



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

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Enroth makes 38 saves, Sabres edge Stars 3-2

By Jonah Bronstein

Associated Press

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BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Despite being nearly doubled up in shots, the Buffalo Sabres found a way to secure their first home win in six weeks.

Jhonas Enroth made 38 saves and Chris Stewart assisted on all three goals for Buffalo in a 3-2 victory over the Dallas Stars on Saturday night.

Tyler Myers, Tyler Ennis and Zemgus Girgensons scored for the Sabres, who managed just 21 shots on goal, compared to the Stars' 40.

"We owe a lot to Jhonas," Ennis said. "He played great tonight. He's been great all year. It was great to get the lead. We got off to a quick lead and then Jhonas, he won it for us."

The win snapped a six-game home losing streak for the Sabres (16-34-3), who last won at First Niagara Center on Dec. 27, and haven't won in regulation at home since Dec. 11.

"I was looking at the crowd here tonight and seeing how filled the building was, despite our season," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said. "I think we have some of the greatest fans in the world, to stick with us. It was nice to get two points for them, for sure."

Overall, it was Buffalo's second win in its last three games following a 14-game losing streak.

Tyler Seguin and Cody Eakin had goals for the Stars (23-21-8), who started a three-game road trip by spotting the last-place Sabres a 3-0 lead and failing to punch in the tying goal despite dominating puck possession throughout the third period.

"It was a game we needed to win," Seguin said. "It's an embarrassing one to lose."

Anders Lindback started in goal for the Stars in place of Kari Lehtonen and made 21 saves. Lindback, recalled Friday from a conditioning stint in AHL Texas, started for the first time since Jan. 15 and is now 2-8 this season.

"We're getting offensive chances, but we've got to defend," Stars alternate captain Vernon Fiddler said. "If you want to win games in this league, you have to give up one goal. You can't give up three goals. It's too tough to score in this league."

The Stars outshot the Sabres 15-8 in the first, but Buffalo scored on its eighth shot to take a 1-0 lead with 1:43 left in the period. Myers took a cross-ice pass from Stewart and fired a shot that deflected into the net off of Stars defenseman John Klingberg, who was tied up with Ennis in front.

Buffalo took a 2-0 lead on its ninth shot, 43 seconds into the second period. A cross-checking penalty on Dallas' Ryan Garbutt in the final minute of the first put the Sabres on the power play to open the second, and Ennis took advantage of a slick back-hand feed from Stewart to score his 13th goal of the season.

"I don't think the shot clock told the full story of the game," Stewart said. "I know they did outshoot us by a lot. But I thought for the majority of the game, we had them on their heels."

Girgensons netted his team-leading 14th goal of the season six minutes into the second period, taking a pass from Nikita Zadorov and tapping the puck into a wide-open net. Stewart had a secondary assist on the goal.

"That third goal was poor play on our part," Dallas coach Lindy Ruff said. "We hung our goalie out to dry on that."

Seguin broke the shutout by scoring his 29th goal of the season with 4:37 left in the second period on the power play.

Dallas cut the lead to 3-2 with 10:13 remaining when Klingberg set up Eakin's goal.

Buffalo did not have a shot on goal for the first 16:33 of the third period, but Enroth made several saves late to preserve the Sabres' second win in their last three games.

"Jhonas played very well, made some good saves," said Ruff, who coached Enroth for four seasons in Buffalo. "I thought we missed the net, but maybe he forced that from the way he's playing."

NOTES: Ruff returned to Buffalo for the second time since being fired by the Sabres in 2013 after 15 seasons. ... Klingberg, a rookie, extended his points streak to five games with two assists. ... Buffalo is now 1-8-0 against Central Division teams this season.

New York at Buffalo

By Staff Report

Associated Press

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A sluggish stretch has dropped the New York Islanders out of first place in the Metropolitan Division, but their upcoming schedule presents them with a chance to regain that status.

The Islanders attempt to bounce back from their latest defeat Sunday night when they open a favorable four-game stretch against the league-worst Buffalo Sabres.

New York (33-18-1) has been arguably the biggest surprise in the NHL this season, but it has dropped four of five following a 6-1-0 stretch.

After opening this three-game trip with Thursday's 3-2 shootout win over Philadelphia, the Islanders fell 2-1 at Boston on Saturday. However, coach Jack Capuano wasn't discouraged after his club amassed 40 shots.

"I'm really just proud of the effort we had in here," Capuano said. "We played a solid game against a good hockey team. We had some chances, but we have to find a way to score some goals."

Scoring wouldn't figure to be a problem in the next four games. After facing Buffalo (16-34-3), the Islanders will host Edmonton, Toronto and Columbus - all teams with losing records and among the worst in the league defensively.

Capuano's club, though, has totaled only eight goals during the 1-4-0 stretch. Brock Nelson has gone 13 games without a goal and fellow center Frans Nielsen has one in his last 15.

It was New York's defense that faltered at Buffalo on Dec. 27, as the Islanders blew a three-goal third-period lead before falling 4-3 in a shootout.

The Sabres, who allow a league-worst 3.49 goals per game, have shown signs of life by winning two of three following a franchise-record 14-game losing streak.

Jhonas Enroth has come up big recently, allowing six goals on 103 shots while starting the last three games. He made 38 saves Saturday and Buffalo scored the first three goals in a 3-2 win over Dallas.

"We owe a lot to Jhonas," said Tyler Ennis. "He played great. He's been great all year. It was great to get the lead. We got off to a quick lead and then Jhonas, he won it for us."

It's unclear if Enroth will get the nod on back-to-back nights, but he had 33 stops against the Islanders in December.

Michal Neuvirth has a 1.80 goals-against average while winning five of six career starts against them, but he's lost eight straight starts with a 4.10 GAA. He's also struggled with a lower-body injury and hasn't played since Jan. 17.

Islanders captain John Tavares has 18 points in 17 career meetings with the Sabres, scoring twice in the December loss. He has 11 points in nine games overall, with four of his five goals in that span coming on the power play.

Tavares leads a power play has converted 7 of 27 opportunities in nine games, and is facing a Buffalo penalty kill that's allowed opponents to go 11 for 33 in 10 contests.

Jaroslav Halak should be back in net after backup Chad Johnson made 34 saves Saturday. Halak stopped 16 of 18 shots Thursday after allowing seven goals to lose his previous two starts.

He's surrendered three goals during a three-game win streak against the Sabres.

