



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

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Sabres-Canadiens preview

By Kevin Chroust

Associated Press

February 2, 2015

Considering the trajectory of their season, the Buffalo Sabres probably present Carey Price with the best opportunity to extend his stretch of dominance.

The worst team in hockey, however, has earned some of its best results against the Montreal Canadiens.

The Sabres conclude a five-game road trip Tuesday night looking to end a pair of franchise-worst losing streaks and complete this season series unbeaten in regulation.

Price posted back-to-back 1-0 wins before getting the day off in Sunday's 3-2 home loss to Arizona.

Alex Galchenyuk scored twice in the first period but the Canadiens (32-14-3) were unable to hold the two-goal lead and leap Tampa Bay for first place in the Atlantic. Montreal's total of 67 points is tied with Detroit's and one fewer than the Lightning's. Galchenyuk has five goals in six games.

The loss was preceded by the shutouts of Washington on Saturday and the New York Rangers on Thursday, with Max Pacioretty scoring in each. The Canadiens' top scorer has 11 goals and nine assists in the team's 15-4-1 span.

Price totaled 60 saves in the two games to extend his winning streak to five with a 0.98 goals-against average. He's gone 13-2-1 with a 1.43 GAA in his last 16 starts.

"You get goose bumps when you're stepping out of the tunnel because you want to step up for him," Pacioretty said after Price's latest outing. "It sounds cheesy, but he really is the backbone of this team."

Price beat the Sabres three times last season and also suffered a 2-1 loss in Buffalo on Nov. 28, posting a 1.26 GAA in those games.

The Sabres (14-33-3) conclude a five-game trip that's extended their team-record skids to 14 overall and on the road. The overall streak has come entirely in regulation and is the longest in the NHL since San Jose dropped 17 straight Jan. 4-Feb. 12, 1993.

The road skid includes one overtime defeat and is tied with Edmonton's from Nov. 11-Jan. 15 for the worst this season. Another defeat would give Buffalo the longest road losing streak since Chicago dropped 19 in a row Nov. 10, 2003-Jan. 29, 2004.

The Sabres fell 5-2 to Vancouver on Friday and have been outscored 61-21 during the overall skid.

"When things go bad, things go bad," coach Ted Nolan said. "Every time we make a mistake it seems to be in our net. When things are like that, that's what usually happens."

Chris Stewart scored both Buffalo goals, giving him four in as many games.

Nolan made Cody Hodgson a healthy scratch, saying Hodgson would return to the lineup in Montreal, hopefully with the entire team having received the warning.

"We have to get messages across to some people. You try different ways to get it across," Nolan told the team's official website. "Cody's one of those that, you know, he has some skill and some ability to put the puck in the net."

Buffalo's last road win came Nov. 29 against Montreal, 4-3 in a shootout to complete a home-and-home sweep and push its edge in the season series to 2-0-1.

Buffalo's Jhonas Enroth has earned both wins over the Canadiens. Enroth has gone 5-2-0 with a 2.19 GAA as a starter against Montreal, but he's 0-8-0 with a 4.47 GAA in his last nine games this season.

Matt Hackett made his first start of the season against the Canucks and allowed four goals on 37 shots.

Gorges pained by Sabres' lengthy losing streak

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

February 2, 2015

MONTREAL — Josh Gorges, like many people in hockey, doesn't put much stock in plus/minus rating. Once the standard for determining a player's defensive ability, plus/minus has tumbled below many advanced stats and doesn't have a place in the world of analytics.

That said, Gorges knows where he stands in the category. His NHL-worst minus-27 jumps off the page anytime he looks at a stat sheet.

"I mean, yeah, you notice it," the Sabres defenseman said with a pained look Monday. "When you're in the position I'm in, it's hard not to. It's hard not to see it. It's hard not to think about it."

Gorges is having a hard time with a lot of things lately. Buffalo's 14-game losing streak has troubled everyone in the dressing room, but few players – if any – are as emotional as Gorges. He doesn't bottle up anything, so the pain of losing comes out in words, actions and attitude.

