



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

October 5, 2016

Quick hits: Sabres 2, Hurricanes 0

By Amy Moritz
The Buffalo News
October 4, 2016

It was the preseason debut for Jack Eichel and the second-year pro stepped right into his role.

Eichel created and set up a goal as the Buffalo Sabres earned a 2-0 win over the Carolina Hurricanes in Marquette, Mich., Tuesday night. The win moves the Sabres to 3-2 in the preseason.

Eichel, in his first game back with the Sabres after playing in the World Cup with Team North America, centered a line with Sam Reinhart and Alexander Nylander.

Late in the second period, Eichel set up the Sabres offense, cycling the puck, passing it back to Casey Nelson at the point who let a shot go. Reinhart tipped the shot with 2:34 left in the period to give the Sabres a 2-0 lead.

D-lo down low: Nic Deslauriers gave Buffalo a 1-0 lead 1:39 into the second period. Hudson Fasching fed Deslauriers the puck in the slot. From his knees, Deslauriers put in his own rebound past Carolina goalie Cam Ward.

Quality outing from Lehner: Robin Lehner played the entire game in goal for the Sabres and looked solid. He moved well laterally, made some big stops and kept the Hurricanes 0 for 4 on the power play.

Welcome to Hockeyville, USA: The Sabres and Hurricanes played in the newly renovated Lakeview Arena in Marquette, Mich. The facility was chosen last year as the winning city for the second annual Kraft Hockeyville USA contest. Chosen in online vote of 10 finalists from more than 1,000 entries, Lakeview Arena received \$150,000 for repairs including the dehumidification system, locker rooms, Zamboni, lights, glass, benches, end netting and sound system.

Morning skate: Along with winning money for renovations, the Kraft Hockeyville USA contest also brings two NHL teams to the small town for a preseason game. Fans jammed the arena for the morning skates and reportedly cheered for goals during power play drills.

"I came out to watch Carolina's morning skate and was amazed not only at the people in the stands, but at the energy in the stands and at the cheering of the fans in the stands," Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said to the media after the skates. "Very few of them have a team in play here. They're cheering for hockey. "

Roster moves: Tuesday morning the Sabres recalled forwards Justin Bailey, Daniel Catenacci, Jean Dupuy and Cole Schneider along with defenseman Brady Austin from the Rochester Americans for the preseason road trip. The team returned forward Giorgio Estephan to his junior team, the Lethbridge Hurricanes of the WHL.

Up next: Buffalo and Carolina meet again Wednesday night, this time in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The game will be broadcast on WGR 550 but not televised. The Sabres will conclude their preseason schedule Friday in Ottawa.

Sabres recall five for road trip, including Bailey

By John Vogl

The Buffalo News

October 4, 2016

Justin Bailey and Cole Schneider will get another chance to impress the Sabres' brain trust.

With back-to-back road games Tuesday and Wednesday, Buffalo recalled five players from Rochester to bolster the training camp roster. Bailey and Schneider headline the list, which includes fellow forwards Jean Dupuy and Daniel Catenacci, plus defenseman Brady Austin.

Forward Giorgio Estephan has returned to health following an injury, and he's been sent back to Lethbridge of the Western Hockey League.

The Sabres will play their fifth of seven preseason games Tuesday night when [they face the Carolina Hurricanes in Marquette, Mich.](#)

Sabres bring 5 back up from Amerks for preseason trip

By Kevin Oklobzija

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

October 4, 2016

Dan Catenacci, sent to the Amerks on Saturday, has been recalled by the Buffalo Sabres and should play Tuesday night in Marquette, Michigan, against the Hurricanes. Catenacci didn't have a point in 11 games with the Sabres last season, including this game in March against Toronto. (Photo: John E. Sokolowski-USA TODAY Sports)

The Buffalo Sabres recalled five players from the Rochester Americans on Tuesday, just three days after trimming them from the NHL training camp roster.

