



# **Buffalo Sabres**

## **Daily Press Clips**

*November 17, 2017*

## **Sabres prospect Nylander set to play after missing 2 months**

Associated Press

By JOHN WAWROW

Nov. 16, 2017

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — Buffalo Sabres prospect Alexander Nylander is set to make his minor-league season debut after missing two months with a lower body injury.

Rochester Americans coach Chris Taylor told The Associated Press the Sabres' 2016 first-round pick is scheduled to play on Friday when the American Hockey League team hosts Hartford. The forward has spent the past 10 days practicing with the Americans since being hurt during a pre-training camp prospects tournament in Buffalo in early September.

Nylander enters his second season in Rochester after scoring 10 goals and 18 assists in 65 games last year. He also had an assist in four games with the Sabres.

The 19-year-old is the younger brother of Toronto Maple Leafs forward William Nylander.

The Sabres on Thursday recalled forward Kyle Criscuolo and defenseman Casey Nelson from Rochester, and placed defensemen Taylor Fedun and Matt Tennyson (foot) on injured reserve.

Buffalo plays at Detroit on Friday.

## **Criscuolo on the cusp of his NHL debut with the Sabres**

The Buffalo News

By Amy Moritz

November 16, 2017

He was undrafted and undersized.

Still, Kyle Criscuolo carved out an impressive collegiate career at Harvard. A captain his final two seasons, Criscuolo finished with 53 goals and 60 assists, leading the Crimson back to the NCAA tournament for the first time in nine years.

During his time at Harvard, he played with and against NHL draft picks, including facing off against Jack Eichel in his only season at Boston University. In practice and in games, Criscuolo, who clocks in at 5-foot-9 and 172 pounds, saw he could hold his own against the predestined NHL players. He started to really believe a pro hockey career was possible, that the NHL wasn't just a dream.

The perseverance has paid off as the 25-year-old is on the cusp of his first game in the National Hockey League.

Criscuolo was recalled by the Buffalo Sabres on Thursday — his first NHL call-up. He practiced on a line with Zemgus Girgensons and Jordan Nolan in KeyBank Center. While Sabres coach Phil Housley said the lineup will be a "game-time decision," it's likely to be the NHL debut for Criscuolo when the Sabres play the Detroit Red Wings in Little Caesars Arena Friday night.

### ADVERTISEMENT

"Super excited," Criscuolo said as the media scrummed around his locker in KeyBank Center Thursday morning. "Very excited to be here. Good first practice.

"I think it's obviously a long road to get here. I'm excited to be here. I'm going to think about it maybe in a couple weeks. But right now, I've got to focus on the game."

The professional part of his journey began after his senior season at Harvard when he signed with the Detroit Red Wings and played four games with their AHL affiliate in Grand Rapids.

"The caliber of players I was playing with in college and knowing they were going to be making the next step to pro hockey, NHL, I sort of felt like I could play with these guys and I could keep up," Criscuolo said. "Certain guys I was playing against I felt like I can do it. I didn't know what was going to come of it, but I was definitely motivated and wanted to keep going."

He returned to Grand Rapids last season, his first full year of pro hockey, and was a key component of the Griffins run to winning a Calder Cup Championship. In 76 regular season games, Criscuolo had 17 goals and 24 assists. In 19 playoff games he had five goals and four assists.

But over the summer he moved on from the Red Wings organization, choosing to sign with the Sabres. It was a difficult decision, but one he felt made the most sense for his hockey style.

The Sabres "understood how I play and how I want to play," Criscuolo said. "I think they did a good job of knowing what kind of player and person I am and what I want to bring to the team. I think what they said to me was pretty convincing that they want to put me in spots they think I can be effective.

"They said you can come in here and you're going to have to earn everything you get. I think everyone was pretty honest with me. They didn't promise me anything. They said you can try to earn your spot and work your way up from Rochester and be one of the top nine guys in Rochester and then try to make it to the next level and earn your way up."

And earn his way up, he did.

Criscuolo, who signed a two-year contract in July, is tied for the team lead with the Rochester Americans in scoring with 11 points (five goals, six assists) through 14 games. He leads the team with a plus-4 and with 40 shots on goal.

