



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

November 18, 2017

Tomas Tatar breaks tie in 3rd, Red Wings beat Sabres 3-1

Associated Press

By LARRY LAGE

Nov. 18, 2017

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Red Wings were putting the puck everywhere other than into the net for two-plus periods. They were shooting off the post, across the crease and firing wide on chances.

Luke Glendening broke a scoreless tie late in the second period and Tomas Tatar scored a go-ahead goal midway through third and the Red Wings went on to beat the Buffalo Sabres 3-1 on Friday night.

“With all the chances we were getting and not scoring, it could’ve been one of those games that haunted us,” Glendening said. “We played smart and stuck with it and it paid off.”

Dylan Larkin scored late in the game to seal the victory and Jimmy Howard had 19 saves for the Red Wings. They have won consecutive games at home for the first time this season, showing Little Caesars Arena is starting to provide a home-ice advantage.

“It is starting to feel like home,” Glendening said.

Ryan O’Reilly pulled Buffalo into a 1-all tie 5:50 into the third before ending with a familiar result.

“We are embarrassed by this,” O’Reilly said. “We have to play with a much better effort than we showed.”

Robin Lehner gave his struggling team a chance, stopping the first 20 shots he faced and finishing with 30 saves.

“Robin is a very good goalie, who I got to know working out together last summer,” Howard said. “He’s a great competitor, who doesn’t quit.”

The Sabres have lost four straight, one away from their longest losing streak of the season, but were thankful they didn’t lose more than a game in Detroit.

Jack Eichel went to the dressing room late in the second period after coming off the ice slowly, keeping weight off his right skate following a collision with Glendening, and making a brief stop on the bench. Buffalo’s standout center was cleared to return at the start of the third period.

Eichel said he felt fine after the game, but he wasn’t happy with his team’s effort.

“They came at us in waves,” he said. “We know they have speed, but we didn’t respond to it. You have to be a strong forechecking team against them, and we just let them get the puck out of their zone with no problems at all.”

After a scoreless first period with a combined 14 shots, Detroit outshot Buffalo 13-4 in the second and took control without that translating to a big lead.

“They have a lot of speed, and they really took it to us in the second period,” Sabres winger Evander Kane said. “We didn’t get physical, and they just skated all over us.”

The Red Wings had a lot of chances to score, including a two-man advantage for 26 seconds, but scored only once over the first two periods.

O’Reilly took advantage of being down only a goal when he scored off a rebound early in the third.

Tatar, one of Detroit’s players to miss on opportunities to score earlier in the game, sent a wrist shot from the high slot through traffic and past Lehner 8:36 into the final period. Larkin sealed the victory by scoring with 4:06 left in the game.

NOTES: The Sabres have an Eastern Conference-low 14 points, a total that puts them ahead of only Arizona in the NHL. ... Glendening has five goals in 20 games, scoring two more times than he did in 74 games last season.

UP NEXT

Sabres: Host the Carolina Hurricanes on Saturday night in a matchup of last-place teams.

Red Wings: Play the Colorado Avalanche on Sunday at home.

It's a whole lot of nothing for Sabres in Motown

The Buffalo News

By Mike Harrington

November 17, 2017

DETROIT -- Perhaps it's long overdue but Phil Housley's stern face late Friday night seemed to indicate his patience is wearing thin.

More than any time this season, Housley was exasperated with his team after the Buffalo Sabres' 3-1 loss to the Detroit Red Wings in Little Caesars Arena.

It was a game with a whole lot of nothing for the Sabres, who are 5-10-4. The Eastern Conference's last-place team managed just 20 shots on goal and only 37 attempts. They took undisciplined penalties, which hindered any chance at building momentum even though the penalty killers went 5 for 5. They seemed a step behind all night.

Housley, who has routinely tried to put lipstick on a pig after bad outings this season, didn't go down that path this time.

"We've got to be smarter," Housley said. "We just got outbattled, outworked and outcompeted tonight. At times we even looked slow and I don't know why that is. We played one game in six nights. It's disappointing."

Housley's system is predicated on speed. You could have fooled anyone watching this snoozer.

The Sabres had just 10 shots on goal through two periods and the total of 20 was a season-low. No one on the roster had more than two.

"To a man here, we're embarrassed with it," said center Ryan O'Reilly, whose goal at 5:50 of the third period pulled Buffalo into a short-lived 1-1 tie. "We're not happy. We need a much better effort."

The list of offenders were numerous. Jack Eichel had just one shot on goal while going 2-10 on faceoffs. Kyle Okposo, Sam Reinhart and Zemgus Girgensons were also part of the one-shot brigade.

"They came in waves and we put ourselves in a lot of tough situations," Eichel said. "We were outcompeted. It's on us. They put a lot of pressure on our 'D'. They did a good job containing us ... We didn't do enough to sustain the forecheck and when we did get in the zone, they broke the puck out relatively easily and that was frustrating."

Eichel had a tough night, doing little offensively and taking a hip-to-leg hit from Detroit's Luke Glendening in the final minute of the second period. Eichel limped off but was able to return and skate regularly in the third.

"I'm all right," Eichel said. "Just got kind of a dead leg there for a second."

The Sabres lost the game on Tomas Tatar's screened shot at 8:36 of the third and Dylan Larkin's rebound that provided insurance with 4:06 left. Robin Lehner made 30 saves and was easily Buffalo's best player but he didn't get much help.

Detroit's first goal, by Glendening with 55 seconds left in the second period, came as O'Reilly, Jake McCabe and Nathan Beaulieu were all outworked for the puck down low until it finally squirted free to the right of Lehner.

