



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

March 18, 2016

Senators-Sabres Preview

By Jeff Mezydlo

AP

March 18, 2016

Though a longshot to make the playoffs, the Ottawa Senators haven't lost their fight.

Neither have the Buffalo Sabres, though perhaps not for the right reasons.

The visiting Senators can record a third straight victory and take the season series from the Sabres on Friday night.

Sitting fifth in the Atlantic Division with some traffic also in the way of reaching a wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference, Ottawa (33-30-8) knows its chances of making a second straight playoff appearance are slim. That doesn't mean the Senators are resigned to anything.

"We just have to play the games, play hard, play for each other, and at the end of the year show that we still care in here," defenseman Erik Karlsson told the NHL's official website.

The Senators displayed that grit Tuesday when Mika Zibanejad scored the tying goal with 7.1 seconds left in regulation and Karlsson came through late in overtime for a 3-2 victory over Minnesota.

"We're going to try and win every single game that we have left," said Karlsson, who has five points in three games. "That's the mentality we're going to have in here.

"There's not a second that we're going to try and not play our best and not work our hardest."

After sweeping a brief home stay against Toronto and the Wild, the Senators try to avoid a third consecutive road defeat before returning for two more in Ottawa.

They are 0 for 17 on the power play in seven games but those fortunes could change against the Sabres (28-33-10), whose last seven opponents went 7 for 22 (31.8 percent) with the man advantage.

Craig Anderson has stopped 52 of 54 shots over two contests after struggling in last Thursday's 6-2 loss at Florida in his return from missing four games with a lower-body injury. He's won four straight at Buffalo, 11 of 12 overall in the series and has a 1.66 goals-against average in his last 14 against the Sabres.

Anderson was in net throughout as the Senators took two of the first three meetings this season.

The Sabres have earned a point in six of eight but fell for the eighth time in 12 games, 3-2 in overtime to Montreal on Wednesday. In a matchup of frustrated teams, Buffalo was whisted for 14 of the game's 26 penalties and half of the six 10-minute misconduct calls.

Though the Sabres continue to play hard, their lack of discipline is something rather typical of a team set to miss the playoffs for a fifth consecutive season.

"We certainly let the game get away from us with our composure level," coach Dan Bylsma said. "No question it's the difference in the game."

Ex-Senator Robin Lehner, also involved in the pushing and shoving Wednesday, has dropped four in a row and allowed three goals in three straight. However, he's 1-0-1 with a 1.57 GAA against his former club this season.

Teammate Ryan O'Reilly had an assist in his return after missing 11 games with a lower-body injury. He hasn't recorded any of his team-leading 50 points against the Senators.

Rookie Jack Eichel has three goals and an assist in the season series.

Buffalo is 1 for 16 on the power play in four games. Ottawa has killed all 11 penalties in its last four.

Sabres' David Legwand encourages younger teammates

By John Vogl
Buffalo News
March 18, 2016

David Legwand is an information man on the morning of Sabres games. He helps his teammates prepare for faceoffs. He readies the penalty killers for a power-play attack. He encourages the young guys to forget about the last game.

He's not, however, the guy to turn to for the latest word on Buffalo's hot spots.

Despite being almost twice as old as the Sabres' top rookies, Legwand has bonded with players such as Jack Eichel and Sam Reinhart. When the Sabres host Ottawa on Friday night, the 35-year-old will spend time on the bench imparting wisdom to his younger teammates. The conversations are hockey only, with Legwand playing the role of cheerleader.

"Obviously, there's going to be down days," he said Thursday. "Guys are young. It's the guys' first rodeo and going through the course of an 82-game schedule and the travel and things. There's going to be down days, and you've got to keep them up and the attitudes up and their spirits lifted.

"The key thing, I think, is short-term memory. They play so many games. It's night in, night out. If you made a bad play last night, you're going to get a chance to redeem yourself tomorrow."

When tomorrow comes, the Sabres will gather in the dressing room and talk about the day before. When that happens, the 17-year veteran listens instead of talks. The young guys are more active than him.

"You look back when you were 19, 20, 21, 22, and you get to go home from the rink and take a nap and go have dinner and those types of things," Legwand said. "They come back the next day and they're wondering what we did. Well, we went home and played with the kids, picked the kids up from school, those types of things. It's kind of two different worlds for those guys."

