



Buffalo Sabres

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Banged-up Sabres host Devils

Associated Press

November 10, 2016

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- Just as soon as the Buffalo Sabres get some positive injury news, they receive another setback on the injury front.

After Evander Kane's long-awaited return on Wednesday, the Sabres announced Thursday that center Tyler Ennis is expected to miss several weeks after undergoing surgery to repair a groin injury.

"It's disappointing for Tyler," said Sabres head coach Dan Bylsma, according to the team's website. "This is a situation he's been dealing with for the past little while, days, maybe a week. I'm kind of just extremely disappointed to get the news that he's going to be out for a bit of time, have the surgery which he had this morning. He's had a tough go getting on the ice and playing games for the last nine months."

The skilled playmaker has been struggling with injuries going back to last season, when he played in just 23 games.

Top center Ryan O'Reilly and defenseman Dmitry Kulikov missed practice on Wednesday and their status is up in the air for Friday's game against the New Jersey Devils (6-3-3). O'Reilly was unable to play in Buffalo's 2-1 shootout loss to the Ottawa Senators on Wednesday, and the Sabres missed his presence in the offensive zone. Both teams struggled to put together any offense in a defensive-minded clash.

Sabres goalie Robin Lehner (4-4-0, .929 save percentage) has gotten off to a fine start to the season but is expected to take Friday's game off before returning in the second half of a home-and-home series against the Devils. In his place is Anders Nilsson, who has exceeded early expectations with a save percentage of .937 in three games.

No matter who is between the pipes, the Sabres will need a better offensive effort. Aside from an overtime period in which Buffalo held the upper hand (outshooting Ottawa 8-0), neither team had much offense in the shootout defeat on Wednesday.

The Devils are coming off back-to-back wins over the Carolina Hurricanes. New Jersey defeated Carolina 4-1 on Sunday before a 3-2 win shootout win over the Hurricanes on Tuesday.

Left winger Michael Cammalleri had a hat trick in the 4-1 victory over Carolina, recording his first three goals of the year. Waiver-wire acquisition P.A. Parenteau came up big in the shootout win over Carolina, scoring in both regulation and the shootout.

Parenteau was claimed off waivers just before the start of the season from the New York Islanders and has been a difference-maker. He's currently tied for the team lead in goals with five.

"I don't know if I want to prove something, to be honest," Parenteau said, according to The Record. "I just want to put that behind me. I'm happy where I am right now and things are working out, and this is a good hockey team that I'm part of and the boys have made it easy for me."

"He brings a lot of skill," left winger Taylor Hall said, according to The Record. "He's a guy that's always looking to make a play. We're trying to get him to shoot more and have more of that."

Sabres center Tyler Ennis out after having groin surgery

Associated Press

November 10, 2016

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) -- Buffalo Sabres center Tyler Ennis is out indefinitely after having surgery to repair a groin injury.

The team says Ennis will miss several weeks in announcing the news on Thursday.

Ennis was hurt in a 4-0 loss at Boston on Monday.

It's the latest setback for Ennis, who missed the last half of last season because of concussion-related issues.

And it's another blow for the banged-up Sabres, who are already missing several regulars.

Top-line center Jack Eichel is expected to miss another few weeks recovering from a sprained left ankle he hurt on Oct. 12. Defenseman Zach Bogosian is out with a sprained knee.

Ennis has scored 20 or more goals in three of eight seasons with Buffalo. He has a goal and assist in 12 games this season.

Sabres pay tribute to military veterans

By Amy Moritz

The Buffalo News

November 10, 2016

Kyle Okposo is still getting to know the Buffalo community. It's been a pretty smooth transition for the Sabres forward, acquired by the organization over the summer. He sees similarities between Western New York and his home state of Minnesota where he grew up and went to college.

So it was with ease that he shook hands, posed for photos and signed autographs at the Buffalo VA Medical Center Thursday afternoon. Joined by his teammates Ryan O'Reilly, Jake McCabe and Brian Gionta, they were the capstone of a pre-Veterans Day program, featuring speakers and salutes to all four branches of the American armed services.

"It's awesome. It reminds me a lot of home, being in Minnesota," Okposo said, standing in the hallway of the Buffalo VA Medical Center after spending nearly an hour meeting veterans and staff. "People here are just so genuine and you see everyone is just an avid fan. It's pretty cool to see when you can put smiles on their faces. At the end of the day, they're what keeps our country running. They protect our liberties at home and can't say enough about the veterans and their service."

