



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

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Aho scores late to lift Hurricanes over Sabres

Associated Press

By Jonah Bronstein

November 18, 2017

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Sebastian Aho made his 100th NHL game was one to remember.

Aho scored with 4:45 remaining to lift the Carolina Hurricanes over the Buffalo Sabres 3-1 on Saturday night.

After going scoreless through the first 15 games, Aho has a goal in three straight.

“I think I’m playing the same way,” Aho said. “It’s just, you get the first one, it’s easier to get. So I think that’s just the key.”

Justin Williams scored in the second period and Joakim Nordstrom added an empty-netter. Scott Darling had 24 saves for the Hurricanes, who are 4-1-1 since losing four in a row.

“This is a good step and now we need to start getting something rolling positive in our direction,” Williams said.

Evander Kane scored for the Sabres, who have lost five straight. Chad Johnson stopped 30 shots.

“The bottom line is they took advantage of our mistakes and we didn’t take advantage of theirs,” Sabres coach Phil Housley said. “It is testing my patience.”

Aho scored on a breakaway after Buffalo’s Justin Falk lost the puck near his own blue line. Aho’s wrist shot from the right slot went over Johnson’s glove.

“Good finish,” Carolina coach Bill Peters said. “A few weeks ago, that doesn’t go in for him, and now it does.”

Williams gave Carolina a 1-0 lead with 5:14 left in the second. On an odd-man rush with Marcus Kruger, Williams stopped in the left slot, faked a pass and beat Johnson with a low wrist shot.

“I’ve been passing up a lot of opportunities lately and I almost blew that one, too,” Williams said. “Thankfully I was able to make the play.”

Nordstrom scored with 41 seconds remaining.

Kane got his 11th of the season to tie it with 7:33 remaining in the third. Ryan O’Reilly stole a pass from Haydn Fleury and fed Kane in the left slot.

Kane appeared to score again 10 seconds later off a rebound, but officials determined via replay that he kicked the puck into the net.

“I didn’t agree with it,” Kane said. “I was pretty self-conscious of not making a kicking motion and kicking the puck into the net.”

The Sabres didn’t have a shot on goal for the first 17:21 of the game. Jordan Nolan shot wide of the net on a breakaway in the opening minutes.

Darling made his best save of the night on a Sabres’ power play late in the first period when he dropped his stick and dove across the crease to catch Kyle Okposo’s backhand.

“I just shut my eyes and dove over there, so I was just happy it hit me,” Darling said. “It’s just pure desperation. Lost it, dive, hope for the best.”

NOTES: Carolina played without F Josh Jooris (soreness) but had Kruger in the lineup after he missed Thursday’s loss to the Islanders due to illness. ... Hurricanes LW Phillip Di Giuseppe was in the lineup for a second straight game after being called

up from the minors. ... Buffalo activated F Evan Rodrigues on Friday and assigned him to AHL Rochester. Rodrigues had been out since Sept. 22 with a hand injury.

UP NEXT

Hurricanes: Host the New York Islanders on Saturday.

Sabres: Host Columbus on Monday night.

With few players doing their jobs, Sabres' plummet continues

The Buffalo News

By John Vogl

November 18, 2017

Chad Johnson has lived a nomadic hockey life. He has played for a different organization each of the past seven seasons.

No matter where Johnson has been, one fundamental truth has remained constant.

"At the end of the day," the Buffalo Sabres goaltender said Saturday, "you just have to do your job or somebody else will."

It might be time for Buffalo to start looking for somebody else to do its jobs.

With one-quarter of the season gone, the Sabres are one of the two worst teams in the NHL. Their winless streak stretched to five games Saturday with a 3-1 loss to Carolina. They have won just five of their 20 games, falling to 5-11-4.

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"It is testing my patience," coach Phil Housley said in KeyBank Center. "The last game in Detroit was really the end of my wick as far as remaining patient and making some adjustments."

The coach made a minor move against the Hurricanes, moving right wing Jason Pominville up a line and dropping Kyle Okposo down one. It equated to having a bucket on the deck of the Titanic.

For the fifth time in seven games and seventh time in 11, the Sabres scored one goal. They are last in the league at 2.3 goals per game.

After recording 10 shots through 40 minutes during Friday's 3-1 loss to Detroit, they had 13 after two periods against Carolina.