Already missing second-leading scorer Kyle Okposo, the Islanders are dealing with injuries to several other players. Forwards Cal Clutterbuck (upper body) and Michael Grabner (undisclosed) were hurt Saturday, and defenseman Calvin de Haan's status is also unclear after he was cut near his eye by a skate.

The last three meetings between these teams in Buffalo have gone to shootouts.

Outshot, but not outscored

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

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The long-held view of goaltenders is they're quirky. From Jacques Plante knitting in the dressing room to Gerry Cheevers painting stitches on his mask to Ron Hextall imitating Paul Bunyan to Ilya Bryzgalov spouting about the universe, goalies have a tendency to be unpredictable.

It makes sense that the trade market for them is erratic, too.

At last season's deadline, eight deals featured a goaltender as the prime acquisition. During the previous two swap meets combined, only three deals included a netminder.

It's hard to say how many goalies will change teams during the next month, but any organization that wants one will have to look at Jhonas Enroth.

The goalie helped deliver the Sabres' first win in First Niagara Center since Dec. 27, stopping 38 shots Saturday during a 3-2 victory over Dallas. Enroth improved to 13-20-2 on a team that's 16-34-3.

"Honestly, I don't think too many goalies are going to be moved," Enroth said. "It's so hard to trade goalies these days. You have to be a Ryan Miller to trade if there's not a big injury somewhere.

"I'm not going to think about that too much."

Like fellow pending unrestricted free agent Chris Stewart, who tied a career high with three assists, Enroth is getting hot when scouts are working their hardest. During his last three starts, Enroth has stopped 97 of 103 shots for a .942 save percentage. The Sabres are 2-1 after losing 14 in a row.

"We owe a lot to Jhonas," Sabres right wing Tyler Ennis said. "He's played great. He's been great all year."

Any playoff contenders interested in a goalie will like that Enroth stands up to a heavy workload. He's made at least 30 saves in eight of his 13 victories. He's also stopped 30 or more shots in 12 of his 22 setbacks.

Enroth was busy early and late Saturday as Dallas pushed hard for a lead and struggled for the tying goal. The Stars attempted 86 shots compared with just 37 for the Sabres. The announced crowd of 18,426 gave Enroth one of its loudest cheers when he snared Alex Goligoski's point blast with just more than a minute remaining.

Dallas, trying to gain ground in the Western Conference playoff race, came out aggressive. The Stars took the first six shots and 10 of the opening 13. Enroth was strong, keeping the Sabres afloat until Tyler Myers finally responded with a ricochet goal with 1:43 remaining in the first.

"That was definitely a great start for me," Enroth said. "I felt comfortable right from the get-go, so I had a good feeling all game. "It's always a little bit special feeling when you get in a good period like that and go out with a 1-0 lead. But it's just the first period. You have to just stay in the moment and try to focus on the next shot all the time."

The Sabres scored early in the second to double their advantage. Stewart spotted Ennis alone across the slot, and the winger ripped a high power-play shot into the net with 53 seconds off the clock. Stewart picked up his third assist with six minutes gone, starting an around-the-zone passing play that led to Nikita Zadorov feeding Zemgus Girgensons for an empty-netter.

Dallas coach Lindy Ruff could only stand behind the bench with his arms crossed and angry look on his face, a pose fans in Buffalo had seen often during his 16 years with the organization.

The Stars finally got to Enroth during the latter half of the second period, first with a stick and then with the puck. Ryan Garbutt jammed Enroth in the throat with his lumber, sending the goalie's mask airborne. Four minutes later, Tyler Seguin's power-play blast ended the goalie's shutout bid.

The third period started just like the first with Dallas taking the opening six shots. This time, the visitors connected. Cody Eakin slipped a close-range, short-side shot past Enroth with 10:13 remaining.

The goalie stopped the rest. He might get a rest when the Sabres complete their two-game weekend at home against the New York Islanders at 5 p.m. Sunday.

Ruff enjoys visit to Buffalo in spite of game's outcome

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

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Lindy Ruff had plenty of up-and-down seasons during his 16 years in Buffalo and I witnessed, heard or at least heard about several of his tirades during his time here. Yes, one or two might have even been directed at me.

So I couldn't resist asking him Saturday morning how in the world he would have reacted to a 14-game losing streak, the likes of which his old team just snapped Tuesday night.

"You get in those and that's gut-wrenching material," Ruff said. "I've gone through some tough ones. Once you get past two or three, you wonder when it's going to end. It's a hard place to be."

Ruff's Dallas Stars – and yep, that's still weird to write – are in a hard place these days. They nearly upset Anaheim in the first round of the playoffs last year but the way things are going now, they're not going to return to the postseason party.

The Stars are on the outside of the playoffs in the rugged Western Conference and their faults were readily apparent in a 3-2 loss to the Sabres, even though they dominated the final 30 minutes.

The Stars are oddly mediocre at home (11-11-6) and have some of the most brutal goaltending in the league, entering Saturday's 29th out of the 30 teams in both goals-against average (3.20) and save percentage (.895). Ruff called out starter Kari Lehtonen after Thursday's loss to Tampa Bay and backup Anders Lindback, returning from a stint in the minors, didn't prompt much confidence Saturday either.

The defense fell asleep in the first six minutes of the second period, allowing the goal-challenged Sabres to score twice and build a 3-0 lead. And for all their stars on offense, Dallas keeps getting beat by opposing goaltenders.

Jhonas Enroth, Ruff's final Buffalo backup, did him in Saturday with 38 saves in a game that saw the Stars pepper the Buffalo net with 86 shots but only get 40 on goal. The Stars have lost four of their last five games that they've hit the 40 mark.

"Jhonas played very well, made some good saves," Ruff said after Buffalo's 3-2 win. "I thought we missed the net a lot -- and maybe he forced that from the way he was playing."

The Sabres have suddenly won two out of three but this was a huge escape. The Stars appeared to simply run out of time more than falling short in their 14th one-goal loss of the season.

"We were thinking that it was coming," Ruff said of a potential tying goal. "But there's been too many games we haven't been able to push through and tie."

Ruff is nine days away from turning 55, perhaps heading into the twilight of his coaching career. He still hasn't won a playoff series since 2007. This doesn't look like a team that will break his drought either. The Stars have talent, both veterans and youngsters. But the mix is simply gaining no traction as they are just 5-7-3 in their last 15 games.

"That's an embarrassing one to lose," said standout center Tyler Seguin, who potted his 29th goal of the season but only scored once on his 20 shot attempts. "They competed hard, capitalized on opportunities and and we left our goalie hanging."