"I lost my man," O'Reilly said. "He got in front of me to the net, made a play and it's in the back of the net."

"It was all battles tonight," Housley said. "The games we're really intense, into the battle and staying in the battle, we're a good team. When we don't battle, it's very evident. We lose coverage, we have breakdowns."

Lehner was at the top of his game or the massive scoreboard in the NHL's newest arena could have been showing a much different tale.

"It was pretty ugly," Lehner said. "We were right in it, 1-0 to start the third but I don't think that result reflects what was happening out there. It's tough, very tough. We're professionals. We've got to move on but these ones are tough. It was not a good game."

If the Sabres are looking for any silver linings, it would be that they open a four-game homestand Saturday night in KeyBank Center against Carolina. Columbus is in town Monday followed by Minnesota on Wednesday and Connor McDavid-led Edmonton on Friday.

Of course, playing at home hasn't been any panacea for Buffalo this year either. The Sabres are just 2-4-1 downtown and the only NHL team worse on its home ice is Arizona (1-6-1).

"It's going to be huge," Eichel said. "We have to get home and get our game together."

Added Housley: "We're going to have to right the ship because Carolina is a pretty good hockey team right now with pretty good balance. We've got an opportunity to start this four-game homestand the right way, but we've got to come to work."

Sabres Notebook: Team does morning homework for debut in Little Caesars Arena

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DETROIT -- It was not a normal morning skate for the Buffalo Sabres on Friday. The players went through their paces but were paying particular attention to the nuances of the NHL's most palatial facility.

The Sabres made their debut in Little Caesars Arena, the third home of the Detroit Red Wings. And like predecessor Joe Louis Arena, the boards have more than just a tad of bounce in them in the Red Wings' new \$863 million playpen.

"You go out to feel the ice. It's a very nice arena," goaltender Robin Lehner said. "I like the feeling in here. Nice and clean and bright. The boards were pretty bouncy but we know every arena is a little different. This one is fairly bouncy. Pucks were coming pretty fast off the boards."

Coach Phil Housley said his team was going to particularly watch that because Detroit's Justin Abdelkader scored on a long pass off the boards Wednesday against Calgary.

"We're well aware how lively they are," Housley said. "Joe Louis was lively too. You have to just have that awareness up ice. The ice was a little rough today, just because it was used and they were on it pretty hard before we skated. We'll have to manage that part of our game, getting used to the surroundings of a new building."

The Red Wings are sharing the building with the NBA's Pistons, who moved back downtown for the first time since leaving Cobo Hall in the late 1970s. Ice conditions have been an early season topic here. Joe Louis Arena was a hockey-only facility known for good ice and Wings veteran Henrik Zetterberg was among the players critical of the ice here at the start of the season.

"It's improved, definitely has been better of late," said Detroit standout Dylan Larkin. "They've taken care of it better as we've gone along. You try to make the whole place like 'the Joe.' Your fans are here, we live here and it's always good to be home on your own schedule."

The Sabres went 14-23-3-3 at Joe Louis Arena (1979-2017) and 8-15-2 at the Olympia (1970-79). This was the 72nd road arena the Sabres have played a game in. Of course, the arena has far more amenities than The Joe -- or most buildings in the NHL.

Capacity for hockey is 19,415 and the arena seating bowl, featuring a steep pitch and a huge 100 Level of seats, was patterned after Montreal's Bell Centre. As you would imagine, all of the seats are red and spotlight effects can make the entire inside of the bowl and ice surface the home team's color during pregame activities.

The scoreboard is a behemoth at more than 5,100 square feet, the largest viewing area in the NHL. The largest center-hung board in an indoor arena features more than 16.5 million LEDs.

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Mike Harrington ✓@ByMHarrington

Let's let the scoreboard tell the story. #Sabres

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The concourse features a sweeping roof over a brick city scape, with the arena bowl to the left and several restaurants open to the public outside of events on the right. The facade includes giant pictures of Red Wings of the past and the marquee of Olympia Stadium, the Wings' home from 1927-1979.

The Wings' locker room is a much larger replica of the one at The Joe, with lockers honoring greats like Gordie Howe, Alex Delvecchio, Sid Abel and Ted Lindsay and photos of former Wings stars (including Dominik Hasek) over the lockers. There are statues in the concourse of the likes of Howe and Delvecchio and history displays, including one of goalie masks that features Hasek's lid from the 2002 Stanley Cup season.

Also in the locker room, the giant winged wheel logo is on the roof rather than the floor, so no one has to worry about it getting stepped on. A list of Red Wings award winners over the years is on a wall outside the room by a bar area that allows fans to watch the team come on and off the ice. The team also has its own practice rink on the event level.

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Homage to the old Olympia and Gordie Howe. #Sabres #Redwings

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Kyle Criscuolo made his NHL debut for the Sabres after getting called up from Rochester on Thursday and Lehner stepped back to allow Criscuolo to take the ice first for warmups.

Criscuolo, who centered Zemgus Girgensons and Jordan Nolan, said he didn't sleep much Wednesday but was much more refreshed Thursday night after practicing with the Sabres earlier in the day.

"It was immensely important," Criscuolo said of the practice. "I didn't sleep well after the game Wednesday night while I was digesting it but I was able to sleep fine last year and get my mindset ready for a game. I don't need to be making crazy plays in my first game. Just make the simple plays and get to the net."

Criscuolo said his parents, brother, sister and girlfriend were all heading here from New Jersey for the game, as were some friends from Florida and Boston.

