Carolina) during his three games with the Sabres last week. He leads the Amerks in scoring with 8 goals, 21 assists and 29 points in 36 games.

Dalpe is ninth on the Amerks in scoring with 7-6-13 in 31 games. Signed over the summer as a free agent, he will make his Sabres debut Tuesday. Dalpe played 55 NHL games last season with the Vancouver Canucks, producing 4-3-7.

The Amerks play three road games this week: at the Texas Stars on Wednesday, at the San Antonio Rampage on Saturday and at the Oklahoma City Barons on Sunday.

They play 11 of their next 12 games on the road, where they are an AHL-worst 2-10-1. Their last road victory came on Halloween. Now that's pretty scary.

## Remembering Dominik Hasek's dominance with the Buffalo Sabres

By Adam Gretz

CBS Sports

January 12, 2015

It's a big week for teams to retire the numbers of NHL legends.

We already saw the Anaheim Ducks honor the career of Teemu Selanne with an incredible ceremony on Sunday that included both the Ducks and Jets wearing Selanne throwback jerseys during their pregame warmups.

On Tuesday, it will be the Buffalo Sabres' turn.

That is when they will lift Dominik Hasek's No. 39 to the rafters of the First Niagara Center before their game against the Detroit Red Wings. Hasek spent the majority of his career with both clubs, getting his two Stanley Cup rings as a member of the Red Wings (as the starter in 2002 and as Chris Osgood's playoff backup in 2008). But while his name is on the Cup as a Red Wing, it was during his days in Buffalo where he played his best hockey and was not only one of the best goalies of all-time, but was also one of the most entertaining goalies to ever step between the pipes due to his unconventional style that resulted in saves like this...

He may not have retired with a lengthy list of records, but the NHL may have never seen a goalie as dominant as Hasek was during his peak years with the Sabres. Looking back on it now, the numbers are staggering.

- After becoming the Sabres' full-time starting goalie in 1993-94, he went on to lead the league in save percentage six years in a row. Save percentage data only goes as far back as the 1983-84 season, but during that time no other goalie has ever led the league that many times in their entire career, let alone six years in a row.
- During that six-year run he finished with a save percentage lower than .930 just one time (that would be the 1995-96 season when he only finished with a .920 mark). Those five years at .930 or better represent **five** of the top-16 individual save percentage performances in recorded league history. The only other goalie that appears in the top-16 more than once is former Bruins goalie Tim Thomas (twice).
- The league average save percentage during his time with Buffalo was between .899 and .904. He was typically saving the Sabres between 25 and 30 goals per 1,000 shots faced when compared to average goalie performance in the NHL at that time. Over the course of a full season (70 starts), that might be a 50 to 60 goal difference. His game-changing dominance is a big reason why he was one of only five goalies to ever win the Hart Trophy as the league MVP, and the only goalie to win it more than once.

He will be officially inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in November.

## **Five questions: Sabres GM Murray on rebuilding**

By Dan Rosen

NHL.com

January 12, 2015

Buffalo Sabres general manager Tim Murray is no different than most GMs in that he looks around the NHL and sees examples of what he wants his team to become, most notably the Chicago Blackhawks and Los Angeles Kings.

To get there, Murray has taken on an unorthodox approach to managing a team in the middle of a season. He doesn't worry about wins and losses, points gained and lost. The Sabres are rebuilding and it's hard to find anyone who has embraced the process more than Murray.

Murray talked to NHL.com about his managerial style this season in the following Q&A.

Here are Five Questions with...Tim Murray:

### **How do you evaluate what's going on with the Sabres this season as you think of the bigger picture?**

"You evaluate individuals. That's how you evaluate. Anybody that has scouted, whether you've scouted pro players for trades or amateur players, you have scouted tons of players on bad teams and in bad situations, but you still evaluate them. Many of them you still want in your organization; some you don't, but many, many players that were on bad pro teams and bad amateur teams we have still wanted in our organization, whatever the organization I was with at the time. It's an individual evaluation basis. You do game rate, there is no question, but it's not so much game rating as it is future rating. Is this a guy you want to go forward with? You still have to project at the NHL level as well as the amateur level. Is this a guy I want to go forward with? How is he reacting to this and that? So it's an individual evaluation rather than a team evaluation and you hope you make the right evaluation."

### **What is your individual evaluation of Tyler Myers?**

"I like him. I see a massive guy that can really skate, can really move, can really disrupt the other team's possession with his long reach, with his stick. He throws big checks, knocks guys down, separates them from the puck. That's what I think his main strength is. I think in our game you have to stop possession pretty quickly in your own zone or you're stuck there. I think when we're a good team, he's a big part of that. But I think you're going to see better results when we're a better hockey club of stopping possession. When we get better players, when we can transition the puck quickly, that I think is going to be a big part of his game and I think he's very good at it."

### **Have you spent a lot of time, maybe more so than other GMs at this point in the season, evaluating and scouting prospects in junior hockey and college hockey rather than evaluating the players on your own team?**

"Yes. I see our team a lot at home; I've seen our team very little on the road. When the team goes on the road, I go on the road. It's just worked out that way, especially with the World Juniors and even before that. I haven't been out west yet, but I've seen a few college games and a lot of OHL games. We go to Florida [this] week and we do our pro and amateur scouting meetings. Once I get that list I'll have a good direction on where to spend the second half of the year, but I also have to be around the team a certain amount of time to make those evaluations. There's still a lot of hockey to see, pro and amateur."

### **Did anything about your feelings on the Sabres this season change when they won 10 out of 13 games?**

"No. I think that we played well. I think that we played hard. But the analytics were basically all the same. Our shooting percentage got higher in those wins. I don't want to think completely on that, but the numbers were pretty close to the same as when we lost other than save percentage and shooting percentage. So if you follow that at all you understand, and is that sustainable is the question you have to ask yourself. I answered it to myself and the people in my office, but that didn't change my outlook on this year, no."

