



Buffalo Sabres

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Sabres defenseman Pysyk recalled after conditioning stint

Associated Press

January 11, 2016

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) -- Buffalo Sabres defenseman Mark Pysyk is rejoining the team after completing a conditioning assignment in the minors.

Pysyk had an assist in three games with the Sabres' American Hockey League affiliate in Rochester, New York. He was sent down last week after recovering from a lower body injury that sidelined him for 22 games.

The Sabres snapped a six-game skid with a 4-2 win at Winnipeg on Sunday. Buffalo closes a three-game road trip at Minnesota on Tuesday.

Goalie Robin Lehner is expected to play one more game in Rochester before completing his conditioning assignment. Lehner has allowed six goals in two games in his first action since spraining his right ankle in Buffalo's season opener against Ottawa on Oct. 8.

Sabres-Wild Preview

By Jeff Bartl
Associated Press
January 11, 2016

The Minnesota Wild followed a road victory over the Western Conference's top team with a lackluster effort the next night that reminded them how much they still need to improve in order to climb in the standings.

Beating the Buffalo Sabres for the fifth straight time Tuesday night wouldn't exactly be a feather in their cap, but it would at least get them back on track at home.

Minnesota (22-12-8) sits fourth in a Central Division that's arguably the deepest in the NHL. It trails St. Louis by three points with three games in hand, but it failed to gain more ground after losing 2-1 to New Jersey on Sunday.

Zach Parise scored against his former team in the third period after the Wild totaled just seven shots through the first two periods.

"It's not good enough," Parise said. "We want to catch Chicago. We want to catch St. Louis. We can't come out and play like that."

The Wild's third defeat in their last four at home came after they beat first-place Dallas by the same score. Their 18 shots against the Devils were their second fewest of the season and they failed on their only power-play attempt.

Minnesota is 1 for 22 with the man advantage over its last 12 and hasn't scored on any of its previous 14 chances.

"We go out and beat a top team in their own building like that and then come out like that and not play a full 60," center Charlie Coyle said. "We're too good of a team to come out flat like that and not play our game. We can't afford games like that."

The Wild will try to bounce back against a Buffalo team they've swept in the last two season series. Parise and Thomas Vanek, who spent his first eight-plus seasons with the Sabres, had a goal and assist apiece in a 7-0 victory in the last meeting Jan. 15.

Buffalo (16-22-4) was outscored 21-8 during a six-game losing streak before Sunday's 4-2 win in Evander Kane's return to Winnipeg. Kane assisted on an empty net goal that gave Sam Reinhart his first NHL hat trick.

Reinhart scored 1:37 in to give the Sabres their first goal in the opening 20 minutes in six games. Their 17 first-period goals are tied with Philadelphia for the fewest in the league.

"We've talked about it. It's been a frustrating time not getting on the board early and not having success early," said Reinhart, who had one goal over his previous seven. "We've been having to kind of try and comeback late in the third. To get a couple early is great for our confidence."

The Sabres announced Monday that defenseman Mark Pysyk is back with the club following a conditioning assignment that stemmed from a lower-body injury that kept him out 22 games.

Goaltender Robin Lehner will remain with the AHL club for at least one more game during his assignment, meaning Linus Ullmark could be in net again for this contest.

The rookie made 42 saves against the Jets and has a 2.19 goals-against average over his last six.

Devan Dubnyk should be back in net after having Sunday off. Dubnyk has a 1.83 GAA over his last seven and won his only career start against the Sabres in the last meeting.

Sabres' Reinhart ready to be recognized

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

January 11, 2016

ST. PAUL, Minn. – If it's possible to fly under the radar as a No. 2 overall draft pick in a NHL rookie season, Sam Reinhart is doing a darn good job of it.

There's so much attention being paid to Jack Eichel's debut campaign, what's now a 23-goal pace for Reinhart is going pretty overlooked. That might be about to change.

Reinhart posted his first career hat trick – and the first by a Sabres rookie in nearly 10 years – in Sunday's 4-2 win at Winnipeg. You would think the Minnesota Wild will not forget about him for a second when the teams meet here Tuesday night in the finale of the Buffalo Sabres' three-game road trip.