The Rochester Amerks had two major additions for Friday night's game against Hartford as both Alexander Nylander and Evan Rodrigues returned from injuries to make their season debut. Nylander has been out since early September with an undisclosed lower body injury while Rodrigues suffered a hand injury in the preseason that landed him in a cast.

Rodrigues has been in Rochester for a few days and the Sabres announced he was medically cleared to play and officially sent down late Friday afternoon.

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Red Wings Top Sabres 3-1

O'Reilly gets his 7th, Buffalo outshot 33-20

WGR550

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

The Sabres dropped their 4th straight game on Friday, falling 3-1 to the Red Wings at Little Caesars Arena.

After a scoreless 1st period, Detroit dominated the middle frame. The Red Wings enjoyed three power plays, plus a 5-on-3, peppering Robin Lehner with 13 shots on net. The Wings finally broke through in the final minute of the 2nd on Luke Glendening's 5th goal of the season, a backhand shot that beat an out-of-position Lehner.

Buffalo tied it up at 5:50 of the 3rd thanks to Ryan O'Reilly. The Sabres forward slammed home a big Viktor Antipin rebound, making it 1-1. The goal was allowed to stand following a brief review for goaltender interference. Detroit regained the lead later in the period on Tomas Tatar's shot from the point and Dylan Larkin made it 3-1 with 4:06 to play.

The Sabres return to action on Saturday, hosting the Carolina Hurricanes.

Scoring Summary:

First Period:

None

Second Period:

DET: 10:05 - Luke Glendening (5) (Darren Helm)

Third Period:

BUF: 5:50 - Ryan O'Reilly (7) (Viktor Antipin, Marco Scandella)

DET: 8:36 - Tomas Tatar (5) (Justin Abdelkader)

DET: 15:54 - Dylan Larkin (4) (Xavier Ouellet)

Penalty Summary:

First Period:

BUF: 6:35 - Nathan Beaulieu (2 min., slashing)

DET: 13:30 - Trevor Daley (2 min., tripping)

Second Period:

BUF: 2:49 - Jordan Nolan (2 min., boarding)

BUF: 4:23 - Evander Kane (2 min., cross checking)

BUF: 8:36 - Seth Griffith (2 min., holding)

DET: 19:23 - Darren Helm (2 min., interference)

Third Period:

BUF: 3:04 - Jordan Nolan (2 min., holding)

Shots on Goal:

BUF - 20; DET - 33

Goalies:

BUF: Lehner - 30 saves
DET: Howard - 19 saves

Powerplays:

BUF: 0 for 2 (0%)
DET: 0 for 5 (0%)

From the Locker Room: Sabres-Red Wings

WGR550

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

Locker room reaction from Ryan O'Reilly, the lone Sabre to score on Friday, as well as Evander Kane, Jack Eichel and Robin Lehner.

Ryan O'Reilly:

On the 2nd period penalties: "Definitely too many penalties, but you know, we did do some good things at it. The 5-on-3 was good, we killed it off, but when you have that many it's tough to find rhythm. Take some guys out of the game, it's tough to climb back off that."

On the Red Wings' speed: "They were skating. Definitely they generated a lot more than last game. I think we were on the other end of it, where we were a little bit hesitant and kind of afraid to make a mistake. It was too tough. They got more bounces than us. That happens when you're skating harder. You get more bounces and it's tough to climb back."

On Buffalo's effort: "To a man here, we're embarrassed with it. We're not happy. We need a much better effort. The penalties killed momentum, but there's little things we can do that can generate that again. Myself, I gotta step up. I'm supposed to be a leader of this team. That's an area I have to find a way to rally these guys and get us going."

Full audio: <http://www.wgr550.com/media/audio-channel/11-17-ryan-oreilly-post-game>

Evander Kane

On Detroit's speed: "They have some fast players. We were aware of that going into the game. We were too loose, we weren't physical enough. We weren't hard on their speedy players. Only thing it boils down to, we weren't physical enough."

On the Sabres goaltending: "I have to mention [Lehner]. I can't say enough about his game all year. He's been outstanding. He makes 4 or 5 highlight reel saves every night. Nobody talks about it outside of probably this locker room. He deserves a lot of credit. We left him to hang out to dry. He should have had a shutout tonight with how well he played."

Evander Kane: <http://www.wgr550.com/media/audio-channel/11-17-evander-kane-post-game>

Jack Eichel

On going down with an injury near the end of the 2nd period: "I'm good."

Full audio: <http://www.wgr550.com/media/audio-channel/11-17-jack-eichel-post-game>

Robin Lehner

On the pace of the Red Wings: "They were faster than we were today. It was pretty ugly today, I think. Felt like we got momentum from the PKs. Think we did a good job, but I think we got tired too. I don't know how many minutes of the 20 minutes we were in our zone in the 2nd period. Must have been a large majority."

More on Detroit's speed and the 2nd period penalties: "They were a lot faster than us today. They forced us to take penalties. We're lucky we don't get a couple of 5-minute penalties there too. Even when we were right in it, 1-0 going into the 3rd, I don't think that result reflects what was happening out there."

On his performance: "I can feel as good as I want, we're not winning right now. It really doesn't matter to me. It's tough. It's very tough. We're professionals. We gotta move on, but these ones are tough."