**How do you approach the buildup to the NHL Trade Deadline, because I'd imagine it become an exciting time for you? I'm sure you're a wanted guy and lots of people are calling to see who they can pick off of your team for their playoff run.**

"Right. Right. It's kind of like last year, same thinking. We go down and have our pro meetings and we get ready for between now and the trade deadline. If we can make good deals that are beneficial to the future of this franchise we are going to do that. I don't want to certainly tear the team apart even though we're picking third overall as of today, but I've had a talk with people in my organization, ownership and including a player like Brian Gionta, that we're not going to let pending UFAs leave for nothing. We do have to continue to build this; we're not there. No one can be happy with the record we have and I don't blame them, but we are where we are. It is a rebuild. It wasn't a retool. It wasn't a quick fix. It's a rebuild so that we can be good for a long time. That's the mindset. In saying that we signed Brian Gionta, we traded for Josh Gorges, so we were still able to acquire good players, but we have to be able to acquire good players going forward if we're going to fix this fairly quickly."

## **Sabres view Myers as cornerstone piece in rebuild**

By Dan Rosen

NHL.com

January 12, 2015

Tyler Myers' play started to go backwards when the Buffalo Sabres began their fall down the Eastern Conference standings five years ago. Now that Myers is on the rise again, the Sabres should end up using him as a cornerstone piece in their rebuild.

"Hopefully we will become [a top team] in another two years or so and then you'll see the true importance of Tyler Myers and what he really means," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said.

Buffalo general manager Tim Murray is thinking along the same lines.

Murray has no desire to trade Myers, the 2009-10 Calder Trophy winner who is an improving 24-year-old defenseman, one of the bright spots in an expectedly difficult season for the Sabres, and signed through 2017-18 with a reasonable \$5.5 million salary-cap charge.

"I've never made a call to another team on Tyler Myers," Murray told NHL.com. "I've had some calls, and I think it's kind of a domino effect where one or two teams see in other press, not Buffalo press, and called asking if it was true. I have not tried to trade this guy. Some teams have asked about availability. I've plainly said, 'I'm not trying to trade the guy, if you want to knock my socks off with an offer I'll listen,' but it would have to be a major, major trade for me to move this guy. I'm not pursuing that."

The fact that Myers is only minus-7 despite starting 41.6 percent of his even-strength shifts in the defensive zone and a combined 76.2 percent in the defensive zone and the neutral zone, according to faceoff data collected by War-on-ice, is actually quite remarkable.

The Sabres are the worst possession team in the NHL (37.5 percent Corsi-for at even strength), but Myers is consistently matched up against the opposition's best forward lines and routinely starting in the worst position.

Myers leads the Sabres in ice time per game (25:11) and has eight points in 35 games.

His true value to the Sabres was evident when he was recently out of the lineup. Buffalo went on its 10-3-0 run with a healthy Myers (he did not play Nov. 26 against Winnipeg, a 2-1 loss); he missed seven games from Dec. 21-Jan. 3 and the Sabres went 1-5-1.

Murray thinks Myers can be a cornerstone defenseman in Buffalo if, or in his mind, when the Sabres get good again.

"If we insulate him the way good teams insulate all the good players, I think he can be a high-minute shutdown guy that can transition the puck," Murray said. "He can do a lot of things that a lot of people can't do."

Myers won the Calder Trophy in 2009-10 with 48 points and a plus-13 rating in 82 games. The Sabres won the Northeast Division with 100 points.

But as the Sabres dropped in the Eastern Conference standings the following seasons (7th place to 9th to 12th to 16th) so too did Myers' production. Myers said his issues were more mental than physical.

"I've always been the type of person to put really big expectations on myself, I've always been really hard on myself, and I think after that rookie year I was just too hard on myself," Myers said. "I went into the following year a little...overwhelmed mentally. I think that's probably the best word for it. Not so much overwhelmed right

away, but when things weren't going so well I think that's when I started to put too much pressure on myself to get back.

"It took a little time to get through it, but I've had a lot of help along the way. The past couple of years I've been really happy with how I'm approaching the game mentally. Physically it's not an issue, but I really worked on my mental game and right now it's exactly where I want it to be. I don't think I was even in this state even in my rookie year. I've grown a lot."

Myers' stronger mental makeup has allowed him to handle the rebuilding process going on in Buffalo, along with the trade rumors that constantly swirl around him, even if most have been unfounded.

"I'm a lot more even-keeled now," he said. "I think I'll always have high expectations for myself, but the way I handle those expectations and the way I approach the game now, it's much different than the way I was when I was younger. I'm in a place right now that's very good and a place where I can continue to grow not only as a player but a person off the ice as well."

He should continue to grow in Buffalo.

Physical and towering right-handed shooting defenseman who are 24 years old and who carry a reasonable cap charge for players who can play 25 minutes per game against the best forwards in the NHL are about as rare of a commodity as you can find in the League.

If the Sabres trade Myers now, odds are they'll be looking for a player just like him in two years, at which point Myers will be just entering his prime years with close to 500 games on his NHL resume.

Why trade an asset you have now if you know you're going to need that same asset in the future?

"That's why I'm not trying to trade him," Murray said.

## **Practice habits made Sabres legend Dominik Hasek one of all-time greats**

By Bill Hoppe  
Olean Times Herald  
January 12, 2015

BUFFALO – One story about Dominik Hasek’s famously intense practice habits has become part of hockey folklore.

“I heard about it,” said Red Wings star Henrik Zetterberg, the Hall of Fame goalie’s teammate after the Sabres traded him to Detroit in 2001. “I’m not sure if it’s true.”