But it's not just the stats that earned him a shot at his first NHL game. It's also the way he plays the game, something Housley noticed through the two preseason games Criscuolo played for the Sabres.

"It's just his competitive nature," Housley said. "His willingness to get in the tough areas, go down low and win puck battles against bigger guys and using his speed and the energy he brought. I thought it really rubbed off well on our bench and our coaching staff."

## **Sabres Notebook: Taylor Fedun latest to hit the injured reserve**

The Buffalo News

By Amy Moritz

November 16, 2017

The injuries continue to pile up on the blue line for the Buffalo Sabres.

Add Taylor Fedun to the list. The defenseman played only one shift in the third period of Tuesday's overtime loss at Pittsburgh. After the off day, the team officially placed him on injured reserve and recalled defenseman Casey Nelson from Rochester.

"Taylor Fedun has a lower body injury. Probably out six to eight weeks," Sabres head coach Phil Housley said Thursday morning after the team practiced in KeyBank Center. They left for Detroit after practice for Friday's game with the Red Wings.

Housley confirmed that Fedun sustained the injury in the Pittsburgh game. "He was trying to work through it," Housley said. "He wanted to be a part of the team and it's good to see him try to gut it out for a little bit but it just didn't happen for him."

Justin Falk was also missing from practice, but Housley said it was a maintenance day.

Defenseman Matt Tennyson was also added to the injured reserve list. He has missed four games with a foot injury.

Nelson, in his second full pro season, has four points (one goal, three assists) with the Amerks this season. In 18 career NHL games with the Sabres he has four assists.

\*\*\*

Marco Scandella said he needs to keep his emotions in check.

The defenseman was hit with a \$5,000 fine Wednesday by the NHL Player Safety Department for a two-hand slash on Pittsburgh's Patric Hornqvist.

"I just need to keep my emotions a little better in check," Scandella said. "One thing I will say, the back swing looked a lot worse than actually what I did. I went up and changed my mind a little bit, but I still got him and you know what, it's on me. I just need to keep my emotions better checked.

"It is an emotional game. That's hockey. Obviously I'm not out there trying to hurt anybody. It just didn't look good and it's out of my character. I don't want to do that."

Scandella took a baseball swing at the lower body of Hornqvist midway through the second period of Buffalo's 5-4 overtime loss. Scandella earned a two-minute slashing penalty, and Hornqvist went ballistic on the officials after picking up two minutes for interference.

"Well, you know in the heat of the moment your emotions get high and we took a penalty when we were down one, which we've got to be smarter in those areas as well," Housley said. "But he gets picked there and I think there could have been a call earlier than that with another pick which wasn't called. But that doesn't give him the right to take matters in his own hands. He's just got to be smarter because he's such a competitor and he loves to compete, that sort of caught him off guard. But we'll learn from it."

The \$5,000 fine is the maximum allowed under the collective bargaining agreement. The money goes to the Players' Emergency Assistance Fund.

\*\*\*

The Sabres will get their first look at Detroit's new Little Caesars Arena Friday night when they visit the Red Wings for a 7:30 p.m. game.

The Red Wings are coming off a raucous affair in their 8-2 win over the Calgary Flames at home Wednesday night.

Detroit was up 6-2 when the game turned into an all-out brawl. It started when the Red Wings Luke Witkowski fought Brett Kulak, then challenged Travis Hamonic.

When officials gave Witkowski a 10-minute misconduct, he left the penalty box and went to the Wings bench to leave the game. Matthew Tkachuk slashed Witkowski in the back of the leg, prompting Witkowski to come back out on the ice. Hamonic got involved, and Anthony Mantha responded.

\*\*\*

The Sabres assigned forward Nick Baptiste to the Rochester Americans Thursday afternoon. He has no points in four games with the Sabres this season.

## **Day of roster moves for Sabres, Amerks, Cyclones**

Rochester D&C

Leo Roth

Nov. 16, 2017

It was a busy day of comings and goings for the Rochester Americans on Thursday.

Going: Forward Kyle Criscuolo and defenseman Casey Nelson to the parent Buffalo Sabres; forward Vaclav Karabacek and defenseman Brycen Martin to the Cincinnati Cyclones of the ECHL.