Full audio: <http://www.wgr550.com/media/audio-channel/11-17-robin-lehner-post-game>

5 Observations: Red Wings take down Sabres 3-1

WKBW

Matt Bove

Nov 17, 2017

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BRUCE BENNETTSHOW CAPTION

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WKBW) - Over the years Detroit Red Wings goaltender Jimmy Howard has absolutely owned the Buffalo Sabres. That dominance continued on Friday as the Red Wings topped the Sabres 3-1. With the loss, Buffalo has now dropped four games in a row and fall to an abysmal 5-10-4. Ryan O'Reilly scored the Sabres lone goal while Luke Glendening, Tomas Tatar and Dylan Larkin found the back of the net for the Red Wings.

Five observations from Friday's loss:

Need more goals

Well obviously.....

In three of the Sabres last four games Buffalo has only scored one goal. Not surprisingly, the Sabres lost all of those game and are have now lost four in a row.

If Buffalo is going to snap this losing streak they need to start giving their goaltender some help. Sure, they scored four goals on Tuesday in their loss to the Pittsburgh Penguins but spent almost the entire second half of the game chasing the defending Stanley Cup Champions.

You could certainly make the argument that players like Jack Eichel, Kyle Okposo and Sam Reinhart need to step up and that's true. But lack of scoring from the Sabres third and fourth line continues to be a major problem. If that wasn't bad enough, the Sabres still don't have a goal from a defenseman 19 games into the season.

Locked In Lehner

Despite taking the loss and allowing three goals, Robin Lehner was the Sabres best player against Detroit, bailing the Sabres out time and time again. While his stats might not jump off the score sheet, if it wasn't for Lehner this game wouldn't have been close.

Playing with fire

Entering Friday's game the Red Wings owned the fifth most efficient power play in the NHL. On Wednesday their man advantage dominance was on full display, converting on four power play attempts against the Calgary Flames.

Moral of the story -- Don't take penalties against the Red Wings.

Apparently the Sabres didn't get the memo but on Friday it didn't matter, as the Sabres killed off all five Detroit attempts. As a matter of fact, Buffalo actually had several solid chances while shorthanded, including a Jordan Nolan breakaway and a Benoit Pouliot shot that rang off the post.

At the end of the day, this might be the lone positive for the Sabres on Friday.

That was close

Matthew Bové ✓@Matt_Bove

Eichel returns for the third period #Sabres

9:25 PM - Nov 17, 2017 · Buffalo, NY

For as bad as Friday proved to be for the Sabres it was nearly a lot worse. With just seconds remaining in the second period Jack Eichel was taken down by Red Wings' forward Luke Glendening. After the play, Eichel slowly skated to the and went into the locker room for the remainder of the period.

After what was surely a long intermission for Sabres fans Eichel returned to the ice for the third period. Buffalo already has a hard time scoring goals, could you imagine how much they would struggle without their assistant captain?

Two big names return

To be clear, this isn't an observation from the Sabres game on Friday but it seemed like a pretty important update a lot of fans have been asking about. While the Sabres were in Detroit, their AHL affiliate was in action down the 90 as the Amerks hosted the Hartford Wolf Pack. For the first time this year, the Amerks were joined by Alex Nylander and Evan Rodrigues, who both suffered injuries prior to the start of this season.

Nylander, the Sabres 2016 first-round pick, suffered a lower-body injury during the Prospects Challenge in the summer. What was originally believed to be day-to-day lingered for more than two months. After a lengthy absence, Nylander returned to practice earlier in the week before making his debut. In the second period against Hartford Nylander tallied his first point of the season, picking up an assist on CJ Smith's fourth goal of the year.

It was also Rodrigues' first game of the season after suffering a hand injury with the Sabres during the preseason. According to Paul Hamilton of WGR 550, Rodrigues was cleared to play just hours before Rochester's game, which is why there wasn't an announcement made that he was sent to Rochester or playing on Friday.

O'Reilly's goal not enough in 3-1 loss to Red Wings

WIVB

By Nick Filipowski,

November 17, 2017

Detroit Red Wings center Dylan Larkin celebrates his goal against the Buffalo Sabres during the third period of an NHL hockey game Friday, Nov. 17, 2017, in Detroit. Detroit won 3-1. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WIVB) – Robin Lehner did the best he could to keep the Sabres in their game against Detroit Friday night. He stopped 30 of the 33 shots he faced in a 3-1 loss — and didn't get much puck support.

Ryan O'Reilly's seventh goal of the year was the lone tally for Buffalo, which has scored one goal in four of their last six game.

The Blue and Gold were out-shot 33-20 in the game, and only had four shots in the second period. Star forward Jack Eichel had one shot on goal in nearly 19 minutes on the ice.

The loss, their fourth straight, drops the Sabres to 5-10-4 overall — which is the second worst record in the league — only better than the Arizona Coyotes (3-15-3).

Buffalo returns home Saturday to face Carolina at 7 p.m. at Keybank Center.

Q&A: Sabres winger Evander Kane talks trade rumors, hockey's social rules and his hot start

The Athletic

Craig Custance

Nov. 17, 2017

By Craig Custance 15 hours ago

Buffalo Sabres winger Evander Kane is off to one of the strongest starts of his career, and it's coming when his name has started to reappear in the NHL's rumor mill. In the final year of his contract, the talented Kane is on pace for 40 goals, and his uncertain future has put him back in the middle of trade speculation. A big season could catapult him to the top of the 2018 free agent class (we currently have him at No. 4) if John Tavares re-signs with the Islanders.

Kane chatted with The Athletic's Craig Custance about those potential distractions, how the NBA promotes its players better than the NHL and more in this Friday conversation:

Custance: You're finally healthy to start the season for a long stretch. How has that impacted your game most?