Legend has it Hasek was once so upset following a particularly bad practice, he spent the night in the training room. Never went home. Just stayed at the rink.

“It wouldn’t surprise me at all,” Zetterberg said Monday inside the First Niagara Center.

The Sabres will retire Hasek’s No. 39 tonight against the Red Wings, a fitting honor for perhaps the greatest goalie ever. Those who know the 49-year-old best have been sharing stories about what made Hasek so special, how the fierce competitor became “The Dominator.”

They all talk about how the six-time Vezina Trophy winner honed his craft during practice.

Hasek wanted to be great every minute he was on the ice, whether it was in Memorial Auditorium, Joe Louis Arena or a chilly practice rink tucked away in the suburbs.

“Dom practiced hard all the time,” said Sabres coach Ted Nolan, who coached Hasek from 1995-97. “You look at all the great players, they practice hard all the time. ...

“I think that was the difference with Dom. He didn’t want anybody scoring on him any time, particularly in practice, and that’s why it transferred into a game.”

Zetterberg, who won the Stanley Cup with Hasek in 2002 and 2008, remembers the Czech “got really mad” when someone scored on him during practice.

“Every practice he was battling really, really hard,” Zetterberg said. “I think for me as a young player coming in, to see the battle he put in in practice kind of helped me to go even harder. ...

“It’s a lot of fun to have him on the team. ... I think those years that we had with Dom (are) not just special to me, but special to everyone that played with him.”

Tonight should be a special experience for everyone watching and playing. For proof of Hasek’s influence on hockey, fans will just need to look at the ice.

Both of the expected starting goalies, the Sabres’ Michal Neuvirth and Detroit’s Petr Mrazek, are Czechs who grew up idolizing Hasek.

“It’s a special night for Dominik, for the Czech Republic, for the Buffalo Sabres, but I’m going to approach it as just another game,” Neuvirth said. “But I’m definitely going to enjoy the game.”

Mrazek added: “That was my hero growing up.”

As a 9-year-old in 1998, Neuvirth, like the entire Czech Republic, was captivated by Hasek’s dynamic goaltending as he backstopped his country to a gold medal at the Nagano Games.

Watching Hasek during those Olympics – he stunned Canada in a shootout and blanked Russia for the gold – “was pushing my dream forward,” Neuvirth said.

“Since then, he was my hero,” he said.

Neither goalie emulated Hasek’s unorthodox style, which was so unique it’s almost impossible to copy. But Neuvirth saw something else in Hasek he wanted in his own game.

“It just wasn’t the style; it was how he was so committed,” he said. “He always wanted to win. That’s why he was so special.”

Of course, Hasek had legions of fans here, including Sabres winger Patrick Kaleta, who grew up in nearby Angola. The 28-year-old couldn’t contain his excitement Tuesday talking about Hasek. He expects to have chills tonight.

“Greatest goaltender maybe of all-time playing for the Buffalo Sabres,” Kaleta said. “Just watching him was the experience of a lifetime, every game, just sprawling around, making saves that are unorthodox or whatever. But he was the backbone of the Sabres for a long time.

“I had pictures of him and cards of him that I would save, just one of the best Buffalo Sabres to ever play the game, and I got to experience watching it. It’s a treat in itself.”

Ironically, Kaleta scored his second NHL goal against Hasek on March 2, 2008 in Buffalo.

“It was a three-on-two sort of thing, not that I remember or anything,” a smiling Kaleta said. “To be able to score on a guy like that was really special, especially for me. ... It’s something that could be up there for top moments of my hockey career.”

## **Sabres notes: Cody McCormick out of hospital; Nikita Zadorov must improve practice habits**

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

January 12, 2015

BUFFALO – Sabres forward Cody McCormick was released from the hospital Monday after being treated for a blood clot in his calf muscle, coach Ted Nolan said.

"Cross our fingers everything continues to go well," Nolan said following an 80-minute practice inside the First Niagara Center. "No timeframe on his return whatsoever. Our No. 1 concern is making sure he's OK."

With McCormick sidelined, the Sabres recalled centers Zac Dalpe and Phil Varone from Rochester early Monday.

Nolan said since winger Chris Stewart is still home sick, the Sabres could summon another player before tonight's game against the Detroit Red Wings.

"That flu bug gets you, it gets you pretty good," Nolan said.

The Sabres returned Varone and center Mikhail Grigorenko to the AHL on Saturday. Why did they recall Dalpe, a 25-year-old veteran of 96 NHL games?

"He's an older guy that has more maturity," Nolan said. "I think we saw Grigorenko, the potential of him getting up here. There's some parts of his game he needs to work on."

Dalpe, who has seven goals and 13 points in 31 AHL games, spent all of last season in Vancouver. Monday brought some nervous excitement.

"I've played almost 100 games, but I was kind of nervous for practice," Dalpe said. "But at the same time, once you get on the ice you're good to go."

Meanwhile, Nolan said center Torrey Mitchell (foot, 12 games) will return tonight. The Sabres, losers of seven straight games, went 1-10-1 without the speedy 29-year-old.

Captain Brian Gionta (upper body, nine games) has practiced the last two days. Nolan said the sessions have "drastically improved" with the 35-year-old winger back.

Gionta, who was hit high by Boston's Matt Bartkowski on Dec. 21, said Sunday he won't be back this week. Nolan wants him at 100 percent.

"If there's 99.9 percent, he's not (playing)," he said.

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Nolan wouldn't say if defenseman Nikita Zadorov will return tonight after getting scratched last game. The 19-year-old has morphed from one of the Sabres' steadiest players into arguably one of their worst.

Since scoring the overtime winner against Florida on Dec. 13, the Russian has a minus-15 rating in 12 games.

Zadorov has lost some of the habits that helped him earn a regular spot in November.

