



# **Buffalo Sabres**

## **Daily Press Clips**

*February 10, 2015*

## **Sabres-Senators preview**

**By Staff Report**

**Associated Press**

**February 9, 2015**

Dave Cameron felt his team's "cuteness" cost the Senators a point and potentially a victory in their last game. Ted Nolan, meanwhile, is looking for the Buffalo Sabres to show the same kind of grit for a second straight game Monday night when the Atlantic Division rivals meet in Ottawa.

While Ottawa (14-14-7) did claim a point from a 3-2 overtime loss to Detroit on Saturday, Cameron lamented his team's third period, when he felt the Senators played more not to lose than continue doing the things they did from the first two periods - amassing a 25-13 edge in shots en route to a 2-1 lead.

"Our pattern has been that we get in trouble when we get cute when we start going east-west as opposed to up and down the rink," the coach told the team's official website. "In the third we let them off the hook because we got cute. For two periods we were really good going north-south, and in the third we got cute."

Mike Hoffman and Clarke MacArthur scored the goals for Ottawa, which has lost three straight (0-2-1) and dropped to 3-3-2 under Cameron. Hoffman has scored seven of his team-high 11 goals at home, including three in the last two games there, while MacArthur's second-period tally ended a nine-game goalless drought overall.

Home is also where the Senators have generated a consistent power play for much of the season, converting at a 23.3 percent clip (14 for 60). That's yet to take root under Cameron, with Ottawa going 2 for 16 in four games with him behind the bench.

Craig Anderson, who stopped 24 shots Saturday, could be in line for a second straight start given his mastery of the Sabres. The netminder has won his last eight starts against them, posting a 1.36 goals-against average with two shutouts.

Anderson did not play in the last meeting between the teams, a 5-4 shootout win for the Sabres on Dec. 15.

Buffalo (14-19-3) can pull within two points of Ottawa with a regulation victory, with its improved play creating some distance from a brutal 3-13-2 start. The Sabres erased a 3-0, third-period deficit for just the second time in franchise history with a 4-3 shootout win over the New York Islanders on Saturday. Nicolas Deslauriers, Zemgus Girgensons and Chris Stewart all scored in a 5:12 span of the final period before Tyler Ennis was the lone player for both teams to convert in the shootout.

"That was a heck of a comeback," forward Drew Stafford told the team's official website after contributing two assists. "It just goes to show you the type of character we have in this room ... especially down 3-0, the way they were controlling play - especially in the second period - we might have folded up shop, but not so anymore."

The Sabres snapped a four-game losing streak and now set out to end a longer one on the road. Buffalo has dropped five straight (0-4-1) since a 4-3 shootout win at Montreal on Nov. 29, getting outscored 23-9 in those losses.

A key reason for their road woes has been the lack of quality penalty killing - the Sabres have yielded 20 goals in 59 chances for a league-worst 66.1 percent success rate and the Red Wings burned them for four goals in six chances Tuesday.

## **Ottawa Senators know the pain of losing, too**

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

February 9, 2015

One of the worst teams in the NHL is in Buffalo. The Sabres are here, too.

The Ottawa Senators, once a marquee opponent, will limp into First Niagara Center on Tuesday in 26th place. They've lost three straight, can't score and are feeling the weight of the struggle.

Ottawa is 20-22-9 and 14 points out of the final playoff spot. Like folks in Buffalo, Sens backers are looking toward the Draft Lottery.

"I grew up an Ottawa fan with some tough years for the organization, too, so I definitely know what they're going through," defenseman Mark Borowiecki said Monday after practice in Ottawa. "It's never fun for the team that you're cheering for to be struggling the way that we are, but hopefully they can take some pride in us being a young team and making some steps forward."

Most of the steps lately have been backward. The Sens have scored just three goals during their three-game skid. They allowed four third-period goals during their latest loss, a 4-1 setback to Columbus on Saturday that turned ugly at the end.

Goaltender Robin Lehner flipped his stick in disgust following the last goal with 13 seconds to play. After the buzzer, he broke the lumber over his right leg and threw it down the hallway.

"We lost three in a row," Lehner said Monday. "I'm not happy about it, and none of us are happy about the way we played the third period. We lost a game that was easily winnable or at least get a point out of."

"I always play with fire. When I play with too much fire, that's a negative, too. You guys turn that into a negative, too," he said to the media. "Maybe I shouldn't throw the stick like that, but I'm not happy with the result. It got a little bit too much."