Kane: It's obviously the difference of being able to play. That's the main thing. I've come to camp the last three seasons prior to this one in great shape and ready to go and kind of had some freak injuries occur in those first handful of games. I've been fortunate that I've kind of got rid of that. That's been nice, being able to get off to a good start and just carry over from last year.

CC: When you got hurt previously and tried to get back into a rhythm, how long would it take you before you felt like you were back at the top of your game?

Kane: I always felt I shot myself in the foot a little bit; I'd always try to come back as soon as possible to play, kind of the playoff attitude. Once I feel OK that I can play, I'd come back, and last year, I definitely came back too early. When the doctor is telling you six to eight weeks and you come back in three and a half with four broken ribs, it's probably a little too soon. I have no excuse for that. It took me a little bit of time to get comfortable coming off the injury. Once I did, I felt great, obviously had a good 60 games after I scored my first goal.

CC: When was the last time you would say you had a season where you had a full camp and felt this good in November?

Kane: Probably when I scored 30 (goals in 2011-12). The next year we had the lockout. And then, had, I guess, a full camp, was on a pace for another 30. Then I got hurt the following year. And then the next year. And then the next year. This year I've been able to stay healthy. So, (it was a) tough stretch.

CC: The big story for you this year is that's it's a contract year. There's going to be trade rumors. How do you block that out?

Kane: You know what? I'm not necessarily trying to block it out, I just don't focus on it. It's not going to do you any good or help your case or your team. For me, I just embrace it. I enjoy it. It's something that you have to be aware of.

CC: You mean your contract or a possible trade?

Kane: Everything. Everything. When you're a free agent, there's a lot of different things that can happen, but really the only thing you can control is your play on the ice and help your team win, that's all I'm trying to do this season.

CC: When you got traded by Winnipeg, did you have an inkling it was coming?

Kane: I had requested a trade a few years before that. And the year after. And the year after. I was aware, and it actually had to get cleared by me because I was hurt. I had to approve the deal. I was aware of it and approved it and was happy for the fresh start.

CC: This is a different scenario now.

Kane: This is a completely different scenario.

CC: You're not requesting trades as far as we know.

Kane: (laughs) No. This is a completely different scenario. I love the guys in here. I've enjoyed playing in Buffalo, I've enjoyed the city. I really like the group in here. It's really been a plus for me.

CC: When I talk to people about you and where Evander Kane fits in the free agent market, they say there are still concerns about reputation, off-ice stuff. How do you feel when that's still a thing?

Kane: For me, it's something that is two years old. Some is warranted. I think a lot of it, especially in the past in Winnipeg, wasn't. For me, it's not something I worry about. I let my on-ice play do the talking. I think off the ice, more than ever, you have to have personality if you want to sell the game. If the league wants to continue to grow, you have to have not the status quo. Not, 'Put your head down and do your job and go home and shut your mouth.'

You need guys with some personality, some flair and personality in the league. The guys that have that are successful. I think it grows the game, brings more fans into the game. It makes it more interesting. It attracts more people who maybe aren't too familiar with hockey. I think that's something we're missing. You look at the NBA, NFL, Major League Baseball, they have that. Especially, NBA. Guys (are) making \$50 million a year for a reason. It's not because their owners have more money than our owners.

CC: You think their personalities come through more, that contributes to the bottom line?

Kane: Sure, you showcase the players. Hockey is a different sport. It's a sport where it has a stigma that if you're trying to showcase yourself, or promote yourself, it's looked upon in a selfish way; especially where you are and where you play can contribute to those things. For me, hockey is a white man's sport. Me being in the minority, maybe it's looked on a little different. As long as you're performing on the ice, none of that stuff really matters.

CC: Do you feel you can't be yourself or show your personality?

Kane: I wouldn't take it that far. ... I would say, you have to be careful. Obviously, there's been some things in the past that have gone on. The last two, two and a half years, I've just tried to let my on ice play do the talking for me. I'm going to continue to do that.

Tatar goal lifts Red Wings past Sabres

Sports Xchange

Bob Duff

Nov. 17, 2017

DETROIT -- Call them dirty goals, greasy goals, even garbage goals, they are the types of tallies that haven't been a part of the Detroit Red Wings' game plan in recent years.

That situation, though, appears to be changing.

The Wings scratched and clawed their way to a 3-1 victory over the Buffalo Sabres on Friday night, and they did so by doing the sorts of things they aren't known for as a team -- throwing pucks to the net, gaining a net-front presence and cashing in on second-chance scoring opportunities.

These are the sorts of tactics coach Jeff Blashill has been demanding of his team for some time, and it finally looks like they are buying into what he's selling.

"No question, it's how you score in this league for the most part," Blashill said. "You have to score dirty. It's just the reality of the league. I think we've done a way better job of having bodies at the net, throwing pucks at the net from the side, making sure we're shooting, having a shot-first mentality when you can.

"It doesn't mean you can't make plays, but let's have a shot-first mentality. I think we've done a good job creating chaos." Luke Glendening, Tomas Tatar and Dylan Larkin scored for the Wings (10-8-2), who snapped a four-game losing streak against Buffalo. Ryan O'Reilly replied for the Sabres (5-10-4), who are winless in four games (0-2-2).

"We are embarrassed by this," O'Reilly said. "We have to play with a much better effort than we showed tonight."

All of Detroit's goals arrived in similar fashion, via hard work and determination.

"Especially in a game like this, those are the goals you're probably going to get," Red Wings captain Henrik Zetterberg said. "We got them here tonight and that was good."