"When he was trying to get in before, his attention to detail, his work ethic in practice was really, really good," Nolan said. "The last little while it's been slipping. With young players, we're all creatures of habit. Those bad

habits creep into your game, you're not going to play so well, especially with a young player, we have to make sure we straighten that up with him and he practices hard."

Nolan said Zadorov has been "a little bit better."

"Better is not good enough right now," he said.

Nolan planned to talk to Zadorov on Monday. Assistant coaches recently dealt with him, he said.

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Nolan has put the top line of center Zemgus Girgensons, Tyler Ennis and Matt Moulson back together.

## **Sabres' Gionta not thrilled with the hit that put him out**

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

January 12, 2015

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- Brian Gionta spent his second day back at practice on Monday.

The Sabres captain got cartwheeled on December 21<sup>st</sup> by the Bruins Matt Bartkowski. The hit also cost the Sabres Marcus Foligno who broke a knuckle defending him.

The team has seemed lost without its captain and Gionta thought the hit crossed the line, "I wasn't real happy about it, when you don't touch the puck you kind of let your guard down, but at the end of the day you've got to protect yourself, but when you don't touch the puck, you're not expecting to be hit."

Claude Julien felt it was Gionta's fault because he put himself in a vulnerable position. Gionta disagrees with that assessment, "It seems a lot like a lot of the hits that seem suspendable lately. It's very similar to those, but that's not my decision I guess." Bartkowski was fined by the NHL, but not suspended.

Gionta isn't quite ready to comeback for games, but he's feeling better, "I feel pretty good, it's nice to be back out there with the guys and starting to get back into things."

The team is 1-8 with its captain out and is playing its worst hockey. Ted Nolan says they need him more than ever, "I even noticed our practices the couple of days with him in it, they've drastically improved. He demands so much respect and having him around, especially with some of the younger players looking up to him and the way he practices, the way he approaches the game, the way he does everything a professional athlete should do, he's great for us, so we really missed him."

Cody McCormick had to be hospitalized over the weekend due to a blood clot, but Nolan had a positive update on him, "It's a good sign, he got out of the hospital today so we'll cross our fingers that everything continues to go well and no timeframe on his return whatsoever. The number one concern is making sure he's OK and he's home with his family now."

Nikita Zadorov was benched for the game in Tampa and was still paired with the other healthy scratch Tyson Strachan in practice on Monday. Nolan said he was going to have a long talk with his rookie defenseman today and he'd then make a decision on his return. The head coach said he needs to get back to where he was when he was fighting to play, "When he was trying to get in before, his attention to detail, his work ethic in practice was really, really good. In the last little while he's been slipping, so we're all creatures of habit and when you have lazy practice habits, those bad habits creep into your game, you're not going to play so well, so especially with a young player, we have to make sure we straighten that up with him."

Since he and the coaches have been on the kid, have the last two practices been better? Nolan said, "It was a little bit better, but better is not good enough right now. We have to make sure we practice as hard as we can."

Nolan practiced for about 80 minute on Monday which included him stopping practice to let them know he needed them to pay attention to drills. Nolan said, "We were going through some things and I didn't think we

were doing it the proper way we should do it, so I just pulled their attention back.”

The Sabres host the Red Wings Tuesday on Dominik Hasek night.

## **Sabres' Hasek was one of a kind**

By Howard Simon

WGR 550

January 12, 2015

When you work in our business, you learn not to get carried away by the athletes you meet while covering games. Getting a chance to watch and later interview some of the greatest players of their sport comes with the job.

Don't get me wrong. Its extremely exciting but you aren't there for an autograph, you are there to do your job. I was successful with that approach towards many of the stars that have played for the Bills and Sabres over the years including the likes of Jim Kelly, Thurman Thomas, Bruce Smith and Pat LaFontaine but when it came to Dominik Hasek, it was different.

To me, watching Hasek play was always a special experience. As far as the interviews go, one of the few times I was ever nervous before interviewing an athlete was when I had a one on one sit down with Hasek during my days at Empire Sports Network. I went over the list of questions time and time again to make sure I had the most interesting ones, to make sure it wasn't just another run of the mill interview. As I sat there, I couldn't help but think to myself that I'm interviewing one of the greatest players at his position in the history of the National Hockey League and a guy who had such a radical approach to playing goaltender that coaches would tell their goalies not to try and do what Hasek was doing.

How cool is it that we can say we had the chance to watch Hasek all those years with the Sabres? And no matter how many times you saw Hasek make a save that defied description, you'd still shake your head and wonder how he just did that? Every now and then you should go to you tube and watch highlights of Hasek just to remind you how unbelievable he was when it came to stopping pucks and doing so in memorable fashion.

When Hasek played I always felt if the Sabres just scored one goal, they could still win the game. If they scored two their chances were very good and if they got to three, it was game over for the opposition. Whenever the Sabres made the playoffs, I would be unable to actually grasp the concept that some team could actually beat Hasek four times in seven or fewer games to win the series. How could Dominik Hasek actually lose four games in one playoff series?

In addition to looking at his highlights from time to time, go back and look at his stats and all of the awards he won. Its ridiculous.

Hasek played 491 games with the Sabres over nine seasons:

Regular season: 234-170-70. 2.22 goals against average. .926 save percentage. 55 shutouts

Playoffs: 37-31 2.04 .930 6 shutouts

As far as the hardware he gathered over his time in Buffalo:

Hart Trophy (1997, 1998) He finished 2nd in the Hart once and was third in voting on two other occasions so thats five top three finishes in MVP voting in nine years.

Vezina Trophy(1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001)

NHL First All Star Team (1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001)

All Star Game appearances (1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001)

Hasek had five seasons with a save percentage of at least .930. They occurred in a six year span with his last two seasons coming in at .932 and then .937. He led the NHL in save percentage in each of those six years. In his Hart Trophy winning 1997-98 season, Hasek led the league in games played(72), minutes (4220), shots against (2149), saves (2002), save percentage (.932) and shutouts (13). In addition to the Hart, he won the Vezina that year and the Lester Pearson award which is given to the MVP of the league as voted on by the players.