Reinhart's second multi-goal game of the season made him the first Sabres rookie to post a hat trick since Jason Pominville did it in 2006. At just over 20 years old, Reinhart became the youngest Buffalo player to turn the trick since John Tucker did it in 1984.

"I've played a lot better as the year has gone on," Reinhart said after practice Monday in Xcel Energy Center. "That was a game that shows a couple bounces can go your way and completely turn around your night. The chances have always been there but you get bounces that pay off and it's a great game."

Reinhart is now third on the team in goals behind Ryan O'Reilly (17) and Eichel (13), and the Sabres suddenly have two of the league's top four among rookies in goals and two of the top six in points.

Chicago's Artemi Panarin leads rookies with 15 goals, while Detroit's Dylan Larkin has 14. Eichel has 13 while Reinhart is tied with Arizona's Anthony Duclair at 12. Panarin is the top point man at 39 while Eichel is fourth (27) and Reinhart tied for sixth (19). Counting defenseman Jake McCabe's three goals, the Sabres are second in the league in goals by their rookies with 28. Only Arizona (29) has more.

Reinhart admitted he's not feeling any sort of glare like the spotlight Eichel is under.

"No question it's been that way and obviously he's earned everything, all the attention he's got," Reinhart said. "But I will say it has made it a little easier for me. I went through the summer he went through but he really had another level to it with everything that went on with his draft."

Reinhart and Eichel have the Sabres on pace to have two 20-goal rookies for the first time since Danny Gare and Peter McNab pulled the trick in 1975.

"When you're talking about scoring 20+ goals in a season, you're talking about a nice season for anybody, not just a rookie player," said coach Dan Bylsma. "He's quietly gone about it and definitely put himself in the conversation for getting 20, maybe 25 goals."

Reinhart has been playing with Eichel and Zemgus Girgensons but, oddly enough, didn't get any of his goals Sunday while playing with his line.

The first one came at 1:37 of the first period as he burst off the bench and took a neat pass from Johan Larsson to beat Jets goaltender Connor Hellebucyk with a quick snapshot.

"That's a nice one to step into for sure," Reinhart said. "'Larry' made a nice play there and it instantly gets you in the game taking four strides and getting set up like that. That's a nice start."

"His shot has been getting better," said winger Marcus Foligno. "And you saw his first goal. That was just a snipe."

The second goal, also in the first period, came on a power play as Reinhart's pass to Jamie McGinn in front of the net deflected home off Winnipeg defenseman Tobias Enstrom. If the pass gets through, McGinn probably has a tap-in.

Reinhart completed the hat trick on an empty-net goal after helping to create a turnover in the Buffalo zone, streaking down the ice and taking a perfect saucer pass from Evander Kane.

Reinhart's vision and hockey smarts have long been his trademarks. But his shot has dramatically improved this season, with plenty of post-practice work. Bylsma was still mesmerized by Reinhart's first goal when talking about it Monday.

"A goal scorer's shot," Bylsma said. "It's a catch and release and it's by the goaltender. I don't think Sam Reinhart had that in his game when he was drafted and I don't think he had at the start of this year. It's something he's developed."

"He was a pass-first guy, a distributor of the puck and a hockey-smart player. But right now, you might want to put somebody on him if he's in the slot."

Reinhart's confidence has grown in several areas this year, notably his net-front presence on the power play, his poise with the puck and the shot.

"I'm a lot more confident with it, which really benefits my game," he said. "It's another weapon I feel confident I can use in a lot of situations. You continue to want to get it off quick to hopefully catch a goalie off guard."

"I remember when he came to development camps and things like that and he's taken full strides," Foligno said. "We don't want him to slow down. He's headed in the right direction to be a heck of a hockey player and a huge part of this team."

Sabres notebook: Pysyk returns on his birthday

By Mike Harrington

Buffalo News

January 11, 2016

ST. PAUL, Minn. – His three rehab games in Rochester went without a hitch, and Mark Pysyk was back in the Buffalo Sabres' dressing room here Monday. The Sabres made the defenseman's recall official after practice, and he will almost certainly play in the NHL for the first time since Nov. 17 against the Minnesota Wild here on Tuesday.

"Everything felt good, and I felt better as the week went on," Pysyk said. "I was in pretty much every situation. I played some power play, penalty kill. Played quite a bit in each of the games. It was good to get back in the swing of things.

