



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

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Lander with goal and two assists as Oilers beat Sabres 3-2

By Shane Jones

Canadian Press

January 29, 2015

EDMONTON - The fourth line answered the bell for the Edmonton Oilers in a showdown of the league's two worst clubs on Thursday.

Anton Lander and Matt Fraser each had a goal and two assists as the Oilers beat the Buffalo Sabres 3-2.

Oscar Klefbom also scored for the Oilers (13-27-9), who have won three of their last four and now sit four points ahead of last-place Buffalo. The Oilers are now 6-5-2 since interim head coach Todd Nelson took over as full-time head coach.

Nelson, who has spent plenty of time watching Lander's progress in the American Hockey League, is thrilled to see him start to shine at the NHL level.

"Thank goodness Anton Lander had the game that he did tonight. He was exceptional, by far the best player on the ice," Nelson said. "I think he feels really comfortable and more confident when he looks behind and sees me. I've been working with him every year since he came over from Europe, so I think that helps. He's really improved his game. He has earned the opportunity. I thought he was outstanding tonight."

Lander shrugged off his personal best three-point performance.

"I think we played all right, we can still get better," he said. "You don't have to play great all the time, but if you get a win that's the most important thing. It's nice to get wins here the last couple of games. It's a good thing we have going on now, we have to keep it going."

Tyler Myers and Rasmus Ristolainen replied for the Sabres (14-31-3), who have lost a franchise-worst 13 games in a row and only have one win in their last 18.

"The defence were involved, but it wasn't a 60-minute effort for all of us," said Sabres centre Torrey Mitchell. "We play the first two periods well or we score the first goal, and get off to good starts and we just can't build on it right now."

It is clear the frustration level is running very high for the Sabres at the moment.

"We had our chances," said Buffalo head coach Ted Nolan. "With this team we need everyone, we can't afford two or three guys not playing well or not giving what they have to give. It seems like the same ones over and over again, but we only have 20 players, who else are you going to put in?"

"I think we need to stay positive and just keep approaching every game like we're going to win the game," added goalie Jhonas Enroth. "We can't go into every game thinking we're going to lose the game. We have to stay positive and still believe that we can win games."

The Sabres started the scoring just 2:22 into the first period as Mitchell won a battle behind the net and dished the puck out in front to Myers, who slipped a shot under the arm of Ben Scrivens— on a play the Oilers goalie would likely want to have a second chance at. It was Myers' second goal of the season.

Edmonton tied the game 1-1 with seven-and-a-half minutes left in the opening frame when Lander fed a puck from behind the goal line to Fraser, who beat Sabres starter Enroth with a slap shot for his sixth of the year.

The Oilers surged ahead with five minutes to play in the first as Lander sent a backhand pass to Klefbom at the top of the circle and the young defenceman blasted his first goal of the season into the Sabres' net.

Scrivens was forced to make a couple timely kick saves in an otherwise uneventful and scoreless second period.

Edmonton outshot Buffalo 24-16 through 40 minutes.

The Oilers were down a defenceman six minutes into the third period as Buffalo's Zemgus Girgensons directed Nikita Nikitin into the boards and the Edmonton blue-liner left the game clutching his shoulder.

Edmonton took a 3-1 lead eight minutes into the third as a turnover allowed a two-man breakaway with Teddy Purcell feeding Lander for his first goal in 65 games- also giving him his first three-point game of his career. Fraser picked up an assist on the play, also giving him three points in the game.

Buffalo closed to within a goal with 2:02 remaining as Ristolainen followed up on the play to bang home a rebound through Scriven's legs.

However, the Sabres took a late penalty and couldn't complete the comeback, allowing the Oilers to run out the clock.

Sabres-Canucks preview

By Staff Report

Associated Press

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Ryan Miller left the Buffalo Sabres as their all-time leader in wins, and they certainly haven't looked capable of getting one themselves lately.

Now with the Vancouver Canucks, Miller is expected to face his former team for the first time since being traded as the Sabres look to avoid the NHL's longest regulation losing streak in 22 years Friday night.

Miller was a cornerstone for the Sabres for nearly a decade, setting franchise records for wins in a season (41) and overall (284) while claiming the 2010 Vezina Trophy. He also spurred runs to the 2006 and '07 Eastern Conference finals.

He gained mainstream notoriety for backstopping the United States to the silver medal in the 2010 Olympics, earning MVP honors.

An expiring contract, however, led the Sabres to send him to St. Louis in a blockbuster trade on March 1.

"It's going to be a little bit strange. I'm going to pay special attention not to pass the puck to the Buffalo symbol," Miller said. "It's going to be nice to see some of the faces over there, but part of hockey is having fun competing against your friends, former teammates, colleagues. I look forward to these opportunities.

"This is a chance to play against a team and organization that does mean a lot to me."

Miller has adjusted just fine after signing with the Canucks (26-17-3) last summer. He's 23-11-1 with a 2.33 goals-against average and five shutouts. However, he's allowed six goals on 48 shots while losing his last two games after going 7-2-1 with a 1.40 GAA and two shutouts over his previous 10.

He made 20 saves Tuesday, when Vancouver lost 4-0 to NHL-leading Anaheim.

"I think we're a better team than that," coach Willie Desjardins said after his team was held to 17 shots. "We've just got to find ways."

The Sabres (14-32-3) probably say that nearly every game, as they own the worst record in the NHL after finishing last in 2013-14.

They're also enduring a franchise-record 13-game losing streak, and a loss to Miller would give them the longest regulation losing streak since San Jose dropped 17 straight from Jan. 4-Feb. 12, 1993.

Desjardins, though, isn't taking Buffalo lightly.

"I think if you look past them, it's a mistake. I don't know why we would. We certainly shouldn't be," Desjardins said.

The Sabres, 1-16-1 in their last 18 games, did little to strike fear in anyone Thursday, losing 3-2 at Edmonton in a battle of the two worst teams in the league.

"I think we need to stay positive and just keep approaching every game like we're going to win the game," said Jhonas Enroth, who had 31 saves. "We can't go into every game thinking we're going to lose the game. We have to stay positive and still believe that we can win games."

Improved goaltending would also help. Enroth has lost eight straight starts with a 4.66 GAA, but it's unclear if he'll get the call on back-to-back days.

Backup Michal Neuvirth, though, has a 4.10 GAA while losing his last eight starts since returning from a lower-body injury. He's lost both of his career visits to Vancouver while surrendering seven goals on 67 shots.

Miller sympathizes with his former team.

"When you're not getting the results and people are talking about it, there's that place you can go and kind of get numb and don't get emotionally charged," he said. "Last year, I was getting a little bit numb for a stretch, but I reminded myself why I like to play and re-energized myself.

"I hope they find that energy."

Miller set to face old team for the first time when Canucks host Sabres

By Joshua Clipperton

Canadian Press

January 29, 2015

VANCOUVER - Ryan Miller wasn't ready face the Buffalo Sabres last season.

After getting traded by the only NHL organization he had ever known, the veteran goalie was given the choice by the St. Louis Blues of facing his old team or watching the from the bench when the clubs met in early April.