Coming: Forward Nick Baptiste, from the Sabres; Defensemen Arvin Atwal and Eric Knodel from Cincinnati on professional tryout contracts.

The Amerks (8-4-1-1) are enjoying a strong November with four wins, a loss in overtime and a loss in a shootout. They are just four points behind Toronto (11-4-0-0) for first place in the AHL's North Division heading into Friday's home game against Hartford at Blue Cross Arena at the Community War Memorial.

Criscuolo is tied for the Amerks scoring lead with five goals, six assists and 11 points and also leads in plus-minus (plus-4) and shots (40). That hot start earned the Southampton, New Jersey native and second-year AHL pro his first NHL recall.

Nelson, who played 18 games for the Sabres last year, has 1-3 - 4 in 14 games with Rochester this season. In Buffalo, defensemen Taylor Fedun (lower body) and Matt Tennyson (foot) were placed on injured reserve. Buffalo's blue line has been hit hard with injuries and the trickle down is being felt.

Rochester goalie Linus Ullmark slide across the creaseBuy Photo

Rochester goalie Linus Ullmark slides across the crease as Syracuse's Alexander Volkov chases the puck. (Photo: JAMIE GERMANO, @jgermano1/Staff Photographer)

A native of Delta, British Columbia, Atwal has appeared in 11 games for the Cyclones, going 1-3 - 4. He had 39 points last season as a rookie.

Knodel, 27, has 12 points (5-7) in 11 games for Cincinnati, tied for second among ECHL defensemen. He was a league all-star last season and has amassed 81 points (25 - 56) over 163 career ECHL appearances between Cincinnati, Utah and Orlando.

The Amerks are coming off a 3-0 victory over Binghamton. Linus Ullmark earned his second AHL shutout in his 200th career start.

Friday is Military Appreciation Night. Players will wear military-themed jerseys that will be auctioned off with proceeds given to the Veterans Outreach Center. The team is offering all United States military veterans, retired, active duty, reserve and National Guard service members one complimentary ticket to the game with additional tickets available for as low as \$12.

## **The Sabres have more injuries on defense**

Casey Nelson and Kyle Criscuolo come up from Rochester

WGR550

PAUL HAMILTON

NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) - The Buffalo Sabres have called up two players from Rochester. Casey Nelson and Kyle Criscuolo are up.

Defenseman Taylor Fedun only played one quick shift in the beginning of the third period in Pittsburgh. He's been placed on injured reserve along with Matt Tennyson.

Criscuolo is 25-years-old and has never played a NHL game. This season with Rochester he has five goals and six assists for 11 points in 14 games. That's tied with C.J. Smith for the team scoring lead.

Nelson has a goal and three assists. He was a college free agent signing at the end of the 2016 season. Nelson has 18 NHL games picking up four assists.

Buffalo plays in Detroit on Friday before returning home on Saturday night against the Hurricanes.

## **Scandella says improving without winning is unacceptable**

The Sabres defenseman accepts his fine from the NHL

WGR550

PAUL HAMILTON

NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Detroit, MI (WGR 550) - The Sabres have played pretty well on the first two games of their three-game road trip, but they lost both games in overtime. That isn't the first time this season they've played well and lost. Marco Scandella said that's unacceptable because there are no moral victories, "I think guys should be a little bit pissed off. We're out here to win games and that's just not good enough, losing in overtime. We've got to find a way to win."

Scandella got fined \$5,000 by the NHL for slashing the Penguins Patrick Hornqvist. Both players got penalties because Hornqvist picked Scandella before the slash. The Sabres defenseman said, "I respect the decision of the league, I just have to keep my emotions better in check."

"One thing I will say, the backswing looked worse than it actually was. I went up and kind of changed my mind, but I still got him and it's on me."

Scandella said he's not a dirty player, and he let his emotions get the best of him, "It is an emotional game, that's hockey. I'm not out there trying to hurt anybody, it just didn't look good and it's out of my character, so I don't want to do that again."

Phil Housley understood why Scandella was upset, but he felt his player has to be smarter, "In the heat of the moment, your emotions get high, but we took a penalty when we were down one, which we've got to be smarter in those areas as well, but he gets picked there and I think there could've been a call earlier with another pick which weren't called, but that doesn't give him the right to take matters into his own hands, he's just got to be smarter."