Lehner, who will start against the Sabres, wasn't done targeting reporters.

"We have a very young team that's trying to learn the ropes here, and as a Canadian team, too," the goalie said. "Just look what Toronto is going through down there. It's a little bit more for us Canadian teams with you guys around."

"We're still in a rebuild phase. For a few years we've lost some key players, and we're trying to bounce back from it. A lot of guys are doing a great job. The leadership group is doing a great job, but we are where we are and we're trying to work on it. We're trying to get better. Until we're there, you guys are going to ask the same questions over and over again. We all know it. For the fans' sake, we're trying to play hard, every one of us."

"You guys make it a little bit more of a problem than it should be."

It's the fault of management and players that the Senators are struggling on the ice. They rank 20th in goals, 22nd in goals against, 25th on the power play and 26th in shots allowed. Their penalty killers rank 10th and the team is 14th in shots taken.

"If it's going to get to the next level, it's going to be based on attitude," coach Dave Cameron said. "This team, I have no qualms with the work ethic. I really don't to date. The execution comes and goes with teams that are struggling, for sure, but work ethic and attitude for the most part have been good."

The Sabres, who are finishing three games in four days, took Monday off to rest.

While most teams can bank on a victory against Buffalo, Tuesday's opponent is one that cannot.

"We haven't earned the right to take any game that should be a sure win or a guaranteed win," Cameron said. "We haven't earned the right to start, 'Check mark, we should be able to beat this team.' I don't know if pride's the right word, but it'll be a test for us."

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When Cody McCormick learned he had blood clots in his leg and lungs, his thoughts turned toward the possibly deadly effects.

Now he's turned his focus to returning to the Sabres next season.

The Buffalo center has been sidelined since being diagnosed with blood clots Jan. 10.

He visited the team over the weekend and told Sabres.com the diagnosis started with a limp and unexplained pain.

"They wanted to cancel out any of the possible bad things, and by doing that they found it," he told the team Website. "It's something that I'm fortunate they found."

McCormick is on medication to dissipate the clots, and it prevents him from playing.

"Everything's pointing to, 'Let's get healthy and focus on next season,' " McCormick said.

## **Sabres' Cody McCormick had blood clots in lungs, hopes to return next season**

By Bill Hoppe  
Olean Times Herald  
February 9, 2015

BUFFALO – On Jan. 3 in New York, gritty Sabres forward Cody McCormick blocked a shot, something he has done 126 times in his career.

This time, however, the pain felt different. It lingered.

Something was wrong.

"I had pain in my calf after for no real reason," McCormick told the Times Herald during the first intermission of Sunday's 3-2 loss to the New York Islanders inside First Niagara Center.

McCormick didn't know it then, but he had developed blood clots that would spread to his lungs.

The 31-year-old played three straight games after blocking the shot, only missing some practice time. In his final appearance this season, a 2-1 loss Jan. 9 in Tampa Bay, he scored a breakaway goal.

McCormick wanted to get examined when the Sabres returned from their road trip. On Jan. 10, he took his daughter, Aubrey, to the rink for some "daddy-daughter time," he said. The team told McCormick to get looked at then, so he had his wife, Alyssa, pick up Aubrey.

Right away, a CAT scan found clots in McCormick's lungs that originated in his calf. He spent two nights in the hospital. It hasn't been determined if blocking the shot caused the clots, he said.

McCormick's just glad he was examined in time.

"I didn't want it to go much longer than that, just the research and reading the Internet, you read some pretty negative things on the Internet," he said. "So I try to keep my mind off that part of things. But there's definitely a danger to them."

McCormick is hopeful he can return in September for training camp. He has no clear timeline, however.

"That's all I can really think about, I guess," he said about next season. "I don't want to think the other way. So I try to focus on that."

McCormick can't play or even practice because he's taking blood thinners.

"Now it's taking medication on my end," he said. "The medication keeps me from playing hockey."

It doesn't keep him away from the rink, though. McCormick has been watching games in the press box recently. When his teammates practice, he works out.

"I come in, I hang out with the guys," he said. "It's a great group of guys just to chit chat with."

Naturally, the experience has been grating at times. McCormick, who plays an up-tempo, tenacious style, is already getting restless.

"It's not like any other injury where there's pain. I feel fine," he said. "I think that's the frustrating part, where I'm not able to do what I want."

But he understands he must wait and let the medication help him.