"I haven't been in this situation before," Gorges said in Bell Centre, where the Sabres visit the Montreal Canadiens on Tuesday night. "I'm still trying to learn for myself how to be a better leader, maybe at times be more positive."

"If I'm doing my job, at least I can look myself in the mirror and hold my head high. When I'm not, those are the tough days. Those are the days when you can't look at yourself and say, 'I did what I was supposed to do,' or, 'I did the best that I could,' that's when you've got a problem."

The minus-27 indicates Gorges has a problem. He's been on the ice for 66 of the 179 goals allowed by the Sabres, which works out to 37 percent. Last season with the Canadiens, he was on the ice for only 55 goals in 66 games.

"That's no indication of how he's playing," Sabres captain Brian Gionta said. "If you watch him play, he's the heart and soul of our defense, and he's the best defenseman out there. Plus/minus is a bad stat. A lot of things go the wrong way there."

An increase in responsibilities could be part of the reason for Gorges' decline. Though he's facing roughly the same quality of competition, he's doing it more often. Gorges is skating 22:31 per game, up from 21:14 with the Habs.

"There's always room for improvement," he said of his play. "This game is a team game. There's five guys and a goalie on the ice. They all have to do the job to get the job done. If there's ever a chink in the chain or a chink in the armor, the whole thing falls apart."

Gorges spent part of Monday's practice trying to determine how to bring everything back together.

The Sabres are three defeats away from matching the longest losing streak in NHL history, and it's weighing on the alternate captain. He and coach Ted Nolan huddled up for a long chat as the workout wound down.

"I'm trying to find answers on how I can be better and how I can help this team better," Gorges said. "When you go through a stretch like this, it's difficult. We're in the business of winning, and when you're not doing it you feel like you're not doing your job."

The 30-year-old has been hard on his younger teammates at times, but Gionta knows the defenseman is harder on himself.

"The thing with Josh is he's so raw, you see everything he's going through," said Gionta, who is in his sixth season as Gorges' teammate. "He's intense and it's tough for him to hide things, but that's what makes him who he is, and that's what makes him great. I think he beats himself up a lot, as we all do, and we're trying to find a way out."

Gorges would like to end the losing streak in Montreal. He showed his unhappiness over getting traded by the Habs when someone asked if he's been following their season.

"I haven't thought about it," he quickly shot back. They were his only words on the topic, which stood in stark contrast to his loquaciousness on every other subject.

He was injured during the Sabres' previous visit to Montreal, so Tuesday's game will be his first in his former home.

"There's always certain games that have a special meaning to them," Gorges said. "You prepare for each game the same way, but obviously having your first game back in a building where you spent so much time, there's different emotions involved, for sure."

As always, and for better or worse, his emotions will be on display. He's trying to rein them in as the Sabres' rebuilding process dips through its toughest stretch.

"The confidence isn't there, but we've got to make sure we do everything we can to come with the right mind set and push ahead," Gorges said. "When you're a professional athlete, your job is to focus on today. Obviously, human nature is going to take over and you're going to think about a month from now, next season, two years from now, where things are going to be at, where am I going to be at. There's always talks about future expectations and things like that, but that's so far out of your control that there's no sense in putting too much thought into it."

Hodgson still confident despite benching

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

February 2, 2015

MONTREAL — He hasn't proved it, but Cody Hodgson insists he can put a puck in the net.

"I still think I can score in this league," the Sabres' forward said. "I've proved it before. Right now it's just about generating offense and having the ability to do that."

With two goals and five assists in 48 games, Hodgson has done almost nothing this season. During Buffalo's previous game, he did absolutely nothing because Ted Nolan made him a healthy scratch against his old team.

Despite the letdown and appearances to the contrary, the Sabres' forward insists his confidence is intact.

"I still think I have confidence in my abilities to do what I need to do on the ice, making plays, getting shots on net, generating offense," Hodgson said. "It just comes back to the ability to do that, and I still think I have it."