Miller chose the latter and instead started against the Philadelphia Flyers two days earlier.

Now a member of the Vancouver Canucks, the 34-year-old will finally suit up against the franchise that drafted him when the Sabres visit Rogers Arena on Friday night.

"I'll pay special attention not to pass the puck towards the Buffalo symbol," Miller joked after Thursday's practice. "It's going to be nice to see some of the faces over there. But part of hockey is having fun competing against your friends, former teammates, colleagues.

"This is a chance to play against a team and an organization that does mean a lot to me."

A fifth-round pick back in 1999, Miller was the face of the Sabres for nine seasons and helped the team to the Eastern Conference final in both 2006 and 2007.

"A lot things to be proud of coming out of Buffalo," said Miller, who signed with the Canucks as a free agent in July. "Disappointed we didn't achieve our goals there. We were close a couple times and pushing towards a Stanley Cup and we fell short and that's obviously frustrating.

"The group of guys I played with, that was a lot of fun."

Vancouver captain Henrik Sedin, whose team is coming off a disappointing 4-0 loss to the Anaheim Ducks on Tuesday, said the Canucks want to make sure their netminder has a memorable night.

"He spent a lot of years in Buffalo," said Sedin. "For anyone coming back and playing their former team, even if it's at home here, I'm sure it's a special night for him. He's been so good for us so we've got to help him as much as we can."

The Sabres have fallen on hard times in recent years and sit at the bottom of the NHL standings heading into Thursday's action.

Miller said he keeps in touch with some people in the organization and feels the pain of a team in full rebuild mode.

"It's frustrating to not get the results when you put in the hard work. I know a lot of those guys on that team are proud and they work hard," he said. "When you're not getting the results and people are talking about it there's that place where you can kind of go where you can get numb and you don't get as emotionally charged ... or you remind yourself (why you) play.

"I think last year I was getting a little bit numb for a stretch, but I reminded myself why I like to play and got re-energized by the challenge of just going out to play. I hope they find that energy and continue to play hard because they have a lot of talent on that team."

Miller has found plenty of success so far this season with Vancouver, recording 23 of his team's 26 wins, and set a personal shutout streak of 200 minutes 45 seconds as the Canucks continue to battle for a Western Conference playoff spot.

"I identified myself for so long as a Sabre," said Miller. "It's going to be a little bit strange, but I have aligned myself with this organization and the goals we have here. I identify myself now as proud to be a Canuck and working toward our goals here."

Note: With a couple of injuries up front, the Canucks recalled forward Ronalds Kenins from the AHL's Utica Comets on Thursday.

Sabres fall to Oilers in 'battle of the bottom'

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

January 29, 2015

EDMONTON, Alberta – The Buffalo Sabres are well on their way to the worst record in the National Hockey League and the best odds in the draft lottery. But a new question now develops from Thursday's 3-2 loss to the Edmonton Oilers in the battle of the league's bottom two teams.

When are the Sabres actually going to win another game?

The mistake-ridden Blue and Gold has now lost 13 straight in regulation, the longest losing streak in the league since 2003. And some dubious history is beckoning: The all-time record is 17 and it was set by the 1974-75 expansion Washington Capitals and a second-year club, the 1992-93 San Jose Sharks.

The Sabres get no rest after their latest defeat, as they play the Vancouver Canucks Friday night in Rogers Arena. Longtime Buffalo goalie Ryan Miller is scheduled to start for Vancouver. If Buffalo hits loss No. 14, it would mark the first pointless month of more than eight games in franchise history. The Sabres are 0-11 in January.

"You can't look at it like that, the 'when will we win?' You just can't," said defenseman Josh Gorges. "As hard as it is and as frustrating as this is, tomorrow we have to be refreshed and come with the right mindset. We can't make these kind of errors, can't keep beating ourselves. Even if we play a great hockey game without beating ourselves, that's going to be a tough night to win.

"We have to face reality. These mistakes we continually make, we have to eliminate them and find a way to play with confidence and not play scared to lose."

Coach Ted Nolan is clearly struggling with the reality. He had easily his shortest press conference of the season.

"With this team, we need everyone. We can't afford 2-3 guys not playing well," said an agitated Nolan. "We got what we got. That's all I have to say about that."

The Sabres are now four points behind Edmonton, which is 6-5-2 in its last 13 games. Buffalo is 1-16-1 in its last 18 overall and 0-12-1 in its last 13 on the road.

The Sabres were outshot in the game, 34-20, and were doubled in shot attempts, 74-37. Tyler Myers opened the scoring for Buffalo at 2:22 of the first period but Matt Fraser and Oscar Klefbom tallied for Edmonton in a 2½-minute span later in the first and Buffalo never got even. Oilers center Anton Lander, who had no goals and four points on the season, had three points in this game alone.

If you need a capsule summary at what a slapstick act the Sabres have become, look no further than a 30-second sequence in the third period that produced Edmonton's third goal by Lander at 7:52.

Benoit Pouliot got a clear breakaway from the red line in on Jhonas Enroth but the Buffalo goaltender, one of the few players up to the task Thursday, stoned him on the backhand. The Sabres got the puck out of the zone and up the ice but soon got into scramble mode and were caught on a brutal line change.

Cody Hodgson failed to go for the puck on Drew Stafford's feed in the neutral zone just as defensemen Tyson Strachan and Mike Weber broke for the bench. Myers and Gorges couldn't get on nearly in time, with Gorges stuck one leg over the boards as Edmonton bolted back up ice on a 2-on-0 break.

Lander had a tap-in on a Teddy Purcell feed at 7:52 to make it 3-1 and give Edmonton room to withstand Rasmus Ristolainen's goal with 2:02 left.

The bad changes were a recurring problem in this one, contributing to the last two Edmonton goals and a couple of other scoring chances.

"The puck was going right to one of our forwards. He goes the opposite way," Nolan said of Hodgson. "He should have gone into the puck, he goes away. They stop it, our defense thought they were changing, thought we had good possession of it and we didn't. Those things kill us all the time."

"Those are things that can't happen this time of the year in tight-game situations," Gorges said. "Bad line changes are a byproduct of not advancing pucks, not getting pucks behind their guys and doing our job before the change."

The usual Rexall Place sellout crowd of 16,839 saw Myers take a Torrey Mitchell diagonal feed to give Buffalo a 1-0 lead just 2:22 into the game, marking the fourth straight time the Sabres have scored the first goal. They have lost all four.

"I don't know if we're not mentally strong enough to play 60 minutes now but the last month and a half it seems that way," Mitchell said. "I don't know what the answer is. There's lulls in our game for 5-6 minutes and it's like bang-bang, they score and we're behind the 8-ball again. You should get confidence from that first goal."

Under new coach Todd Nelson, the Oilers have belief. They have been rejuvenated with notable wins over Los Angeles, Chicago, the New York Islanders and Washington. They don't look like a team that will finish in the race for the top pick and the right to pick Connor McDavid.

There's no doubt the Sabres do.

Miller ready to face old teammates

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

January 29, 2015

EDMONTON, Alberta – The Buffalo Sabres were to fly to Vancouver immediately after Thursday's game after the Edmonton Oilers, and they will see a very familiar face in goal Friday night against the Canucks in Rogers Arena.