Forwards Justin Bailey, Dan Catenacci, Jean Dupuy and Cole Schneider, along with defenseman Brady Austin, were called up for the road trip to Marquette, Michigan, and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The Sabres will play the Carolina Hurricanes in both games.

The recalls were necessary because several players have minor injuries. It's very likely that all five will return to the Amerks, perhaps before the week ends.

Catenacci and Schneider are projected to play in Tuesday night's 7 p.m. game in Marquette, which is on NBCSN as the Kraft Hockeyville, USA telecast.

Wednesday's game will be played Sault Ste. Marie largely because that is the hometown of Hurricanes general manager Ron Francis.

The Sabres also sent forward Giorgio Estephan back to his junior team, the Lethbridge Hurricanes of the Western Hockey League.

The Sabres open the NHL regular on Oct. 13 at Key Bank Center in downtown Buffalo against the Montreal Canadiens. The Amerks open the next night in downtown Rochester against the Hershey Bears.

Rochester will play two American Hockey League preseason games against the Binghamton Senators. The "home" game is at 7:05 p.m. Thursday at the HarborCenter in Buffalo, then they travel to Binghamton on Saturday.

Lehner Leads Sabres to 2-0 Shutout

WGR 550 Report

October 4, 2016

Game Notes

- Nicolas Deslauriers opened the scoring early in the 2nd period, scoring on a rebound chance from his knees. Hudson Fasching made a nice play to work the puck in front of the net, where Deslauriers converted.
- Sam Reinhart made it 2-0 later in the period, swatting a Casey Nelson shot out of mid-air and past Cam Ward.
- Robin Lehner was strong in net, turning aside 28 shots for the shutout victory.

1st Period

Goals

None

2nd Period

Goals

BUF - 1:39 - Nicolas Deslauriers (Hudson Fasching) - **BUF 1** CAR 0

BUF - Sam Reinhart (Casey Nelson, Jack Eichel) - **BUF 2** CAR 0

3rd Period

Goals

None

Sabres recall Bailey, four others

By Brayton J. Wilson

WGR 550

October 4, 2016

The Buffalo Sabres continue to shuffle around its training camp roster with the recall of five players from the Rochester Americans in the American Hockey League.

On Tuesday morning, the Sabres announced the recall of forwards Justin Bailey, Dan Catenacci, Jean Dupuy, Cole Schneider, and defenseman Brady Austin. In addition, the Sabres have sent forward Giorgio Estephan back to the Lethbridge Hurricanes in the Western Hockey League to put the camp roster at 37.

It appears as though Schneider and Catenacci will slot in on the fourth line for the Sabres on Tuesday in their fifth preseason game against the Carolina Hurricanes in Marquette, Michigan. They will be centered by Derek Grant.

Jack Eichel is expected to dress for his first game of the preseason, after taking some time off after playing at the World Cup of Hockey. Eichel is expected to center the top line for the Sabres with rookie Alex Nylander on his left wing and Sam Reinhart on his right wing.

5 observations from Sabres vs. Hurricanes

By Matt Bove

WKBW

October 4, 2016

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WKBW) - The Buffalo Sabres improved to 3-2 on the preseason, following a 2-0 win Tuesday night against the Carolina Hurricanes in Marquette, Michigan. Robin Lehner stopped 28 shots and had another impressive game.

Five observations from Tuesday's win:

Jack's Back (and wearing an A)

Eichel dished out one tape-to-tape pass after another in his first preseason game of the season. It didn't take long for the 19-year-old forward to once again look like the Sabres' best player. Early in the first period, Eichel made a quick cut at the blue line, juking a defender and then firing a quick shot. He didn't score, but he did generate a scoring chance. Anytime Eichel hits the net with his quick release there's a chance the puck finds the back of the net. His most impressive play came late in the second, winning a battle in the corner while on one knee -- seconds later the Sabres scored and Eichel had himself an assist. Welcome back, Jack.