Dallas veteran Jason Spezza, acquired over the summer from Ottawa, said Ruff was remarkably patient with this club during an 0-5-2 run earlier this season. But Mount Lindy has to be ready for an eruption soon.

Ruff was clearly happy to be home during a 10-minute chat with reporters Saturday morning. He was wide-eyed when talking about the changes he saw at HarborCenter and Canalside and easily reminisced about the memorable 2006 and 2007 playoff runs.

Shortly after Spezza joined the club, he and Ruff had a light-hearted talk about the elephant in the room. Think back to the infamous '07 brawl between the Sabres and Senators, the one that featured goaltenders Marty Biron and Ray Emery exchanging punches on the ice and Ruff and Sens coach Bryan Murray exchanging howls at each other off it.

In the wake of Chris Neil's elbow to Chris Drury, how did the brawl start? Ruff sent out his fourth line and center Adam Mair attacked Spezza just as the puck was dropped.

"I think he brought up the fact it was different going back to play teams in the East and seeing different guys," Spezza said. "I brought up having him send guys out to jump us."

For his part, Ruff didn't plead ignorance.

"He said, 'You sent those guys out there after me' and I said, 'Yeah I did,'" Ruff said. "I admitted that. I admitted it and got fined for it too and I admitted it again. And I said I'd send them again."

Ruff said he had certainly been keeping tabs on the Sabres from a distance. The bond remains strong and his son, Brett, is a hockey operations assistant here.

"It's a team you're always checking up on," Ruff said. "When you see them win, I'm happy for them. He works here. He cares about this team, which he should. I think he feels the pain as much as anybody. But I think at the end of the pain, there will be some gain."

One member of the Ruff family felt pain Saturday and one felt gain. It wasn't the way the coach figured the night would go.

Sabres notebook: Stewart shows his playmaking skills

By Amy Moritz

Buffalo News

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Chris Stewart is known for being a big, tough, physical presence in the offensive zone.

Saturday night, he showed off a bit of playmaking ability.

Stewart matched his career high with three assists as the Buffalo Sabres hung on for a 3-2 win over the Dallas Stars in First Niagara Center.

The prettiest of all his helpers came when the Sabres started the second period on the power play.

Matt Moulson kept the puck in at the blueline and made a pass to Stewart who fed Tyler Ennis with a backhand.

"I was all alone in front and I saw Enzo backdoor," Stewart said describing the play. "By the time it was coming to me I was already thinking I was going to give it to him. Just spin it off my backhand and he put it in a place where the goalie couldn't get it. "

Stewart has been playing with Ennis and Zemgus Girgensons for the last few games and the jump in his step has been noticeable.

He has five points in his last five games and has been playing with confidence.

"I think when you start getting rewarded offensively, more confidence comes to your game," Stewart said. "The more plays you want to make out there. I've been playing with Girgensons and Enzo the last couple of games and loved it. They really want to play with the puck. They really love making plays in the O zone."

Ted Nolan has noticed a more confident Stewart, one who is playing to his strengths, which leads to points, which adds up to a desirable forward for almost any NHL team.

"I just think he's playing the way he's capable of playing," the Sabres' coach said. "He's a big powerful forward. He can skate. He can shoot. He's probably one of the toughest guys in the league. That type of ability is coming out, and he's showing why he's one of the most sought-after big guys in this game."

Stewart has even gained some momentum off missed opportunities.

In Thursday's loss to St. Louis he had a breakaway that failed. He had another break in the second period Saturday but didn't connect. Instead of becoming a source of frustration, it became fuel for his competitive fire.

"I think you get a little sour when you get those opportunities and you don't score, but as long as you get those opportunities, it's trending in the right direction," Stewart said. "The more you get, the more confidence you do have to make a move out there or hold on to the puck and find guys coming late. When you are doing little things like that, you can help your team win games.

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Nikita Zadorov was back in the lineup Saturday night after watching Thursday's game as a healthy scratch from the press box.

Nolan was concerned the young defenseman was beginning to pick up some bad habits, and he wanted to send a message.

It was received.

"I'm 19 years old guy and with eight D someone has to sit for sure," Zadorov said Saturday morning after the team's pregame skate at First Niagara Center. "I didn't have a good game and he sit me. I think that's the message. I've just got to play every game hard and good. ... Skate harder and play harder. Every time I try my best sometimes it's not working. Sometimes you have a bad game. Just gotta step up and don't look back. Just look forward and do what you do."

Zadorov had an assist in Saturday's win, a beautiful play where he held the puck, drew the Dallas defense to him and fed Girgensons, who guided the puck into an empty net.

He was a plus-one on the night with two blocks and two shots in 16:21 of ice time.

"You want to make sure you grab those young mistakes real quick and make sure they don't become habit," Nolan said. "We're all creatures of habit. We just want to make sure he does the right thing the majority of the time and continue to see his progress grow as a young defenseman."

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Marcus Foligno will be back in the lineup for the Sabres, likely Sunday when the team hosts the New York Islanders at 5 p.m., but for sure on Tuesday when Ottawa visits First Niagara Center. Foligno has missed 19 games after having surgery on his hand, the result of an injury sustained in a fight at Boston Dec. 21 when he was responding to a high hit on Sabres' captain Brian Gionta.

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Josh Gorges missed part of the third period after he was involved with a collision with Tyler Myers and Jamie Benn in the second period. He returned in the third period. Nolan didn't say much about it.

"He had to make sure everything was working," Nolan said.

Sabres end home skid with win against Stars

By Joe Yerdon

NHL.com

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BUFFALO -- The Buffalo Sabres are over the longest losing streak in their history. They've turned it around with help from goalie Jhonas Enroth.

Enroth made 38 saves and Zemgus Girgensons had a goal and an assist and Chris Stewart had three assists in a 3-2 win against the Dallas Stars at First Niagara Center on Saturday.

Enroth led the Sabres (16-34-3) to their second win in the past three games with another performance that saw him allow two goals while under consistent pressure. In his past three starts, Enroth has faced 103 shots on goal and made 97 saves, good for a .942 save percentage. Buffalo lost 14 in a row before that.

"I think in the last three games we have been real good ... this was a solid game," Enroth said. "I don't think we played great, but we played good enough to win and that's what matters and it's always a little bit of a nice feeling in the locker room when you get a couple wins together."