The forward will be back in the lineup Tuesday when the Sabres visit Montreal, skating alongside center Brian Flynn and right wing Drew Stafford. He'll enter the game angry after being embarrassed in Vancouver.

Hodgson took part in the pregame skate, then learned upon returning to the dressing room that he wasn't going to play.

"It's just a bad situation," Hodgson said. "Obviously, it's not my decision. You want to play, and you want to play as well as you can. You have to talk to them about what the decision was ultimately. Obviously, I know going forward I can play better."

Nolan said his reasons for benching Hodgson were twofold. First, he wanted to send a message to the player.

"Cody's not scoring right now," Nolan said. "He's got to find a way. Sometimes it's with the help of others, but sometimes it's your own thought process and how you want to approach it and how you want to work through it."

"We have to get messages across to some people. You try different ways to get it across, and Cody's one of those guys that he has some skill and he has some ability to put the puck in the net. Unfortunately, it's not working. We have to find a way to get it out of him. Maybe by sitting him out and getting him angry, maybe that will work."

Secondly, Nolan wanted to send a message to the entire team. Scratching the fourth-highest-paid player during a showdown with his first organization is a solid way to do it.

"This job, you can't take it for granted," Nolan said. "You just can't assume you're going to play. That's with everybody, especially when you're trying to turn around the cultural side of where we are right now in order to win."

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During his five seasons in Montreal, Brian Gionta had the ability to pick the brains of hockey royalty. That hasn't stopped now that he's with the Sabres.

Gionta and assistant coach Bryan Trottier each took a knee at the end of practice for a long chat.

"We talk about a lot," Gionta said in Bell Centre. "Trots being a Hall of Famer, it's always good to pick his brain whether you're talking about the future or you're talking about something in the moment. Those guys, I was fortunate to be around a lot of them in Montreal here and another one in Trots. Their outlook on things is always special."

Nolan is happy anytime he sees players go to Trottier for advice.

"I come from a culture that our elders are probably the most important people," Nolan said. "You gain knowledge from them. We have Bryan Trottier here who has won seven Stanley Cups. I'm sure he's been through every situation there is in hockey."

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Nolan hadn't decided whether to start Jhonas Enroth or Matt Hackett in goal. Montreal will likely go with the hottest goalie in the game. Carey Price went 7-1-1 in January with a .951 save percentage and 1.53 goals-against average.

Hodgson returns to Sabres lineup to face Canadiens

By Adam Kimelman

NHL.com

February 2, 2015

SABRES (14-33-3) at CANADIENS (32-14-3)

TV: MSG-B, BELL TV, RDS, SNE

Season series: The Buffalo Sabres have won two of three games against the Montreal Canadiens this season. All three have been one-goal games with two going to a shootout. The Sabres won the only game in Montreal, with Brian Flynn scoring late in the third period to tie the game and then scoring the only goal in the shootout in a 4-3 Sabres victory.

Sabres team scope: Last season Cody Hodgson led Buffalo with 44 points and was second with 20 goals, but this season he's slumped badly; he has three points in 19 games and no goals in 20. Coach Ted Nolan made him a healthy scratch Friday at the Vancouver Canucks. "The words I got were I'm out before the game," Hodgson told the Buffalo News on Monday. "Obviously it's not my decision. You want to play and you want to play as well as you can." Hodgson will be in the lineup Tuesday and Nolan hopes the one game off can help Hodgson rediscover his scoring touch. "Cody's one of those guys that he has some skill and he has some ability to put the puck in the net," Nolan told the Buffalo News. "Unfortunately it's not working. We have to find a way to get it out of him. Maybe by sitting him out and getting him angry, maybe that will work."