"I was trying to do the same things and defend hard and quickly. You want to get the guys out of the zone and make a good first pass. That's what I like to do."

Pysyk turned 24 Monday and teammates chided him with birthday wishes in the locker room after practice. Due to travel delays from Buffalo, he did not arrive in time to take the ice. He played three games over the last five days after being out of the lineup since for 24 Sabres games due to a broken bone in his foot.

Advertisement

The Sabres need Pysyk's work with the puck and his accurate passing; before his injury Pysyk had the top Corsi rating on the team in 5-on-5 play at just over 54 percent.

"I know some of the numbers and statistics that our team had when Mark was in the lineup," said coach Dan Bylsma. "Our best possession games coincide with Mark being in the lineup. We've been decent in possession, around 50 percent, around average in the league. But I know the numbers with Mark were a lot better. And that's something we have missed with him out of the lineup for this extended period of time.

"He's hard to play against because of his skating ability. He can close, have a tight gap, also move pucks the other way with his skating ability and support our rush up the ice."

Bylsma wasn't talking about his lineup yet but Pysyk could slide in for Jake McCabe, who suffered a lower-body injury Sunday in Winnipeg but was able to practice Monday. Bylsma said McCabe was feeling better than he did after Sunday's game.

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Easily lost in Sam Reinhart's hat trick and all the hoopla surrounding Evander Kane's return to Winnipeg was the fact the game-winning goal was tallied by Marcus Foligno, who snapped a 2-2 tie at 4:12 of the third period.

The goal came when Foligno pounded home a one-timer from the left circle after Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck kicked a long rebound of a Brian Gionta shot to his right. Winnipeg winger Blake Wheeler was just late getting to Foligno.

"I just thought about getting it on net as fast as I could," Foligno said here Monday. "That was a pretty big rebound, and I knew Wheeler was closing on me, too. I saw a huge open net and just thought I better bear down and rip this one on net."

The goal was just Foligno's third of the season – his first since Dec. 4 – and he celebrated with a flying leap into the end glass.

"The atmosphere was crazy out there, pretty mad," Foligno said. "To get that goal early in the third, it got quiet in there. We put them to the perimeter and that didn't create a lot of close calls.

"It had the feeling of a playoff atmosphere. Guys were talking about how it's fun to shut down fans like that. Like when you go into Montreal and it's quiet, you know you're doing a good job. "

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The Wild were off on Monday after dropping a 2-1 decision to New Jersey here Sunday night. Former Sabres winger Thomas Vanek is third on the team in both goals (13) and points (27) while former Buffalo captain Jason Pominville has struggled this year with just five goal and 19 points in the team's 42 games.

Minnesota is 22-12-8 overall and 14-6-2 at home. The Wild are comfortably in the Western Conference's No. 1 wild-card slot with a seven-point lead over Nashville and Colorado.

The Sabres are 8-9-2 on the road and can get even with a win tonight, pulling to 20 points in 20 away games. That's a huge step up from their road records the last two years – 8-30-3 and 9-29-3.

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The NHL made a scoring change Monday, adding an assist for Ryan O'Reilly to Sam Reinhart's empty-net goal and making it Reinhart from Evander Kane and O'Reilly.

That pushes O'Reilly's team-high point total to 36, and it's his 19th assist of the season, one shy of Rasmus Ristolainen's club high of 20.

Minneapolis Star Tribune

By Michael Russo

Minneapolis Star Tribune

January 11, 2016

7 p.m. vs. Buffalo • FSN PLUS, 100.3-FM

Preview: For the third consecutive season, the Wild plays the Sabres in Game 43. It is 2-0 in those games and is 6-1-2 in the past nine games against the Sabres, outscoring them 33-18. Jack Eichel and the Sabres, who have the second-fewest points in the NHL, ended a six-game losing streak Sunday with a 4-2 win in Winnipeg. The Wild is 2-3-1 in its past six home games. The Sabres have won three of their past five road games.