The four arrived after a late morning practice in KeyBank Center, catching the tail end of the program which included patriotic songs, the laying of a wreath and the retiring of the flag by a color guard.

"During that ceremony, it was pretty emotional," O'Reilly said. "You think of how many people here have lost friends and people that they fought alongside with. It was a pretty emotional time and to experience that was special."

The solemnity became celebration as veterans and staff workers met with the Sabres. The fans shared stories, offered encouragement and kindly and optimistically asked the players to get a few more points.

It was one of two events Sabres players attended on Thursday as Zach Bogosian, Marcus Foligno, Johan Larsson, Matt Moulson, Casey Nelson and Sam Reinhart visited the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park.

While honoring American servicemen and servicewomen for Veterans Day, Nov. 11 is also observed in Canada as Remembrance Day. Both holidays evolved out of Armistice Day, to commemorate the treaty which ended the First World War.

"Even though I'm Canadian both countries celebrate it," O'Reilly, a native of Clinton, Ontario, said. "We wouldn't be able to play this game if it wasn't for how people fought for us so anything we can do and any way we can help, it's the least we can do. It's just nice to be around people who are so appreciative of it. For us to be part of it in any way that's special."

There were some personal connections for the players. Okposo said his grandfather served in World War II and one of his college roommates went into the military. Spending time with veterans brings to mind the people he knows who served and made sacrifices. This year in particular, two days after a contentious presidential election, it hits even closer to home, as a way to find commonality and unity.

"There's been a lot of turmoil in our country you could say over the last 16 months with the elections and the campaigns and a real sense of divide in America," Okposo said. "But at the end of the day, what's important is the men and women that are fighting out there to protect our liberties and protect our freedom. We have to make sure that we're giving back and recognizing their service because without them we wouldn't have this great country. Couldn't be more proud to be an American."

"I think we have to come together as a country and no better place to start than here."

Friday's game between the Sabres and New Jersey Devils will feature several promotions for Military Appreciation Night. The team will wear camouflage jerseys during warm-ups, to be auctioned at sabres.com/auctions to

benefit the Buffalo Sabres Foundation. The foundation will donate \$10,000 to Veterans One-stop Center, WNY Heroes, the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, and the Altamont Homeless Veterans Program. Active, reserve, National Guard and retired military personnel can purchase game tickets in the 300 Level for \$25 and military members will receive a 25 percent discount at the Sabres Store on Nov. 11.

Sabres fans can also bring the iconic velvet Crown Royal bags to KeyBank Center which will be filled with personal care items and donated to active military personnel. Crown Royal will also make a donation to United Service Organizations (USO) for each bag that is collected.

Sabres Notebook: Lehner's tribute to Trump, Ennis joins injured list & more

By Amy Moritz

The Buffalo News

November 10, 2016

Robin Lehner answered questions about regular playing time and splitting this weekend's game with Anders Nilsson.

Then came the question about his mask.

The Buffalo Sabres goaltender had a new mask at practice Thursday morning in KeyBank Center. The theme was in honor of Veterans Day and the Military Appreciation Night the team has planned for Friday's game with the New Jersey Devils.

"It's Army Night tomorrow and you know I'm not American. I appreciate the military and what all these guys do," the Swedish Lehner said, then smiled to add, "I got a little support for my man Trump here. It's going to be a fun night."

At the base of the back of his helmet, Lehner has the name "Trump" in block letters with a small picture of the president-elect.

"I just like him a lot," Lehner said when asked what he admires in Trump. "I think he's going to make a lot of change."

Later approached by a reporter, Lehner said he was not going to talk politics.

And Sabres coach Dan Bylsma wasn't going to talk much about it with the media during his press conference on Thursday.

"I've never had a personal stance on politics in the locker room," Bylsma said. "We've talked about it as a group. We've talked about it in back rooms. We talked about it" Tuesday "morning. There's not any division in the discussion. It's just a discussion of politics of America electing a president who is running. It's not really a division. There's not animated sides to it. Politics, we coach our team. We're not coaching politics. We're not getting involved in that when it comes me coaching my team."