Hasek is one of only six goalies to ever win the Hart Trophy in its 90 year history. He is the lone net minder to

win it more than once.

I thought it would be interesting to get some other perspectives on Hasek and his time spent with the Sabres. This is from former teammate and fellow goalie Martin Biron:

I remember my first training camp, I was just drafted in the 1st round the past summer and really thought I had a chance to make the team (who was I kidding). They had put all the goalies in the same locker room at the old Sabreland and as I looked around me, I remember telling myself: "I'm better than him, and him, and him....." The goalies there that year were Rob Stauber, Andrei Trefilov, Steve Shields and of course Dominik Hasek. Dom had just won his second of 6 Vezina trophies and I was confident I was better than him. That feeling lasted until the first practice.

As we took the ice, I went to the empty cage and one end of the ice just to see Hasek doing some stretching at the other end. The guy really had a slinky for a spine. I figured I had my own style of doing things because I was never the flexible one and he was probably just showing off. Then the first shooting drill started. I was mesmerized by his ability to save every single shot coming his way. He was so good in practice that Donald Audette switched sides just so he could get some confidence on a young goalie who seemed to be better at getting out of the way of the puck. When practice was finally over and I was brought back to earth, I was ready to hit the showers when I realized Hasek was still on the ice taking one-timers from the slot and challenging the guys to shoot harder. I was in way over my head.

Fast forward a few days and we have our 1st pre-season game at the Aud against the St-Louis Blues. Dom is starting and I'm gonna play the 2nd half. I'm fully dressed in the locker room and there's only 10 minutes to go before warm ups and there's no sign of Dom in the locker room. The guys don't seem to be worried but I am starting to freak out. Am I going to have to start the game? I'm in a full sweat when Hasek walks into the room with weights around his ankle and lays on his back to do some leg stretches. He finally got dressed and I was relieved I would have some time to think about my game. As for the game, we had to kill a 5 on 3 in the second period and Dom being Dom he made 5 or 6 saves laying on his back with his legs in the air that had the Blues scratching their heads. Just after all of that, it was time for me to go in but not before the fans decided to stand up and give Hasek a full ovation for his 30 minutes of work in a pre-season game. Every shot that I faced after that was received with quiet whispers thinking they would all find the back of the net!!! We won in OT on a power play goal by Audette and Hasek was named one of the stars. I went back to junior the next day. :-)

Now here's one not too many people know. One game in 2000-01, Hasek's last year in Buffalo, we were getting dressed just like every other game when while turning around to get his helmet and gloves on to go on the ice for warmup, Dom realized he had forgotten to put a very important part of his equipment: his all important cup!!! He looked at me as if I had a solution for him and immediately called for Rip Simonick to come over to the rescue. Rip starting laughing and suggested he stuffed a sock down his pants and try to avoid getting hit in the area. I was crying it was so funny to see Dom's reaction. So just like that, he grabbed his stick and lead the team onto the ice. He did his full warmup and made the whole important adjustment to his equipment upon his return to the locker room. I wish we had iPhones to snap a picture of his protective cup hanging in the back of his locker during warmup.

Mike Robitaille covered Hasek's entire career as an analyst and has an interesting perspective on Hasek's place in history since Robitaille played against some of the greatest goalies ever:

Terry Sawchuck was considered the best goalie ever until Hasek went to work.

He changed the style of goaltending because of second effort and a will to win that was on the verge of sickness--he played like someone possessed never to be scored on. Whether his teammates, especially defenseman, realize it he indirectly kept a lot of jobs and put a great deal of money in everyone's pockets from the owners---coaches and players.

If I had to start a team I would have no problems making him my first pick and I say that with great respect to Bobby Orr and Wayne Gretzky---those two players still needed a group of talented individuals around them to

complement their skills. Dominek didn't necessarily need nearly as much and single-handedly won 75% of the games by himself.

Just as Orr was the best defenseman that ever played and Gretzky was the most prolific forward, you can bet your lungs on the fact that Hasek was clearly and unquestionably the most spectacular goalie that ever played and MAYBE, arguably, the best player that ever played---- is that a stretch? MAYBE but I'm comfortable with saying it. You need a lot of components and endless talent to win games and I know for a fact I could do it with Dominek alone on most nights. The Sabres offered average talent and a group of players that wouldn't allow anyone to outwork them and that's what Buffalo offered while Hasek played in Buffalo---THERE'S your recipe to have a consistent team--- we all lived and watched it here in Buffalo---- Goaltending--- group of determined overachievers that are willing to win at any cost.

Sabres intermission host Brian Duff is a veteran NHL analyst and shared his thoughts on Hasek:

My first opportunity to see Dominik Hasek in person was during a practice at the Aud in the 1993-94 season. I was taking a break from my news job in Medicine Hat, Alberta (where I also did some color commentary for the WHL's Tigers) and was actually going down to the rink to interview John Muckler for an intermission feature. To sit and watch veteran Grant Fuhr at one end of the rink, working on his angles but not seemingly caring if pucks were picking corners, contrasted with Hasek doing ANYTHING possible to stop 2 on 1's, 3 on 0's and 5 on 0's was truly something I had never seen before, and haven't seen as successfully for any other goaltender since.

That sentiment of course is backed by countless greats within the game, which is a comforting thought that I wasn't hallucinating that wintry day.

That same season, none of us will ever forget the quadruple OT game against the Devils. Fortunately for me, even though my morning news shift on radio started with a 3am wakeup call, I was two hours less sleep deprived than some given my location in the mountain time zone.