Ryan Miller, the franchise's all-time victory leader, is expected to make his first career start against Buffalo in Friday's game.

"I won't lie. I think I'll probably have a little bit of a weird feeling," Miller told The Buffalo News by phone Thursday afternoon. "I spent such a long time in that jersey, I'll try not to pass the puck to anybody with a Sabres sword on their chest."

Miller was traded from Buffalo to St. Louis last February and then signed a three-year, \$18 million contract with Vancouver when free agency opened in July. Miller did not play against Buffalo while in St. Louis last year as the Blues were in the thick of the playoff race and Miller did not want to cause any undue distraction to his new team's goaltender rotation he was sharing with Brian Elliott, who beat Buffalo in an April visit to Scottrade Center.

Miller is 23-11-1 for Vancouver this year with 2.33 goals-against average and .917 save percentage. He is second in the NHL with five shutouts, one off his career high of six set with the Sabres in 2011-12. He won 284 games with Buffalo from 2002-2014.

"This is a game I'll just try to have some fun with," Miller said. "I'll see a lot of people who meant a lot to me over the years, from the training staff and support staff and the guys I played with for a while. I care about these guys a lot. It will be nice to have a chance to meet them."

Miller said he had been following the Sabres' epic 12-game losing streak entering his former team's visit to Edmonton.

"No matter what people want to say, these guys do prepare," he said. "They want to work hard and go out there and compete hard. It's not clicking and sometimes it's a question of guys developing into their roles. It's a tough league and you do feel for them."

The Canucks visit Buffalo Feb. 26 and Miller said a return to the city he played in since 2002 has definitely been circled on his calendar.

"It's the kind of game where you have to just take a second and appreciate it for what it is. I'm looking forward to coming back," Miller said.

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Another familiar face from the Sabres' back-to-back Eastern Conference finalists of 2006 and 2007 was on the ice against them here Thursday. And if Buffalo lands phenom Connor McDavid in the June draft, Derek Roy might prove to be the most valuable player of the whole process.

The Edmonton Oilers entered play Thursday 5-5-2 in the 12 games since Roy joined them in a trade from Nashville. Without Roy, Edmonton was 7-22-7 and was 10 points behind the Sabres.

"I saw that MVP thing on the Internet," a laughing Roy said before the game. "I'm just here to do my job, help the younger guys, score goals, make plays, get some wins on the board. So far it's been pretty good."

Roy entered Thursday with three goals, five assists and a plus-1 rating with the Oilers. He had one goal and nine assists with 26 games for Nashville before the Predators waived him. After clearing waivers, Roy was on a flight to Milwaukee to join Nashville's AHL team when he got a call to deplane in Chicago because a trade to Edmonton had been worked out.

"I was excited to hear about Edmonton. It was a fresh start," Roy said.

"He's been good. He's a smart player who can make plays," said Edmonton coach Todd Nelson. "I like the fact that he's taken on a leadership role here. He's been around, had a lot of experience and is helping our guys face some of the problems he's faced before."

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Following the morning skate, Sabres captain Brian Gionta paid tribute to goaltending legend and former teammate Martin Brodeur. The longtime ex-New Jersey netminder announced his retirement Thursday to take a front-office position with the St. Louis Blues.

"To have the privilege to play with him for so long was pretty special," Gionta said. "You had him back there and to be a part of history with some of the things he accomplished was pretty special."

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The Sabres scratched Andre Benoit and Nikita Zadorov on defense for Thursday's game, with coach Ted Nolan reiterating that he expects Zadorov to return to the lineup Friday. Nolan said no decision has been made on Friday's goaltender, although Jhonas Enroth said during a radio interview Wednesday he wanted to play all four games on this road trip.

Cracked a smiling Nolan: "Well, he wants it. We want a lot of things. We want some wins too. We'll see what happens."

Lander helps Oilers send Sabres to 13th loss in row

By Derek Van Diest

NHL.com

January 29, 2015

EDMONTON -- Center Anton Lander had a goal and two assists to lead the Edmonton Oilers to a 3-2 win against the Buffalo Sabres at Rexall Place on Thursday.

Edmonton (13-27-9) has won three of its past four games and swept the two-game season series with Buffalo. The Oilers visit the Calgary Flames on Saturday.

"Thank goodness Anton Lander had the game that he did tonight. He was exceptional, by far the best player on the ice," Oilers coach Todd Nelson said. "I think he feels really comfortable and more confident when he looks behind and sees me. I've been working with him every year since he came over from Europe, so I think that helps.

"He's really improved his game. He has earned the opportunity. I thought he was outstanding tonight."

The loss extended Buffalo's losing streak to 13 games, the longest in Sabres history. All 13 losses have come in regulation.

Buffalo (14-32-3) visits former Sabres goaltender Ryan Miller and the Vancouver Canucks on Friday in the fourth of a five-game road trip.

Recalled from the Oklahoma City Barons of the American Hockey League on Jan. 1, Lander has become a regular in the Oilers lineup. He set up Edmonton's first two goals, then scored the eventual winner in the third period.

The goal, at 7:52, was Lander's first of the season. He and Oilers forward Teddy Purcell broke in on a 2-on-0 break following a poor line change by Buffalo. Purcell slid the puck over to Lander, who lifted a shot over Sabres goaltender Jhonas Enroth, who made 31 saves.

"It was fun to play and a big win for us," said Lander, who had two goals in 104 NHL games before Thursday. "I think we played all right, but we can still get better. I feel good out there. You don't have to play great all the time, but if you get a win, that's the most important thing. It's nice to get wins here the last couple of games. It's a good thing we have going on now; we have to keep it going."

Matt Fraser and Oscar Klefbom also scored for the Oilers.

Defensemen Tyler Myers and Rasmus Ristolainen scored for the Sabres.

"What can you do? The mental mistakes, the change that happened, the puck was going right to one of our forwards and he goes the opposite way," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said. "Instead of going into the puck, he goes away from the puck, and our defense gets caught in a change. I thought we had good possession of the puck and we didn't; those things are going to kill us all the time.

"We had our chances. With this team we need every one; we can't afford two or three guys not playing well or not giving what they have to give."

Myers scored for the Sabres 2:22 in the first period for a 1-0 lead. He took a centering pass from forward Torrey Mitchell and fired a shot past Oilers goaltender Ben Scrivens.

Mitchell beat three Oilers to the puck behind the Edmonton net, then spotted Myers unattended, coming in from the point.

"The defense were involved, but it wasn't a 60-minute effort from all of us," Mitchell said. "It's painful not being able to play a full 60 minutes. We play the first two periods well or we score the first goal, and getting off to good starts, and we just can't build on it right now."

Scrivens made 18 saves. All nine of his victories this season have come at Rexall Place.

Fraser tied the game 1-1 at 12:27, converting a pass from Lander and beating Enroth from in tight.

The goal was Fraser's sixth of the season and third since being claimed off waivers from the Boston Bruins on Dec. 29.