Any discussions about politics in this election cycle have been "nothing different than I've ever had before in previous elections or previous times in our country," Bylsma said.

But what about that Robin Lehner mask?

"I appreciate you trying to dig around and stir this one up for me," Bylsma said when asked directly about Lehner's new mask. "But there's not been any discussion about it. We talked about the election no different than any other time and in terms of his helmet, it's his right to put that on there. He's got other things on there as well that he's honoring and paying tribute to. He's got Trump's name on the back there so it's his right to do so."

For the record, there are only seven American born players on the Sabres roster with 10 Canadians and three players from Sweden with one each from Latvia, Russia and Finland.

Political affiliations aside, the Sabres are in dire need of good medical care this season.

Chalk up Tyler Ennis to another long-term injury. The forward had surgery on his groin Thursday morning. He missed Wednesday's game against Ottawa and played just over seven minutes in the previous game against the Bruins in Boston. The Sabres said Ennis will be out weeks. This after Ennis missed significant time last season with a concussion.

"It's disappointing for Tyler," Bylsma said. "This is a situation he's been dealing with for a little bit over the past little while, days maybe a week. ... He's been struggling with it but it got worse the last few days, few games to the point where in the Boston game I pulled him from the third period. I didn't play him in the third period because of where he was at pain-wise and being able to skate and push."

In other injury news, Ryan O'Reilly and Dmitry Kulikov missed practiced. Bylsma said they were both day to day and did not disclose their injuries.

Nicolas Deslauriers remains out with a knee injury and Bylsma said it would be two weeks before a further update was available on his situation.

Jack Eichel caused a brief social media stir with news of him skating on his own Thursday. The Sabres confirmed that Eichel did skate, but that it was light and part of the progression in his return from a high ankle sprain. They said he was still weeks away from being back in the lineup.

The Sabres are still looking to find their groove at home. With the shootout loss to Ottawa on Wednesday, the Sabres are now 1-3-1 in KeyBank Center. They face a New Jersey team just coming off a shootout win against Carolina. The Devils (6-3-3 overall) are on a two-game win streak.

Sabres' Ennis has groin surgery

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

November 10, 2016

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- The injuries just don't seem to stop for the Buffalo Sabres. Jack Eichel, Evander Kane, Zach Bogosian, Nick Deslauriers and Hudson Fasching have all missed extended time and now it's Tyler Ennis.

Ennis had groin surgery and will miss several weeks. In 12 games the winger had just one goal and one assist. Dan Bylsma said, "It's a situation he's been dealing with for a little bit for the past days or maybe a week."

The Sabres say that Jack Eichel did skate lightly on Thursday, but it is just part of his regular rehab and he's still weeks away from returning from a high ankle sprain.

Others not at practice on Thursday are Ryan O'Reilly and Dmitry Kulikov. O'Reilly missed Wednesday's game. Dan Bylsma said O'Reilly has a mid-body injury while Kulikov had a maintenance day.

The Sabres need some offense from the defense.

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

November 10, 2016

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- The Sabres are 28th in league scoring with just two goals per game. They're tied with Colorado while Vancouver is dead last. With injuries at different times to Jack Eichel, Evander Kane, Ryan O'Reilly, Kyle Okposo and Tyler Ennis, it's really not surprising.

What may be surprising is the Sabres have been getting about 15 percent more scoring chances than last season. Dan Bylsma said, "I would say our chances generated is higher that it was last year, we're generating quite a few scoring chances, but we need to generate more scoring chances to score the way we need to score."

The defensemen don't have any goals yet this season. The seven of them have only produced 14 assists. Bylsma said, "I'm not necessarily concerned that they don't have a goal, but I think one area that we need to get better at is providing offense from our defensemen."

In Wednesday's Ottawa game, Jake McCabe was up and involved all night while Rasmus Ristolainen was active at times too. Bylsma said, "That entails using our defensemen and getting them involved more in our 5-on-5 game offensively. If we had one or two or three goals from them right now, that would still be the case."

McCabe isn't a big scorer from the blue line, but he is capable. In 99 NHL games he has four goals and 14 assists for 18 points. McCabe said, "That's part of my game, that's what my teammates and coaches expect of me to be able to provide offense with my skating ability and with my passing, so like I said in Boston, we need to get more offense from secondary defensemen."