Still, I had to leave my spot at the sports bar after the third OT, knowing of course I would be home in time for the finish.

The 70-save shutout (still an NHL playoff record), the countless saves on Stephane Richer among others, still vivid to this day.

But at the end of it all I marvel most at the achievements, especially the ones most overlooked. He didn't begin to make his mark in the NHL until he was 28!

Five times he was the Czech Goalie-of-the-year.

Three times he was the Czech Player-of-the-year.

Give the man five more "average seasons" in the NHL and he would surely vault from 12th all-time in wins to the top three.

And the fact that he was the absolute best in the NHL - while wearing a Sabres uniform - is pretty friggin' awesome.

My thanks to Marty, Mike and Brian for sharing their thoughts.

And thanks for a truck load of memories Dominik. Congratulations on your well deserved honor and your spot in the rafters forever!

## **Sabres to hang “The Dominator’s” jersey in rafters**

By Lauren Hall

WIVB

January 12, 2015

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (WIVB)** - Tuesday night will be special for Sabres fans at the First Niagara Center. “The Dominator” is going to have his jersey hung in the rafters.

News 4’s Lauren Hall is the in-arena host on game nights. She stopped by the arena Monday as final preps were coming together for the ceremony.

They are planning a dignified tribute to one of the best Sabres of all time, as they retire his jersey. As fans enter the arena, each person will be given a mini Hasek banner, a replica of the one that will forever hang in the rafters at the First Niagara Center. His career stats and achievements are listed on the back, including six Vezina trophies, two Hart trophies, two Pearson awards, an Olympic gold medal and two Stanley Cups he won with Tuesday night’s opponent, the Detroit Red Wings.

If you’re going to the game, you will want to be on time. At 6:45 p.m., the Sabres will be doing an autographed Dominik Hasek jersey giveaway to someone who is in his or her seats early.

This is a new tradition at Sabres games this year. But up until tonight, they have only ever given away current players jerseys.

Soon after that, the lights will dim and the “Dominator” will take the ice. He will be introduced by the man that gave him that nickname back in the 90’s: Play-by-Play Announcer Rick Jeanarett.

Hasek will address the crowd for a few moments. Then he will be joined by two special groups of people, Members of his “Hasek’s Heroes” foundation, and two honored members of the so-called “Rafters Club.”

They will all play a special part in presenting his banner, and raising it into the rafters, where his jersey will join Gilbert Perreault, Rick Martin, Rene Robert, Tim Horton, Danny Gare and Pat LaFontaine’s banners.

When Hasek was inducted in the Wall of Fame last year he said, “It was an honor for me to play in Buffalo and this is something I will never forget.”

The team will have autographed Hasek’s Heroes caps, pucks, and lithographs for sale at the game, to benefit the organization that brings hockey to youth players here in western New York.

You can also pick up a replica banner at the Sabres store if you can’t make it to the game or know someone else who couldn’t.

## **Sabres recall Dalpe, Varone**

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

January 12, 2015

For the first time since training camp, Zac Dalpe is back with the Buffalo Sabres. With the team in need of some help at forward, he and Philip Varone were called up Monday from the Rochester Americans of the American Hockey League.

They joined the Sabres at practice at First Niagara Center. Varone, who has two goals in three games with Buffalo this year, centered a line featuring Nicolas Deslauriers and Cody Hodgson while also seeing some time on the second power-play unit.

Dalpe skated on the fourth line with Patrick Kaleta and captain Brian Gionta, who is still a few days away from returning from an upper-body injury.

He's welcomed his new role as a veteran on the Amerks and hopes to bring some energy to the Sabres lineup Tuesday night when they host the Detroit Red Wings.

"As an older guy, I think I've learned a lot trying to play that leadership role," Dalpe said. "It's been new to me, but it's been good. I'm just excited to be here."

With Rochester, Dalpe has tallied 13 points (7+6) through 31 games played this year. He's been focused on playing a strong game and hasn't been too concerned that the points haven't really been there.

"I've got points in the past and I haven't got called up so I think it's kind of a double-edged sword that way," he said. "I'm not saying that getting points is a bad thing, but at the same time, I'm just trying to play the right way. Hopefully somebody notices and then the hockey gods will shine on you and give you some points."

Sabres coach Ted Nolan said this time, the team went with Dalpe over 20-year-old Mikhail Grigorenko because of Dalpe's experience. Dalpe was originally drafted by Carolina in the second round (45th overall) of the 2008 NHL Draft. He signed with Buffalo as a free agent in July.

Chris Stewart missed practice again because of the flu and there's a chance he won't be available for Tuesday's game against Detroit. If he is unable to go, another call-up will be needed from Rochester.

Buffalo received some good news in regards to center Cody McCormick. He's out of the hospital after being admitted on Saturday with a blood clot in his calf muscle. Nolan said that it's a good sign but they have yet to set a timetable for his return.

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### **ATTENTION TO DETAIL**

Nolan put the Sabres through a practice that lasted about an hour-and-a-half on Monday. It included a resurfacing of the ice about halfway through and an emphasis staying focused and making smarter plays.

With some younger players like Nikita Zadorov, Zemgus Girgensons and Rasmus Ristolainen playing big roles for the club right now, Nolan wants to make sure their practice habits remain sharp.

Buffalo has also lost seven straight games and is 1-10-1 in its past 12.

"I've got a lot of patience and when you're going through what we're going through, you have to have it," Nolan said. "You see some of the results we're having and some of them are because we're not paying attention all the time."

"You have to pay attention all the time and if you don't, those lapses, the beginning of games we don't start so well and all of a sudden, we don't have enough firepower to catch up. Attention to detail is very important and that's what we're trying to strive for every day here.

"Especially with some of the younger players, we want to make sure we do that all the time. And if we do it all the time, we'll get better."