"We've had our chances, but we definitely need to generate more offense," said left wing Evander Kane, who scored his 11th goal. "A lot of that has to do with execution, a lot of that has to do with taking the puck to the net instead of playing along the perimeter. I think we play along the perimeter way too much."

Actually, they play without the puck way too much. It took them 17:24 to register their first shot.

Other than Kane's third-period goal and his apparent second one 10 seconds later that was disallowed for a kicking motion, that long-awaited first period shot drew the loudest cheer of the night. It was sarcastic, but at least the fans had something to do.

They have to be wondering if General Manager Jason Botterill will do something soon.

"We've just got to commit to the right style," right wing Jordan Nolan said. "We didn't have it the other night. We were a little better tonight, but if you're going back and forth between playing the right way and not, you're not going to win a lot of hockey games.

"Until this team figures out what we need to do as a whole bunch here, then we're not going to win too many hockey games."

What is the right style for this team?

"We've got to just manage the puck a lot better," Nolan said. "We've got to be more intense in our battles. We've got to care about the D-zone and our defensive play.

"Once we start doing that, we'll start getting some chances in the O-zone. We'll start turning pucks over like teams are doing on us, and that's how you win hockey games."

The Sabres certainly aren't winning now. They're 0-3-2 in the last five games. Their points percentage of .350 is ahead of only the .250 put up by Arizona (4-15-3).

Buffalo is on pace for 57 points. During the last-place seasons of 2013-14 and 2014-15, the Sabres had 52 and 54 points, respectively.

Being grouped with those teams is not good – not good at all.

"We're definitely finding our game, but it's to be expected," Johnson said of the slow start. "I've been on fresh teams for the last couple years. It's part of finding the identity. There will be ups and downs.

"You can't get behind too far or no matter how you play it's going to be pretty challenging. I think you always have to stay in the hunt, and you have to push, push every day to find that game and find that consistency in the game."

The Sabres aren't pushing or finding consistency. It's easy to wonder if they need to find different players.

Mike Harrington: Twenty games in, struggles of Sabres and Eichel are hard to figure

The Buffalo News

By Mike Harrington

November 18, 2017

Remember that old saying about someone who can't dance having two left feet?

Meet a hockey team you might know. At this point, the Buffalo Sabres are playing with two left skates.

Through 20 games of their season, it is utterly baffling to comprehend where this team is. If Jason Botterill and Phil Housley thought over the summer they had the answers that Tim Murray and Dan Bylsma didn't, they've quickly learned otherwise.

As we, um, sharpen our swords in the wake of Saturday's 3-1 loss to Carolina, an utter snoozefest until the final eight minutes, there's one gnawing issue that keeps growing: What's going on with Jack Eichel?

Forget about an elephant in the room. This is an entire herd. Eichel is not the guy we've seen the last two years. He was invisible again for long stretches Saturday -- not getting a single shot on goal for more than 48 minutes.

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Eichel has five goals in 20 games, tallying just once in his last 11. He's got a minus-9 rating for the season. Those are the numbers. Now let's move to things you can't measure.

Eichel's body language has been terrible much of season. It's a dirty little secret fans are finally figuring out that he floats off the ice far too much on the end of his shifts.

Just don't tell Housley that. The coach simply isn't dissing any of his players in public, let alone the face of the franchise. Fair enough. You can respect that. And Housley certainly knows what happened to Bylsma seven months ago too.

On one second-period play, Eichel was easily stripped of the puck by Carolina's Sebastian Aho. It's the kind of lax play you've seen more from him in the first 20 games this season than in his first two years combined.

Eichel got his wish with the firing of Bylsma, and he wasn't alone in that desire either. He got his \$80 million contract as well last month. He better start repaying this franchise even before he starts collecting those big bucks come July.

On Justin Williams' second-period goal that opened the scoring, Eichel was among several Sabres who just floated back on the play during a 2-on-1 break after a power play had ended. Resting his stick on his knees, Eichel was no factor as Williams set up shop in front of Chad Johnson, buckled Nathan Beaulieu at the knees and beat Johnson.

Sure, Eichel & Co. were spent from a long shift. Too bad. That's how it goes sometimes. Where's the extra effort? Where's any effort? Not acceptable from your megabucks man and maybe your future captain.