The colliding worlds are important for a team's growth. The young players need to know the rink has to be a main focus, while the veterans like the reminders of a bustling youth.

"It's been awesome," Legwand said. "The three or four older guys we have in here have leaned on those guys, too. They're youthful and energetic and exciting every day. Hearing them come in and what they did yesterday and those type of things, it's fun and energizing for us."

Legwand was essentially a throw-in to the trade that brought Robin Lehner to town, and that is backed up by his ice time. He has five goals and 13 points in 68 games while skating just 9:36. It's what he does off the ice that benefits the Sabres.

"We go over the faceoffs at the morning skate every day," coach Dan Bylsma said. "We have a scout on the players. We know who we're going against, but David has his own book on each guy with his experience. He goes over each guy, each player with his tendencies with all our centermen.

"It's really the same on the penalty kill. His experience, his intelligence, his knowledge is something we lean on as a group going into the penalty kill."

The penalty kill is where Legwand still makes a difference on the ice. He leads Buffalo's forwards with 2:20 of short-handed time per game, second on the team to Rasmus Ristolainen's 2:40. The Sabres rank a respectable 14th at 81.3 percent, a huge jump from early in the season. They were 29th at 72.9 percent on Nov. 21, and Legwand gets credit for the improvement.

"The games can be won and lost on it," he said. "It's exciting. It's a challenge, and we've gotten better at it through the course of the season."

In addition to helping the Sabres stop the opposition, Legwand has created while short-handed. He set up Marcus Foligno for a tying goal Wednesday during a 3-2 overtime loss to Montreal. Legwand would have more than two short-handed points if he hadn't fired wide or fallen down on breakaways during other chances.

"You've got to know when to make a play and when not to make a play," he said. "Obviously, our main objective out there is to kill the penalty, not score a goal."

As an pending unrestricted free agent with a \$3.5 million salary, it's unlikely Legwand will be back. The Sabres have Tim Schaller, Jean Dupuy and Eric O'Dell pushing from Rochester to play a center role. But while Legwand is in Buffalo, he's going to talk, listen and try to win.

"You want to help the team win hockey games and create that winning culture and attitude," he said. "No, I haven't looked ahead. We want to finish on a good note and win some games down the stretch here, finish out as high as we can."

Sabres notebook: Lehner was ready to fight Habs' goalie Scrivens

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

March 18, 2016

Robin Lehner is not the type of guy to pass up a fight. So with a multiplayer scrum going on at the side of his crease, the Sabres goaltender grabbed 6-foot-6, 231-pound Michael McCarron with one arm and yanked him over the pile like he was a teddy bear.

"It's a big guy laying on top of one of my guys," Lehner said Wednesday night. "I don't go in and punch him. I could have jumped right in and did whatever I want with him. I grabbed him and pulled him away. He punched me, I punched back."

After a couple of jabs, Lehner looked up and wanted more. Montreal goalie Ben Scrivens had skated to center ice to get closer to the action, so Lehner took off his mask and challenged his fellow netminder. To Lehner's dismay, the officials stepped in front of the goalie while Scrivens stayed at the red line.

"Scrivens had about 30 seconds to come do something. He didn't. He stood up there," Lehner said. "Next year, if he wants to go, I'm right here."

The two exchanged words while heading to their dressing rooms for the second intermission.

"He's a big boy," Scrivens told SportsNet.ca. "He's a bit of a psycho, but he's a good guy. I might be a little lucky I didn't have to go down, but I would have if my teammates needed it."

The lack of fisticuffs had Lehner heated, but suffering a loss was just as infuriating. The Canadiens picked up a 3-2 overtime win when Paul Byron's pass to the front bounced off the stick of Buffalo defenseman Zach Bogosian. Montreal's second goal went in off the stick of Sabres captain Brian Gionta. Lehner was beat cleanly on the Habs' first goal.

"The first goal is not a good goal," said Lehner, who fell to 5-9-5 after making 20 saves.

While Lehner was unhappy he couldn't drop the gloves, he's glad the NHL is planning to shed equipment. Too many nights, Lehner looks down the ice and feels he's staring into a mirror. The problem with that is he's 6-foot-5, 245 pounds and his counterpart might be 6-2, 160. With all the equipment on, they look the same.

Not for long.