The Sabres beat the Montreal Canadiens 3-2 on Tuesday, but lost 3-0 to the St. Louis Blues on Thursday. Buffalo's win against Dallas ended a six-game home losing streak.

"We owe a lot to Jhonas," Sabres forward Tyler Ennis said. "He played great tonight, he's been great all year. It was great to get the lead, we got off to a quick lead and then Jhonas, he won it for us. ... It was a little similar to the Montreal win where we played well for two periods and then Jhonas kind of stole the show for the third."

The Sabres got out to a 3-0 lead in the second period when Girgensons scored his 14th goal of the season 5:59 into the period. He took a pass from defenseman Nikita Zadorov and shot the puck into an empty net after Stars goalie Anders Lindback was caught out of position.

"You know, most of the goals ... Stewart to Zadorov to me, that's an unselfish play," Girgensons said. "It's nice to see guys really care about each other in this locker room."

Stewart has been on the Sabres' top line with Ennis and Girgensons since Jan. 30 against the Vancouver Canucks. Ennis scored his 13th goal of the season 43 seconds into the second period when he received a backhand pass from Stewart and beat Lindback over his glove hand with a one-timer.

"I think the more we start playing with each other, the reads are just becoming automatic and the chemistry is building," Stewart said. "We're really close off the ice too, so that definitely helps. Today was a good step in the right direction and we have [the New York Islanders] tomorrow."

Stewart has 17 points in the past 22 games and has 17 career points against the Stars.

"He's playing the way he's capable of playing," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said. "He's a big, powerful forward. He can skate, he can shoot, he's hitting, he's probably one of the toughest guys in the League. That type of ability is certainly coming out and he's showing why he's one of the most sought after big guys in the game."

Stewart also assisted on Tyler Myers' third goal of the season with 1:43 left in the first period. Myers took Stewart's pass and skated in from the blue line before taking a wrist shot that deflected off Stars defenseman John Klingberg and past Lindback.

Dallas (23-21-8) has lost three in a row.

"I think especially as of late we've been dominating games," Stars forward Tyler Seguin said. "We've been walking out with 40-plus shots a night against any team, but we're losing by a goal pretty much every night it seems like. Not much time left, but a lot of time left."

Seven of the past 10 losses have been by one goal.

"We haven't been able to push through," Stars coach Lindy Ruff said. "There's been too many games where we haven't been able to push through and tie a game, or get back in the battle."

Seguin made it 3-1 on a power-play goal with 4:37 left in the second period. Seguin received a pass from Klingberg and took a slap shot that beat Enroth on the short side.

Seguin's goal was his fourth since Jan. 3 and gave him 10 points in the past nine games. Klingberg's assist extended his point streak to five games.

"It was a game we needed to win, again," Seguin said. "Every game's important. There's pressure every game and it's an embarrassing one to lose. They competed hard, they kept buzzing opportunities and we left our goalie hanging a lot of the time tonight."

Cody Eakin made it 3-2 with 10:13 left in the third period after a Sabres turnover. Eakin received a pass from Klingberg and took a wrist shot that beat Enroth high over his right shoulder for his 10th goal of the season.

Lindback made 21 saves.

"It's frustrating," Ruff said. "You know, I still think it starts with us not playing well enough defensively. For about 10 minutes in the second period, they took over. We came back and didn't stop and didn't play the game we needed to play."

Reports have the Ducks interested in Myers

By Eric Stephens

Orange County Register

February 7, 2015

TAMPA, Fla. – Trade winds are blowing around the Ducks right now and it isn't because of their current location on the Florida coast during their five-stop trip.

This is the season when trade rumors ramp into overdrive as teams assess where they stand as potential buyers and sellers with just over three weeks remaining until the March 2 deadline.

And Ducks coach Bruce Boudreau doesn't mind enjoying the constant breeze that blows throughout the hockeysphere.

"Oh, yeah," Boudreau said. "When you see a trade come in, it's exciting. It's why people love trade deadlines and all that. That's why everybody watches. Because it's cool news. It's scoops.

"We all love scoops in the hockey world and the reporting world. It's always interesting."

The thing is his team appears to be in the middle of the widespread chatter. The common conjecture is the Ducks need a defenseman, preferably one that's a right-handed shot who would represent an upgrade from what they have.

Hello, Tyler Myers.

The Ducks are clearly buyers in a season where they appear well on their way to winning a third straight Pacific Division title and are in the mix for the Western Conference's top seed. It might not be Stanley Cup-or-bust but they're counting on doing better than the second round.

Myers has been the name that has come up most in speculation about the Ducks. He's not the player who won the 2010 Calder Trophy for Buffalo as that season's top rookie but he's only 25, 6-foot-8 and a valuable trade chip for a Sabres team that is in a full-blown rebuild.

The prevailing feeling is Myers would be reborn if he were out of Buffalo. His salary-cap hit is \$5 million but he's also on a contract until 2019 where annual real money goes down each season to \$3 million. About \$21.2 million of his \$38.5 million deal has been paid out.

It is something that would be palatable to the Ducks. Myers can be a piece for a team's future rather than Toronto's Cody Franson, Edmonton's Jeff Petry, Ottawa's Marc Methot or Carolina's Andrej Sekera, all potential free agents this summer who are more likely in the rental category.

Franson and Petry are the more coveted right-handed shots. Myers would cost much more and reports are that the Ducks have inquired about him, though General Manager Bob Murray is scouting in Europe and refuted any suggestion that something imminent is in the works.

Boudreau said he talks with Murray on a daily basis but adds that one thing he won't do is go to the executive with what he feels is a need. His job is to coach the players he does have.

"I'll ask Bob every now and again if anything's cooking," Boudreau said. "Other than that, I look at who we have and I think we're pretty good. If Bob makes a trade, he makes a trade. I'm not usually involved in any of that."

There is precedent when it comes to the Ducks addressing their defense before the deadline arrives. In 2011, Murray reacquired Francois Beauchemin from Toronto to address a shaky unit for its ultimately successful playoff push.

Hampus Lindholm or Sami Vatanen wouldn't be a part of a package to land Myers. Renaud Lavoie of Montreal-based TVA Sports reported during an interview with a Buffalo radio station that Cam Fowler has come up in trade discussions with the Sabres.

The Ducks denied the report. Moving Fowler, who has five goals and 19 assists, would be akin to merely subtracting a top-four defenseman to get one – and the optics would appear to be a downgrade – when the point is to add.