"Was it Williams that came out of the box? It's a tough play," Eichel said. "You're in the offensive zone trying to score and it's quickly going the other way and it's in your net."

You want Eichel to be better on the ice. To his credit, at least, he's almost always accountable for his play after games. He's 21 now, in his third year in the league and just broke the bank, so that's now going to be required.

But Housley wasn't touching any thought of Eichel floating.

"I thought Jack had a better game tonight, was definitely better in his own end," was Housley's answer.

Seriously. It only looked like the coach's nose was growing.

"I really liked the speed that he brought through the neutral zone," Housley said. "We have to see more of that."

Fair enough. Eichel's last 10 minutes were dynamic. Now what about the first two periods?

"You look at the whole body of work in the game," Housley said. "He's killing penalties and I thought he did a terrific job on the power play and I think there's an improvement in that area."

So after some keeping-it-real tough talk following Friday's no-show in Detroit from the coach, say hello to the return of Pollyanna Phil.

Still, let's not get totally crazy on Eichel on that goal. Just for the record. Victor Antipin simply can't make the pinch he made on the play near the end of a penalty and Nathan Beaulieu looked silly trying to play the odd-man rush.

Housley was angry in Detroit. Said it again here Saturday morning. Didn't look like his team was. There were 10 shots on goal in the first two periods Friday in Little Caesars Arena and 13 in the first two periods at home Saturday.

"We're killing penalties, we're in our own end not generating shots," Eichel said. "We put ourselves down, played in our own end. Missed the net on a few shots in tight. Had a breakaway that missed (by Jordan Nolan). It's tough when you have chances."

So what's it going to take for this team to play 60 minutes or even come close?

"It's mental errors. You saw the game. You know," Eichel said. "It's tough. We had them hemmed in at times and let them off the hook. It's little stuff that adds up. It's not an easy league to win in. We have to find a way to give more."

Sure do.

Arizona is only three points behind the Sabres. Arizona! The Sabres have won just five times in 20 games. By this point, in year three with Eichel and the first season with one of the most highly touted new coach-GM combos in the league, this was not part of the blueprint.

Story topics: Buffalo Sabres/ Jack Eichel/ Mike Harrington

Sabres Notebook: Tributes for Hockey Fights Cancer; Nylander hit in return; Bogosian skating

The Buffalo News

By John Vogl

November 18, 2017

Chad Johnson has always had a red maple leaf painted on the back of his goalie mask. Through the years, he's added initials of loved ones who have passed away.

Johnson is up to five now, including four who died from cancer.

"Eventually, I'll have to get a bigger maple leaf, unfortunately," the Buffalo Sabres goaltender said.

Johnson's tribute had added importance Saturday as the Sabres took part in the NHL's Hockey Fights Cancer initiative. Johnson showed off the mask with initials of his late grandfathers, Alex Laslow and Gilbert Johnson, and his uncles, Frank Laslow, Kelly Johnson and Larry Johnson.

Frank Laslow died of multiple sclerosis, while the other four succumbed to cancer.

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"All fairly young," Johnson said. "Everybody in this world has somebody that's been affected unfortunately by it. It's definitely that type of month to really reflect and bring awareness to it."

In addition to raising money and awareness, Hockey Fights Cancer allows players, coaches and fans to fondly recall their late friends and relatives.

Buffalo coach Phil Housley smiled while remembering his childhood. His father, LeRoy, would drive Housley's brother to games. The future coach would hop in the car with his mother, MaryLee, for his rides to the rink. She was a vocal supporter during games.

"I still remember her ringing the cowbell back in the day," Housley said in KeyBank Center. "She loved to come to the games, and she was a great person to lean on."

MaryLee Housley died of brain cancer in 2000 at age 59. She missed the defenseman's appearance in the 2002 Olympics, his Hockey Hall of Fame induction and rise up the coaching ranks.

"She died at a young age, so it's really important to recognize this cause," Housley said. "It's a great cause, and we're still fighting."

The Sabres honored Hockey Fights Cancer Night by wearing purple warmup jerseys that will be auctioned at Auctions.NHL.com to benefit their foundation. They sold autographed hats to benefit Roswell Park Cancer Institute. All fans attending the game against Carolina received a purple scarf co-branded with logos of the Sabres and the Courage of Carly Fund.