In the past few weeks, I've noticed Scandella and others playing a more physical game. He said it's something they needed to add to their game, "We're trying to add to our game and definitely on the forecheck we're trying to be more physical and trying to be harder to play against." Josh Gorges and Justin Falk have also brought a physical element to the game.

Taylor Fedun suffered a lower body injury in Pittsburgh that is going to keep him out 6-8 weeks. Falk got a maintenance day from practice.

Thursday's Lines:

Kane - Eichel - Reinhart

Girgensons - Larsson - Pominville

Pouliot - O'Reilly - Okposo

Nolan - Criscuolo - Griffith

Scandella - Nelson

McCabe - Beaulieu

Gorges - Antipin

Moulson - Baptiste

## **Sabres send Baptiste to Rochester**

The young winger failed to make an impression

WGR550

PAUL HAMILTON

NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Detroit, MI (WGR 550) - The Buffalo Sabres have sent Nick Baptiste back down to the Rochester Americans. Phil Housley has been trying some different players to try to find some chemistry, but Baptiste failed to impress.

The winger was held pointless in the four games that he played.

The Sabres play the Red Wings on Friday night.

## **Sabres look to Kyle Criscuolo for spark**

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

Nov. 17, 2017

BUFFALO – Center Kyle Criscuolo left a pretty good gig to join the Sabres.

The undrafted Harvard product enjoyed a terrific rookie season in 2016-17, scoring 17 goals in the AHL and winning a Calder Cup with the Grand Rapids Griffins.

Leaving the Detroit Red Wings organization to sign a two-year, two-way contract with the Sabres on July 1 “was really tough,” he said.

“The people were great to me, the organization was great to me, they gave me a chance out of school,” Criscuolo said Thursday after earning his first NHL recall. “I mean, it was definitely a tough decision, and ultimately I had to go with my gut.”

Criscuolo’s gut told him the Sabres offered a special opportunity.

“They understood how I play and how I want to play,” he said after the Sabres prepared for Friday’s road tilt against the Red Wings. “I think they did a good job of knowing what kind of player and person I am and what I want to bring to the team. I think what they said to me was pretty convincing that they want to put me in spots they think I can be effective.”

The 5-foot-9, 172-pound Criscuolo, 25, thrived early on with the Rochester Americans, compiling five goals and a team-high 11 points in 14 games.

“I just try to use my speed and get in on the forecheck and create havoc and cause some turnovers,” Criscuolo said inside KeyBank Center. “I try to keep it simple and get to the net as much as I can.”

After Wednesday’s 3-0 home win against the Binghamton Devils, Amerks coach Chris Taylor informed Criscuolo and defenseman Casey Nelson the Sabres needed them.

“It’s obviously a long road to get here,” Criscuolo said.

Clearly, the reeling, last-place Sabres, who have lost three straight games (0-1-2), are examining all their options to jumpstart a dismal season.

While Criscuolo wasn’t a notable pro prospect, he played four years at Harvard, where he captained the Crimson his last two seasons.

“The caliber of players I was playing with in college and knowing they were going to be making the next step to pro hockey, NHL, I sort of felt like I could play with these guys and I could keep up,” he said.

So Criscuolo, who graduated with a degree in psychology and a minor in economics, pursued a pro hockey career.

“I didn’t know what was going to come of it, but I was definitely motivated and wanted to keep going,” he said.

Despite posting strong numbers – the undersized Criscuolo compiled 53 goals and 113 points in 124 games with Harvard – some teams hesitated “to sort of go all in on me,” he said.

“I don’t know if I’d necessarily say I was overlooked,” he said.

So what has helped Criscuolo reach the NHL?

“Just persistence,” he said.

Sabres coach Phil Housley said Thursday that Criscuolo’s status for Friday’s contest will be decided later. But the New Jersey native will almost certainly make his NHL debut.

Housley put Criscuolo between Jordan Nolan and Zemgus Girgensons during Thursday's practice. The Sabres still have one extra forward, Matt Moulson.

Right away in training camp, Housley said he noticed Criscuolo's "competitive nature."

"His willingness to get in the tough areas, go down low and win puck battles against bigger guys and using his speed and the energy he brought," Housley said. "I thought it really rubbed off well on our bench and our coaching staff."