Lehner impresses

Lehner stopped every shot (28) he faced Tuesday night, earning his first shutout of the preseason. From start to finish, Lehner was able to track shots from the point and make saves through traffic. Late in third he made one of his best saves of the night sliding from one side of the blue paint to the other stopping a one-timer from between the circles. In his first game last week-- Lehner let in two goals but played a really solid game. Injuries are the big concern with the 25-year-old goaltender but if he can stay healthy this season, which I think he will, then the Buffalo Sabres will have their goalie of the future. If not, Cal Peterson is still a few years away.

Sabres power-play. Yikes.

The Sabres went 0-for-5 on the power-play -- making them an abysmal 0-for-25 so far this preseason. Seriously, 0-for-25. Sabres coach Dan Bylsma joked after last Thursday's game against the Leafs that things would be different when they were playing with their normal roster. He's probably right, but 0-for-25 is ridiculously bad. The good news -- they generated more chances Tuesday against the Hurricanes than they have in their previous games. The bad news -- they still couldn't score. No need to panic just yet, but if the Sabres start the regular season 0-for-25, then fans should really be concerned.

Hudson Fasching continues to impress

It took Fasching a few games to get settled in but in his last few outings, the Sabres forward has looked dominant at times, especially when battling for possession. Nicolas Deslauriers scored the Sabres' first goal on a nice individual effort but he wouldn't have had the chance if Fasching didn't box out a defender and send a perfect pass to the slot. Fasching offers a rare mix of size and ability, making him such an intriguing prospect. After these last few games it's hard to imagine the Sabres sending Fasching to Rochester. Although I do think time in the AHL certainly could help the young forward, I think he's ready for an NHL season right now.

That's where Reinhart parks his car

Remember that Eichel play we talked about earlier? Well, Reinhart was the one who actually got the goal. He was camped in front of the net and perfectly deflected a wrist shot from the stick of Casey Nelson, past the Carolina goaltender for his first goal of the preseason. Like many, I expect Eichel and Reinhart to be paired together when the regular season begins. Last year, Reinhart had a knack for scoring goals in front of the net. If he's able to continue scoring those goals this season -- and I think he will -- you can expect his production to continue to

improve. Good players don't just score the pretty goals that make the highlight reel – they get the ones around the blue paint, too.

The Sabres play their next preseason game Wednesday night against the Carolina Hurricanes.

Sabres, Hurricanes enjoy Hockeyville USA experience

By David Satriano

NHL.com

October 4, 2016

MARQUETTE, Mich. - When the buzzer sounded Tuesday, the winners according to the scoreboard were the Buffalo Sabres, who defeated the Carolina Hurricanes 2-0, but the real winners were the people of Marquette.

The capacity crowd of 3,100-plus at Lakeview Arena gave the teams a standing ovation at the preseason game's conclusion, a fitting end to the events of the past few days for the city that was named Kraft Hockeyville USA 2016 in April.

Those events included youth hockey clinics at the arena, NHL alumni appearances, and a parade including the local high school hockey teams and former professional players from the Marquette Iron Rangers (United States Hockey League). Lakeview Arena received \$150,000 to use on upgrades.

"I remember the last time I played in a smaller rink like this that was packed, and it's fun," said Sabres forward [Nicolas Deslauriers](#), who scored to make it 1-0 1:39 into the second period. "It proves how hockey everywhere is important. It's a great setup. We were all happy to come here. The city has been great to us and we are happy to come here and win the game."

Lakeview Arena opened in 1974 and was home to the Iron Rangers until 1976, the year Northern Michigan University began playing here. It did until 1999, including a perfect home record during the 1990-91 season when it won the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey national championship.

Many in attendance wore the green and yellow shirts of Northern Michigan, or Detroit Red Wings jerseys (Detroit is about a seven-hour drive from Marquette). Others had jerseys of the Sabres and Hurricanes.

"It was a full barn and the fans were excited about it," Hurricanes forward [Jordan Staal](#) said. "It was hot in there, there was a lot of bodies, so it made for an interesting atmosphere. A lot of guys grow up in rinks like this, including myself. I think for me, it brings back memories of growing up playing minor hockey, and seeing the amount of kids here, that were playing in this rink as well, it just kind of brings back those good memories."