Sabres goalie Robin Lehner, who shut out the Red Wings 1-0 on Oct. 24, looked to have Detroit's number again. Glendening finally solved him on the Red Wings' 21st shot of the night, ending Lehner's shutout sequence against Detroit at 126:11.

Glendening won a puck battle with Sabres defenseman Jake McCabe behind the Buffalo net, chipping it across to Darren Helm. Helm brought the puck out from back of the net and fed a cross-crease pass to Glendening.

Lehner (30 saves) got a pad on Glendening's shot, but he fired the rebound past Lehner.

"We were sticking with the program," Glendening said. "And we had a good third in response to their goal. We came back with two.

"That's what you need to do."

The Sabres tied it 5:50 into the third period. Detroit goalie Jimmy Howard (19 saves) stopped Victor Antipin's shot, but the rebound went right to O'Reilly, who snapped the puck into the net.

Tatar's fifth of the season, just 2:46 after O'Reilly's goal, proved to be the game winner.

With Wings forward Justin Abdelkader screening Lehner, Tatar's long wrist shot from just inside the blue line banked off the top of Lehner's pad and into the net.

"I don't know who stands in front, I'm guessing it was Abby," Tatar said. "Big thanks. (Lehner) probably didn't see much and I was fortunate to get the puck in."

Larkin added an insurance goal with 4:06 left in regulation. Red Wings defenseman Xavier Ouellet shot from an odd angle and Larkin slammed the rebound past Lehner.

"That was great work by my linemates," Larkin said. "Tats (Tatar) was right there in front. If he's not there, that puck doesn't bounce there and if X doesn't shoot the puck it doesn't get to me."

Sabres coach Phil Housley echoed O'Reilly's sentiments and was displeased by his team's performance.

"We didn't have any discipline and we didn't have any effort," Housley said. "We got outworked, outplayed and outthusted. "We were slow tonight, and that's not acceptable."

NOTES: Red Wings D Trevor Daley, who left Wednesday's game against Calgary with an upper-body injury, was back in the lineup. ... D Brian Lashoff, called up from AHL Grand Rapids, made his season debut for the Red Wings. ... D/RW Luke Witkowski served the first of a 10-game NHL suspension for returning to the ice to rejoin a fight after he was removed from the game by officials. ... RW Martin Frk (groin) and D Danny DeKeyser (ankle) were out with injuries. ... LW David Booth was a healthy scratch. ... D Casey Nelson and LW Matt Moulson were healthy scratches for the Sabres. ... The Sabres list six players on injured reserve -- D Matt Tennyson, Taylor Fedun, Rasmus Ristolainen and Zach Bogosian, LW Evan Rodrigues and C Jacob Josefson. ... Dean Morton, one of two NHL referees assigned to the game, played one game for the Red Wings in 1989-90 and scored a goal. He's the only player to do that in the history of the franchise. ... Sabres C Kyle Crisculo, who made his NHL debut, won a Calder Cup title last season with Detroit's Grand Rapids farm club

Sabres unable to slow down Red Wings attack in road loss

Sabres.com

by Chris Ryndak

Nov. 18, 2017

DETROIT - Robin Lehner did his part to keep the Buffalo Sabres in their game against the Detroit Red Wings on Friday at Little Caesars Arena, making 30 saves, but it still wasn't enough for Buffalo to avoid their fourth straight loss.

The Sabres entered the third period down 1-0 and outshot 21-10. Ryan O'Reilly managed to tie the game 5:50 into the third, but Detroit quickly took the lead back 2:46 later on a Tomas Tatar slap shot. Dylan Larkin then sealed the deal with 4:06 remaining to give Detroit the 3-1 win.

Buffalo found themselves in penalty trouble during the second period, but Lehner held strong between the pipes and defensemen like Josh Gorges and Jake McCabe came up with key blocks at critical times.

The Red Wings generated seven of their 13 shots of the second over the course of three power plays, including a 26-second 5-on-3 opportunity.

"We've got to be smarter. When we're down one, we can't give them a 5-on-3," Sabres coach Housley said. "But I think it goes deeper than that. I thought we just got out-battled, out-worked and out-competed tonight. At times, we even looked slow and I don't why that is. But we played one game in six nights since then. It's disappointing."

Video: BUF@DET: Lehner denies Mantha with back-to-back saves

While Detroit's power play ended up 0-for-5 on the night, the extended kills stalled Buffalo's efforts and gave the Red Wings a clear edge, especially when play returned to 5-on-5.

Lehner echoed the sentiment that Detroit played with more pace.

"Say whatever you want about the penalties, they were a lot faster than us today," he said. "They forced us to take penalties. We're lucky we didn't get a couple of five-minute penalties there too. We were right it in, 1-0 going into the third. I don't think that result reflects what was happening out there."

When it comes to that speed coming from the Red Wings, Evander Kane said it should have come as no surprise to the Sabres.

"They have some fast players and we were aware of that going into the game. We were too loose and weren't physical enough," Kane said. "We weren't hard on their speed players enough. I think it boils down to we weren't physical enough. In order to stop cycles, stop speed, you've got to sometimes put them on their ass."

Video: BUF@DET: Lehner squares up to deny Larkin

Detroit ended up missing wide on a total of 18 shot attempts the entire game (including a post by Larkin early on), and the Red Wings didn't beat Lehner until there were 55 seconds remaining in the second. Luke Glendenning backhanded a rebound in amidst traffic in front. When the horn sounded to end the second, Detroit was outshooting Buffalo by that 21-10 margin. The Sabres managed only 20 shots on goal the entire game.

"To a man here, we're embarrassed with it. We're not happy," O'Reilly said. "We need a much better effort. The penalties killed the momentum, but there are still things we can do to generate [offense]."