Klefbom put Edmonton up 2-1 with his first goal of the season at 15:02 of the first period, also on a feed from Lander, who beat Myers to the puck behind the Sabres net and spotted the Oilers defenseman in front.

"It's a lot of fun to win hockey games," Klefbom said. "This is the type of game we want to play. It was a solid game, and we put a lot of pucks on the net. We have to keep working on that. It is a good atmosphere in [the dressing room] right now."

Buffalo had a good chance to tie the game in the second period off a scramble in front, but Mitchell was unable to get his stick on a loose puck with Scrivens out of position.

Prior to the Oilers' third goal, they went down to five defensemen when Nikita Nikitin was driven into the boards by Sabres center Zemgus Girgensons. Nikitin left the game with a shoulder injury.

"He's going to be out for a while," Nelson said of Nikitin.

Later in the third period, Myers left the game with an undisclosed injury, but he will likely play in Vancouver, Nolan said.

Ristolainen cut the Oilers lead to 3-2 with 2:02 left, getting to a rebound in front and shooting the puck past Scrivens.

A late holding penalty to Sabres defenseman Mike Weber, however, hampered Buffalo's attempt to complete the comeback.

"These mistakes that we continually make, we have to eliminate them," Sabres defenseman Josh Gorges said. "We have to find a way to play with confidence and not play scared to lose. It's frustrating when you get the start you want, and then we're just not consistently doing our jobs."

Edmonton is four points ahead of Buffalo at the bottom of the NHL standings.

Canucks goalie Miller eager to face Sabres

By Kevin Woodley

NHL.com

January 29, 2015

VANCOUVER – Vancouver Canucks goalie Ryan Miller will be extra cautious facing the Buffalo Sabres for the first time on Friday.

Buffalo picked Miller in the fifth round (No. 138) in the 1999 NHL Draft, and Miller played his first 12 seasons in the Sabres organization before he was traded to the St. Louis Blues late last season. The 34-year-old goaltender expects to feel a little awkward playing against his former team for the first time.

"It's going to be a little bit strange," said Miller, who signed a three-year free agent contract in Vancouver last summer. "I will pay special attention not to pass the puck towards the Buffalo symbol."

To get an idea how connected Miller was to the Sabres – and how strange it might be to play against them – consider that he passed on a chance to do it in St. Louis after the Feb. 28 trade that sent him to the Blues.

Miller said Blues coach Ken Hitchcock gave him the option to play against his former team, but he chose to start against the Philadelphia Flyers instead because he saw it as better preparation for the approaching Stanley Cup Playoffs. However, Miller also conceded he didn't want the mental distraction of having to play against his former teammates so soon after the trade, even if the game was five weeks later.

"I felt just playing against the boys was not something I wanted to put my mind on at the time," Miller said after Vancouver practiced Thursday. "I identified myself for so long with the Sabres."

Miller made it clear he is fully aligned with the Canucks and their goal of hanging onto a playoff spot in the Western Conference. Making the playoffs is a goal the struggling Sabres, who have lost 13 straight games after a 3-2 loss to the Edmonton Oilers on Thursday, are a long way from even setting.

Buffalo's struggles made it easier for Miller to move on.

"Timetable wise, yeah," he said. "I'm not a spring chicken, so I think in their plan they wanted players to develop with the group and the guys in that group are in their early 20s. It would have been nice to stay with one team, but for my career I wanted to keep it going."

After a slow start in Vancouver, Miller appears set to do just that.

The Michigan native is sixth in the NHL in wins with a 23-11-1 record and his save percentage, which was hovering around .900 the first two months of the season, has risen to .917, thanks in part to a 7-3-1 run since just before Christmas that included consecutive shutouts.

Still, Canucks coach Willie Desjardins knows it won't be easy for the thoughtful Miller to face his former team for the first time.

"He's a deep thinker and I know he had a lot of loyalty and a lot of good moments in Buffalo, and I know he really respects it there and the organization so there will be some emotional attachment," Desjardins said. "It's not like he left there not caring and forgot about it. He's not that kind of guy, so there will be some attachment."

Miller made his Sabres debut on Nov. 19, 2002, and set a franchise record by playing 540 games before the trade to St. Louis. He was 284-186-57 with a 2.60 goals-against average and .916 save percentage in Buffalo. He also went 25-22 in the playoffs, making it to Game 7 of the Eastern Conference Final in 2006. Miller backstopped the

Sabres to another conference final the next season and won the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's top goaltender in 2010, but for all the early success, the final seasons in Buffalo were a struggle.

"There's that place you can go where you can kind of get numb and you don't get as emotionally charged," Miller said. "Last year I was getting a little bit numb for a stretch, but I reminded myself why I like to play and I was kind of re-energized by the challenge."

Miller has also warmed to the challenge of playing the Sabres and is looking forward to his first trip back to Buffalo on Feb. 26. Canucks forward Zack Kassian, who was drafted by the Sabres in 2009 and played 27 games with the Sabres in 2011-12, thinks the feeling will be mutual.

"People loved him in Buffalo," Kassian said.

For Miller, playing the Sabres is a chance to reconnect with former teammates and staff members like Chris Bandura, the director of media relations, and equipment manager Dave Williams, who came up from the American Hockey League at the same time as Miller.

"It's going to be nice to see some of the faces still there," he said. "But part of hockey is having fun competing against friends, former teammates, colleagues, so I look forward to these opportunities."

Miller compared it to the special feel of playing against brother Drew, a Detroit Red Wings forward. In both cases, it feels better to win.

"This is a chance to play against a team, an organization that meant, that does mean, a lot to me and I want to compete hard and play well," Miller said. "That's the best way to do your business."

Canucks goalie Miller to face Sabres for first time

By Benjamin Zweiman

NHL.com

January 29, 2015

SABRES (14-32-3) at CANUCKS (26-17-3)

TV: NHLN-US, MSG-B, BELL TV, SNP

Season series: Vancouver Canucks forward Zack Kassian had four assists for the first four-point game of his NHL career in a 4-2 victory against the Buffalo Sabres on March 23. Roberto Luongo made 25 saves for the Canucks in a 3-0 shutout on Oct. 17, 2013.

Sabres team scope: Buffalo's losing streak reached 13 games with a 3-2 loss to the Edmonton Oilers on Thursday. Defenseman Tyler Myers left late in the third period after blocking a shot, but coach Ted Nolan said Myers will likely play in Vancouver. Goalie Jhonas Enroth made 31 saves in his 19th loss of the season. Rookie defenseman Nikita Zadorov did not play in his second straight game after being suspended for missing practice Monday.

Canucks team scope: Goaltender Ryan Miller will make his first start against the Sabres after being traded by Buffalo to the St. Louis Blues on Feb. 28, 2014. In 11 seasons with Buffalo, Miller was 284-186-57 with a 2.60 goals-against average and 28 shutouts. He won the Vezina Trophy after the 2009-10 season. "I identified myself for so long with the Sabres so it is going to be a little bit strange," Miller said. The Canucks were shut out by the Anaheim Ducks 4-0 on Tuesday. Vancouver has been outscored 8-1 in its past two games. "I worry a little bit about we haven't had enough scoring," coach Willie Desjardins said. "We haven't generated enough and we need to find ways to generate more and I believe we can." Desjardins said he doesn't expect forward Derek Dorsett to play after leaving the game Tuesday because of an upper-body injury. Forward Ronalds Kenins was recalled from Utica of the American Hockey League on Thursday. Kenins, 23, has 12 points in 36 games with Utica this season. "I really liked him in camp. He's a good young player, he does lots of things well, and he's played well down there," Desjardins said.