But would top defenseman prospect Shea Theodore and one of their young forwards or this year's first-rounder be something in play? Boudreau said he's "really happy" with a defense that he says is seven deep and has played "really good hockey."

However, Boudreau is fully aware of the rumors that haven't ceased.

"If Bob or anybody else thinks we can upgrade, have at it," he said.

"Sometimes there's a lot to it," Boudreau said. "Sometimes I don't think there's much to it. I read all of the stuff and read the trade rumors from everywhere. It seems the same trade rumors that happened in November are going on right now. And nothing's been done.

"A lot of the conjecture is what it is. It's people saying, 'Geez, this would be a good fit.' Or think this guy would work well there. And it builds steam because other people read the same thing. So I don't put a whole lot of stock into it."

GETZLAF 'BETTER'

Boudreau said captain and leading scorer Ryan Getzlaf is a game-time decision for their game Sunday against Tampa Bay. A lower-body injury has kept Getzlaf out for the first two games of the trip, but the center skated on his own while the Ducks took Saturday off.

"He felt better," Boudreau said. "I'm more hopeful today than I was yesterday."

Sabres hold on for tight victory over Stars

By Bill Hoppe
Olean Times Herald
February 7, 2015

BUFFALO – The Sabres often possess an uncanny ability to weather a fierce storm. Sure, opponents have pummeled them regularly this season. But they can also take a beating and come out on top.

The Dallas Stars dominated early in the Sabres' 3-2 win Saturday, pumping shot after shot on goalie Jhonas Enroth. Just 18 seconds in, they left Tyler Seguin open, gifting a prime scoring chance to the superstar. Enroth stymied Seguin, one of 15 saves he made during the opening 20 minutes.

"That was definitely a good start for me," said Enroth, who made 38 saves. "I thought I moved over and stayed on my feet. I felt pretty comfortable right from the get-go. So I had a good feeling all game."

The Sabres escaped the period with a 1-0 lead after Tyler Myers scored late. Tyler Ennis' power-play goal and Zemgus Girgensons' team-leading 14th score put the Sabres up 3-0 in the second period.

Still, this one was far from over. Like Tuesday's 3-2 win in Montreal, the Sabres hung on late and nearly imploded.

"This was a hard-fought two points by our team," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said.

Seguin's power-play goal later in the second period made it 3-1. Cody Eakin got the Stars to within one 9:47 into the third, a period they outshot the Sabres 9-3 and held the puck throughout.

"We went down to three lines and really tried to hang on," said Nolan, whose team hosts the New York Islanders this afternoon.

The win before 18,426 fans was the Sabres' first at the First Niagara Center since Dec. 27 and just their second victory in 17 games.

"It felt nice to salute the fans again, it's been a while," Ennis said. "They've been awesome for us, they've been supportive."

Ennis added: "I thought it was similar to Montreal, outplayed them for two periods. They kind of took it to us in the third period, and we needed Jhonas stand his ground and get us a win."

Like Tuesday, the Sabres did enough to win, scoring three goals for just the fourth time in 17 games. They exploited the Stars' weak defense and goaltending – Anders Lindback is arguably the NHL's worst netminder – for chunks of the game.

"I don't think the shot clock told the full story of the game," said Sabres winger Chris Stewart, who had three assists, including a nifty backhand to create Ennis' goal. "I know they did outshoot us by a lot, but I thought for the majority of the game we definitely had them on their heels."

Former Sabres coach Lindy Ruff happy to have Jason Spezza with Stars

By Bill Hoppe
Olean Times Herald
February 7, 2015

BUFFALO – Right away, Lindy Ruff and Jason Spezza buried the hatchet. For years, as Ruff coached the Sabres and Spezza starred for the Ottawa Senators, the two were adversaries.

At the height of the fierce post-lockout Sabres-Senators rivalry, Ruff sent Adam Mair on the ice to jump Spezza, a move that helped ignite the infamous 2007 brawl between the teams after Chris Neil leveled Sabres co-captain Chris Drury.

Spezza, who was dealt to Ruff's Dallas Stars on July 1, brought up getting jumped first.

"We talked about it," Ruff, who was fired as Sabres coach two years ago, said Saturday prior to the Stars' 3-2 loss inside the First Niagara Center, "and he said, 'You sent those guys out there after me, and I said, 'Yeah, I did.' I admitted it. I ... got fined for it, so I admitted it again. I said I'd send him again."

These days, the two can laugh about the past.

"Those were some pretty bitter rivalries we had with Drury getting hurt and Mair jumping me, back and forth a couple playoff series where they upset us," Spezza said. "I don't think I'd ever thought I'd be playing for Lindy, so it was kind of funny when things worked out the way they did."

Spezza has learned a lot about Ruff's competitiveness and sense of humor.

"He's very disciplined in how he teaches the game," Spezza said. "He demands a lot from you, but he has a softer side to him, too, where he's really family-oriented, he knows a lot about every guy on the team. He lives and breathes hockey, you can tell."

Spezza's one of several high-scoring stars in Ruff's arsenal. Despite all of the talent, the Stars struggled early in the season, losing seven straight contests in October. They began Saturday 23-20-8, last in the Central Division and five points out of the wild card spot.

The Stars have scored 160 goals but allowed 165 thanks to some wonky goaltending from Kari Lehtonen and Anders Lindback.

"We got caught up with a little bit of trying to play some high-end offense at the start of the year that really cost us," Ruff said. "We didn't really get locked into a real good style of play until maybe December, where we've played some real good (hockey) on a nightly basis, but we've dominated some teams and haven't come out on the winning end."

Ruff keeps tabs on the Sabres, who gutted their roster and started a long rebuild shortly after he was fired. He still has a home in Clarence. His son, Brett, works for the Sabres.

"We have conversations all the time," Ruff said. "It's a team you're always checking up on. When you see them win, I'm happy for him. He works here and he cares about this team, which he should. I think he feels the pain as much as anybody. But I think at the end of the pain they'll be some gain."

That pain – the Sabres just lost 14 straight games – is "gut-wrenching material," Ruff said.

"I've gone through some tough ones, gone through seven-, eight-game ones here, which once you get past two or three, you wonder when it's going to end," he said. "It's a hard place to be."

Ruff's second trip back to Buffalo was different than his first. The Sabres and the fans honored Ruff, who coached here 16 years, early last season.

"It's going to feel more like a road game," Ruff said.

xxx

The Sabres made one lineup change Saturday, inserting 19-year-old defenseman Nikita Zadorov for Andre Benoit.