"I think it comes down to getting prepared to play. I think we need more commitment to winning," Housley said. "In a game like this, which I think was there for the taking - but I've seen that when we are committed to winning, we're a really good hockey team."

Up next

The Sabres are home on Saturday for Hockey Fights Cancer Night presented by Roswell Park Cancer Institute. They'll host the Carolina Hurricanes at KeyBank Center. All fans in attendance will receive a special Hockey Fights Cancer-themed scarf.

Even with all of the great off-ice events happening around the game, Housley is well aware of the fact that his team needs to come out and put in a good showing.

The Sabres are coming off back-to-back overtime losses on the road and will now enter a stretch that includes six of their next seven games played at KeyBank Center, including the next four in a row.

"We're going to have to right the ship because Carolina's a pretty good hockey team right now," Housley said. "They've got pretty good balance so we've got an opportunity tomorrow to start this four-game homestand the right way. But we've got to come to work"

Criscuolo to make NHL debut in Buffalo's 1st game at Little Caesars Arena

Sabres.com

by Chris Ryndak

November 17th, 2017

DETROIT - After a little over a year in the Detroit Red Wings organization that included a Calder Cup championship with their AHL affiliate, Kyle Criscuolo will make his NHL debut tonight in Detroit. But he'll be do so wearing a Buffalo Sabres uniform.

Criscuolo, who signed a two-year contract with the Sabres in July following his stint in Detroit, received his first-ever recall yesterday and will be in the lineup for Buffalo at Little Caesars Arena. He's slated to center a line with Zemgus Girgensons and Jordan Nolan.

Through 14 games with the Rochester Americans this year, Criscuolo is tied for the team lead with 11 points (5+6).

"Last year, I was just trying to pave my way in the AHL and develop every day," he said. "I don't have any hard feelings toward them in any way. It was a decision I had to make in the summer, where I wanted to go, and this was the best spot for me.

"...I'm just going to try to bring speed and grit and play hard. I want to bring a 200-foot game and try to outwork the other guy next to me and win 1-on-1 battles the best I can."

Preview: BUF at DET (11/17/17)

02:55 • November 17th, 2017

And now he'll have his parents, his brother, his sister, his girlfriend and some friends in attendance to watch him play in his first NHL game.

"They're pretty thrilled. My mom and dad are obviously ecstatic," he said. "It's always cool to get the family back together on the road or somewhere fun and to have it come around on my first game is pretty special."

The GMC Game Night pregame show is slated to start at 7 p.m. on MSG. RJ and Rayzor will have the call just after 7:30 in the first-ever Sabres game at the new Little Caesars Arena. You can also listen to the game on WGR 550.

New rink, same lively boards?

Phil Housley Pregame (11/17/17)

04:42 • November 17th, 2017

Joe Louis Arena was infamous for its boards having a little extra spring in them. After a quick inspection during the morning skate today, Sabres coach Phil Housley and a few of the players have noticed that the new boards at Little Caesars Arena carry some of The Joe's DNA.

"You can see that the boards are very lively," Housley said. "I know Detroit scored a goal last game against Calgary where they threw it off an end board from the defensive blue line."

Housley noted that having awareness up ice will be critical tonight so that the Sabres aren't caught flatfooted if a puck does ricochet by them.

Robin Lehner, tonight's expected starter, was impressed with the new arena and is anticipating a little jump in the boards as well.

"They were pretty bouncy, but I think every arena is pretty different. There are certain arenas that are a lot bouncier than others. This was fairly bouncy," he said. "Pucks were coming off pretty fast from the boards. It's a very nice rink."

His last game against Detroit was a 1-0 shutout victory at home back on Oct. 24. Since joining the Sabres, Lehner is 3-1-1 against the Red Wings with a .961 save percentage and a 1.38 goals-against average.

Searching for consistency

Buffalo, however, is coming off two overtime losses in which they surrendered a one-goal lead in the third period of each game.

"A good performance doesn't really give you anything. It doesn't give you anything in our standings and doesn't contribute towards our goal. It doesn't help us off the ice, either," Lehner said. "We've got to find ways. Trust me, it's miserable not winning games.

"...There's a lot of competition in this league and that's why there's such a small margin for error. That's why details matter in this league. You expect every team to have a hard compete level. That's basic. Everyone going out working, we get paid a lot of money to go out and work hard. Working hard isn't enough.

"That should be a standard, but when you look at the good teams, it's all about patience, sticking to their game plan, sticking to what the coach implements, but also doing it shift after shift, period after period.

"Of course you're going to have let-downs, but if you do the right things for a long period of time, you get rewarded. And when you don't, you start taking it into your own hands and you don't. It's definitely frustrating, but we've got to keep learning."

They're 5-9-4 overall on the season and 4-4-2 in their last 10, including those back-to-back overtime losses.

"It's .500 hockey as of late. We win one, we lose one, we win two, lose two. It's frustrating, but you've just got to stay positive more than anything," defenseman Jake McCabe said. "You've got to go over video sessions, learn from our mistakes, look at our positive clips and take the positives out of that, and learn from that, really.

"Building off that comes with building up confidence. Confidence is a major key in this league and we just need to string a few together here to get that confidence and that good feeling in the room. It starts tonight."

Housley noted that he'd like to see one specific improvement from his club when the next overtime game rolls around - and it starts right as the puck is being dropped. Buffalo has lost the opening faceoff in each of its five overtime sessions this season.