Canadiens team scope: The players had the day off Monday but Carey Price's name remained in the news. He was named the First Star of the Week by the NHL; Price went 3-0-0 with a 0.66 goals-against average, .980 save percentage and two shutouts in four games. Included in his run were back-to-back 1-0 shutouts, Jan. 29 against the New York Rangers and Jan. 31 against the Washington Capitals. Price also won the Molson Cup for January, awarded by the Canadiens to the best player of the month. It's the fourth straight month Price has won the award this season. In nine January games he went 7-1-1 with a 1.53 GAA and .951 save percentage. Price enters Tuesday with a personal shutout streak of 152:54. The Canadiens have four goals in their past two games, two by Max Pacioretty and two by Alex Galchenyuk. Forward Jacob De La Rose was called up from Hamilton of the American Hockey League. De La Rose, 19, is expected to join the Canadiens for the morning skate Tuesday.

Sad days in Buffalo for former Canadiens Gorges and Gionta

By Christopher Curtis

Montreal Gazette

February 2, 2015

There was an unmistakable air of sadness hanging over Josh Gorges's head Monday as he met with reporters inside a Bell Centre locker room.

Eight months ago, the Buffalo Sabres defenceman was a Montreal Canadien, helping the team on an improbable run to the Eastern Conference final. He was an alternate captain in Montreal, a fan favourite. The kind of player who would dive in front of pucks to bail his goalie out and take a beating if it meant sticking up for a teammate.

On Monday, though, Gorges stood in the visitors' dressing room of a building where thousands of people used to cheer for him, politely addressing his new team's 14-game losing streak.

"Obviously, when you go through a stretch like this it's difficult," he said. "We're in the business of winning. When you're not doing it, you feel like you're not doing your job."

"At times, our biggest mistake is that we play scared to lose. We play not to lose, so we need to go out there and play to win. That's a mindset that's tough to learn and figure out when you're going through tough times."

Of course, there were also tough times throughout Gorges's eight years in Montreal. The Canadiens missed the playoffs on a few occasions and often flamed out in the early rounds when they did reach the postseason.

But for all of the pressure of playing in a market as uniquely insane about its team as Montreal is, Gorges loved being a Canadien. He often spoke about his reverence for the Canadiens storied past and the importance of playing in a city where hockey matters.

When news leaked that Gorges was on the trading block, he didn't seem angry so much as hurt— deeply, profoundly hurt. It was almost like the thought of being exiled from Montreal burned a small part of his soul off.

Because he wasn't in the lineup when the Sabres played Montreal last December, Tuesday will Gorges's first game in Montreal since being shipped to Buffalo last summer in exchange for a second-round draft pick in 2016 (7:30 p.m., SNE, RDS, TSN Radio 690).

"I hadn't thought much about it much until this morning," Gorges said. "I'm not really sure what to expect until tomorrow. It'll be good to get that first shift out of the way. Let some of the butterflies settle down."

"There's always certain games that have a special meaning to them. You prepare for each game the same way but, obviously, playing your first game back in a building you spent so much time in, there's different emotions."

The offseason also saw former Montreal captain Brian Gionta part ways with the Canadiens to join the Sabres. But for Gionta, the move wasn't exactly devastating. The 36-year-old is in the twilight of his career now, signing a three-year, \$12.75-million free-agent contract to play just an hour's drive from his hometown of Rochester, N.Y.

While reporters questioned Gorges Monday, Gionta held court just a few feet away — sporting a welcoming grin and even managing a few chuckles despite his team's struggles.

"Can you imagine what a 14-game losing streak would have been like in Montreal," one reporter asked Gionta.

The Sabres captain burst out laughing.

"I can imagine it, yeah," he said, perhaps picturing a wall of flames consuming the city centre.

"It's not fun, there's no way around it," Gionta said of the Sabres' rough patch. "You get through periods where you look for new life, you try to be positive, you look to spin a bad thing and find a way to grow. Last three, four games, we've had spurts where we've played well, but in this league that's not enough."

Just across the locker room, two of the younger Sabres players recounted their favourite moments from Sunday night's Super Bowl.

"Hey, did you see that Gronk, bro?" one of them said in a thick Eastern European accent, referring to New England Patriots tight-end Rob Gronkowski. "He is like a beast man. A beast! We could use him in Buffalo, for the Bills, yeah?"