"I'm still educating myself on it," McCormick said. "It has to dissolve, and the blood thinners make it so you can't put yourself in a position to be injured. They'll be a couple checkups here and there, but for the most part just let the medication do its work."

McCormick returned to the ice briefly Saturday morning before his teammates skated. He just wanted to help Marcus Foligno with some drills. He wasn't even wearing his full equipment.

"It was just fun to get back on the ice, shoot, pass – that sort of thing that you miss when you're not out there," McCormick said.

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The Sabres, who had Monday off, host the Ottawa Senators tonight.

## Sabres prospects report

By Kris Baker

Sabres.com

February 9, 2015

**Hudson Fasching** added a spectacular goal to his resume Saturday as the Minnesota Golden Gophers throttled Ohio State 6-2 to sweep the Big Ten conference series.

At 7:01 of the opening frame, Fasching brought the fans out of their seats when he carried the puck from the corner behind the Buckeyes' net, quickly reversed while protecting it, and arced to the front for the forehand finish. The play showcased most of what Fasching does best with his size and reach beneath the goal line, crisp stops and starts, and instincts to get to the net front area.

### WATCH: FASCHING'S GOAL vs. OHIO STATE

The marker was Fasching's eighth of the year and third in 10 games since returning from the World Junior Championship. He has 13 points and a plus-seven rating through 25 contests.

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### NCAA

In Tuesday action, **Sean Malone** (2013, sixth round) scored an even-strength marker as No. 6 Harvard suffered a 4-3 double overtime loss to No. 3 Boston University at the 2015 Beanpot. Malone was shut out on Friday in a 3-0 loss to No. 15 Yale before completing the week with one assist Saturday in a 2-1 loss to Brown. Malone has seven points in six games with the Crimson, who have now lost four straight.

**Cal Petersen** (2013, fifth round) made 33 saves Saturday to backstop Notre Dame to a 5-1 victory at Maine. The victory improved the freshman's record to 7-11-2 with a 2.63 GAA and a .906 save%. Petersen, who stopped 10 of 11 shots in relief duty in Friday's 4-4 tie with the Bears, has started 11 of the last 15 contests for the Fighting Irish.

Notre Dame centerman **Connor Hurley** (2013, second round) snapped an eight-game cold spell with an assist in Saturday's win at Maine. The 19-year-old freshman has collected three goals and 12 points through his first 29 collegiate contests.

**J.T. Compher** (2013, second round) went without a point for the third straight game Saturday as No. 14 Michigan defeated Michigan State 4-1 under the lights of Soldier Field at the Hockey City Classic. Compher has four goals and 13 points through 22 games. At the 22-game mark a season ago, the hard-working forward posted nine goals and 21 points.

Defenseman **Anthony Florentino** (2013, fifth round) logged a minus-two rating Wednesday as No. 13 Providence played to a 2-2 tie with Connecticut. The sophomore defender produced two shots on goal Saturday as the Friars pounded the Huskies 10-1. Florentino has 11 points (2+9) in 27 games while leading all Friars rearguards with a plus-12 rating.

Fifth-year defenseman **Mark Adams** (2009, fifth round) scored his second career NCAA goal Saturday and added an assist for his first-ever multiple point game as Providence throttled Connecticut 10-1. Adams, who finished with a plus-one rating in Wednesday's tie, has three points (1+2) while appearing in 21 games for the Friars.

**Max Willman** (2014, fifth round) contributed two shots on goal Friday as Brown dropped a 6-3 decision to Dartmouth. The freshman winger registered another two shots Saturday as the Bears snapped a seven-game winless skid with a 2-1 win over Harvard. Willman has one goal and one assist 22 games this season.

**Christian Isackson** (2010, seventh round) produced one assist Friday as Minnesota doubled Ohio State 4-2. The helper gave Isackson points in two consecutive games for the first time since March of 2013. The senior forward was unable to get on the scoresheet in Saturday's victory, leaving him with five points (2+3) in 26 games.

**Brad Navin** (2011, seventh round) combined for four shots on goal and a minus-two rating over the weekend as Wisconsin was swept in their Big Ten set with Penn State. Through 24 games, the senior co-captain has collected five points (1+4) and a minus-15 rating.

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## WHL

**Brycen Martin** notched one assist Sunday to extend his point streak to seven games as Saskatoon dropped a 5-2 decision to Calgary. Martin, who collected a pair of helpers in Saturday's loss to Swift Current, has been excellent since the trade to Saskatoon, amassing 15 points (3+12) in his first dozen games with the Blades.