The NHL is finally moving ahead with a plan to shrink and streamline goalie equipment, specifically pants and chest protectors. Kay Whitmore, the league's senior director of hockey operations who handles goalie issues, said prototypes will be available in June and rule changes are set for next season.

"That's perfect," Lehner said. "The discussion I had with Kay Whitmore when I was in Toronto was fairly simple. When I go and buy clothes, I buy clothes that fit me, you know? It should be the same thing here. If you have a 34 waist or whatever you have around your thighs, you shouldn't have stuff that's double that size. It should be a little more tailor-made, and it should be fitted to how big you are."

NHL general managers proposed the changes this week during their three-day meeting in Florida. The new rules will need approval from the competition committee and board of governors. The league is looking to increase scoring and goalies have been kept abreast of the changes, so approval is expected.

The goalie guild has long been opposed to smaller equipment for safety purposes. Technological advancements have eased that concern.

"There's things that can stop a bullet out there," Lehner said. "We're going to have some bruises. We were dumb enough to make the choice to stand in front of pucks. To complain about it, I think there's no point to do it."

While Lehner likes the changes from a fairness standpoint, he doesn't think smaller equipment will mean more goals.

"I might be wrong, but it might even go the other way," he said. "Goaltenders are going to move better. They're going to have less weight and padding on them."

In other news from the GM meetings, the league said it would tell teams in June if it plans to expand for the 2017-18 season and provided the framework for an expansion draft. Teams will be allowed to protect 11 players, with first- and second-year pros ineligible to be picked. The number of players a team could lose would correspond to the number of expansion teams (one or two).

"I think it means you might lose a No. 4 or No. 5 defenseman, or a No. 6 or No. 7 forward, or a decent goalie," Sabres GM Tim Murray said in Boca Raton, according to ESPN.com.

...

Andrew Poturalski has joined the professional ranks, but a big collegiate moment may await him.

The 22-year-old from Williamsville has been named one of 10 finalists for the Hobey Baker Award, given annually to the top NCAA player. Poturalski finished second in the nation in scoring with 52 points in 37 games for the University of New Hampshire. He signed a two-year contract with the Carolina Hurricanes last week.

Another finalist for the Hobey is JT Compher, a former second-round draft pick by the Sabres who was traded to Colorado as part of the Ryan O'Reilly deal. Compher leads the nation with 39 assists in 34 games and has added 13 goals for Michigan.

Senators visit Sabres in search of third straight win

By Brian Hunter

NHL.com

March 18, 2016

SENATORS (33-30-8) at SABRES (28-33-10)

TV: 7 p.m. ET; RDS, TSN5, BELL TV, MSG-B, NHL.TV

Season series: The Ottawa Senators have won two of three from the Buffalo Sabres. Senators forward Kyle Turris scored twice for a 3-1 win in the season opener Oct. 8 at First Niagara Center, with Sabres forward Jack Eichel scoring his first NHL goal. Eichel scored twice and goalie Robin Lehner made 34 saves for his first win with the Sabres, a 3-2 victory Jan. 26 at Canadian Tire Centre. Forward Bobby Ryan had the game-deciding shootout goal and goalie Craig Anderson made 38 saves in the Senators' 2-1 win at home Feb. 16.

Senators team scope: Forward Zack Smith didn't practice Thursday; it was termed a maintenance day and his status for Friday is uncertain, according to the Ottawa Sun. Ottawa is seeking its third straight win. "You've got to put everything you've got into the games you have remaining and do all that you can," defenseman Dion Phaneuf told the Senators website. This is the start of a back-to-back set with Ottawa returning home to play the Montreal Canadiens on Saturday, so it's likely Anderson and Andrew Hammond each get a start. Defenseman Erik Karlsson has 73 points, five off his career high set in 2011-12, after scoring the overtime goal and assisting on both regulation goals in a 3-2 win Tuesday against the Minnesota Wild. Forward Mika Zibanejad has goals in consecutive games.