The other player replied: "Imagine him with a pair of skates on his feet."

They both laughed.

At this point, the Sabres' season is a writeoff. And though it would be unfair to claim the players have given up, you get the feeling a few have resigned themselves to a slow death in the standings.

Gorges wasn't laughing Monday. The 30-year-old politely fielded reporters' questions, giving unusually thoughtful answers for a professional athlete. But the moment was clearly a painful one for the former Canadien.

Finally, Gorges was asked if he'd paid any attention to the Canadiens' stellar season — one he likely wishes he could have been a part of.

"I haven't thought about it," he said sternly.

Sabres Gorges is learning new territory here

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

February 2, 2015

Montreal, QC (WGR 550) -- Josh Gorges played 96 games for the San Jose Sharks and 463 games with the Montreal Canadiens, but he has never suffered through a season like this.

I'm sure you've heard him on Brian Koziol's postgame show, he wears his heart on his sleeve after a loss. Losing is unacceptable to Josh Gorges and he had a long talk with Ted Nolan after Monday's practice on how he can handle the situation better because he wants to be the best leader he can be.

Gorges couldn't play the last time the Sabres were in Montreal, so he'll finally get to return to the ice where he's spent a lot of his NHL career. Gorges said he will be nervous, "Yes a little bit, I really hadn't thought about it until this morning coming to the rink and skating on the ice. I'm not really sure what to expect until tomorrow when I come out for warmups, but it will be good to get that first shift out of the way, get some of the butterflies out a little bit."

As far as this season goes, Buffalo has lost 14 games in a row and the Bills have won a game since the Sabres had their last win. Gorges said, "We're in the business of winning and when you're not doing it, you feel like you're not doing your job, but we can't look at what's gone on behind us, you've got to refocus and get ready for the next one."

Many have accused the Sabres as playing not to lose, especially in the third period. Gorges can see where people are coming from with that, "At times that's probably been our biggest mistake, we played scared to lose, instead of going out there and playing to win. That's a mindset that's sometimes tough to learn and tough to figure out, especially when you're going through tough times."

The Sabres have lost 13 in a row on the road with the last road victory coming right here in Montreal on November 29th. Gorges thinks having a few days off since the three games in Western Canada will help, "We'll be rested, we got a couple of days to spend with each other and relax a little bit, so we're lucky I think we get to play in a great atmosphere, in one of the best hockey cities in the world, that should energize us and push us to have a strong game."

Let's get back to Gorges very long conversation with Nolan. He said, "We were just talking about our group, all we need to keep focusing on. I'm trying to find answers on how I can be better and how I can make this team better. The good thing about Teddy is the lines of communication are always open, so for us to have a back and forth and just have a channel of discussion about hockey itself." Gorges added, "For me, I haven't been in this situation before, so I'm still trying to learn for myself how to be a better leader, maybe try to be more positive, you know a lot of different things I can figure out to try to help this team."

We can all try, but none of us know the depth of the frustration the players are going through right now with 14 straight losses. The one thing I know we do wonder is can the players find a way not to take that on the ice? Many of the "dumb penalties" we see are from frustration. Gorges said, "You do everything you can to make sure you come to the game with a clean head and a fresh mindset, but like you said, we're human, it's human nature to think about the situation that we're in. Obviously when you're in this situation, you're always a little bit fragile, so if there ever is a time where you get scored against or you go down a goal, you start to panic a little bit, when we should stay calm and push forward because that's the hardest thing, the mental side of the game and if mental mistakes do happen and they're going to, how do we respond, how do we recover, how do we react and that's where we need to be better."