Formerly known as Carly's Club, the Courage of Carly Fund helps children at Roswell Park.

"Cancer affects everyone," Sabres defenseman Marco Scandella said. "I'm no exception. I lost my dad a couple years ago. It's a special night for me."

Francesco Scandella died in December 2015. Born in Italy, he moved to Quebec to find work. He also found a wife and started a family.

"I just think about him every day," Scandella said. "He taught me everything I know. He was just a great example for me on how to be a man. I just take that with me and I just play with that every game and try to make him proud."

"It's a terrible disease. That's why it's great to have this month to try to find a cure and do everything we can."

Housley said Alex Nylander needs to work on his timing. That's fitting since someone already cleaned his clock.

Nylander played his first game of the season Friday in Rochester, and the Sabres' No. 1 draft pick in 2016 earned an assist during a 4-2 victory over Hartford.

"The first couple shifts were a little rusty, but the second period I felt great out there," Nylander told Rochester media. "It just feels really good right now."

He's actually lucky to feel good. The winger, who had been nursing a lower-body injury since September, took a crushing hit from former Sabres forward Dan Catenacci.

17 Nov

Dan Fetes @danfetes

Nylander just got laid out.

Huge hit. Was able to get up. Seems fine.

Dan Fetes @danfetes

VIDEO: Alexander Nylander takes a HUGE hit from Hartford's Dan Catenacci. Teammates had his back...fight ensues.

Nylander got up. Seemed fine. #Sabres #Amerks pic.twitter.com/9ph95qOPnG

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"I sort of didn't know what to do when I saw him coming there, but I just had to take the hit," Nylander said. "I'm happy that I'm OK."

Amerks defenseman Arvin Atwal immediately jumped Catenacci for a fight. Because Atwal received an instigator penalty during the final five minutes of the game, the American Hockey League issued a one-game suspension. Atwal sat Saturday's visit to Binghamton.

The Amerks also welcomed back forward Evan Rodrigues, who suffered a hand injury during a Sabres preseason game.

"Hopefully, they can continue to build off the game," Housley said, "just to find your timing, especially being away that long. It takes some time, and then you come up to another level and the game is much faster. We're just trying to get their timing back and in shape."

The Sabres' injury carousel has forced the emptying and filling of locker stalls. Forward Jacob Josefson and defenseman Zach Bogosian, who both have lower-body injuries, have their equipment in the dressing room again.

It means they're getting closer, but they're not that close.

"They're still week-to-week right now," Housley said. "They've been skating, and they've made really good strides in that area. But we're just being cautious."

The Wraparound: Hurricanes 3, Sabres 1

Buffalo News

By John Vogl

November 18, 2017

For a few minutes Saturday night, it appeared the Buffalo Sabres would win despite playing an ugly, ugly game.

They got the result they deserved.

The Sabres didn't show a pulse until the third period. It was enough to lift them into a 1-1 tie with Carolina, but the Hurricanes quickly scored to extend the Sabres' winless streak.

Buffalo suffered a 3-1 loss, falling to 0-3-2 in the last five games. The crowd in KeyBank Center saw the Sabres drop to 5-11-4 this season.

No more doughnut: The Sabres finally got rid of the zero on the scoreboard with 7:33 to play. Evander Kane sped behind the Carolina defense to accept a pass from Ryan O'Reilly. The left winger beat goaltender Scott Darling between the pads for his 11th goal of the season.

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Almost a dozen: Just 10 seconds after his goal, Kane celebrated again. Darling kicked a Sam Reinhart rebound to the driving winger, who put the puck back into the net.

The officials went to a video review and erased the goal, determining that Kane kicked the puck.

Costly mistake: The puck bounced off the stick of Sabres defenseman Justin Falk near his blue line, and the Hurricanes took advantage. Sebastian Aho swooped in for a breakaway, and he fired past goaltender Chad Johnson to make it 2-1 with 4:45 remaining.

Seal it: The Hurricanes' Joakim Nordstrom scored into an empty net with 40.9 seconds left.

Turn it around: The Sabres had a chance to breathe life into a moribund second period with a power play. They took only two shots.