Sabres team scope: Lehner and Buffalo defenseman Carlo Colaiacovo are dealing with lower-body injuries, coach Dan Bylsma told the Sabres website. Lehner missed three months with a high ankle sprain and Bylsma told the Buffalo News it still bothers him from time to time. "A couple times he's jammed it into the post and felt it a little more," Bylsma said. "It kind of happened a week ago and a little bit [Wednesday] in the game." Neither Lehner nor Colaiacovo practiced Thursday and they will be evaluated again soon. If Lehner can't play, Chad Johnson figures to start and a backup would need to be recalled from Rochester of the American Hockey League. Forward Ryan O'Reilly had an assist Wednesday in his return to the lineup, a 3-2 overtime loss to the Canadiens. Forward Marcus Foligno has goals in consecutive games.

Sabres' Zach Bogosian playing aggressively again

By Bill Hoppe
Olean Times Herald
March 18, 2016

BUFFALO – The burst might be the surest sign Sabres defenseman Zach Bogosian has recaptured his confident, slick style following months of mostly conservative play.

In recent weeks, inevitably a few times a game, Bogosian will grab the puck, and, like few players can, start zooming around the ice.

Bogosian, 25, has been playing his best and most aggressive hockey this season, logging big minutes and piling up points.

"I've been feeling confident the last month or so," Bogosian said Thursday inside HarborCenter. "I think after the All-Star break I came back with some rest, (a) fresh mindset. ... I like where my game's going. I just got to keep it up."

Bogosian has four goals and 10 points in his last 12 games entering tonight's tilt against the Ottawa Senators inside the First Niagara Center. The Messina native compiled one goal and 16 points in his first 63 appearances with the Sabres dating back to his February 2015 arrival from the Winnipeg Jets.

In Wednesday's feisty 3-2 overtime loss to the Montreal Canadiens, Bogosian enjoyed perhaps his best game of 2015-16, scoring his fifth goal and pumping a season-high eight shots on goal (all in the first 40 minutes) while skating 21 minutes, 20 seconds.

Bogosian almost certainly would've eclipsed the 25-minute mark for the fourth time in eight contests, but he was whistled for two roughing penalties and a 10-minute misconduct late in the second period.

"I don't know what warranted the 10-minute," Bogosian said. "I definitely should've gotten the four-minute (penalty)."

Clearly, Bogosian has finally recovered – physically *and* mentally – from the lower-body injury that shelved him just days into training camp. After missing the entire preseason and the first 17 regular-season games, the former third overall pick often played tentatively. He started performing better in late January.

"Early on, it was more caution in his game, caution in his injury," Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said.

Bogosian, of course, is at his best when he's skating aggressively and showcasing an edge.

"Playing with that abandon both defensively and offensively," Bylsma said. "He's one of the better skating players on our team. I think he's showing that now a little bit more."

To Bogosian, missing so much hockey – he went 220 days between games – creates "a lot of things that are on your mind."

"(The) injury maybe being one of them," he said. "I missed a lot of hockey. I missed a lot of key parts of the season."

Bogosian's emergence has taken some pressure off Josh Gorges and Rasmus Ristolainen, the Sabres' No. 1 defense tandem. Bylsma now has two pairs – Bogosian has recently been skating beside rookie Jake McCabe – for matchups.

"Really been able to form two pairs that can be big minutes and big situations against other teams' top guys for our team," Bylsma said. "That's where I think you see Zach's game right now. We are getting those big minutes, getting those times against other teams' top lines."

Bogosian feels a special rhythm – "You're always in a groove," he said – playing big minutes.

"If you make a mistake, you're not thinking about it for a couple shifts," he said. "You're focused at what's in front of you. You just try to play the right way. Surprisingly, maybe your legs feel a little bit more refreshed because you may be aware that you're playing that many minutes.

"You're jumping into the play, you're making reads. It's just more instinctive stuff. That's the way I like to play."

If Bogosian can keep playing aggressively, he should consistently create offense. On the low-scoring Sabres, his production has been vital.

"I think it's a good mindset to have to try to attack with four instead of just have our three forwards do all the work," he said.

He scored on the power play Wednesday after moving in and grabbing Ryan O'Reilly's pass in the right circle before batting his own rebound in baseball-style.

Bogosian needs one more point to hit 20 for the third time in his eight-year career.

"You like to think it's karma from working hard," he said about his production.

Bogosian scored a career-high 30 points, a notable achievement for defensemen in the Dead Puck Era, in 2011-12, and a career-best 10 goals in 2009-10.

Ankle hurting Sabres goalie Robin Lehner

By Bill Hoppe
Olean Times Herald
March 18, 2016

BUFFALO – When Sabres goalie Robin Lehner returned from a high ankle sprain in January, he knew the injury that shelved him more than three months would linger the rest of the season.