Despite Oilers woes. Things going much worse for 12-game-losing-skid Sabres

By Derek Van Diest

Edmonton Sun

January 29, 2015

EDMONTON - The Buffalo Sabres know a thing or two about losing.

The Edmonton Oilers do not have the market cornered in that regard, even though they've seemingly tried in the Daryl Katz era.

Heading into Thursday's contest featuring the NHL's two bottom dwellers, the Sabres were on a franchise-high, 12-game losing skid, which is the longest run of futility since the Pittsburgh Penguins dropped 13 straight in 2004.

"We're going through a bad stretch, but the last three games, I think the effort has been there," said Sabres head coach Ted Nolan. "I think we're getting a little better as far as the battle level and the effort goes. As long as the effort and the battle level are there, the outcome will be the outcome, based on how you execute things."

The NHL record for most consecutive losses in a row is 17, set by both the San Jose Sharks (1992-93) and Washington Capitals (1974-75).

The Oilers went on an 11-game losing skid earlier this year and dropped 20 of 21, prompting a coaching change. Had it not been for a 2-1 win over a tired San Jose Sharks team, the Oilers would own the record.

Heading into Thursday's game, the Sabres were precariously close to setting a new standard for futility.

"It's been a struggle for sure," said Sabres winger Brian Gionta. "I can't speak for any other team, but inside this room guys have been frustrated with these outcomes and we have to find ways to turn this around.

"The big picture here is that we want to start playing better these last 34 games and making sure that we're getting ourselves in the right mindset and changing the culture around here."

Both the Oilers and Sabres are in the running to select Connor McDavid or Jack Eichel in the upcoming NHL Draft. Both are considered to be generational talents, and going into Thursday's clash of non-titans, the Sabres own the post-position in the draft lottery, two points back of the Oilers.

"For the guys in the room that's the least of our concern, looking at something like that (draft picks)," Gionta said. "We have to find ways, day in and day out, to prepare ourselves, be professional, come out here, do our work, improve every day and get better. That's what we're trying to do right now."

Heading into the season, the Sabres were expected to struggle. They bottomed out last year finishing last in the NHL standings, while the Oilers were third from the bottom.

The Sabres lost the draft lottery to the Florida Panthers and chose Sam Reinhart with the second-overall pick.

This year, their struggles continued and although they did gain some traction, winning 10 of 13 games from mid-November to mid-December, the wheels have since completely fallen off.

"You never want to make excuses, but I think when we were really healthy, we were going well, then we ran into a bunch of injuries," said Sabres forward and local product Tyler Ennis. "Right now, it's time to turn it around.

"Being from here, I hear a lot about (Oilers struggles) it's similar to what's been going on in Buffalo. There is a lot of frustration."

Frustration has not necessarily led to lack of support, however.

Much like Edmonton, the Sabres routinely sell out their arena in hopes of a brighter future.

Fans believe a player such as McDavid or Eichel will be able to turn the franchise around.

Oilers fans held similar beliefs about Taylor Hall, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Nail Yakupov. If Edmonton has proven anything, is that even high-end draft picks cannot overcome poor management, bad coaching and inept scouting.

"I think we play in the best league in the world, and I can't speak for everybody else, speaking on behalf of our team and the guys we have in the room, there is no way they're playing to try and get a first-overall pick. That's just not in their DNA," Nolan said. "Everybody plays this game to compete and try to win. Sometimes you're maybe not skilled enough or talented enough or skilled enough in certain occasions, but that doesn't mean that you don't try the best you can."

Canucks goalie Ryan Miller ready to face old Sabres teammates

By Bill Hoppe
Olean Times Herald
January 29, 2015

For Ryan Miller, tonight's game in Vancouver will be a special experience. The Canucks' starting goalie hasn't played against Buffalo since the Sabres traded the franchise cornerstone 11 months ago.

"I mean, it's going to be a little bit strange," Miller told reporters Thursday in Vancouver. "I'll pay special attention not to pass the puck toward the Buffalo symbol. It's going to be nice to see some of the faces that were there, but part of hockey is having fun competing against your friends, former teammates, colleagues."

The Sabres traded Miller, the face of the franchise for years, [to St. Louis on Feb. 28](#). The Sabres faced the Blues later last season, but Miller didn't play.

The 2009-10 Vezina Trophy winner signed a three-year, \$18 million deal with Vancouver on July 1. He believes playing the Sabres will be like facing his brother Drew, a Detroit Red Wings forward.

"I'm looking forward to these opportunities, just like I get a chance to play against my brother, I get a chance to play against a team, an organization that does mean a lot to me," Miller said. "I want to be heard and play well and get a win. That's the best way to do your business."

Miller has strong numbers – 23-11-1, 2.33 goals-against average, .917 save percentage and five shutouts – in 35 games. The American had zero shutouts in his final 87 games with the Sabres.

The 34-year-old feels for the Sabres, the NHL's worst team. He experienced five months of last season's wretchedness before the Sabres dealt him. It wasn't easy.

"It's frustrating not to get the results when you put in the hard work," Miller said. "I know a lot of those guys on the team are proud and they work hard. When you're not getting the results and people are talking about it, there's that place where you can kind of go where you can kind of get numb and you don't get as emotionally charged, or you kind of remind yourself what it is to play."

"I think last year it was getting a little bit numb for a stretch. But I reminded myself why I like to play and (I was) kind of re-energized by the challenge going out to play, and I hope they find that energy and continue to play hard, because they have a lot of talent on that team. There's going to be some time to develop, and the guys who are going to make up that core of that team, I think they're going some strong hockey teams in the future."

Oilers drop Sabres 3-2; losing streak hits 13

By Dan Cave

WGR 550

January 29, 2015

Anton Lander notched three points and Ben Scrivens stopped 18 shots, leading the Oilers to a 3-2 win over the Sabres on Thursday, extending Buffalo's losing streak to 13 games. Last-place Buffalo (31 points) now trails Edmonton (35 points) by four points in the NHL standings.

Buffalo jumped out to the 1-0 lead just 2:22 into the game on Tyler Myers' second of the season. Brian Gionta and Torrey Mitchell worked hard behind the net to free the puck, getting it out to the wide-open defenseman. Myers one-timed the Mitchell feed past Ben Scrivens for the 1-0 lead.

Edmonton stormed back on goals by Matt Fraser and Oscar Klefbom, the latter giving the Oilers the 2-1 lead with his first goal of the season, a rocket from the top of the right faceoff circle. Fraser tied it about 2:30 earlier following a Matt Ellis giveaway along the boards. Lander found Fraser, whose one-timer beat Enroth for the tying goal.