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### **PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT**

The Sabres will honor former goaltender Dominik Hasek before the game Tuesday night by raising his No. 39 to the rafters. Hasek will become the sixth player to have his number retired by the team.

Hasek was notorious for being a fierce competitor in practice and when asked what made Hasek so great, Nolan drew a line from the way Hasek prepared to the way he'd like his team to perform in practice.

"Dom practiced hard all the time. You look at all the great players, they practiced hard all the time," he said. "I'm not saying everybody's going to be a Hall of Famer, but that doesn't stop you from trying to compete like a Hall of Famer.

"I think that was the difference with Dom. He didn't want anybody scoring on him any time, particularly in practice and that's why it transferred into a game."

Fans attending Tuesday's game are encouraged to be in their seats by 6:45 p.m. for the ceremony. More details can be **found here**.

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### **MONDAY'S PRACTICE**

26 Matt Moulson – 28 Zemgus Girgensons – 63 Tyler Ennis  
65 Brian Flynn – 17 Torrey Mitchell – 21 Drew Stafford  
44 Nicolas Deslauriers – 84 Phil Varone – 19 Cody Hodgson  
12 Brian Gionta – 20 Zac Dalpe – 36 Patrick Kaleta

4 Josh Gorges – 57 Tyler Myers  
61 Andre Benoit – 55 Rasmus Ristolainen  
6 Mike Weber – 41 Andrej Meszaros  
51 Nikita Zadorov – 24 Tyson Strachan

34 Michal Neuvirth  
1 Jhonas Enroth

Did Not Skate: 8 Cody McCormick (blood clot), 82 Marcus Foligno (injured reserve, hand)

### **POWER PLAY**

#### *First Unit*

Moulson-Girgensons-Ennis  
Myers-Ristolainen

#### *Second Unit*

Flynn-Varone-Stafford  
Gorges-Meszaros

## **Sabres prospects report**

By Kris Baker

Sabres.com

January 12, 2015

Trade winds were blowing last week with Canadian Hockey League deadlines passing. When the dust settled, two Buffalo Sabres prospects, **Justin Bailey** (2013, second round) and **Brycen Martin** (2014, third round), found themselves wearing new colors.

In the Ontario Hockey League, Bailey was dealt from the Kitchener Rangers to Sault Ste. Marie on Tuesday in exchange for 2015 draft prospect David Miller and four draft picks as the Greyhounds made a series of moves to prepare themselves for what many think will be a deep playoff run. (The Greyhounds also added forward Nick Ritchie and defenseman Anthony DeAngelo in separate deals later in the week.)

The Rangers' leading scorer at the time of the deal, Bailey moved from the last-place team in the Midwest Division to the Greyhounds, who have occupied the top spot in the West Division all season long.

Bailey logged a successful Sault Ste. Marie debut on Wednesday, scoring a pair of goals including a nifty game-winner and adding an assist as the Greyhounds held on for a 6-5 victory at Sudbury. Newly acquired Ritchie (ANA) and DeAngelo (TBL) joined the Hounds' road trip on Friday as Bailey went without a point in a 3-1 win at Saginaw. Bailey closed the week Saturday with an assist in a 3-0 shutout win at Plymouth, leaving him with 24 goals and 45 points through 38 contests.

After playing in 181 career games with the Swift Current Broncos, Martin learned Tuesday evening that he had been traded to the Kamloops Blazers in exchange for rearguard Josh Connolly, brother of Tampa Bay Lightning forward Brett, and a 2016 draft selection.

On Wednesday, the deal was voided by the WHL, but it didn't take long for the Broncos to find another dance partner, with Martin ultimately being shipped to Saskatoon with a conditional 2017 pick for Jared Thomson and a first round pick in 2015.

Martin was quiet in his Friday debut as the Blades were beaten 4-1 at Lethbridge. He made a greater impact on Saturday, notching one goal and one assist to earn first star honors as Saskatoon earned a 6-4 road victory at Kootenay. Martin scored on the first shift of the second period when he snapped a shot from the slot to make it a 1-1 game. The goal, his third of the year, gives the steady puck-mover 18 points in 41 games.

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### **OHL**

**Nick Baptiste** (2013, third round) continued to heat up last week, recording goals in three straight games to give him points in nine of his last 10 contests. Baptiste scored his 13th goal of the year Thursday as the Otters squandered a three-goal lead in 4-3 loss at Sarnia. The Ottawa-native came back the next night, banging in a power play rebound as Erie powered past London 6-2. On Sunday, Baptiste claimed his 15th goal plus an assist as the Otters again bounced the Knights 5-3. The productive week gives Baptiste 30 points in 28 games between Erie and Sudbury.

After seeing his three-game point streak interrupted in Thursday's loss to Niagara, **Brendan Lemieux** (2014, second round) picked up a pair of assists Saturday as Barrie doubled Sudbury 6-3. Lemieux, whose line with Joseph Blandisi and Kevin Labanc (SJS) combined for 10 points on the night, has now gone two games without a goal for the fourth time this season. Lemieux remains among league leaders with 29 goals (4th), 16 power play markers (1st) and 95 PIM (2nd) through 34 outings.

In an East Division tilt on Saturday, **Eric Cornel** (2014, second round) assisted on the game's only goal as last-place Peterborough blanked first-place Oshawa 1-0. Cornel began the week without a point in a 3-2 loss to

Ottawa on Thursday. He has a goal and three assists in his last 10 games for the Petes, who have gone 6-4-0-0 in that span.

Sault Ste. Marie forward **Jean Dupuy** combined with Bailey to notch a goal and an assist Wednesday as the Greyhounds got past Sudbury 6-5. He'd finish without a point on Friday and Saturday in wins at Saginaw and Plymouth. The gritty worker has amassed nine goals, 27 points and a plus-22 rating in 33 appearances this season.