**Sam Reinhart** (2014, first round) registered one assist Friday as Kootenay was defeated 5-3 by Eastern Conference front-runner Brandon. The following night, Reinhart logged a minus-one rating as Kootenay was toppled by the Wheat Kings for the second straight night, 4-1. Reinhart has captured 12 goals, 42 points and a plus-nine rating in 29 games with the ICE. The Saturday blanking was just the fourth time this season that Reinhart skated away without a point.

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## OHL

Following a quiet night in a 3-2 win over Kingston on Thursday, **Brendan Lemieux** (2014, second round) struck twice on the power play Friday including for the game-winner as Barrie edged Mississauga 5-4. On Saturday, Lemieux notched one assist as the Colts rolled to a 7-1 blowout win over the Sudbury. The week's work puts Lemieux at an even 50 points (35+15) through 46 games. His 35 goals are tied for fourth in the OHL. He continues to lead the league with 22 power play markers, while placing second among all skaters with 120 PIM's.

**Nicholas Baptiste** (2013, third round) scored a power-play goal Saturday to extend his point streak to seven games as Erie skated to a 4-2 triumph over London. The night before, Baptiste provided his team's only goal with the man advantage as Erie was hammered 6-1 on home ice by Sault Ste. Marie. The speedy winger is catching fire with the Otters, scoring goals in five of his last six games to elevate him to 30 points (14+16) in 25 games since being traded to Erie.

Peterborough forward **Eric Cornel** (2014, second round) scored his 13th goal of the season and assisted on an empty-netter Saturday as the Petes earned a 6-3 victory over Windsor. Cornel has upped his production of late, snatching four goals and 11 points in his last nine games as the Petes look to take a run at the final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

**Justin Bailey** (2013, second round) hit the 30-goal mark for the first time in OHL career Thursday and added one assist as Sault Ste. Marie was outgunned 8-6 by Niagara. Bailey came up empty in Friday's 6-1 throttling of Erie and again on Sunday in a 5-1 loss at Kitchener. The big winger has 59 points in 48 games between Kitchener and Sault Ste. Marie.

**Jean Dupuy** did not play in the week's three game due to injury. The 20-year-old forward has posted career highs this season of 11 goals and 33 points in 39 games.

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## OMJHL

After being limited to one shot on goal on Wednesday in a 3-2 win over Blainville-Boisbriand, winger **Vaclav**

**Karabacek** (2014, second round) scored his 14th goal of the year Friday as the Drakkar got past Drummondville 3-1. On Sunday, Karabacek earned one assist to give him points in back-to-back games for the second time since being dealt to Baie-Comeau, leaving the second-year man with 32 points in 45 games this season.

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## USHL

**Christopher Brown** ended a nine-game goal drought Friday with his team-leading 13th of the year and added one assist to help Green Bay to a 5-4 victory over Omaha. The Boston College commit was blanked the following night, recording two shots on goal in a 2-1 loss to the Lancers. Brown remains the Gamblers' leader with 29 points through 38 contests.

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## Sweden

With the Swedish Hockey League on an international break to begin February, the Sabres' four overseas prospects received rest time in preparation for the final month of regular season play.

Following an international break to start the month of February, MODO goaltender **Linus Ullmark** (2012, sixth round) will look to close the year strong beginning with Tuesday's visit to Djurgardens IF. Ullmark has posted nine wins for the SHL's last-place squad, amassing a 3.12 GAA and .907 save% along the way.

**Gustav Possler** (2013, fifth round) will resume action as MODO's second-leading point-getter with 20 (9+11) through 38 contests. A season ago, Possler connected for 15 points (8+7) in 22 games in an injury-shortened campaign.

It is expected that Brynas IF goaltender **Jonas Johansson** (2014, third round) will continue to spend the majority of his time with the J20 team as the season winds down. Johansson has logged a 3-1 record with a 3.12 GAA and .912 save% with the junior squad. He has appeared in just two games this season at the SHL level.

MODO winger **Victor Olofsson** (2014, seventh round) was loaned to Timra IK of second tier HockeyAllsvenskan last week, and produced immediate results with a penalty shot goal Tuesday in a 4-2 win over Vasteras HK. Prior to the loan, Olofsson produced 10 goals and 18 points in 37 appearances with MODO's SHL entry.