The Hurricanes' Justin Williams stepped out of the penalty box and soon had the puck for a two-on-one. Buffalo defenseman Nathan Beaulieu took away the pass, so Williams hit the brakes. He had time to pick his spot from close range and make it 1-0 with 5:14 left in the second.

That kind of start: Sabres center Johan Larsson had a breakaway chance just after Williams' goal, but he failed to score. As Larsson followed the puck to the boards, he took a high-sticking penalty.

Well, it was improvement: The Sabres said they were embarrassed to have only 10 shots through two periods Friday in Detroit. They had more Saturday – a measly 13.

Neither Eichel nor Reinhart had a shot through 40 minutes.

Eichel had a chance to make it 1-1 with 11:35 remaining in the game. Kane fed the wide-open center in the slot, but Eichel shot the puck into Darling.

Welcome to the Bronx: Sabres fans unleashed a Bronx cheer for the ages. They had 17:24 to warm up for it. That's how long it took Buffalo to get its first shot.

Evander Kane cut the slot and fired into Darling with 2:36 left in the first, and the crowd erupted as if Buffalo had won the game. The Sabres finished the scoreless first period in an 8-4 shot hole.

Two-man disadvantage again: The Sabres took back-to-back penalties during the first period, giving the opponent a five-on-three for the third straight game. Buffalo killed it off with a unique look.

Eichel and fellow center Ryan O'Reilly joined defenseman Marco Scandella for much of the kill. For faceoff with a few seconds left, coach Phil Housley inserted defenseman Justin Falk with forwards Benoit Pouliot and Johan Larsson.

Oh, Darling: The Carolina goalie made the best save of the first period, getting help from Sabres right wing Kyle Okposo. During a late power play, Buffalo worked the puck to Eichel in the left circle. Rather than shoot, he fed Okposo in the slot. The winger took a second to go to his backhand, and Darling dived across the crease to make the save.

Line changes: Right wings Jason Pominville and Okposo swapped lines. Pominville skated with O'Reilly and Pouliot. Okposo lined up with Larsson and left wing Seth Griffith.

The other two lines – Eichel between Kane and Sam Reinhart; and Kyle Criscuolo in the middle of Zemgus Girgensons and Jordan Nolan – remained the same.

Pregame applause: After watching a video featuring cancer survivor Cameron MacDonald and Lucy, a pediatric patient at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the fans gave a standing ovation to the duo as they conducted the ceremonial puck drop.

Scandella, who lost his father to cancer in 2015, and Carolina captain Justin Faulk gave their sticks to the special guests on Hockey Fights Cancer Night.

Counting the house: The Sabres announced 18,028 tickets sold, but many seats were left empty.

Next: The Sabres play their second of a four-game homestand Monday when they host the Columbus Blue Jackets. They host Minnesota on Wednesday. Connor McDavid and Edmonton Oilers come to town Friday.

Inside the NHL: Homecoming beckons for Wild's Foligno and Ennis

Buffalo News

By Mike Harrington

November 17, 2017

TORONTO -- Marcus Foligno told Minnesota beat writers last month he's quickly learned the difference between the Sabres and the Wild, and reiterated it last week during a visit in Air Canada Centre.

"We have to be emotionally involved. There's nothing but winning here," Foligno told The Buffalo News. "Anything less than that is failure. That's not to discredit anything in Buffalo, that's just the environment we were in. We weren't in that state. You put up a good fight and showed up, that was OK. Here's, it's not. You've got to win. That's two totally different directions."

Foligno and Tyler Ennis will be back in town Wednesday night as the Wild makes their only appearance of the season in Buffalo. It will be their first time back since the summer trade that brought Marco Scandella and Jason Pominville to Buffalo.

"It's going to be really weird," Foligno said. "It will hit me when we land in Buffalo. You go down the highway to downtown and instead of living there and going to your place, we're going to be going to the Marriott. That might be the biggest thing that will be weird but I'm excited to get to Buffalo and see all the familiar faces. It's been home to me and meant a lot to me for a long time."

"I'm anticipating it to be strange, no doubt," Ennis said. "I still talk to the guys. I love Buffalo and always will. That's the place, the city that gave me my chance to play in the NHL and I'll always remember that."

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Tyler Ennis is playing in Minnesota with boyhood friend Jared Spurgeon (Getty Images).