Zadorov has struggled in recent weeks, becoming a healthy scratch after earning regular duty throughout November and December. He sat out Thursday.

"With a young defenseman, you just want to make sure you grab those young mistakes real quick, want to make sure they don't become habit, because we're all creatures of habit," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said.

Nolan paired Zadorov beside Rasmus Ristolainen.

Meanwhile, center Marcus Foligno (hand) will likely return from a 19-game absence this afternoon against the New York Islanders. He hasn't played since fighting Boston's Matt Bartkowski on Dec. 21. Nolan said Foligno will definitely return by Tuesday, when the Sabres host Ottawa.

Foligno will have to play with a splint at first.

"I have a pretty good grip on it," Foligno said. "Sometimes it jams up the wrist a bit. For the most part – shooting, snapshots – it feels pretty good."

xxx

The Sabres tried something different Saturday to help their NHL-worst power play, moving winger Matt Moulson to a point position. Moulson's known for his net-front presence, but he said he manned a point in college.

"He's a heady player, he's smart with the puck, and back there, you need a good quarterback," Nolan said.

xxx

Ruff on the new HarborCenter facility next to the First Niagara Center: "Incredible. I think this is a facility and a setup the rest of the league would be envious of having, where you can walk next store and practice next door."

Sabres hold on for 3-2 win over Dallas

By Pat Malacaro

WGR 550

February 7, 2015

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- Welcome once again inside of the Ted Darling Memorial Press Box, high atop ice level at First Niagara Center. For just the second time since being let go almost two years ago, Lindy Ruff leads the Dallas Stars to town for their only trip to Buffalo.

Nikita Zadorov is back in the lineup for the blue and gold, while Andre Benoit will sit tonight. The young defenseman missed Buffalo's shutout loss to the St. Louis Blues. For more from today's morning skate, including an update on Marcus Foligno, click here for Paul Hamilton's pregame skate.

I will add my comments in between the scoring plays tonight, while you can comment in the thread below. Also, be sure to give Brian Koziol and myself each a follow on Twitter: @BrianWGR and @PatWGR.

First Period

18:44 - The Stars are swarming in the Buffalo zone early. A couple of scoring chances early for Dallas.

12:38 - Some good back and forth early between the two teams. Dallas holds the edge in shots 8-3.

9:42 - I am a little surprised that at how many empty seats there are tonight. It is a Saturday night, and the most popular head coach in team history is in town, but you almost would not know it. A handful of sections in the 300s are a little more than half full.

5:49 - Plenty of chances have been generated by both teams, they are flying. Shots are 14-6 in favor of the visitors, but the best chance of the period did not even register. Brian Flynn had a near breakaway chance go over the net when he used his backhand. Still scoreless late here in the period.

1:43 - SABRES GOAL. Tyler Ennis parked himself right in front of the net, and it pays off for the blue and gold. Tyler Myers just threw the puck at the front of the net, and the other Tyler had the puck hit his stick, and it is a fortunate bounce for the home team. **1-0 BUF.**

End of Period

Goal Summary

BUF: 18:17 - Tyler Myers (3) (Chris Stewart, Zemgus Girgensons)

DAL: none

Penalty Summary

BUF: none

DAL: 19:00 - Ryan Garbutt (2 min., cross checking)

Shots on Goal

BUF - 8, DAL - 15

Second Period

19:17 - SABRES GOAL. This time it was for sure **Tyler Ennis** that picked up the goal for Buffalo. The forward

received a very nice pass in the slot from **Chris Stewart** and buried the power play chance. Quickly the lead is doubled. **2-0 BUF**.

15:41 - The Sabres have had the better of the play, and it nearly helped them pad the lead. Torrey Mitchell and Matt Moulson each had chances to whack away at the puck in front of Anders Lindback, but could not bury it.

14:01 - SABRES GOAL. Man, these Sabres are just having everything go their way tonight. **Chris Stewart's** pass to **Nikita Zadorov** was just off the mark, but luckily for Buffalo the rear guard found **Zemgus Girgensons**, who slid the puck into an open net. **3-0 BUF**.

12:12 - Drew Stafford heads to the penalty box, and this is the chance Dallas might need to get themselves back into the game here.

4:37 - STARS GOAL. There are very few nights to is held off of the scoresheet, and tonight will not be one of them. **Tyler Seguin** is able to thread the needle through traffic to get Dallas on the board. **3-1 BUF**.

End of Period

Goal Summary

BUF: 0:43 - Tyler Ennis (13) PPG (Chris Stewart, Matt Moulson). 5:59 - Zemgus Girgensons (14) (Nikita Zadorov, Chris Stewart)

DAL: 15:23 - Tyler Seguin (29) PPG (John Klingberg, Jason Spezza)

Penalty Summary

BUF: 7:48 - Drew Stafford (2 min., interference). 14:10 - Josh Gorges (2 min., closing hand on the puck)

DAL: 18:44 - Jamie Benn (2 min, roughing)

Shots on Goal

BUF - 13 (21), DAL - 16 (31)

Third Period

14:09 - Buffalo has yet to record a shot on goal this period. As Brian just said to me, "they are hang on mode right now."

10:11 - STARS GOAL. That might have been the first goal in a couple of games that I think **Jhonas Enroth** should have stopped. **Cody Eakin** is able to sneak the puck in on the short side, and we have ourselves a game here. **3-2 BUF**.

7:07 - Buffalo still does not have a shot on goal this period. It is 6-0 in favor of Dallas currently.

4:47 - The Sabres do not have a shot on goal STILL.

2:01 - The Stars have pulled Lindback in favor of the extra attacker.

End of Game

Buffalo 3, Dallas 2

Goal Summary

BUF: none

DAL: 9:47 - Cody Eakin (10) (John Klingberg, Ryan Garbutt)

Penalty Summary

BUF: none

DAL: none

Shots on Goal

BUF - 3 (24), DAL - 9 (40)

Hamilton: Sabres try to spoil Ruff's playoff run

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

February 7, 2015

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- Lindy Ruff spoke this morning on how his team has lost quite a few games this season when the other goalie is the first star of the game.

For the first period it happened again as Jhonas Enroth made 15 saves to keep the game 0-0. Then late in the first Tyler Myers fired a shot that was deflected past Anders Lindback and Buffalo left the period up 1-0.

Myers shot looked like it was tipped by Tyler Ennis, but Myers got credit for his 3rd of the season.

Buffalo had a few chances which included Brian Flynn having another breakaway but his backhand off the deke went over the net.