Players to watch: Goalie Devan Dubnyk's Wild debut came during last year's 7-0 win at Buffalo on Jan. 14. Since, he is 45-20-6 with a 2.02 goals-against average, .929 save percentage and nine shutouts. That's second in wins and goals-against average and tied for second in save percentage over that stretch. LW Zach Parise has five goals in the past four games. Former Sabres captain Jason Pominville has no points in nine games since Dec. 22 and is on pace for 9.7 goals. Sabres C Sam Reinhart's hat trick in Winnipeg was the first by a Sabres rookie since Pominville against Los Angeles on Jan. 14, 2006. Former Avs center Ryan O'Reilly is tied for 13th in the NHL with 17 goals. Eichel is fourth among NHL rookies with 27 points.

Numbers: The Wild is 1-for-22 on power plays in the past 12 games and ranks 21st in the NHL at 17.9 percent. The Sabres rank 27th on the penalty kill at 76.8 percent.

Injuries: Wild defenseman Nate Prosser (hand) is questionable. Sabres C Cody McCormick (blood clots), C Tyler Ennis (upper body) and LW Nicolas Deslauriers (lower body) are out.

Sabres defenseman McCabe could play against Wild

By Dan Myers

NHL.com

January 11, 2016

SABRES (16-22-4) at WILD (22-12-8)

TV: MSG-B, BELL TV, FS-N+

Season series: The Minnesota Wild swept two games from the Buffalo Sabres last season, including a 6-3 victory at Xcel Energy Center on Nov. 13, 2014. Former Sabres forward Jason Pominville led the Wild with four assists. Forward Zemgus Girgensons had a goal and an assist for the Sabres.

Sabres team scope: Defenseman Mark Pysyk was recalled from Rochester of the American Hockey League on Monday and is expected to be in the lineup. Defenseman Jake McCabe was on the ice at practice Monday and could play. He left the game in the third period Sunday against the Winnipeg Jets with a lower-body injury and did not return. "He's doing better this morning, much than [Sunday] night," coach Dan Bylsma told the Sabres website. "He was able to get on the ice and did all right, he got around pretty well. It looks like he could be probable for [Monday]." Goaltender Chad Johnson is expected to start. Buffalo is 1-1-0 on its three-game road trip against Central Division opponents; the Sabres are 2-5-2 against the Central this season.

Wild team scope: For the third consecutive season, Minnesota will play Buffalo in its 43rd game, although the stakes are a little different this season. The Wild entered last season on an 0-5-1 streak and were one game under .500 before winning in Buffalo, a victory that started a 28-9-3 run to the end of the regular season. Minnesota did not practice Monday. Although the Wild are 5-5-2 in their past 12 games, including 2-3-1 at Xcel Energy Center, their 52 points through 42 games is the most at this stage of a season in their history. Goaltender Devan Dubnyk will start.

Sabres' Pysyk back with the team

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

January 11, 2016

St. Paul, MN (WGR 550) -- Mark Pysyk is back with the Sabres after a three game conditioning stint in Rochester. Pysyk couldn't get a flight out of Buffalo that would get him to practice in time, but he did get birthday wishes from his teammates as he arrived afterwards.

They wanted to get him to Minnesota because Jake McCabe couldn't finish the game in Winnipeg. McCabe did take part in Monday's practice and said, "It felt good, better than I expected and hopefully tomorrow it will be even better. I want it to feel better than it did today, but it's a big improvement from last night."

As far as how McCabe is doing, Bylsma sounded cautiously optimistic, "He's doing better this morning, much better than last night and was able to get on the ice and did all right and looks like he could be probable for tomorrow."

As far as if either or both will play Bylsma said, "I'm not prepared to tell you what our lineup may or may not be yet."

After a two month layoff Pysyk played three games in three nights in Rochester. He said, "It was good. I just tried to keep it simple, but also challenge myself and get my legs back under me and I think I did that."

As far as his conditioning he said, "It was good. The third night is always a struggle in a three in three, but it wasn't too bad."

After being off that long, Pysyk did admit to a little rust Friday night. He agreed to the conditioning assignment because he agreed that it would be beneficial, "Yes absolutely, it's good to get three games out of the way there and to be back up here with the big club is huge for me."

You would think Bylsma would want to put Pysyk on the ice as soon as he can. The head coach said there have been areas of the game that have suffered, "I know some of the numbers and statistics that our team had when Mark was in the lineup. Our best possession game coincides with Mark being in the lineup, so I think we've been decent in possession and around average in the league, but I know the numbers with Mark were a lot better and that's something we have missed with him out of the lineup."