"That first draw would be really nice to win. Then you can get the possession and maintain the possession and set an attack in that regard," he said. "That would be the first thing looking into overtime and then obviously, overtime - mainly 3-on-3 - you're manning your check and having an awareness of where your check is at all times.

"You can't blink because they've got some speed over there and we've got really manage that area because if you let them go and get ahead of you, they're going to make plays."

Projected lineup

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

6 Marco Scandella - 41 Justin Falk
19 Jake McCabe - 82 Nathan Beaulieu
4 Josh Gorges - 93 Victor Antipin

40 Robin Lehner
31 Chad Johnson

Scratches: 8 Casey Nelson, 26 Matt Moulson

Housley said that Falk is a game-time decision after the defenseman was given yesterday's practice off for maintenance. Nelson would draw in if Falk is unable to play.

Sharpen Up: November 17, 2017

Sabres.com

by Jourdon LaBarber

Nov. 17, 2017

A stretch of six games in nine days for the Sabres begins tonight in Detroit, where they'll face the Red Wings for the second time this season and the first at Little Caesars Arena. The Sabres previously beat the Red Wings 1-0 in Buffalo on Oct. 24.

Coverage tonight begins at 7 p.m. with GMC Gamenight on MSG-B, or you can listen live on WGR 550. Puck drop is set for 7:30.

Here's what you need to know on this Friday morning.

Sabres recall Criscuolo

While it's not yet set in stone, we may see the NHL debut for Kyle Criscuolo tonight in Detroit. Criscuolo was recalled for the first time Thursday and practiced on a line with Jordan Nolan and Zemgus Girgensons, but Sabres coach Phil Housley said his status for tonight will be a game-time decision.

With Criscuolo on the roster, the Sabres reassigned Nicholas Baptiste to Rochester later on Thursday afternoon.

There was a point in time when an NHL debut for Criscuolo looked like no certainty at all. Perhaps for his 5-foot-8-inch stature, he went undrafted heading into his collegiate career at Harvard University, where he'd go on to serve as team captain as a junior and senior (making him the first player to do so, according to Harvard's student paper, since George Owen in 1923).

His collegiate success earned him a minor league contract with Detroit's AHL team in Grand Rapids, where he scored 41 points en route to a Calder Cup championship last season.

This season, he's tied with C.J. Smith for the Amerks lead with 11 points (5+6) in 14 games.

You can read more about Criscuolo's journey in Thursday's practice report, or hear from him below in Thursday's Sabres Now:

Video: Sabres Now (11/16/17)

Another injury on defense

Justin Falk and Taylor Fedun were both absent from practice on Thursday, adding to a list of defensemen that already included Zach Bogosian, Rasmus Ristolainen and Matt Tennyson. Housley said that Falk's absence was simply a maintenance day, but Fedun is expected to miss 6-to-8 weeks with a lower-body injury.

With Zach Redmond nursing an injury in Rochester as well, the Sabres recalled Casey Nelson on Thursday to add an extra body on defense. He filled in for Falk alongside Marco Scandella, with the defensive pairs shaping up as follows:

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

Nelson, who's played in 18 games with Buffalo over the past two seasons, has four points (1+3) in 14 games for Rochester.

Tonight's game

Here's a look back to the last time the Sabres played the Red Wings, a game in which Phil Housley praised his team's ability to keep things simple and stick to their game plan en route to a 1-0 win. Benoit Pouliot scored the lone goal in the game while Robin Lehner made 32 saves for his first shutout.

Video: Condensed Game: Red Wings @ Sabres

Since then, the Sabres have looked to establish that type of effort on a consistent basis while the Red Wings have begun to see their season trend upward. Detroit enters the night 3-1-1 in its last five games, coming off of an 8-2 blowout at home against Calgary on Wednesday.

Special teams have been a strength for the Red Wings, and they scored four of their eight goals against Calgary on the power play. The Sabres, too, have seen their power play turn a corner with four goals in eight chances over their last three games.

Wondering who to watch on the Red Wings? They're led this season by a pair of young forwards in Anthony Mantha, who boasts a team-high 19 points (10+9), and Dylan Larkin with 18 (3+15). Martin Frk, Frans Nielsen and Gustav Nyquist have six goals apiece.

From the notes

Here are some of the highlights from our friends at Sabres PR:

Evander Kane has a point in each of his last four games (3+2). A point tonight would give him his first five-game point streak since his career-best eight game streak from Feb. 12 to 26, 2013.

Since joining the Sabres, Robin Lehner is 3-1-1 against the Red Wings with a .961 save percentage and a 1.38 goals-against average.

The Sabres enter tonight's game with four consecutive wins against Detroit for the first time since Buffalo won five in a row from Feb. 6, 1981 to Jan. 6, 1982.

Hockey Fights Cancer Night is Saturday

The Sabres, in conjunction with the Courage of Carly Fund at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, will hold Hockey Fights Cancer Night during the team's home game against Carolina on Saturday. All fans attending the game will receive a co-branded Sabres and Courage of Carly Fund scarf.

We have plenty more information about what's always a special night at KeyBank Center, which you can find at Sabres.com/HFC.

Turkeys for Tickets

Tweet from @BuffaloSabres: Thank you to all who donated for our #TurkeysForTickets   Drive! We collected more than 2,500 turkeys for @FoodBankofWNY & @CityMission! #OneBuffalo pic.twitter.com/BFS0QU6HpE

On Tap

Chris Ryndak and Dan Dunleavy are on site in Detroit, and they'll have updates after the team takes the ice for their morning skate around 11:30 a.m. Then, check back here after the game for highlights, locker room reaction and more.