Most coaches and even most stat geeks don't put much stock into plus/minus. Like all stats it can give you a little information, but most stat categories are better gauges. In his career Gorges has been a minus once in Montreal and once the year he was traded from the Sharks to the Habs. This season he's minus 27 which is tied with Rasmus Ristolainen for dead last in the NHL. Chris Stewart is next at minus 26 so all the stat really tells us is

these three player play on a bad team. Gorges knows the stat isn't a great gauge, but it still bothers him a little, "Yes you notice it and it's not a stat that you ever really put too much emphasis on or think about, but if you're in the position I'm in, it's hard not to see it, it's hard not to think about it, but I have to focus on doing my job. If I'm doing my job, at least I can look at myself in the mirror and hold my head high and when I'm not, that's the toughest. Those are the days when you can't look at yourself and say, I did what I was supposed to do, I did the best that I could, that's when you've got a problem, the rest, you just try not to put too much focus on."

There's another stat category where Gorges is amongst the leaders. Gorges has blocked 134 shots in 41 games. Kris Russell of Calgary leads the league with 152 blocks in 48 games. Washington's Brooks Orpik has 134 blocks in 50 games.

Gionta, Gorges lean on experiences of coaching staff

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

February 2, 2015

MONTREAL – Even with 1,414 NHL games between them, Brian Gionta and Josh Gorges aren't afraid to seek out the advice of others.

As the Buffalo Sabres wrapped up practice at the Bell Centre on Monday, some players worked on skating drills, others took shots on net and a few worked on tip drills. Gionta took a knee near the penalty box and had a long talk with assistant coach Bryan Trottier.

To their right, Gorges was engaged in a good discussion with coach Ted Nolan along the boards.

The Sabres have lost 14 games in a row and have not earned a point since Dec. 27, a come-from-behind shootout win against the New York Islanders. Buffalo has not won on the road since Nov. 29 when they defeated Montreal in a shootout.

"You want to find a solution and be a part of that solution," Gionta said. "Daily, you're going through things, trying to figure out what you can do to help. It's a constant thing. You're thinking about it all the time, trying to find ways, whether you're doing something right, doing something wrong or trying to find a different way to get through."

Gionta, the Sabres captain, also held that title while with the Montreal Canadiens. During his time in Montreal, he would talk to former Habs and try to draw upon their experiences and use them to further his development as a player and a leader.

His conversations with Trottier have been similar affairs.

"We talked about a lot. Trotts being a Hall of Famer, it's always good to pick his brain," Gionta said. "Whether you're talking about the future, you're talking about something in the moment. Those guys, I was fortunate to be around a lot of them in Montreal here and another one in Trotts, their mindset and their outlook on things is always special."

Nolan is glad to see his leaders continue to seek out solutions to the team's problems.

"I come from a culture where our elders are probably the most important people and you gain wisdom and you can gain knowledge from them," Nolan said. "We have Bryan Trottier right here who's won seven Stanley Cups. I'm quite sure he's [gone] through every situation there is in hockey and for Brian to talk to him, he can transfer it to the rest of the players."

Gorges and Nolan have had a few long conversations this season. Gorges is an alternate captain for the Sabres and also served in that capacity during his time in Montreal. However, even he'll admit that there are still questions that he has about certain situations.

"We were just talking about our group, what we need to keep focusing on. I'm trying to find answers on how I can be better and how I can help this team better," Gorges said. "The good thing with Teddy is he's a very open person. He's an easy person to talk to."

"The lines of communication are always open and for us to give back and forth and just have a general discussion about hockey itself. That was more or less what it was about today."

The levels of frustration are rising as the losing streak continues. The Sabres wrap up their four-game road trip Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. against the Canadiens.

"I haven't been in this situation before so I'm still trying to learn for myself how to be a better leader, maybe at times more positive, lots of different things, anything that can help this team," Gorges said.

Times may be tough now, but Nolan made sure to point out to Gorges that if they're able to consistently do the little things the right way, brighter days won't be that far off on the horizon.

"I told him, 'When you're going through tough situations, the tougher they are, if it doesn't kill you, it makes you stronger and better at the end of it,'" Nolan said. "We know what we're going through here in Buffalo. It's going to take a little time to turn the fortunes around and we've got some good pieces going forward.

"We've just got to make sure we stay patient and work and don't forget to work. Eventually things will things work out."