The Wild hit the weekend on a four-game winning streak and climbing in the ultra-tight Central Division, where the bottom five teams entered Friday all within three points. Goaltender Devin Dubnyk's three straight shutouts took plenty of pressure off after a 5-7-2 start for coach Bruce Boudreau's club.

"Bruce doesn't accept losing and that's the bottom line here," Foligno said. "We had a bad game in Boston and had a team talk where we said we're a lot better than we've showed."

"He's learning in a hurry that losing is really not accepted," Boudreau said. "You can't make positive things out of losing. Bottom line is you're not winning. The only way to have fun is to win. Nothing else matters. The sacrifices you have to make, whether in practices or the game, are probably something him and Tyler haven't been used to recently."

No one during separate interviews used the word "tanking" but it's pretty clear that's what Boudreau, Foligno and Ennis were all referring to. If you need an explanation at this point, you probably need to be reading another column.

Foligno is likely here for the long-term too, signing a four-year, \$11.5 million contract just before the start of training camp. Ennis has one more season after this one on the five-year, \$23 million pact he signed with the Sabres in 2014.

"Tyler and I have had to get used to the mindset here because you develop bad habits and you have to learn some good ones," Foligno said. "Right from day one, as soon as I signed, that was the thing. The practices were competitive and you mess up a drill, you do it again. Everyone had to be perfect. We had to get acclimated to it and it's been great to be here. Get those habits going and understand this is a winning culture."

"It's a different culture for sure, a great culture to be around," said Ennis, who has had no issues from the concussions that dogged him the last two years. "It's hard but it's fun."

Both players have spent time all over the Wild lineup, with stints on the top line and the fourth line. Ennis has played himself on to the top line with Mikko Koivu and Mikael Granlund over the last three games while Foligno is with Matt Cullen and ex-Sabre Chris Stewart as he slowly returns from a facial fracture suffered in a fight with Chicago's John Hayden ("I was winning too and he got me," said Foligno).

A side benefit for Ennis is being able to play with star Wild defenseman Jared Spurgeon, his childhood best friend in suburban Edmonton.

"That's been amazing, very special for both us every day," Ennis said. "It's something we never could have imagined growing up. He's become a great player and it's fun to see him get recognized as one of the best in the league."

Foligno entered the weekend with three goals and four assists in 17 games, while leading the team with 56 hits. Ennis was at three goals and two assists in 18 games. Both are averaging around 12 1/2 minutes per game in the very balanced Minnesota lineup.

"It's very different hockey, fast-paced and physical with the kind of teams you meet," Foligno said. "It's early November and we've played Chicago twice already. There are a lot of different challenges here."

Bolt power is overwhelming

How good are the Lightning this year?

"It's pretty scary," Tampa Bay VP Dave Andreychuk admitted when I asked the new Hall of Famer about the current Bolts at last week's festivities in Toronto. "I've watched two games in a row now late at night, played two teams who were just not ready to compete against them and it's been fun to watch."

Andreychuk was referring to road wipeouts in San Jose (5-1) and Los Angeles (5-2), the latter featuring a four-goal first period. The Lightning rolled up 32 points in their first 19 games, entering the weekend 15-2-2 and already putting the Sabres into an 18-point deficit in the Atlantic Division before the first quarter of the season was even done.

With Steven Stamkos out for the final 65 games last year, Tampa Bay still finished with 94 points and missed by playoffs by just one despite going 8-1-1 in its last 10 games. Stamkos is on a runaway pace this year, with a league-leading 35 points in the 19 games.

"Last year they got a little slap on the wrist and it happens to all the good teams," Andreychuk said. "You want to prove to the hockey world you belong and they're sure doing it."

Andreychuk's '04 Stanley Cup club had a reunion in Tampa a couple weeks ago and he's one of several players from that group who regularly mingle with the current Lightning, to the delight of current coach Jon Cooper.

"They realize how close that team was and that's a good lesson for them," Andreychuk said. "Jon Cooper has embraced us and I can tell you we're all over the dressing room. He's going, 'This is the pinnacle that you want to get to and this team achieved it.' Those guys understand that."

Sam I am

While Sabres fans might continue to rue former GM Tim Murray passing on Leon Draisaitl in the first round of the 2014 draft, there's no question Murray at least took the right Sam, selecting Reinhart over Bennett.