That right ankle, Lehner has recently learned, is still *very* tender.

The Swede has jammed it into the post twice in the last week, Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said, including in Wednesday's 3-2 overtime loss to Montreal.

Lehner missed today's practice inside HarborCenter with something Bylsma called "slightly more than a maintenance day."

The Sabres will evaluate Lehner, who was sporting a soft cast following the game, later today.

A goalie could be recalled, Bylsma said. They also have rookie Jason Kasdorf on the roster. Kasdorf is recovering from a groin injury and should start practicing soon after signing earlier this week.

Goalie coach Andrew Allen, 39, a former professional netminder, subbed for Lehner.

"I said to him if he hadn't taken his helmet off ... he might've passed for Robin today," Bylsma joked. "Fortunate we can have a guy who can go in there and has got some experience. He's a little older now. Not a suitable replacement, but better than a shooter tutor."

Bylsma said defenseman Carlo Colaiacovo, who also missed practice with a lower-body injury, had more than a maintenance day. The Sabres have only five healthy defensemen.

The Sabres host Ottawa on Friday.

Sabres: Lehner's ankle being evaluated

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

March 18, 2016

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- Robin Lehner and Carlo Colaiacovo missed practice on Thursday. Dan Bylsma said they could be in question for Friday, "Both had maybe slightly more than a maintenance day, they're getting evaluated today and we'll see what it means for tomorrow and going forward."

Lehner sat out the first half of the season with a high ankle sprain and that type of injury will always linger. Bylsma said, "Having the high ankle sprain, it's an injury that probably doesn't leave you for a good 2.5 months, so has he felt it ever since he's come back, it's just the nature of the injury."

"A couple times he's jammed it into the post and felt it a little more, so it happened a week ago and a little bit last night."

With Lehner out, goalie coach Andrew Allen got between the pipes for practice. Allen is 39 years old and last played in 2005 in the AHL and ECHL.

Every now and then on the penalty kill, David Legwand will lead a two on one into the offensive zone or make a play like he did Wednesday against Montreal sending in Marcus Foligno for a shorthanded goal.

The play he made for Foligno was such a smart play. He started knowing his team needed a change and then realized so did Montreal. As soon as Foligno cut up ice, Legwand hit him and the game was tied. The veteran said, "I just waited, we were going for a change and Mark Pysyk held the far side, so I saw Marcus come off the bench there and just hit him with the pass."

Legwand has been in this league a long time and he just has a feel for when they can go on the attack while killing a penalty, "You have to have time and patience. You have to know when to make a play and when not to make a play. Obviously our main objective is to kill the penalty and not score a goal."

Buffalo's penalty kill was worst in the league for over a month operating at a horrid 71 percent. Now, they're 14th at 81.3 percent and Legwand had led the way.

Legwand says it took a team commitment for that improvement to happen, "It's been all over the ice. I think our goaltenders, it starts there, they're the best penalty killers we have, they're they main hold back there in the net and we have to do our job and do what's right out there and get the puck down the ice and clear the puck when we have the chance and win faceoffs."

Legwand has really enjoyed coming to this team and helping the young players learn, "It's been awesome, with the young group and the three or four older guys that we have here, they've leaned on those guys too. They're youthful and intergenic and it's exciting every day, so it's fun and it's energizing for us too."

The Sabres host Ottawa on Friday.

Status of Lehner & Colaiacovo in question after absences on Thursday

By Jourdon LaBarber

Sabres.com

March 18, 2016

Two players were absent when the Buffalo Sabres took the ice for practice at HARBORCENTER on Thursday afternoon and we'll have to wait and see if they'll be available for Friday night's game against the Ottawa Senators. Sabres coach Dan Bylsma called Thursday "slightly more than a maintenance day" for both goaltender Robin Lehner and defenseman Carlo Colaiacovo.

"They're getting evaluated today," Bylsma said. "We'll see what it means for tomorrow and going forward."

Lehner sat for a maintenance day last Friday and Chad Johnson started the following afternoon against Carolina. Lehner returned to start against Montreal on Wednesday and played the entirety of the team's overtime loss, but Bylsma said both of his recent absences have been due to lingering effects of the high ankle sprain that cost him the first half of his season.