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POWER PLAY

First Unit
Stewart-Girgensons-Ennis
Zadorov-Myers

Second Unit
Moulson-Flynn-Stafford
Ristolainen-Meszaros/Gorges

Sabres prospects report

By Kris Baker

Sabres.com

February 2, 2015

Saskatoon Blades defenseman **Brycen Martin** (2014, third round) notched five points in the week's three games, highlighted by a three-point performance (1+2) on Saturday in a 4-0 win over his former club, Swift Current. On Wednesday, Martin scored the Blades' only goal in a 6-1 loss at Prince Albert. He followed that up with an assist on Friday in a loss at Swift Current. The third-year rearguard is excelling in a leading role since his trade to the Blades, producing three goals and 10 points in his first nine games with his new club, including points in four straight games.

Sam Reinhart (2014, first round) scored his 12th goal and assisted on the overtime winner Friday as Kootenay earned a 4-3 victory over Regina. Reinhart saw his 10-game point streak snapped Saturday as Kootenay was upended 5-1 by Kelowna. Reinhart has earned a point in 24 of 27 games this season en route to posting 12 goals, 29 assists, and a plus-12 rating.

OHL

Nicholas Baptiste (2013 third round) scored in two of Erie's three games last week to up his point total to 39 (18+21) in 35 games. Baptiste scored for the second consecutive game Thursday as Erie lost 6-5 at Peterborough. He'd record a pair of assists Friday as Erie held on for a 3-2 win at Kingston before filling the net with his 18th of the year Sunday in a 7-2 win at Ottawa. The productive week gives Baptiste 28 points (12+16) in 23 games with the Otters.

Brendan Lemieux (2014, second round) struck on the power play Wednesday as Barrie skated to a 6-2 victory at Sudbury. Lemieux kept at it Saturday with his 33rd goal of the year and added one assist as the Colts doubled Niagara 6-3. In the third period, Lemieux pounded a one-timer from the slot for his 20th power play marker of the season and the game's final goal.

Justin Bailey (2013, second round) picked up a regulation assist and the shootout winner Friday as Sault Ste. Marie defeated North Bay 4-3. On Saturday, Bailey notched two assists as Sault Ste. Marie smoked Mississauga 7-1. Through 10 games with the Greyhounds, Bailey has 16 points (7+9) and a plus-13 rating to help the club to 10 straight victories.

Jean Dupuy added one assist to his stat line Friday as Sault Ste. Marie edged North Bay in a shootout. Dupuy missed Saturday's contest after getting dinged up in the victory over the Battalion, leaving him with 11 goals and 29 points with 20 games left on the schedule.

Eric Cornel (2014, second round) scored a goal and an assist Thursday to earn the game's second star as Peterborough ended Erie's six-game winning streak with an exciting 6-5 victory over the Otters. The multiple-point effort was Cornel's first since Dec. 18 and 10th of the year. Cornel continued to produce on Friday, scoring his 12th goal of the year plus an assist as the Petes stunned Oshawa 5-4 in overtime. Cornel, who saw his five-game point streak come to a halt in Saturday's 4-3 loss to Ottawa, enters February with 37 points (12+25) in 45 games.

QMJHL

Vaclav Karabacek (2014, second round) registered one assist in the week's three games as Baie-Comeau came away from the Maritime road trip with one win in three tries. The helper, which came in Saturday's 2-1 triumph at Halifax, gives the Czech winger 30 points (13+17) in 42 games between Gatineau and Baie-Comeau.

NCAA

Hudson Fasching scored a goal and an assist Friday for his first multiple-point game since opening night as Minnesota won a wild 7-5 decision at Wisconsin. Fasching was unable to get on the scoresheet Saturday as the Gophers and Badgers played to a 4-4 tie. The sophomore winger has seven goals and 12 points in 23 contests.

After going without a point or a shot on goal in Friday's win over Wisconsin, Minnesota forward **Christian Isackson** (2010, seventh round) scored his second goal of the year Saturday as the Gophers and Badgers played to a 4-4 tie. Isackson added a clutch shootout marker, but the Badgers came away with the extra point.