Bennett, taken No. 4 by Calgary, is struggling mightily this year with the Flames and it took him 16 games to get his first point this season. Flames president Brian Burke, speaking on TSN Radio in Toronto, said he's thankful Bennett is getting space from the Calgary media in the face of his slump.

Burke, the former Leafs GM, knows all too well what would happen in Toronto to a young player with no points.

"If he were in Toronto, they would've traded him 70 times, shot him six times, condemned his parents four times," Burke said. "If he was going through that here, he'd be getting crucified."

Price hedging on return

Canadiens goalie Carey Price said Tuesday that his mysterious injury happened in warmup prior to the Nov. 2 game against Minnesota but that his return is getting closer.

"It's just taken a little bit longer than expected just because of the nature of my position," Price said. "So I just want to make sure I'm 100 per cent and can do my job to the best of my ability when I come back so I'm going to make sure to take my time with it and it won't be very long."

Price was 3-7-1, 3.77/.877 prior to the injury and the Canadiens have been saved by the solid work of rookie Charlie Lindgren in goal. But with Price and backup Al Montoya both on the shelf, the Habs claimed struggling veteran Antti Niemi off waivers. Doubt he'll help much, as he's posted a 6.74 GAA in five games this year with Pittsburgh and Florida.

Happy 100th, NHL

The league's official 100th anniversary celebration was scheduled for Friday and Saturday in Montreal, where the league was officially born at the Windsor Hotel on Nov. 26, 1917. The Windsor was the site of the League's first general managers meeting of the season. Following the meeting, Commissioner Gary Bettman, the GMs, several Hall of Famers and reps from Canadian government dedicated a plaque recognizing the site as the birthplace of the league.

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NHL general managers are meeting at the Windsor in Montreal, site of the League's founding in November 1917. #NHL100
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The league started the celebration last year with the glittering NHL100 of top players that was unveiled at the All-Star Game in Los Angeles. Meanwhile, the league's fan vote for the greatest moment of its 100 seasons is down to the final four.

The semifinals are Wayne Gretzky reaching 50 goals in a record-setting 39 games (Dec. 30, 1981) vs. Mario Lemieux becoming the first player to score goals five different ways in the same game (Dec. 31, 1988), and Bobby Orr scoring in overtime to give Boston the 1970 Stanley Cup against Teemu Selanne setting the rookie goal-scoring record goal-scoring record (March 2, 1993).

Orr is an easy winner on the bottom semi while the first one is a tough call personally. Gretzky likely wins the fan vote but I have sentiment toward the Lemieux game, a matinee in old Civic Arena which I attended on a week-before decision with a college friend. We saw Lemieux score at even strength, on the power play, short-handed, on a penalty shot and into the empty net in an 8-6 win over New Jersey. To show how stats have changed since then, it was literally two weeks later when we first found out that had never happened before. Now you'd know in 10 minutes.

Semifinal voting closes Tuesday at NHL.com/GreatestMoments, with the final round of voting starting Wednesday and running through Nov. 28. The No. 1 moment will be announced during the NHL100 Classic on Dec. 16, as Montreal meets Ottawa outdoors in Ottawa's Lansdowne Park.

Around the boards

* Speaking of the Habs, coach Claude Julien went full-blast on them after Thursday's 5-4 home loss to Arizona -- the pathetic Coyotes' first regulation win of the season. Said Julien: "I'm not saying we didn't respect the opponent but we didn't respect our game plan because we thought it was going to be easy. For two days we talked about this. Unacceptable, embarrassing. That's what we were tonight."

* Just when he was trying to get his season started, West Seneca native Lee Stempniak had it shut down again as he suffered an upper-body injury just two shifts into his first game on a conditioning assignment at the Hurricanes' Charlotte affiliate. The Canes said it was a different injury than the one Stempniak was rehabbing, a hugely bad break for the 34-year-old.

* Publicly, the NHL has no current plans to expand again. Privately, you wonder. Several national outlets reported in recent days that Bettman and new Houston Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta met in New York to discuss the potential for a hockey

team in H-Town, which is riding high in the wake of the Astros' World Series victory. Fertitta, a restaurant and casino mogul, bought the Rockets for \$2.2 billion in September and the 18,000-seat Toyota Center is NHL ready.