Even though Cody Franson has limitations when it comes to speed, he's been getting up into the play a few times and it's produced some two-on-ones. Franson thinks the D needs to be more active and he's trying to do so, "I think with the injuries that we have, it's important for us to help out even more so than we usually do, while still protecting our defense."

"We're trying to get shots through to the net and create those ugly goals, but if we can help execution out of the zone and create some odd man rushes, then we definitely should be doing that."

I also wanted get a forwards point of view on this. Brian Gionta thinks it would really help to get those guys on the backend more involved, "For sure it helps, it backs their guys up so you're able to make a play or two coming into the zone or they become an option as a late guy coming into the zone."

Both the Sabres and Devils are going to split their goalies for this series. Friday will be Anders Nilsson against Keith Kincad while Saturday features Robin Lehner against Cory Schneider.

Sabres goalie Robin Lehner shows support for Donald Trump on mask

By Bill Hoppe
Olean Times Herald
November 10, 2016

BUFFALO – [Sabres goalie Robin Lehner](#) grabbed the new mask he plans to debut for Military Appreciation Night, showed the soldiers and camouflage painted on the front and then turned it around.

At the bottom of the back plate, the Swede had “Trump” painted on with a small picture of the President-Elect. “Got a little support for my man Trump here,” Lehner said Thursday after the Sabres prepared for tonight’s tilt against the New Jersey Devils inside KeyBank Center. “It’s going to be a fun night.”

Why does Lehner, who practiced with the mask Thursday, admire Trump?

“I just like him a lot,” he said. “I think he’s going to make a lot of change.”

Trump, of course, is a polarizing figure. When the Times Herald tried to ask Lehner more about his support for Trump, he replied, “I’m not going to talk politics with you.”

Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said Lehner has a “right” to put Trump on his mask.

“He’s got other things on there that he’s honoring, paying tribute to,” he said.

Lehner, 25, clearly has a deep respect for the military, which will be honored tonight. He has lived on and off in the United States for six years.

“Even though I’m not American, I appreciate what the military and all these guys do,” Lehner said.

He added: “It’s something you got to show respect for all the people serving.”

Lehner believes hockey players are “the lucky ones.”

“We get to do something we love day in and day out,” he said. “It’s because of people like that we’re able to do that.”

If the mask was only made for tonight, Lehner might not get to wear it in a game. After six straight nods, Lehner said backup goalie Anders Nilsson will start tonight, his first appearance since posting a 33-save shutout Oct. 29. Lehner said he will start Saturday in New Jersey.

The short break is deserved. Lehner has become the [workhorse No. 1 netminder](#) the Sabres sorely wanted, playing 10 of the first 13 games. At that pace, he would play 63 times, shattering his previous career high of 36 appearances set with Ottawa in 2013-14.

“That’s what we play for,” Lehner said of the constant action. “It’s definitely fun seeing a lot of games.” Lehner hardly saw the net last season, playing only 21 games as he battled a high ankle sprain that shelved him three months and eventually ended his season.

His injury battles have been well documented. Two years ago with the Senators, Lehner suffered a season-ending concussion in February. He couldn’t train normally, meaning his weight ballooned before his Sabres career started.

Following ankle surgery in March, Lehner reshaped his body, [shedding about 40 pounds](#).

“He got in better shape, better condition,” Bylsma said. “He was able to work harder, which he did. He’s been able to have a better camp, better practices, work harder in practice, and it’s shown in his play.”

Right now, Lehner owns some of the NHL's best numbers. His .929 save percentage ranked seventh entering Thursday's games. His 2.19 goals against average ranked 10th. Thanks to weak goal support, his record is only 4-4-2.

Is this the best Lehner has ever felt?

"It feels solid," he said.

If Lehner keeps building on his strong start, the Sabres could have their first franchise goalie since Ryan Miller left in 2014.

Lehner doesn't rank among the league's elite yet. Still, he shares a special goalie trait Bylsma has seen in Pittsburgh's Marc-Andre Fleury, who backstopped his Penguins to a Stanley Cup in 2009, and Anaheim's Jean-Sebastien Giguere, his teammate during the Ducks' run to the 2003 Cup final.

"They want to have the net," Bylsma said. "They want to have the opportunity. They want to have the shots. They want to have it so they can win the hockey game. Three different personalities ... but that's when I think the goaltender's at his best, he wants to be in there."