Pysyk has his critics because he's not physical. Despite that he can and does win battles. Bylsma said his defenseman is hard to play against, "I think he and along the lines of Jake McCabe with his skating ability and with his feet he defends and he's hard to play against because of his skating ability and he can close and have a tight gap."

"He also moves pucks the other way with his skating ability and support our rush up the ice. Jake's maybe a little more physical than Mark, but with both of those guys, the skating of our team with those guys goes way up."

The team skated for about 40 minutes in St. Paul with all 21 players originally on the trip participating.

Pysyk recalled; McCabe probable to play on Tuesday in Minnesota

By Jourdon LaBarber

Sabres.com

January 11, 2016

SAINT PAUL - Two bits of good news regarding the Buffalo Sabres' defense came from the team's practice on Monday afternoon at Xcel Energy Center.

There was the sight of Jake McCabe, who skated a full practice with the team after missing the last eight minutes of their game on Sunday with a lower-body injury. Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said that McCabe is "probable" to play Tuesday night against the Minnesota Wild.

There was also the presence of Mark Pysyk, who didn't practice but – on his 24th birthday – was officially recalled from a three-game conditioning assignment with the Rochester Americans. Pysyk hasn't played an NHL game since Nov. 17, missing nearly two months with a lower-body injury.

"It was good to get back into game action finally," Pysyk said. "Everything was good and I felt better as the weekend went on."

Bylsma did not confirm whether or not Pysyk will play against the Wild –the team has eight defensemen with him on the roster – but the coach did speak on what it means to finally have him back in the loop.

"I think – along the lines of Jake McCabe with his skating ability and his feet – he defends and he's hard to play against because of his skating ability," Bylsma said. "He can close and have a tight gap and also will box out and move pucks the other way with his skating ability and support our rush up the ice."

Not having Pysyk's talents on the ice, Bylsma said, has shown in the team's ability to possess the puck.

"I know some of the numbers and statistics that our team had when Mark was in the lineup," he said. "Our best possession game coincides with Mark being in the lineup so I think we've been decent in possession, we've been around 50 percent, around average in the League, but I know the numbers with Mark were a lot better."

Pysyk played three games in Rochester, earning an assist on a power-play goal against the Syracuse Crunch on Sunday.

"I was trying to do obviously the same thing, defend hard and quickly," he said. "Get the guys out of the zone and make a good first pass. That's what I like to do and hopefully I can do that when I get back here."

Coverage on Tuesday night begins at 7:30 p.m. with Tops Sabres Gamenight on MSG-B and Bell TV. The game can also be heard live on WGR 550 with puck drop set for 8 p.m.

LOST IN THE SHUFFLE

For a brief moment on Sunday, the only sound you could hear at MTS Centre was that of Marcus Foligno's body hitting hard against the boards. The Sabres forward had jumped into the glass in

celebration of his third goal of the season, which gave Buffalo a 3-2 lead four minutes into the third period.

"It was like a playoff atmosphere," Foligno said. "A lot of guys were talking about Winnipeg, how they are with the fans and how they get into it. It's fun to shut down fans."

With five players playing against their former teams and Sam Reinhart scoring a hat trick, Foligno's goal might have been a bit overlooked. But not only did it stand as the game-winner, it also set up the empty-net situation that allowed Reinhart to tally his third of the game.

To get the goal, Foligno had to be in the right place at the right time. McCabe began the play with a takeaway in the neutral zone and moved the puck up to Brian Gionta. Gionta's shot produced a long rebound to the left circle where Foligno, with Blake Wheeler hot on his tail, was able to fire a quick shot for the score.

"I just thought about getting it on net as fast as I could," he said. "It was a pretty big rebound. I know that [someone] was closing in on me too so you just kind of, I saw a huge open net so I just thought, 'I just better bear down and try to rip this one on net.' It worked out."

It was a fitting way to win the team's 42nd game of the season. Looking back at the first half, Foligno said, the players realized that receiving offensive contributions from their lower lines might have made the difference in a lot of the one-goal losses they've endured. He did his part to flip that script on Sunday.

"I think the biggest thing is we've lost a lot of one-goal games," he said. "We looked at it as, 'we need second and third scoring on this team.' That's the thing we wanted to change in 2016 is we've got to start with everyone contributing. Defensemen and third and fourth liners have to contribute, that's going to make us a more complete hockey team."