Lander found the net himself 7:52 into the final period, converting a 2-on-0 break with Teddy Purcell. Another Buffalo turnover, this time by Myers, led to the odd-man rush and Lander's first of the season. The goal came only moments after Enroth stopped Benoit Pouliot on a clean-cut breakaway. Rasmus Ristolainen added a late goal, but Edmonton hung on for the victory while Buffalo remains in search for its first win since December 27.

The Sabres' road trip continues on Friday at 10 p.m. in Vancouver. Catch the play-by-play on WGR 550 and the Buffalo Sabres Radio Network.

1st Period

Goals

2:22 - BUF - Tyler Myers (2) (Torrey Mitchell, Brian Gionta)

12:27 - EDM - Matt Fraser (6) (Anton Lander, Luke Gazdic)

15:02 - EDM - Oscar Klefbom (1) (Anton Lander, Matt Fraser)

Penalties

7:31 - BUF - Tyler Myers (2 min., holding)

2nd Period

Goals

None

Penalties

3:45 - BUF - Brian Gionta (2 min., tripping)

11:29 - EDM - Boyd Gordon (2 min., tripping)

3rd Period

Goals

7:52 - EDM - Anton Lander (1) (Teddy Purcell)

17:58 - BUF - Rasmus Ristolainen (4) (Brian Gionta, Zemgus Girgensons)

Penalties

5:48 - BUF - Nicolas Deslauriers (5 min., fighting)

5:48 - EDM - Luke Gazdic (5 min., fighting)

18:29 - BUF - Mike Weber (2 min., holding)

19:50 - EDM - Matt Hendricks (2 min., tripping)

Goaltending

BUF - Jhonas Enroth (31 saves, 34 shots)

EDM - Ben Scrivens (18 saves, 20 shots)

Penalties

BUF - 0 of 1

EDM - 0 of 3

Three Stars

1.) EDM - Anton Lander (1 G, 2 A)

2.) EDM - Luke Gazdic (0 G, 1 A)

3.) BUF - Tyler Myers (1 G, 0 A)

Hamilton: Sabres tangle with Oilers

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

January 29, 2015

Edmonton, AB (WGR 550) -- The Sabres left the first period down 2-1, but it wasn't from a lack of effort. Buffalo had some great scoring chances, but they were either turned away by Ben Scrivens or the shot was blocked in front.

Buffalo started with a couple of dandy turnovers by Chris Stewart and Mike Weber, but the Oilers couldn't convert.

The Sabres best line was the Torrey Mitchell line and hard work paid off. Brian Gionta and Mitchell just kept fighting behind the net until the captain got it to Mitchell who quickly found a wide open Tyler Myers, who snapped home his 2nd of the season.

Buffalo is not a good team when it comes to players coming out from the corner and Edmonton almost scored on one that Jhonas Enroth stayed with.

Tyler Ennis is home playing in front of his family. He set up Zemgus Girgensons for a good chance that was stopped by Scrivens. Later, Ennis was wide open when he tipped a Matt Moulson shot into Scrivens who again anticipated the play.

Buffalo almost went up 2-0 when Mitchell caused a neutral zone turnover and found an open Brian Flynn. His shot was blocked and it went to Mitchell, whose shot was also blocked.

Edmonton took over after that when Luke Gazdic went into the corner and knocked the puck away from Matt Ellis. Anton Lander was allowed to walk out and find Matt Fraser who scored on a shot that Enroth got a piece of.

Just 2:35 later, Lander came behind the net and easily knocked Myers off the puck. He got it back to Oscar Klefbom who used Cody Hodgson as a screen and scored his second career goal.

Enroth made 10 saves and Scrivens made seven in the first period, although I thought the Edmonton net minder had to make more good saves.

The second period started off slow, but picked up as the period went on. Edmonton dominated the first 10 minutes with Enroth standing strong.

As things went on, Scrivens stopped Girgensons again as he broke in on the backhand. Scrivens then made a huge stop on Mitchell alone in front after he was set up by Ennis. Buffalo got one power play in the period and just before it ended, Gionta set up Mitchell for a wide open one-timer, but Scrivens got across quickly.

Buffalo's last good chance in the period came on a high point shot from Josh Gorges. Scrivens got his shoulder on it and the puck just stayed in the crease, but none of the Sabres could get to it.

Enroth probably had to make his best save of the game when Ennis fanned on a pass on the right wing wall. Nail Yakupov hadn't even left his spot in front of Enroth and they were eye-to-eye, but Enroth prevailed.

Overall I think Edmonton has had the better of the play, but Buffalo probably has had the better opportunities.

For a road game you would say not a bad 40 minutes, but the third period should tell us a lot.

There were no shots by either team in the first 5:48 so Nic Deslauriers tried to liven it up fighting Luke Gazdic. Right after that, Girgensons rocked Nikita Nikitin, putting him out of the game.

Mitchell had been having a great game and then he coughed one up to Benoit Pouliot, making the first shot of the period was a breakaway save. Right after that, Buffalo made a horrible pass through the neutral zone that turned into a 2-on-0 break. Anton Lander scored his first goal of the season, picking up his third point.

Rasmus Ristolainen pulled the Sabres to within a goal with 2:02 to play, but Edmonton hung on to hand Buffalo its 13th straight loss.

"I think we need to stay positive and keep approaching every game like we think we're going to win the game," said Enroth. "Can't go into the game thinking we're going to lose again. We have to stay positive and still believe we can win games."

"We have to face reality," said Gorges. "These mistakes that we continually make, we have to eliminate them. We have to find a way to play with confidence and not play scared to lose."

Sabres making Buffalo a hockey destination

By Howard Simon

WGR 550

January 29, 2015

The Buffalo Sabres have been very aggressive when it comes to bidding on events that will help make this city a hockey destination.

The 2010-2011 World Junior Championships were here and played out to rave reviews. USA Hockey brought its top prospects game to town for the first time last September and the NHL Scouting Combine will be held at HarborCenter May 31- June 6.

So what's next on the wish list?

Hosting another World Junior Championship for one and the bidding process for the 2018 games, which will be played in the United States, will commence in March. The Sabres are planning on making a bid and can make a stronger case this time around thanks to the new Harbor Center and its ice rinks. The last time the World Juniors were here, secondary games were played at Niagara University.

Buffalo will have stiff competition with Pittsburgh and Tampa among the cities also expected to bid for the games.

"It will be competitive because a number of other cities want it" Sabres President Ted Black said on WGR on Thursday. "With the facilities we have and our proximity to Canada, we want to use that to our advantage. The fact that we have hosted it before and have a lot of that internal experience, I think those are things that work to our advantage as well."

Finland will host the 2015-2016 games and then Toronto and Montreal will share host duties the following year.

Buffalo could also play a role when the World Cup of Hockey returns in the Fall of 2016. The eight team tournament will be held in Toronto but its possible some exhibition games could be played in Buffalo.

"I think it would be great. The concept is still floating around. Its fantastic that we're in the conversation" Black said. "I think it's a testament to some of the things we're trying to do here in Buffalo that's resonating at the league level. Our advantage of being in close proximity to Toronto is something that helps us too. If it works out , there could be four or eight teams coming to Buffalo and playing some exhibition games here leading into it. We're very flattered that the league is considering us."