Lehner is usually at his best showcasing a calm style, reading shots well. He doesn't make a lot of highlight-reel saves.

But Lehner, a fiery personality, loves to battle. That was evident in Saturday's 2-1 win in Ottawa, a game he made a few nifty stops, including a [diving stick save on Jean-Gabriel Pageau](#), one of the NHL's best this season.

"Lenny's one of those guys that never gives up on a puck," Sabres defenseman Cody Franson said. "You can see it so far in the game's he's played this year. He's kept us in every game, given us chances to win. You don't get that kind of goaltending without the effort he's putting in on every puck."

Sabres' Tyler Ennis undergoes groin surgery, out weeks

By Bill Hoppe
Olean Times Herald
November 10, 2016

BUFFALO – [Sabres winger Tyler Ennis](#) underwent groin surgery this morning and will miss several weeks, the team has announced.

The Sabres' longest-tenured player missed Wednesday's 2-1 shootout loss to Ottawa with a "mid-body injury," according to coach Dan Bylsma.

Ennis has battled injuries for the last year. Shortly after recovering from a concussion early last season, he suffered a [season-ending concussion Dec. 30](#).

"It's disappointing for Tyler, the situation he's been dealing with the last ... maybe week, kind of just extremely disappointed to get the news," Bylsma said today following practice inside KeyBank Center.

After scoring only three goals and 11 points in 23 games in 2015-16, Ennis has one goal and two points in 12 contests this season. He has scored only one goal in his last 26 appearances.

In other news, Sabres center Ryan O'Reilly (upper body, day-to-day) and defenseman Dmitry Kulikov (maintenance) also missed practice.

[Sabres goalie Robin Lehner](#), who has started six straight games, said backup Anders Nilsson will play Friday at home against New Jersey. Lehner will play Saturday in New Jersey.

Sabres' Ennis will miss weeks with groin injury

By Matt Bove

WKBW

November 10, 2016

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WKBW) - The Buffalo Sabres just can't catch a break, and on Thursday they added another player to the injury report.

The team announced that forward Tyler Ennis has undergone surgery on his groin and will miss several weeks. In 12 games this season Ennis had just two points (1G, 1A) and had a -6 +/-.

Bove's take:

These injuries are getting out of hand. The Sabres can't afford to lose another skill player like Ennis but so far this year the 27-year-old winger just hasn't been able to produce offensively.

Going into the season, Ennis looked bigger and healthier after missing almost all of last season with concussion problems, and was expected by many, including myself, to be a top six forward.

Early on that clearly wasn't the case -- but now, with him out several weeks you have to wonder if Ennis' time in Buffalo is running out. Ennis still has tons of talent and strung together some nice games a few weeks ago, but he just can't find the back of the net. There's no exact timetable on when he will return but when he finally does he'll need to produce because time is running out.

With Jack Eichel likely to return sometime in the next month (as per Darren Dreger of TSN) and Evander Kane back, the injury certainly won't kill the Sabres -- but it's obviously not ideal. Nick Baptiste has looked really impressive in his time with Buffalo so I expect players like him to get more opportunity with Ennis out for an extended period of time.

Sabres goaltender Robin Lehner debuts military-themed helmet featuring "Trump" sticker

By Matt Bove

WKBW

November 10, 2016

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WKBW) - Thursday, Sabres goaltender Robin Lehner debuted a new military themed helmet that he'll wear against the New Jersey Devils on Friday. The helmet was made especially for Veterans Day, and will be worn during the Sabres Military Appreciation Night.

But one sticker stands out from the rest.

"It's army night tomorrow and even though I'm not American I appreciate what the military and all these guys do and I've got a little support for my man Trump here, it's going to be a fun night," Lehner said.

After practice, Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said that his team hasn't talked about the election any more than coworkers would in any other work place. He added that it hasn't been a big focus.

"In terms of his helmet it's his right to put that on there," Bylsma said. "He's got other things on there as well that he's honoring and paying tribute to and he's got Trump's name on the back there so it's his right to do so."

The team will wear camouflage jerseys and honor those serving past and present before Friday's game during warmups.

Thursday a group of players visited the Naval Park at Canalside and met with Veterans and took a tour of the U.S.S. Little Rock and the U.S.S. Sullivan.