Wisconsin senior **Brad Navin** (2011, seventh round) notched one assist in the Badgers' loss to Minnesota on Friday. Navin, who posted two shots on goal in Saturday's 4-4 tie, has five points (1+4) in 23 games this season.

Anthony Florentino (2013, fifth round) picked up a pair of assists Friday for his first multi-point game of the year as Providence was edged by Boston College 3-2. Florentino has turned it up with two goals and seven points in 10 games since the holiday break. He has 11 points in 25 games this season while posting a team-high plus-14 rating.

J.T. Compher (2013, second round) recorded three shots on goal Friday as Michigan was defeated by Michigan State 2-1. Compher has collected one goal and one assist in six games since returning from the World Junior Championship, and a total of 13 points (4+9) in 21 total contests.

Freshman goaltender **Cal Petersen** (2013, fifth round) started for the fifth straight game Friday, stopping eight of 11 shots before being replaced in the second period as Notre Dame dropped a 5-2 decision to New Hampshire. Petersen was given the night off on Saturday after starting nine of Notre Dame's previous 10 tilts. The 20-year-old has a 6-11-2 record with a 2.79 GAA and .900 save% through 18 starts.

Notre Dame forward **Connor Hurley** (2013, second round) was blanked in Friday's loss to New Hampshire. He produced one shot on goal Saturday as the Fighting Irish snapped a three-game skid with a 5-3 victory over New Hampshire. Hurley has 11 points (3+8) in 27 games.

Judd Peterson (2012, seventh round) recorded five shots on goal over the weekend as St. Cloud State earned the weekend sweep with convincing 7-1 and 6-1 victories at Colorado College. Peterson has two goals in 10 games since the holiday break, and a total of five points (3+2) in 26 collegiate contests.

Brown forward **Max Willman** (2014, fifth round) finished with a minus-one rating in Friday's 5-2 loss to Quinnipiac. He contributed three shots on goal Saturday as the Bears played to a 3-3 tie with Princeton. Willman has one goal and one assist in his first 20 college games. He has gone without a point in his last 16 outings.

Sean Malone (2013, sixth round) remained out of action due to injury as Harvard dropped a 5-4 decision to Union on Friday. Malone has played in just three of the Crimson's 19 games, notching two goals, five points and 10 shots on goal.

USHL

Christopher Brown (2014, sixth round) did not play as Green Bay suffered their eighth straight loss with a 1-0 overtime decision to Chicago. Brown has gone without a goal in his last nine outings, but still remains the team leader with a dozen tallies in 36 games.

Sweden

Linus Ullmark (2012, sixth round) started all three of MODO's games last week three following a one-game absence due to injury. Ullmark made 25 saves in his return Wednesday as MODO was toppled by Frolunda HC 4-3. He made 32 saves in Friday's 1-0 to Orebro HK, and then capped the week by stopping 34 of 37 shots and picking up an assist on an empty-net goal in a 5-3 victory over Linkoping HC on Saturday. Ullmark has posted nine victories with a 3.12 GAA and .907 save% through 26 appearances for MODO, who remains in last place in the 12-team league.

Gustav Possler (2013, fifth round) earned one assist Saturday in the win over Linkoping HC. Possler, who missed MODO's previous two games due to illness, enters February as MODO's second-leading point-getter with 20 (9+11).

Victor Olofsson (2014, seventh round) returned to the top club lineup on Wednesday, finishing with a minus-one rating in just 3:38 of work as MODO fell to Orebro HK 1-0. On Saturday, Olofsson was limited to just 3:14 of work but still produced one assist in MODO's win over Linkoping HC. Dressing as the 13th forward of late, Olofsson has 18 points (10+8) in 37 games.

Goaltender **Jonas Johansson** (2014, third round) did not dress last week as Brynas IF J20 split a pair of games. Johansson earned a 3-1 record with a 3.12 GAA and .912 save% in four January starts.