Sabres goalie Robin Lehner said: "He had a real good camp, was one of the guys that stood out to me."

Lehner's glad the Sabres rewarded Criscuolo.

"Prospects are great, but there's tremendous skill in the AHL," he said. "There's a lot of good players fighting and working hard to get their opportunities."

## **Sabres notes: Casey Nelson recalled with Taylor Fedun injured**

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

Nov. 16, 2017

BUFFALO – After suffering a lower-body injury, Sabres defenseman Taylor Fedun stayed on the bench for the rest of Tuesday's 5-4 overtime loss in Pittsburgh.

"He was trying to work through it," Sabres coach Phil Housley said Thursday. "He wanted to be a part of the team. It's good to see him try to gut it out for a little bit."

Fedun's injury is so bad it will sideline him six to eight weeks, Housley said. To replace him, the Sabres recalled defenseman Casey Nelson from the Rochester Americans.

The Sabres created roster space for Nelson and center Kyle Crisculo, who was also summoned, by placing Fedun and defenseman Matt Tennyson on injured reserve.

Nelson, a college free agent the Sabres signed in 2016, has one goal and four points in 14 AHL games this season. The Wisconsin native played 18 NHL contests over the last two seasons, compiling four assists.

If Nelson plays in Friday's road tilt against the Detroit Red Wings, he will become the 11th defenseman to appear in a game for the Sabres just 19 games into the season.

"It's great that we brought a lot of new, fresh faces in which helps, especially since our defense has been hit with the injury bug here," Housley said of the Sabres' AHL depth. "So it's great to have options because of the injuries we've had and the depth that has been taken away from us."

Nelson practiced with defenseman Marco Scandella on Thursday inside KeyBank Center.

The Amerks are 8-4-1-1, off to their best start in years. To Nelson, that's no coincidence.

In addition to having a new coach, Chris Taylor, and general manager, Randy Sexton, they have about 15 new players.

"It's a world of a change," Nelson said. "Everything, from everybody's attitude, it's been a great change. I think we're heading in the right direction."

xxx

Scandella's major whack to Penguins winger Patric Hornqvist leg about halfway through Tuesday's game – it looked like he was chopping down a tree – earned him a \$5,000 fine, the largest allowable under the collective bargaining agreement.

"I just need to keep my emotions a little better in check," Scandella said. "One thing I will say, the back swing looked a lot worse than actually what I did. I went up and changed my mind a little bit, but I still got him. ... I just need to keep my emotions better checked. ..."

"It is an emotional game. That's hockey. Obviously, I'm not out there trying to hurt anybody. It just didn't look good and it's out my character. I don't want to do that."

Housley said Scandella was frustrated because of a pick that wasn't penalized.

"But that doesn't give him the right to take matters in his own hands. He's got to be smarter because he's such a competitor and he loves to compete, that sort of caught him off guard."

xxx

The Sabres sent winger Nick Baptiste back to the Amerks on Thursday. Baptiste, 22, had zero goals in four games.

xxx

Speaking Wednesday in Rochester, Taylor said he hopes forward Alexander Nylander, out since suffering a lower-body injury in rookie camp more than two months ago, can play this weekend.

Nylander, 19, skated in the pregame warm-up Wednesday. The Sabres selected the Swede eighth overall in 2016.

Meanwhile, Taylor said Amerks winger Justin Bailey, out since suffering a lower-body injury Oct. 27 with the Sabres, “felt that he wasn’t ready to go.” The Sabres sent the Williamsville native to Rochester earlier this week.

Forward Evan Rodrigues, out since hurting his hand during the NHL preseason, is also back with the Amerks. Taylor didn’t offer a timeline for his return.

## **Sabres recall F Criscuolo, D Nelson, place pair on IR**

The Sports Xchange

Nov. 16, 2017

The Buffalo Sabres recalled forward Kyle Criscuolo and defenseman Casey Nelson from Rochester of the American Hockey League, the team announced Thursday.

In a corresponding move, the Sabres placed defensemen Taylor Fedun and Matt Tennyson on injured reserve.

Criscuolo has collected a team-best 11 points (five goals, six assists) with the Americans and also leads the club with a plus-4 rating.