Sabres goaltender Robin Lehner debuts military-themed helmet featuring "Trump" sticker

By Jonah Javad

WGRZ

November 10, 2016

BUFFALO — Buffalo Sabres goalie Robin Lehner has a Donald Trump sticker on the back of his mask for Friday's Military Appreciation Night.

The sticker reads "TRUMP" with a small image of the president-elect next to it.

"Even though I'm not American, I appreciate what all the military do. Got a little support for my man Trump here," Lehner said, displaying the mask after practice Thursday.

The 25-year-old Swedish goalie also has stickers of the U.S. armed forces.

"It's his right to do so," said Sabres head coach Dan Bylsma. "It's his right to put that on there. He's got other things on there that he's honoring and paying tribute to."

However, back-up goalie Anders Nilsson will start for the Sabres on Friday night when they host the New Jersey Devils.

Lehner is expected to start Saturday night for the back end of the home-and-home with the Devils.

Veterans Day is Friday.

Tyler Ennis to be out several weeks

By Joe Yerdon

NHL.com

November 10, 2016

BUFFALO -- Forward Tyler Ennis of the Buffalo Sabres will be out for several weeks after having groin surgery Thursday.

Ennis has one goal and one assist in 12 games. He played 7:33 in a 4-0 loss at the Boston Bruins on Monday and sat out a 2-1 shootout loss to the Ottawa Senators at home on Wednesday.

"He's been struggling with it, but it got worse the last few days, few games, to the point where in the Boston game I pulled him ... I didn't play him in the third period because of where he was at pain-wise and he wasn't able to skate or push," Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said.

Ennis was limited to 23 games last season because of two concussions. The second came on Dec. 30, 2015, when he was checked by Washington Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin. Ennis missed the remainder of the season.

"It's disappointing for Tyler," Bylsma said. "This is a situation he's been dealing with for a little bit, the past little while, days, maybe a week. Kind of just extremely disappointing to get the news he's going to be out for a bit of time having surgery, which he had this morning. He's had a tough go of getting on the ice and playing games, which he's had the last nine months, 10 months."

Ennis has 93 goals and 225 points in 380 NHL games, all with the Sabres.

The Sabres have had several injuries this season. Second-year center Jack Eichel sustained a high ankle sprain Oct. 12 and hasn't played since. Left wing Evander Kane missed 11 games after he broke four ribs when he crashed into the end boards in the season opener against the Montreal Canadiens on Oct. 13. Defenseman Zach Bogosian is out with a sprained MCL, and left wing Nicolas Deslauriers is out because of a knee injury. Center Ryan O'Reilly missed the game Wednesday because of a mid-body injury and is day to day.

The one benefit for the Sabres is that the injuries have given younger players, including forwards Nicholas Baptiste, William Carrier and Cole Schneider, and defenseman Casey Nelson, the opportunity to show they belong in the NHL.

"We've had a number of opportunities for these guys to come up and show what they can do and how they can play," Bylsma said. "You see some of them grabbing the opportunity and run with it and that's kind of what we need. We expect that these guys can come up and do a job for us and come up and play in a certain role and they're getting that chance."

Baptiste has two goals in eight games; the second came in the loss to the Senators on Wednesday.

"I want to make it as hard on management and coaches to send me down," Baptiste said. "I want when guys get healthy for them to be, 'Well, Nick's playing well and it's hard for us to send him down.' We want to make a statement, and I want to play in the NHL."

Ennis undergoes groin surgery; O'Reilly day-to-day

By Jourdon LaBarber

Buffalo Sabres

November 10, 2016

One day after seeing Evander Kane return to the lineup from injury, the Sabres announced that Tyler Ennis will be sidelined for several weeks after undergoing surgery on his groin on Thursday morning. Ennis only skated 7:33 of ice time against Boston on Monday night and missed Buffalo's game against Ottawa on Wednesday.

The injury marks another chapter in a difficult two seasons for Ennis. He was limited to 23 games in 2015-16 due to multiple injuries, including a concussion that ended his season in December. Ennis has scored one goal and one assist in 12 games this season.

"It's disappointing for Tyler," Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said after practice on Wednesday. "This is a situation he's been dealing with for the past little while, days, maybe a week. I'm kind of just extremely disappointed to get the news that he's gonna be out for a bit of time, have the surgery which he had this morning. He's had a tough go getting on the ice and playing games for the last nine months."