Lindback also made consecutive saves on Nikita Zadorov, Brian Gionta and Matt Moulson.

Enroth was the story as he had to make a big stop on the NHL's third leading scorer Tyler Seguin 18 seconds into the game.

He made another great stop on Colton Sceviour as he was wide open in front and tipped Jyrki Jokipakka's shot.

Overall Enroth had 15 saves while Lindbeck stopped seven.

The Sabres led 3-0 after just six minutes of the second period.

Buffalo finished off a power play and just 43 seconds in, Chris Stewart made a gorgeous pass to a wide open Ennis and he had his 13th of the season.

The Stars defensive coverage didn't get any better when Zadorov had the puck in the circle to the left of Lindback. He found Zemgus Girgensons alone going to the net and he tapped home his 14th into the empty net.

With three assists in this game Stewart has four goals and five assists for nine points in eight games.

Dallas settled down and put some sustained pressure on Buffalo. Tyler Seguin had nine shots through 40 minutes and he finally scored his 29th goal on the power play with a rocket that beat Enroth with very little room.

Buffalo got caught in another horrendous change which allowed Antoine Roussel to walk in, but Enroth stopped him.

As the period ended, Flynn broke in on the power play as did Stewart, but both were stopped.

Enroth has 30 saves through two periods while Lindback has 18 saves.

In the third period, Ted Nolan changed the defensive pairs because Josh Gorges is injured.

Tyson Strachan and Myers had quite a bit of time to get the puck out as Dallas changed, but they went backwards and behind the net. Fresh players got in on top of them and Strachan turned it over along the wall. Next thing you know, Cody Eakin scores and it's 3-2.

Sabres defeat Stars to end home losing streak

By Mark Ludwiczak
The Sports Xchange
February 7, 2015

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- The Buffalo Sabres are starting to put the pieces back together after wrapping up their worst losing streak in franchise history.

Buffalo jumped out to a 3-0 lead over the Dallas Stars Saturday night and held on for a 3-2 victory. After a 14-game losing skid, the NHL's last-ranked team has won two of its last three games.

"I think in the last three games we have been real good," said Sabres goalie Jhonas Enroth. "This was a solid game. I don't think we played great but we played good enough to win and that's what matters."

The Sabres ended a season-worst six-game home losing streak with the victory.

Enroth made 38 saves for Buffalo (16-34-3), and right winger Chris Stewart had three assists. Defenseman Tyler Myers, center Tyler Ennis and center Zemgus Girgensons scored for Buffalo.

It was anything but an easy victory for the home team. Buffalo jumped out to a rare 3-0 lead, despite being heavily outshot (40-24). Dallas dominated play in the first and third periods and easily out-chanced the Sabres by a wide margin. But the Sabres, led by Enroth, were able to hang on.

"It was an entertaining defensive battle we put on," Sabres head coach Ted Nolan said. "This was a hard-fought two points by our team."

After dominating large portions of the game, the Stars were frustrated with the end result. Defensive lapses and missed opportunities on offense led to another close defeat; seven of the Stars' last 10 losses have come by one goal.

"It was a game we needed to win again," center Tyler Seguin said. "Every game's important. There's pressure every game and it's an embarrassing one to lose. I think especially as of late we've been dominating games.

We've been walking out with 40-plus shots a night against any team but we're losing by a goal pretty much every night it seems like."

Seguin and center Cody Eakin scored for Dallas (23-21-8). Goalie Anders Lindback made 21 saves.

"We haven't been able to push through," Dallas head coach Lindy Ruff said. "There's been too many games where we haven't been able to push through and tie a game or get back in it."

Myers opened the scoring for Buffalo with 1:43 remaining in the first period. The defenseman's shot from the lower-right circle caromed off Dallas defenseman John Klingberg into the net for Myers' third goal of the season.

Buffalo quickly increased its lead to 2-0 at the start of the second period. After left winger Matt Moulson found Stewart beside the Dallas net, Stewart sent a backhand pass to Ennis in the right circle. Ennis then ripped a one-timer into the top corner of the net for his 13th goal of the year 43 seconds into the period.

Girgensons made it 3-0 five minutes later on an easy tap-in. After Lindback over-pursued Sabres defenseman Nikita Zadorov to his left, Zadorov fed Girgensons with an open net. It was Girgensons' team-best 14th goal of the year.

Dallas staged a furious comeback but was unable to pick up the tying goal.

Seguin put Dallas on the board on a power-play strike with 4:37 remaining in the second. The Stars' leading scorer blasted a slap shot from the left circle into the top of the net for his 29th goal of the year.

Eakin cut Dallas' deficit to one just before the halfway mark of the third period. The Stars center beat Enroth with a quick shot to the short side from the left circle.

NOTES: D Andrej Meszaros and D Andre Benoit were scratched for the Sabres. RW Brett Ritchie and D David Schlemko were scratched for the Stars. ... This was Dallas head coach Lindy Ruff's second game in Buffalo against his former team. Ruff spent the first 15 years of his coaching career with the Sabres and is the winningest coach in Sabres franchise history. He also spent 10 years as a player in Buffalo from 1979 to 1989. ... This was the first of two meetings between the Sabres and Stars this season. Their second and final meeting takes place on March 23 in Dallas.

Sabres homestand continues against Dallas

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

February 7, 2015

The extended home stay continues for the Buffalo Sabres on Saturday as the Dallas Stars are in town.

Jhonas Enroth will be back between the pipes for Buffalo and the Sabres hope he'll continue his strong play. He's stopped 59 of 63 shots the past two games (.937 save percentage). Rookie defenseman Nikita Zadorov will also return to the lineup after sitting out Thursday's 3-0 loss to St. Louis. He'll once again be paired with Rasmus Ristolainen.

"Anything with a young defenseman, you want to make sure you grab those young mistakes real quick and make sure they don't become habit because we're all creatures of habit," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said.

"We just want to make sure he does the right thing the majority of the time and continue to see his progress grow as a young defenseman who's going to be a great defenseman in this League. But we've got to make sure we direct him properly."

Zadorov understood the message and is looking forward to getting back on the ice.

"Every time I try my best and sometimes it's not working. Sometimes you have a bad game, bad days and you've got to just step up and don't look back. Just keep going forward and do what you do," he said.

"...I'm a 19-year-old guy and we've got eight D here. Someone's got to sit for sure. I didn't have a good game and they sat me. I think that's a message that I've just got to play every game hard and good."