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### **OMJHL**

On Saturday, **Vaclav Karabacek** (2014, second round) pumped a shot in the top corner for his first goal with his new team as Baie-Comeau fell to Sherbrooke 3-2. Karabacek, who also produced a season-high six shots on goal, has three points in his first five games with the Drakkar.

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### **WHL**

**Sam Reinhart** (2014, first round) was blanked Friday in his first game back from the World Junior Championship as Kootenay lost to Red Deer 3-1, but the playmaking captain was able to snag one assist in the Ice's Saturday loss to Saskatoon. Reinhart has amassed eight goals and 28 points in 17 games for the ICE, who occupy fifth place in the WHL's Central Division.

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### **NCAA**

In Saturday action, **J.T. Compher** (2013, second round) scored his fourth goal of the year as Michigan earned the B1G sweep with a 7-5 victory over No. 9 Minnesota. Compher's goal came with 12 seconds remaining in the opening period when he buried a backhand rebound to give the Wolverines a 4-1 lead. Compher, who had three shots on goal on Friday in the Wolverines' 4-3 overtime triumph over the Gophers, has experienced a slight dip in his production this season with 12 points (4+8) in 17 games. He had six goals and 15 points in his first 17 games a season ago.

**Hudson Fasching** notched one assist Saturday in No. 9 Minnesota's wild 7-5 loss at Michigan. The helper came as Fasching received a puck behind the net and sent a wraparound pass to the front of the net for a Connor Reilly one-time finish. Fasching produced two shots on goal in the Gophers' overtime loss the night before, leaving him with nine points (5+4) in 17 games.

Minnesota senior forward **Christian Isackson** (2010, seventh round) was used in a limited fourth-line role, finishing with one shot on goal and a minor penalty in the set with Michigan. Isackson has appeared in all 18 games for the Gophers, posting two assists, 13 shots on goal and an even rating.

**Connor Hurley** (2013, second round) picked up a primary assist Friday as Notre Dame was defeated 4-2 at Western Michigan. Hurley was unable to connect on Saturday as the Fighting Irish capped the home-and-home series with a 4-3 loss to the Broncos. The 19-year-old freshman has three goals and 11 assists through his first 21 NCAA games.

Notre Dame goaltender **Cal Petersen** (2013, fifth round) made his fourth straight start Friday, stopping 22 of 26 shots as the Fighting Irish were defeated by Western Michigan 4-2. On Saturday, Petersen came on in relief of Chad Katunar at the start of the third period, making eight saves before allowing a glove-side goal with 1:06 left on the clock in the 4-3 loss to the Broncos. The weekend losses drop Petersen to 5-8-1 with a 2.67 GAA and .904 save%.

Brown freshman forward **Max Willman** (2014, fifth round) was blanked in a 3-2 loss to crosstown rival Providence on Friday, and contributed one shot on goal in a 5-3 win over the Friars the following day as the Bears captured the 2014 Mayor's Cup. With each team winning one game in the weekend series, Brown was awarded the trophy based on their plus-two goal differential.

**Anthony Florentino** (2013, fifth round) assisted on the overtime winner Friday as No. 13 Providence opened the Mayor's Cup with a 3-2 decision over Brown. The sophomore rearguard fired two shots on goal Saturday as the Friars saw their six-game winning streak snapped in a loss to the Bears. Florentino has seven points (1+6) in 21 games this season while placing second on the team with a plus-11 rating.

Fifth-year senior **Mark Adams** (2009, fifth round) remained out of the Providence lineup for the Mayor's Cup series. In 16 games, the bottom-pair defender has registered one assist and a plus-two rating.

**Brad Navin** (2011, seventh round) earned his fourth point of the season, an assist, as Wisconsin played to a 3-3 tie with No. 2 Boston University on Friday. The senior co-captain finished with a minus-two rating on Saturday as the Badgers could not counter a two-goal, two-assist night from 2015 draft prospect Jack Eichel in a 6-1 loss to the Terriers.

**Judd Peterson** (2012, seventh round) was kept off the scoresheet as St. Cloud State earned the NCHC sweep with 3-1 and 3-2 decisions over No. 6 Miami. Petersen has two goals and two assists in his first 20 NCAA games.

**Sean Malone** (2013, sixth round) did not play Saturday as Harvard was defeated 4-1 by Yale at Madison Square Garden. The speedy sophomore has played in just three of the Crimson's 14 games this season, notching five points (2+3) and 10 shots on goal.

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## USHL

**Christopher Brown** (2014, sixth round) picked up one assist over the weekend as Green Bay suffered a pair of defeats at Youngstown. The Gamblers' leading goal scorer with 12 in 32 games, Brown is currently fighting a season-long five-game drought.

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## SHL

**Victor Olofsson** (2014, seventh round) scored the game's first goal Saturday as MODO lost their seventh straight contest 2-1 to Lulea HF. Olofsson's 10th of the year, which ties him for second in team scoring, came when he intercepted a cross-ice pass and stepped into the slot to get off a high wrist shot. Olofsson returned from World Junior duty on Thursday, posting two shots on goal as MODO was edged by the Vaxjo Lakers 3-2.

**Gustav Possler** (2013, fifth round) produced three shots on goal in MODO's 3-2 loss to Brynas IF on Tuesday, but he missed the next two games due to illness. Through 33 games, Possler has collected nine goals and 16 points for the league's cellar dweller.

MODO netminder **Linus Ullmark** (2012, sixth round) sat out last week's games after suffering a groin injury. The 21-year-old stopper has appeared in 22 games for MODO, posting a 7-13 record with a 3.24 GAA and .904 save%.

Brynas IF goaltender **Jonas Johansson** (2014, third round) remains sidelined while rehabilitating an injury that forced him out of the recent World Junior Championship.