LEHNER UPDATE

Pysyk is back, but one player still remains in the midst of a conditioning assignment in Rochester. Robin Lehner made his second start in net for the Amerks against Syracuse on Sunday, allowing two goals on 22 shots in a 2-1 loss.

Afterward, Lehner spoke about the progress he's made over the course of the weekend.

"It's helped tremendously," he said. "I feel like there are a lot of positives and there are a few things I've got to work on, and that was nothing I didn't expect coming down here. This is a great league, I've played in this league for a few years and it's not like you're going to come down here and it's going to be easy."

Lehner will remain in Rochester through Wednesday, although it has not yet been announced as to whether or not he'll start for the Amerks that night in Albany. Bylsma said on Sunday that the hope for Lehner is that he'll be able to return to the Sabres for this weekend's games.

Buffalo hosts Boston on Friday night and Washington on Saturday.

Fasching connects twice while shorthanded in win at Penn State

By Kris Baker

Sabres.com

January 11, 2016

One night after seeing his six-game point snapped in a 3-2 overtime loss at No. 14 Penn State, University of Minnesota winger **Hudson Fasching** connected for a pair of shorthanded goals and a career-best plus-4 rating Saturday to lead the Golden Gophers to a 7-1 victory over the Nittany Lions.

Both goals were excellent displays of the NHL speed and hands that the budding power forward has developed since arriving at Minnesota.

Fasching gave the Gophers a 2-0 lead at 11:57 of the opening frame when he cut down the center lane in high gear, accepted a pass from senior captain Justin Kloos, and lifted a high shot over Matt Skoff's glove for the eventual game-winning goal.

Later with 6:09 left in regulation and the Gophers in full control, Fasching accelerated down the left side and beat two defenders with a powerful drive across the crease before sliding a forehand past Skoff to make it a 6-0 game.

The first shorthanded markers of Fasching's collegiate career elevate him into the team scoring lead with 11 goals and 19 points through 19 games. The 11 tallies include four game-winners.

NCAA

Sean Malone (2013, sixth round) snatched a pair of goals Thursday, the first by jamming at a rebound and the second by going to the net with his stick down, as No. 5 Harvard coughed up a two-goal lead late in a 6-5 loss to No. 11 Boston University. Malone saw his three-game point streak snapped Saturday as Harvard fell to No. 2 Quinnipiac 5-4 in overtime at Madison Square Garden.

The third-year forward has shown extra hop in his step coming off the break, boosting his season totals to three goals and nine points through his first dozen appearances for the Crimson.

Goaltender **Cal Petersen (2013, fifth round)** stopped 17 of 18 shots Friday to backstop No. 15 Notre Dame to a 7-1 triumph at Western Michigan. Petersen was much busier Saturday, finishing the night with 36 saves as Notre Dame battled to a 3-3 overtime tie with the Broncos.

Unbeaten in his last eight starts, Petersen's recent surge has moved him to a 10-4-7 record, 2.26 goals-against average and a .926 save percentage. Going back to the 2014-15 season, the sophomore had started 34 consecutive contests in the Fighting Irish net.

Connor Hurley (2013, second round) notched one assist Friday as No. 15 Notre Dame rolled past Western Michigan 7-1. The sophomore centerman recorded a minus-2 rating in Saturday's 3-3 tie, leaving him with three goals and 10 points at the 20-game mark.

In Thursday action, **Jason Kasdorf** stopped 20 of 23 shots as No. 20 RPI skated to a 3-3 tie with Princeton. The senior netminder has started 13 games this season, posting a 5-5-2 record, 2.18 GAA and a sparkling .931 save percentage.

Freshman defenseman **Ivan Chukarov (2015, seventh round)** contributed one assist Saturday as Massachusetts was dealt a 7-2 loss at No. 11 Boston University. Chukarov has collected three helpers and a minus-11 rating through 21 collegiate tilts.

Judd Peterson (2012, seventh round) went without a point Friday as No. 4 St. Cloud State edge Colorado College 2-1. Peterson produced three shots on goal the next night as the Huskies were defeated by the Tigers 5-2. Peterson remains tied for the team lead with 12 goals this season, but has gone without a point in his last two games.