Nelson has scored one goal and set up three others in 14 games with Rochester. He has recorded four assists and 12 penalty minutes in 18 career NHL contests with Buffalo.

Fedun, who is nursing an undisclosed injury, has one assist in seven games this season.

Tennyson, who is being plagued by a foot injury, has failed to dent the scoresheet in 14 contests in 2017-18





## **Criscuolo's hard work pays off with first career recall**

Fedun out 6-8 weeks; Nelson recalled

Sabres.com

by Jourdon LaBarber

November 16th, 2017

When Kyle Criscuolo made the decision to sign with the Sabres as a free agent during the offseason, it wasn't because he felt he had an open door to an NHL roster spot. What he did know after speaking with general manager Jason Botterill, however, was that he'd have an honest chance to work his way up.

"I think everyone was pretty honest with me," Criscuolo said. "They didn't promise me anything. They said you can try to earn your spot and work your way up from Rochester, be one of the top nine guys in Rochester and then try to make it to the next level and earn your way up."

As it turns out, proving himself didn't take long at all. Criscuolo earned his first career recall to the NHL on Thursday morning and practiced with the Sabres ahead of their trip to Detroit, where they'll face his former organization on Friday night.

Sabres Now (11/16/17)

01:59 • November 16th, 2017

Criscuolo received word of his recall following Rochester's 3-0 win over Binghamton on Wednesday night. Sabres coach Phil Housley was on hand for that game, and said he saw the same attributes that left a mark when Criscuolo was with the Sabres in the preseason.

"It's his competitive nature," Housley said. "His willingness to get into tough areas, go down low and win puck battles against tougher guys, using his speed and the energy he brought. I thought it really rubbed off well on our bench and on our coaching staff."

Criscuolo's story is a familiar one in today's NHL, an undersized forward who used hard work and grit to pave a path to professional hockey. He went undrafted prior to spending four years at Harvard, the final two of which he spent captaining the Crimson.

It was during his collegiate career that Criscuolo began to think a shot at the NHL might be on the table. In his final two seasons at Harvard, he combined for 80 points in 71 games.

"The caliber of players I was playing with in college and knowing they were going to be making the next step to pro hockey, NHL, I sort of felt like I could play with these guys and I could keep up," he said. "Certain guys I was playing against, I felt like I can do it. I didn't know what was going to come of it, but I was definitely motivated and wanted to keep going."

He signed a minor league deal with Detroit upon finishing his career at Harvard and played four games with their AHL affiliate in Grand Rapids to conclude the 2015-16 season. As a rookie last season, he scored 41 points (17+24) for Grand Rapids and won the Calder Cup.

Making the decision to leave Grand Rapids during the offseason was admittedly difficult, he said, but Botterill and the Buffalo front office won him over with their message and their preparedness.

"They understood how I play and how I want to play," Criscuolo said. "I think they did a good job of knowing what kind of player and person I am and what I want to bring to the team. I think what they said to me was pretty convincing that they want to put me in spots they think I can be effective."

In 14 games with Rochester this season, Criscuolo's 11 points (5+6) tie him with C.J. Smith for the Amerks' team lead.

Whether or not Criscuolo makes his NHL debut in Detroit remains to be seen. Housley said his status will be a game-time decision, but the fact that he practiced on a line with Jordan Nolan and Zemgus Girgensons while Matt Moulson and Nicholas Baptiste skated as extras should bode well for the possibility.

For now, he's just trying not to get caught up in the emotion of what's been a long journey.

"I think it's obviously a long road to get here," he said. "I'm excited to be here. I'm going to think about it maybe in a couple weeks. But right now, I've got to focus on the game tomorrow."

With Falk and Fedun absent, Sabres recall Nelson

Phil Housley (11/16/17)

04:35 • November 16th, 2017

Buffalo's injuries woes on defense continued Thursday, with Justin Falk and Taylor Fedun both absent from practice. Housley said that Falk's absence was simply a maintenance day, but Fedun is expected to miss six-to-eight weeks with a lower-body injury.

Fedun sustained his injury during Buffalo's game in Pittsburgh on Tuesday. He played just one shift in the third period but remained on the bench for the remainder of the game.