"Having the high ankle sprain, it's an injury that probably doesn't leave you for a good two-and-a-half months," Bylsma said. "So, has he felt it ever since he came back and to this point? He has. It's just the nature of the injury and dealing with it. A couple times he's jammed it into the post and felt it a little more."

Colaiacovo, meanwhile, played 10:24 in the loss to Montreal. The Sabres have no extra defensemen. Goaltender Jason Kasdorf, who signed an entry-level contract on Monday, has not yet practiced as he nurses a groin injury, so a call-up would be considered depending on what happens with Lehner and Colaiacovo.

LEGWAND'S PRESENCE MAKING AN IMPACT

The play was the embodiment of a veteran move: With his team down a goal and mid-way through a four-minute penalty kill in the third period on Wednesday, David Legwand saw a window of opportunity open up. He bought time to allow his team to change, saw Marcus Foligno burst off the bench while Montreal drifted off the ice and hit Foligno with a long pass. That set the stage for Foligno to score the game-tying goal.

The 35-year-old center has been a rock on a Sabres penalty kill this season and while he's been sturdy on defense, he's also been able to generate some offense while down a man. His most memorable moment as a Sabre came when he scored shorthanded from deep in his own zone on Feb. 19 at Columbus.

It's just not being able to make the play that's important, he said. It's knowing when the time is right.

"You've got to have time and patience," Legwand said. "You've got to know when to make a play and when not to make a play. Obviously our main objective out there is to kill a penalty and not score a goal, but last night we had a chance there and Marcus got a chance to bury one and he did. It turned the game a little bit and obviously finishing the kill off was the most important thing."

Take a look at Legwand's stat line from the game against Montreal. And you'll see the perfect example of the role he's carved out on Buffalo's fourth line this season. He played 11:21 of ice time, 6:01 of which came on the kill. Montreal scored one power-play goal, but not with him on the ice. He also won six of 10 draws and finished with a plus-1 rating.

Bylsma attributes Buffalo's ascension on the penalty kill from being a basement dweller in the first month of the season to being ranked 14th as of Thursday largely in part to Legwand's presence on the ice. But he's made an equal impact behind the scenes.

"Both faceoff-wise, penalty kill-wise, we go over the faceoffs at the morning skate every day," Bylsma said. "We have a scout on the players, we know who we go against, but really David has his own book on each guy with his experience and he goes over each player, each tendency with our centermen.

"Really, it's the same on the penalty kill. His experience, his intelligence, his knowledge is something we lean on as a group."

Legwand has embraced the role of mentor to the younger players. For as much as he knows about opponents' tendencies, he also knows as a former second-overall draft pick and a 17-year veteran that there will be ups and downs in a season, something he tries to convey to the rookies on the team.

Legwand says he's trying to help build a winning culture in Buffalo, and he's doing it with positivity. It's common to see him laughing and chatting with teammates whether it's on the ice or in the dressing room. Young players like Jack Eichel smile when they talk about him.

When Legwand talked about his role this season, he was smiling too.

"It's been awesome," he said. "I think obviously with a young group and those types of things, the three or four older guys that we have here have leaned on those guys, too. They're youthful and energetic and exciting every day. I hear them come in and what they did yesterday and those types of things. It's fun."

MAKING THE MOST OUT OF SHOTS

The Sabres outshot the Canadiens 43-22 on Wednesday, an impressive margin, but still weren't able to come away with a win. With the loss, they fell to 8-18-4 on the season when outshooting their opponent.

"What we talked about today during our meeting is, we don't think we got enough net-front presence," Bylsma said. "We got opportunities, but I don't think we got enough net-front opportunities. It's something, probably as a result is how many times we've scored a goal."

Zach Bogosian, who scored and put a game-high eight shots on net Wednesday, agreed with his coach.

"We've just got to keep shooting more," he said. "Maybe just try to bear down a little more, bang home those rebounds. There aren't a lot of shots that are going to beat the goalie clean way out from the blue line; there's got to be people in front tipping the front or getting the screen."

UP NEXT

The Sabres will take on the Ottawa Senators for the fourth and final time this season on Friday night at First Niagara Center. Coverage begins at 6:30 p.m. with Tops Sabres Gamernight on MSG-B and Bell TV, and the game can also be heard live on WGR 550.