Meanwhile, injuries to Ryan O'Reilly and Dmitry Kulikov kept them off the ice at practice as well. Bylsma said that both players are day-to-day and both remain possible to play against the New Jersey Devils on Friday night. Kulikov skated 23:44 on Wednesday; O'Reilly was scratched due to his injury.

If O'Reilly does miss more time, we might continue to see an increased role for Derek Grant. Grant assumed primary faceoff duties in O'Reilly's absence on Wednesday and won 14 of his team-high 20 draws. He's won 59.5 percent of his faceoffs this season, which ranks 12th amongst NHL forwards with at least 80 attempts.

Grant's success in the faceoff circle even pushed Bylsma to use him to take draws in certain situations on the top line between Evander Kane and Kyle Okposo on Wednesday.

"When Derek Grant goes 14-6, he's gonna be the guy taking the majority of them," Bylsma said. "That put him on the ice more and more in bigger situations for us because of his ability last night to win draws. That's something we needed from him without Ryan in the lineup for us."

Grant also becomes even more instrumental on the penalty kill with O'Reilly out of the lineup. Grant already ranks 23rd amongst the League's forwards with 31:34 of shorthanded ice time and his 59.1-percent mark (13-for-22) on shorthanded faceoffs ranks fifth among players with at least 10 attempts.

"I think faceoffs and the penalty kill are probably the two things that I take the most pride in in my game," Grant said. "I think with [O'Reilly] out it's obviously a bigger role and I'm gonna be seeing the dots a little bit more. I just try to approach each one the same with the mentality that I'm gonna win it."

Grant said he's been feeling more comfortable offensively in the games since becoming linemates with Nicholas Baptiste, and he played alongside another familiar face with the recall of former Binghamton Senators teammate Cole Schneider on Wednesday. The trio connected on a goal by Baptiste quickly after Grant won a faceoff early in the first period.

It was Grant's first point as a Sabre, and it came against his former organization in Ottawa.

"It's always a little bit more fun playing those guys," he said. "You play with a little bit more of an edge I think. Ever since you grow up, it's more fun beaten your buddies too so I have a few buddies over there and it's fun beating those guys."

Regardless of whether O'Reilly plays or not on Friday, the Sabres would like to see more scoring from the bottom of their lineup. The Sabres rank 28th in the League with 26 goals through 13 games, 13 of which have come from either Kyle Okposo, Ryan O'Reilly or Matt Moulson.

The fourth line of Schneider, Grant and Baptiste was able to contribute Wednesday and may have earned itself more opportunities going forward. Regular fourth-line forward Nicolas Deslauriers is 12 days removed from sustaining a knee injury against Florida on Oct. 29, but Bylsma said it will still be another two weeks at least before he's able to take another step in his rehabilitation.

"I liked that line," Bylsma said. "I would like to use that line more. They had success as a line in training camp. They got us a goal last night, which we desperately needed, got it from scoring from up and down our lineup which we need to get and they gave it to us last night. Again, I'd like to see that line play a little bit more and be more effective."

Lines at Thursday's practice

9 Evander Kane - 23 Sam Reinhart - 21 Kyle Okposo
82 Marcus Foligno - 22 Johan Larsson - 12 Brian Gionta
48 William Carrier - 28 Zemgus Girgensons - 26 Matt Moulson
10 Cole Schneider - 27 Derek Grant - 73 Nicholas Baptiste

Defensemen: 55 Rasmus Ristolainen, 4 Josh Gorges, 34 Casey Nelson, 29 Jake McCabe, 6 Cody Franson

40 Robin Lehner
31 Anders Nilsson

Military Appreciation

Friday is Military Appreciation Night at KeyBank Center, and the Sabres are offering all active, reserve, National Guard and retired military personnel the opportunity to purchase tickets in the 300 Level for \$25. Buffalo will host the New Jersey Devils for the first game in a back-to-back, home-and-home set.

Visit sabres.com/military to purchase tickets, or click here for more information on the night. If you're not able to make it downtown, tune into coverage beginning with the TOPS Pregame Show at 6:30 p.m. on MSG-B or listen live on WGR 550. The puck drops at 7 p.m.