Buffalo made it 2-0 on a goal by [Sam Reinhart](#), assisted by [Jack Eichel](#) and [Casey Nelson](#) at 17:39 of the second period.

"The crowd was good and it was a fun game to be a part of," Reinhart said.

Sabres coach Dan Bylsma grew up in Grand Haven, Michigan and had fond memories of Marquette.

"I was out in the streets today, had a cup of coffee and lunch, and a lot of people came up and said, 'Welcome to Michigan!' and I thought, 'This is home for me,'" Bylsma said. "I've been here a couple of times to play hockey and to play in college here. I've vacationed here. The place, the fans, the people have been super-receptive to our team and I'm very thankful. It felt like a homecoming for everybody."

Buffalo goalie [Robin Lehner](#) made 29 saves for the shutout.

"He roamed once or twice from the net in the first period but was real strong," Bylsma said. "I really liked our whole team game."

Carolina coach Bill Peters was happy with the Hurricanes' effort.

"I thought it was a good hockey game," he said. "We hit a couple of posts and it would have been nice to see one of them go in to make it a little more interesting down the stretch."

Following Kraft Hockeyville USA in Johnstown, Pennsylvania last season, the second edition in Marquette was as successful. Bylsma said it felt much different than a regular preseason game.

"I think everyone to a man this morning talked about this being a place they played before," Bylsma said. "Whether it was here or back in their hometown, it felt like a place we've all played in our younger years playing youth hockey. It feels like an outdoor game type of atmosphere, back to your roots of hockey, back to where you played as a kid."

Lehner earns shutout as Sabres win in Hockeyville

By Jourdon LaBarber

Buffalo Sabres

October 4, 2016

MARQUETTE, Mich. - It looks like all of that work [Robin Lehner](#) put in over the offseason is paying off. Lehner's offseason transformation has been well-documented: after being limited last summer with a concussion, he stayed in Buffalo this year and worked hard over the last few months to lose weight, train, and rehab a surgically repaired ankle.

Through two preseason games, the results have been positive. Lehner allowed two goals on 39 shots to win his preseason debut against Ottawa last week, and turned in a 28-save shutout as an encore in Buffalo's 2-0 win over the Carolina Hurricanes at Lakeview Arena on Tuesday.

"He looks invigorated, he looks solid in net. He looks engaged and focused throughout the whole game," Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said of his goaltender. "That's really good to see. Both games, you have the feel that pucks aren't going to get by him, that he's playing big and strong. And that's a very good thing to have for a goalie."

The Sabres' trip to the Upper Peninsula actually went pretty well overall. [Jack Eichel](#) earned a point in his preseason debut on a goal from [Sam Reinhart](#), and [Hudson Fasching](#)'s hard work down low continued to pay off when he fed [Nicolas Deslauriers](#) to open the scoring early in the second period.

But it all comes back to the goaltender. Lehner missed his last start against the Maple Leafs on Friday due to an arm contusion, but he seemed as good as ever on Tuesday. He ate up rebounds, saw through traffic and was calm when the play around him wasn't.

Not only has Lehner been focused on the ice, but Deslauriers said he saw that same focus the few times he ran into him while working out over the summer.

"You don't want to get in his bubble," Deslauriers said. "He was just changed. He looks awesome. Before, he was already a good goalie and now it's maybe just that little step that he needed to be really dominant. Even if he lost all that weight and just being really in shape, he still looks big and quick in there."

Lehner said he wasn't completely satisfied after his start against Ottawa because, even though they won, there were two goals that got by him. None did on Tuesday. With two games remaining in the preseason, then, what's next on the agenda?

"The season comes closer every day here now. We're just trying to prepare," Lehner said. "Players, lines, everything, just trying to get that little extra gel together. I think it looks good so far."