"He was trying to work through it, and he wanted to be part of the team," Housley said. "He tried to gut it out there for a little bit but it just didn't happen for him."

With Zach Redmond also nursing an injury in Rochester, the Sabres recalled Casey Nelson along with Criscuolo on Thursday morning. Nelson impressed in a short stint with the Sabres after signing as an undrafted free agent at the end of the 2015-16 season, and he was in the lineup for Buffalo's season opener last season before ultimately spending the bulk of his year in Rochester.

Nelson has four points (1+3) in 14 games with the Amerks this season.

"I'm just trying to round [my game] out," Nelson said. "I've got a few good attributes to my game with my skating, so basically it's just trying to be more solid all around, defensively especially and also getting back and getting pucks. I think that's the biggest part of the game now, getting pucks out smooth and getting the forwards up the ice."

Lines at practice

67 Benoit Pouliot - 90 Ryan O'Reilly - 21 Kyle Okposo  
9 Evander Kane - 15 Jack Eichel - 23 Sam Reinhart  
25 Seth Griffith - 22 Johan Larsson - 29 Jason Pominville  
17 Jordan Nolan - 28 Zemgus Girgensons - 51 Kyle Criscuolo  
26 Matt Moulson - 13 Nicholas Baptiste

6 Marco Scandella - 8 Casey Nelson  
19 Jake McCabe - 82 Nathan Beaulieu  
4 Josh Gorges - 93 Victor Antipin

## **A message from Karin Housley**

Karin Housley, wife of Sabres coach Phil, shares a personal message as Hockey Fights Cancer Night approaches

Sabres.com

by Karin Housley

November 16th, 2017

We've heard it many times: The hockey community is one big family. And we are. So when cancer hits one of our family, whether it's a player, fan, coach, trainer, owner, fan, employee or family member, we are there to support.

The Buffalo Sabres Wives & Girlfriends got together for a photo shoot to raise awareness to our family's Hockey Fights Cancer initiative. Each of us had individual stories and are "Fighting For" someone in our family.

Phil's mother passed away at the age of 59 from glioblastoma. Our daughter (age 30) had a random skin scan this summer at the dermatologist, and it turned out to be skin cancer.

Early screening is important, no matter what your age. We are much further ahead in technologies than we used to be...so get yourself tested.

The American Cancer Society has a great guideline chart as to when you should get certain screenings done, so why not make that appointment right now? It could save your life or someone in your - and our - family.

## Sharpen Up: November 16, 2017

Sabres.com

by Chris Ryndak

November 16th, 2017

Some roster moves to start your day. The Sabres have recalled forward Kyle Crisuolo and defenseman Casey Nelson from the Rochester Americans.

Crisuolo, who signed a two-year deal with Buffalo in July, is tied for the Amerks lead in points with 11 (5+6) in 14 games. It's the first recall of his career.

Buffalo will practice this morning and then head out to Detroit for their game tomorrow night against the Red Wings so we'll see where Crisuolo and Nelson could slot in.

Here's what you need to know.

To make room for Crisuolo and Nelson, the team placed defensemen Taylor Fedun and Matt Tennyson on injured reserve. Fedun left Tuesday's game after playing one shift in the third period while Tennyson has missed the past four with a foot injury.

We'll have more on Crisuolo and all of the lineup news in today's Ice Level Practice Report and in our Sabres Now video. The Red Wings, meanwhile, is coming off an 8-2 home win over Calgary, in which they went 4-for-6 on the power play.

Duffer also has some good stuff on what's been happening in Rochester in his latest #Duffalo blog. It ties in nicely with our newest feature, Americans Made, which features Linus Ullmark this month.

Americans Made: Linus Ullmark

02:43 • November 14th, 2017

Ullmark pitched a shutout in Rochester's 3-0 win over Binghamton last night.

Turkeys for Tickets Drive a success

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the effort this morning.

Next up

As we mentioned, the Sabres will be in Detroit tomorrow to take in Little Caesars Arena for the first time. Then they'll be back home on Saturday against Carolina for Hockey Fights Cancer Night presented by Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Find out what you need to know about that game here (and more info is on the way).

One more thing

Also, don't forget that the team's Military Appreciation Game warmup jerseys are still up for auction here. Proceeds benefit the Buffalo Sabres Foundation.