St. Cloud State defenseman **William Borgen (2015, fourth round)** remained out of the lineup over the weekend following his tour of duty with the United State National Junior Team at the 2016 IIHF World Junior Championship. Borgen has nine assists and a plus-8 rating in 18 appearances with the Huskies.

Christopher Brown (2014, sixth round) was unable to gather any points over the weekend as No. 7 Boston College drilled No. 3 Providence 7-3 on Friday, and then scored three unanswered goals late to earn a 4-4 tie with the Friars on Saturday. The freshman forward has collected seven points (2+5) in his first 20 games, but has been unable to get on the scoresheet in his last seven outings.

Defenseman **Anthony Florentino (2013, fifth round)** did not dress over the weekend as No. 3 Providence skated to a tie and a loss in a Hockey East set with No. 7 Boston College. The hard-hitting sophomore has appeared in 16 games this season, amassing four goals, seven points and a plus-6 rating.

WHL

Giorgio Estephan (2015, sixth round) scored twice Wednesday including one into an empty net to extend his goal streak to six games as Lethbridge downed Swift Current 5-2. Estephan saw the streak snapped on Friday, but still connected for an assist in a 4-3 shootout win at Red Deer.

Estephan captured another helper in Friday's 6-1 win over Kootenay, giving the 18-year-old a career-high 52 points (22+30) in his 42nd game, eclipsing the 51 points he piled up in 64 games last year. A strong second-half performer a season ago, the top-line pivot now has points in eight-straight games and 12 of his last 13 for the first-place Hurricanes.

Prince Albert defenseman **Brendan Guhle (2015, second round)** registered one assist Tuesday in a 4-3 loss to Red Deer. On Friday, Guhle logged his third career fighting major when he came to the defense of a teammate to take on John Quenneville (NJD) in the Raiders' 8-1 blowout loss at Brandon.

Guhle ended the week Saturday with two shots on goal as Prince Albert cruised to an 8-2 victory over Medicine Hat. Through 35 games, the mobile defender has six goals, 17 points and a plus-1 rating.

Brycen Martin (2014, third round) picked up one assist Friday as Everett got past Kelowna 3-2 in overtime. Martin finished with a plus-1 rating Saturday in a 3-2 overtime loss to Seattle, and was again held without a point in Sunday's 3-1 win at Spokane. The 19-year-old defender has 30 points (4+26) in 41 games, including a goal and five helpers in 16 contests since joining the Silvertips.

Devante Stephens (2015, fifth round) netted an even rating last week as Kelowna dropped a 3-2 overtime decision at Everett on Friday before outgunning Tri-City 7-5 the following night. A defensive-minded anchor for the Rockets, Stephens has just one assist in his last 20 games.

OHL

Peterborough forward **Eric Cornel (2014, second round)** was blanked Thursday in a 4-3 shootout loss to Oshawa, but resumed production the following night with a pair of assists to earn the game's third star in a 3-2 loss at Ottawa. Cornel kept it going Saturday with two more helpers as the Petes skated to a 7-2 win over Hamilton. Cornel has captured 18 goals and 47 points in 41 games this season.

QMJHL

Moncton winger **Vaclav Karabacek (2014, second round)** did not play last week as he continued to wait for his broken thumb to heal. Karabacek captured 16 points (8+8) in 23 games with Baie-Comeau prior to being dealt to Wildcats in December.

Sweden

In Wednesday action, **Gustav Possler (2013, fifth round)** followed up on his own rebound to score the game-winning goal and added an assist as MODO earned a 4-3 win over Frolunda HC. Possler logged a season-high 21:26 of work Saturday but was unable to score in MODO's 3-0 loss to Skelleftea. In 32 games, Possler has collected six goals and 16 points.

Victor Olofsson (2014, seventh round) was shut out last week as MODO defeated Frolunda HC and was blanked by Skelleftea AIK. Through 30 games, Olofsson has contributed six goals and 15 points for a MODO club locked into 13th place in the 14-team league.

Jonas Johansson (2014, third round) made 45 saves Friday to backstop Almtuna IS to a 3-2 shootout victory over AIK. The 20-year-old goaltender has posted a 16-11 record with a 2.29 GAA, a .918 save percentage and two shutouts.