Reinhart scores from his office

Sam Reinhart made his living in front of the net last season, and it was there that he earned his first goal of the preseason late in the second period. Jack Eichel won a battle forechecking in the corner and tossed a pass that skipped over Reinhart's stick to Nelson at the point. Reinhart immediately cut to the slot once he missed the pass, putting him in position to tip Nelson's shot into the net.

It was the first reunion of Reinhart and Eichel since the two got on a hot streak as linemates to end last season. Reinhart felt they were able to pick up where they left off, only now with rookie [Alexander Nylander](#) on their left wing.

"I felt like we played well," Reinhart said. "The ice wasn't as smooth and as crisp as we'd like it to be with a couple of passes, but we felt like we controlled the play for the most part and obviously with Jack back, it's a huge boost to myself and to the whole team."

Bylsma said he was particularly pleased with Eichel's preseason debut.

"I liked Jack a lot," Bylsma said. "I liked his game on both sides of the puck. He penalty killed tonight, we played him in faceoff situations and defensive zone. I liked the plays he made in the third period, strong on pucks, strong getting to the red line ... We saw some flashes of offense from him as well."

Nic Deslauriers, the acrobat

The good people of Marquette had to wait until the second period to finally see a goal, but Deslauriers made up for it. He fired a one-time shot on a feed from Fasching, had the puck bounce back to him off a defender's stick and then fired another shot from his knees past Carolina goalie Cam Ward to give the Sabres a 1-0 lead.

The goal was initiated by another strong play from Fasching, who fought off Carolina defenseman Keegan Lowe to make a perfect pass to Deslauriers in the slot. Fasching's play down low has stood out through three preseason games.

"We've been talking about supporting, and I think on that play Fasch just supported [center [Johan Larsson](#)] pretty hard," Deslauriers said. "He gave it to me and I tried to one-tee it, it didn't work and it stayed on me and I got an empty net."

Deslauriers was at the center of things again later in the game when he laid a hard hit on Hurricanes Brendan Woods, prompting a scrum that ended up with Woods in the box serving a double minor. Woods happens to be the son of Sabres assistant coach Bob Woods, who was standing next to Bylsma at the time.

"I think the words were, 'He gets that from his mother,'" Bylsma said.

Hockeyville, USA

The rink was hot and the ice may have been a bit softer than they would've liked it to be, but it seemed like the Sabres enjoyed the atmosphere at Lakeview Arena. [Just as they had earlier in the morning](#) for the pregame skate, the locals filled the building and brought energy throughout the game.

"I think everyone to a man this morning and today talked about this being a place they played before," Bylsma said. "Whether it was here or back in their hometown, it felt like a place we've all played in our younger years."

Marquette was awarded hosting rights for this preseason game as well as \$150,000 in arena upgrades as the 2016 Kraft Hockeyville USA grand-prize winner.

"It's not every day in the preseason when you got where they don't see an NHL game like this that often," Reinhart said. "It lets you know how lucky we are to have people like this, that come out and support us."

Coming up next

The Sabres will cross the border to play the Hurricanes again on Friday, this time at Essex Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. [Ryan O'Reilly](#) is expected to make his preseason debut for the Sabres. You can listen live on WGR 550. Dan Dunleavy and Rob Ray will be on the call.

Sabres Blank Carolina 2-0

WGRZ Report

October 4, 2016

MARQUETTE, MI- Lakeview Arena in Marquette Michigan hosted Tuesday's preseason game between the Buffalo Sabres and Carolina Hurricanes. The game was played there because it won the Kraft Hockeyville USA designation.

The Buffalo Sabres blanked the Hurricanes 2-0. Robin Lehner went the distance to record the shutout for the Sabres.

The game was scoreless until early in the second period when Hudscot Fasching set up Nicolas Deslauriers who couldn't get the first shot off but deftly moved the puck from his skate to his stick and then fired it home.

The Sabres completed the scoring late in the second period. Jack Eichel won a battle along the wall, sent the puck to Casey Nelson who fired a shot that Sam Reinhart tipped home.

The Sabres are at Carolina Wednesday night. Face off is scheduled for 7 o'clock.