A DIFFERENT LOOK

Buffalo will also add a new wrinkle to their power play when the slide alternate captain Matt Moulson back to the point. Moulson said he played there early on in his career and doesn't think the adjustment will be much of an issue.

"Any time you're given a chance to contribute, I don't think it matters where you are. You just have to make sure you're ready," he said. "I'm sure I've had different spots throughout my career so it's nothing new. Being on the power play, you know every position so it's not that big a deal."

Nolan is looking for some more poise on a power play that has gone 5-for-18 over the past seven games and will look to Moulson to provide that calming influence.

"He's a headsy player. He's smart with the puck and back there you need a good quarterback, so hopefully it'll work," Nolan said.

HOME EDGE

Buffalo has had great success against Dallas at First Niagara Center, going 8-2-1 (one tie) in the last 11 times the Stars have visited. Dallas did win when they came to Buffalo last year and Buffalo will look to avoid losing consecutive home games to the Stars for the first time since they moved from Minnesota to Dallas back in 1993.

The Tops Gamernight pregame show will begin at 6:30 p.m. on MSG-B with puck drop scheduled for 7 p.m. The game can also be heard live on WGR 550.

GAIN AN ADVANTAGE

Fans who demonstrate that they've downloaded the Sabres Fan Advantage app onto their smartphones during checkout at the Sabres Store or other merchandise locations at First Niagara Center will receive 30 percent off their entire purchase on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. through the end of each home game and on Monday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

This discount is not valid with any other offers.

PROJECTED LINEUP

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

4 Josh Gorges – 57 Tyler Myers
51 Nikita Zadorov – 55 Rasmus Ristolainen
6 Mike Weber – 24 Tyson Strachan

1 Jhonas Enroth
34 Michal Neuvirth

Scratched: 41 Andrej Meszaros, 61 Andre Benoit

Injured Reserve: 8 Cody McCormick (blood clot in leg), 82 Marcus Foligno (broken hand)

McCormick joined the team on the ice before the practice began in skates and workout clothes. He took some shots on Neuvirth and chatted with a few teammates before departing as the morning skate began.

He's been out since Jan. 13 because of a blood clot in his leg that forced him to be hospitalized for a few days. Nolan suspects that McCormick might miss the rest of the season.

Marcus Foligno could be ready to play on Sunday against the New York Islanders. He broke his hand in a fight against Matt Bartkowski of the Boston Bruins on Dec. 21 and has skated with the team the past several days.

Sabres hang on to beat Stars at home

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

February 7, 2015

A three-point effort from Chris Stewart and 38 saves from Jhonas Enroth helped the Buffalo Sabres come away with their first home win in quite some time.

Buffalo held on in the third period to defeat the Dallas Stars 3-2 on Saturday at First Niagara Center despite being outshot 40-24 and 9-3 in the third period. Stewart assisted on all three Buffalo goals, which came courtesy of Tyler Myers, Tyler Ennis and Zemgus Girgensons.

The Sabres have now won two of their past three games. They beat Montreal on the road Tuesday and played a close game against St. Louis on Thursday that ended up going the Blues' way.

"The last three games have been real good, even against St. Louis, that's a real good team that we played with for 55, 60 minutes, pretty much," Enroth said.

"This was a solid game. I don't think we played great, but we played good enough to win. That's what matters and it's always a little bit nicer feeling in the locker room when you get a couple wins together."

It was the Sabres' first home win since Dec. 27 and their first home win in regulation since Dec. 11.

"I was looking at the crowd here tonight and seeing how filled the building is despite our season," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said. "I think we've got some of the greatest fans in the world to really stick with us. It was nice to get two points for them, for sure."

Stewart has points in 13 of his past 22 games and nine points (4+5) in his past nine.

"When you start getting rewarded offensively, the more confidence comes to your games and the more plays you want to make out there," he said. "I've been playing with Girgensons and Enzo the last couple games and I've loved it. They want to play with the puck, they love making plays in the O-zone and that's my game. It's working out well."

BRICK WALL

Enroth was spectacular in net for Buffalo through two periods, stopping 30 of 31 shots. He then held firm in the third period, allowing only a goal from Cody Eakin at the 9:47 mark.

Like in Montreal on Tuesday, in which the Canadiens outshot Buffalo 15-3 in the third, they relied on their defensemen keeping shots to the outside and leaned heavily on Enroth to keep the puck out of the net.

"It was a little similar to the Montreal win where we played well for two periods and then Jhonas kind of stole the show for the third," Ennis said. "We've got to do a better job playing in front of him in the third, but he's been playing great and he got us the win."

In his past three starts, Enroth has stopped 97 of 103 shots, good for a .942 save percentage over that span.

The Sabres were outshot 15-8 in the first period and were badly out-chanced. For most of the opening period, the Stars had Buffalo hemmed in their own end.

A HEALTHY LEAD

But the Sabres went into the first intermission with a 1-0 lead when Myers' shot was deflected in front with 1:43 remaining.

Buffalo tallied on the power play 43 seconds into the second period when Ennis one-timed a pass from Stewart into the back of the net.

The play was initially kept alive by Matt Moulson, who had a new role playing on the point. Moulson dished it to Stewart, who immediately threw it in front to Ennis, because he knew Ennis was there waiting for it.

"[Moulson] made an unbelievable play to keep the puck in so he can do the job up there," Girgensons said. "I think he's great out there. He sees the ice so he'll had good things to our power play."

Buffalo has scored on six of their past 20 power-play opportunities (30.0 percent) over the past eight games.

Buffalo took a three-goal lead 5:59 into the second. Nikita Zadorov wrestled down Eric Cole in the Buffalo zone to help break up Dallas' sustained pressure and then skated up ice to join the rush the other way. He took a pass from Stewart and then dished it to Girgensons, who shuffled it into a virtually empty net.

The Stars finally put one up on the scoreboard when Tyler Seguin snapped home a wrist shot from the right wing on the power play with 4:37 remaining in the second.

RIGHT BACK AT IT

Buffalo will be right back at it Sunday evening when they host the New York Islanders at 5 p.m. New York was also in action on Saturday, falling 2-1 to the Bruins in Boston.

The confidence in the Sabres dressing room is once again on the rise and they feel as if they're capable of making a run similar to the one in November when they won 10 of 13 games.

"We've got a healthy room again. We've still got to play a little bit better for 60 minutes, but we've got the same group of guys that we had when we were on that good streak," Ennis said. "It's going to be a good game against the Islanders."