Murray talks draft, trade deadline and more

By Brayton Wilson

WGR 550

January 29, 2015

On Thursday afternoon, Buffalo Sabres general manager Tim Murray spoke with Mike Schopp and the Bulldog regarding the current status of the team and what the upcoming future holds for the team.

Murray first talked about how important it is to have scouts out and seeing the upcoming prospects play and being able to rank them in time for June's draft in Florida.

"[One] important thing for me on the amateur side is getting the numbers right of the kids that are in juniors or in college that have already been drafted," Murray said. "When you've seen someone who's improved a lot or someone who has fallen off a cliff, we want to be up to date on that and have the information right."

Murray mentioned that the draft has a drop off at about pick 20 in the draft, and that the team is willing to trading a later first round pick in the 2015 Draft to acquire another asset.

"There are a lot of 'what ifs' involved," Murray said. "The salary cap is a 'what if.' The Canadian dollar is a 'what if...' We will be told if the cap is going up or not. At the end of the day, we'll know if there are five, ten or even fifteen teams that have some cap issues and need to trade away good players because they can't keep all their good players."

"A lot of that is out of our hands, but we talk about it a lot, we'll be prepared for it. It's probably not going to be at the deadline, I would suspect it to be around the draft... There are a lot of different scenarios that I can see using those two picks on the draft and also using them to get good young players that are further along."

"The obvious right now is that we would be sellers, but I have said along that I would like nothing better than to buy a real young good player that is close or is in the National [Hockey] League that a team just can't afford."

But as of right now, Murray expressed how quiet the current trade market is around the NHL.

"I think teams are really shopping around. I think they're really doing their homework. They see there are some sellers, maybe more sellers in quantity than other years... I think [buyers] are doing homework and not jumping at the first good power forward that comes their way. They're going to go through this, take it down to the wire, and I think you'll still have a fair amount of trades at the wire."

Murray also spoke about the goals for the players and the rest of the organization. Murray said that the goal has to be improvement individually in order for others around the league and organization to take notice of them.

Murray talked in particular about Cody Hodgson and how he has underachieved, and how his confidence has been affected this season. Murray would like to see Hodgson and other players on the Sabres throw more pucks on the net and create more chances to create more offense. Murray stated that team success is important in order to have individual success.

Murray stated that if the players need to have a chat with him, he is available whenever they need to chat with him.

Sabres look to shake off losing streak

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

January 29, 2015

EDMONTON – The Sabres are focusing on putting together as close to a 60-minute effort as possible Thursday night when they take on the Edmonton Oilers.

Over the past few games, they've only managed to put a few quality periods together, but for one reason or another, the game turned and put the Sabres in the losing column.

Buffalo is coming off a 4-1 loss to the Calgary Flames. That game was tied 1-1 heading into the third period before Calgary took control. The loss extended the Sabres' losing streak to 12 games.

"It's a bad combination of just a lack of discipline, getting in the box and, I guess, taking our foot off the gas a little bit," Sabres forward Drew Stafford said. "It feels like in the third period, instead of going after it, it seemed like we just sat back and waited for something to kind of go our way and instead of taking control."

The Tops Gamenight pregame show will begin at 9 p.m. EST on MSG-B and Bell with faceoff from Rexall Place scheduled for 9:30 p.m. EST. The game can also be heard live on WGR 550.

Jhonas Enroth will start in net. Sabres coach Ted Nolan said the team may make one change to their defensive corps, but would wait until pregame warmups to make that decision.

Rookie defenseman Nikita Zadorov will not play. He was late coming back from the All-Star Break due to an overbooked flight, missed practice on Monday and was suspended by the team. He rejoined the Sabres in Calgary on Tuesday and has skated the past two days. Nolan said Zadorov likely be back in on Friday against Vancouver.

"There are defining moments in everybody's careers and what makes you [get to] that next level," Nolan said. "I know he didn't plan for this. It was just an unfortunate situation but I think it was a valuable lesson for him."

HEALTHY CHOICES

The Sabres are about as healthy as they've been in over a month. When they went on their 10-3-0 run from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15, the lineup closely resembled the one the team now has intact again.

"A big difference is we don't have enough depth right now to compensate for some of the losses that we had," Nolan said. "I'm not saying we're the best team in the world, but at least we had healthy bodies, a little bit more mature bodies that were doing the right things, competing hard."

"By doing that, we were on the winning side of it. Right now we're starting to get healthy again so hopefully we'll go back on the positive side."

Marcus Foligno is inching his way back from a broken hand and Michal Neuvirth could rejoin the team soon. He sustained a lower-body injury while working out over the All-Star Break. The team's only long-term injury at the moment is to Cody McCormick, who may miss the rest of the season after being treated for a blood clot in his leg.

At one point in December, Buffalo skated five call-ups from the American Hockey League. Icing a healthy, experienced lineup has now allowed the Sabres to regain some consistency in their lines and defensive pairings.

"Just having veteran guys back like Brian [Gionta] coming back in – having your captain back – we showed we made some steps against Calgary," Stafford said. "Obviously the third period is just unacceptable again. So we're going to try and build on that against a team that's obviously in a very similar situation as us. Hopefully we'll show a little bit more desperation this time."

FOCUSING ON THE GAME

The Oilers and Sabres are currently the 29th- and 30th-place teams in the League, respectively, but the players and coaching staffs are paying no attention to their potential draft position or upcoming picks.

"For the guys in the room, that's the least of our concern is looking at something like that," Gionta said. "We've got to find ways day in and day out to prepare ourselves, be professionals, do our work, improve every day and get better. That's what we're trying to do right now."

PROJECTED LINEUP

26 Matt Moulson – 28 Zemgus Girgensons – 63 Tyler Ennis
65 Brian Flynn – 17 Torrey Mitchell – 12 Brian Gionta
21 Drew Stafford – 19 Cody Hodgson – 80 Chris Stewart
44 Nicolas Deslauriers – 37 Matt Ellis – 36 Patrick Kaleta

4 Josh Gorges – 57 Tyler Myers
41 Andrej Meszaros – 55 Rasmus Ristolainen
6 Mike Weber – 24 Tyson Strachan

1 Jhonas Enroth
31 Matt Hackett

Scratched: 34 Michal Neuvirth (injured, lower body), 51 Nikita Zadorov, 61 Andre Benoit
Injured Reserve: 8 Cody McCormick (leg), 82 Marcus Foligno (hand)

POWER PLAY

First Unit
Stewart-Girgensons-Ennis
Ristolainen-Myers

Second Unit
Moulson-Flynn-Stafford
Meszaros-Gorges

Sabres' early lead doesn't hold up in Edmonton

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

January 29, 2015

EDMONTON – The Buffalo Sabres dropped their 13th game in a row in a 3-2 loss to the Edmonton Oilers at Rexall Place on Thursday.

All of the games in the losing streak have come in regulation. The last team to lose 13-straight games in regulation was the 2003-04 Pittsburgh Penguins (Jan. 13-Feb. 2, 2004), according to Elias Sports Bureau.

"It's painful to be honest with you. Not being able to play a full 60 minutes," Sabres forward [Torrey Mitchell](#) said. "We play two periods well and we're scoring the first goal or getting off to good starts and we just can't build on it right now."

As daunting as the losing streak may be, the players are focusing on moving on to the next game.

"I think we need to stay positive and just keep approaching every game like we think we're going to win the game," goaltender [Jhonas Enroth](#), who made 31 saves, said. "We can't go into the game thinking that we're going to lose again. We have to stay positive and still believe that we can win games."

Buffalo held a 1-0 lead thanks to a goal from [Tyler Myers](#), but the Oilers answered with a pair of goals in the first and another in the third. [Rasmus Ristolainen](#) scored with 2:02 remaining to put Buffalo within striking distance, but they were never really able to threaten after that.

SCORING SUMMARY

Myers opened the scoring for Buffalo 2:22 in, jumping into the play after [Brian Gionta](#) and [Torrey Mitchell](#) established a hard forecheck behind the net. Mitchell collected a loose puck and sent it out to the right point, where Myers was able to one-time it past Ben Scrivens.

Buffalo's lead wouldn't last long however, as Edmonton tied it with 7:31 remaining in the first on a goal from Matt Fraser. The Oilers took the lead 2:35 later when through a screen, Oscar Klefbom's shot from the left point beat [Enroth](#).

A bad change cost Buffalo for Edmonton's third goal. As Buffalo players scurried to the bench, Edmonton broke out on a rush with Anton Lander scoring to make it 3-1. Lander finished with a goal and three assists.

"What can you do? The mental mistakes, the change that happened," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said. "I mean, the puck was going right to one of our forwards. He goes the opposite way. He should've went into the puck; he goes away from the puck. They stopped. Our defense thought they were going to change. I thought we had good possession of it, which we should've. And we didn't. So those things kill us all the time."

'WE HAD OUR CHANCES'

The line of Mitchell, [Brian Gionta](#) and [Brian Flynn](#) generated some of Buffalo's best chances of the night. They helped set up the first goal and on the second goal, Ristolainen cashed in on a rebound from a shot by Gionta.

With five minutes to play, Buffalo was outshot 7-1 in the third period. The final shot totals favored Edmonton 34-20.

"We had our chances and with this team, we need everyone," Nolan said. "We can't afford two or three guys not playing well or [not] giving what they have to give. It just seems like the same ones over and over again. We only have 20 players. Who else are you going to put in?"

However, the positives are severely outweighed by the negatives.

"The difference is small mistakes. Bad changes, inopportune turnovers that lead to rushes when we're trying to get guys off, those little mistakes," Gionta said. "Our effort's there but we've got to start thinking the game more and start executing more."

When it comes to line changes, Gionta said it comes down to personal responsibility.

"It's guys committing to it. Guys getting off earlier, being a little more selfless and making sure they're not putting the guy behind them in a bad position," he said.

UP NEXT

With 5:04 remaining, Myers blocked a shot by Matt Fraser off the inside of his left ankle. He left the game after being helped off the ice and did not return. Nolan said after the game that Myers should be fine to play Friday night against the Vancouver Canucks.

Puck drop is scheduled for 10 p.m. EST with the Tops Gamenight pregame show beginning at 9:30 p.m. on MSG-B and Bell. The game can also be heard live on WGR 550.

"As hard as it is right now, as frustrating as this is, tomorrow we have to get ourselves refreshed, come with the right mindset and understand that we can't make these mental errors," alternate captain [Josh Gorges](#) said. "We can't keep beating ourselves. Even if we play a great hockey game without beating ourselves, it's going to be a tough night to win tomorrow night."

"But we have to face reality and these mistakes that we continually make, we have to eliminate them. We have to play with confidence and not play scared to lose."

Down on the farm

By Kevin Snow

Sabres.com

January 29, 2015

THE WEEK THAT WAS

Friday, January 23: AMERKS 3 – FLAMES 2

Phil Varone scored the game-winning goal with just 2:16 left in regulation on the power-play as Rochester downed Adirondack 3-2 on Friday at The Blue Cross Arena.

Joel Armia added a goal and an assist for Rochester, while Zac Dalpe contributed his third goal in three games. Starting his third game of the season, Matt Hackett stopped 21 shots to earn his first win of the season.

David Wolf and Max Reinhart each scored for the Flames, while Doug Carr made 29 saves in his season debut for Adirondack.

Saturday, January 24: FLAMES 4 – AMERKS 1

Rochester allowed two goals in just 1:22 late in the second period before eventually falling to Adirondack 4-1 at the Glens Falls Civic Center on Saturday. The game was the ninth meeting of the season and second in two nights between the North Division rivals, who split the weekend set with alternating wins on home ice. With the loss, the Amerks fall to 18-24-1-0 heading into the AHL All-Star break.

Jerry D'Amigo scored Rochester's only goal late in the third period with Tim Schaller adding the only assist. Andrey Makarov started in net for Rochester and made 31 saves in the loss, snapping a personal a three-game win streak.

David Wolf potted two goals for the Flames, while Marcus Granlund finished with a goal and an assist, and Corey Potter contributed two assists. Garnet Hathaway also scored for Adirondack and goaltender Joni Ortio stopped all but one of Rochester's 36 shots for the win in his return from a recent NHL stint with Calgary.

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, January 30: Rochester @ Syracuse, 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 31: Rochester @ Adirondack, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 3: Rochester @ Chicago, Noon

2015 AHL ALL-STAR GAME

Charles Hudon of the Hamilton Bulldogs, Brendan Leipsic of the Milwaukee Admirals and Mark McNeill of the Rockford IceHogs all recorded hat tricks to pace the Western Conference to a 14-12 victory over the Eastern Conference in the 2015 AHL All-Star Game at the Utica Memorial Auditorium on Monday.

Amerks forward Phil Varone registered two assists and three shots on goal in his AHL All-Star debut. He also had a penalty shot attempt in the second period, but was stopped by Manchester goalie J-F Berube.

AMERKS ALL-ACCESS

Find out what goes on inside "The Mind of a Goalie" in the latest edition of Amerks All-Access, featuring in-depth

interviews with Rochester netminders Nathan Lieuwen and Andrey Makarov talking about what drives them to succeed in the sport's most demanding position. ** [CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#) **

JERSEY AUCTION

The online portion of the team's 2015 Men's Health Night jersey auction closes at 9 p.m. on Monday, Feb 2. Only select jerseys will be available in the online auction, which can be accessed through www.amerks.com.

The Amerks and Urology Associates of Rochester are once again partnering to raise both funds and awareness for prostate cancer. As part of the initiative, the Amerks wore special-edition jerseys to promote men's health awareness during last Friday's game against Adirondack. ** [CLICK HERE TO BID](#) **

AMERKS LEADERS

Points: Grigorenko/Varone (30), Schaller/Larsson (28)

Goals: Schaller (13), Grigorenko/Larsson/Armia/Dalpe (10)

Assists: Varone (21), Grigorenko (20), Larsson (18)