Former Rockets owner Leslie Alexander had no interest in a hockey team and since he controlled dates in the arena, the league had no chance to enter the No. 4 American television market. Expansion has gone so well in Las Vegas -- and that \$500 million franchise fee was so well received by other teams -- that you wonder when the league might make it an even 32 teams with H-Town.

* The Canadiens called up former Sabre Nic Deslauriers from Laval of the AHL and gave him No. 20, last worn by current Rochester-to-Buffalo defense shuttler Zach Redmond. First to wear it, way back in 1951? Legendary Habs captain Jean Beliveau. Nos. 8, 12 and 17 were also worn by Beliveau before he settled on his iconic No. 4 in 1954 and wore it through his retirement in 1971. It then went to the rafters of the Forum and now Bell Centre.

* Elias Sports says that the Flames became the sixth club in the league this season to score six or more goals in consecutive games with Monday's 7-4 win over St. Louis. By comparison, how dry has the Sabres' offense become over the years? They haven't accomplished that feat since Feb 5-8, 2011 in a 6-2 win over Toronto and a 7-4 win at Tampa Bay.

Story topics: Buffalo Sabres/ Claude Julien/ Dave Andreychuk/ Hockey Hall of Fame/ Marcus Foligno/ Mario Lemieux/ Minnesota Wild/ Nic Deslauriers/ Sam Bennett/ Sam Reinhart/ Tyler Ennis

Inside the Sabres: Moulson, Leino duke it out for title of worst contract

Buffalo News

By John Vogl

November 18, 2017

What do Matt Moulson and Ville Leino have in common?

They are in the running for worst Buffalo Sabres contract since Terry Pegula became owner.

As fans know and Pegula's accountants can attest, a ridiculous amount of money has been wasted in Sabreland since 2011. The long and inglorious contract list features Moulson and the bought-out trio of Leino, Cody Hodgson and Christian Ehrhoff.

But which contract is the worst? It's really, really close.

First, the criteria:

ADVERTISEMENT

* Eligible players must have received multiyear deals.

Andrej Meszaros was a \$4.125 million bust, but at least he was only a one-year mistake.

* The contracts must have been signed by the Sabres.

Zach Bogosian (\$5.14 million per season) and Dmitry Kulikov (\$4.33 million) have earned a lot for doing little, but their deals were consummated elsewhere and acquired via trade.

After examining the stats and contracts of the 119 players who have suited up for Buffalo since Pegula took over, the debate over worst deal has been whittled to six finalists: Tyler Ennis, Tyler Myers, Ehrhoff, Hodgson, Leino and Moulson. Pegula agreed to pay \$179 million to those six, none of whom provided adequate bang for the bucks.

Here are the results.

6. Tyler Ennis

Contract: Five years, \$23 million signed by General Manager Tim Murray in July 2014.

Stats: 152 games, 28 goals, 42 assists, 70 points, minus-38 rating, 331 shots, 16:50 of ice time per game.

Things started fairly well. Ennis led the Sabres with 20 goals and 46 points in 2014-15. Unfortunately, multiple concussions crushed the left winger the following season, limiting him to 23 games.

Ennis played 51 games last season, recording just five goals and eight assists for a disappointing .25 points per game. He took 89 shots while skating just 12:50 per night.

The Sabres traded Ennis to Minnesota during the offseason. The Wild will cover the final two seasons of his deal, but Buffalo had already paid all \$5 million in bonuses that Ennis was owed.

5. Christian Ehrhoff

Contract: 10 years, \$40 million signed by General Manager Darcy Regier in June 2011.

Stats: 192 games, 16 goals, 71 assists, 87 points, minus-23 rating, 399 shots, 23:55 of ice time per game.

Ehrhoff's 10-year deal lasted just three seasons. The Sabres bought out the defenseman in June 2014 and will pay him \$857,143 per year through the 2027-28 season.

Ehrhoff at least produced. He led Buffalo's blue-liners each season while averaging a respectable 0.45 points per game. But Ehrhoff had no desire to be part of the Sabres' teardown and rebuild, so Murray took advantage of a compliance buyout offered by the NHL.

Ehrhoff was paid \$22 million during his three seasons. The \$12 million severance package allowed the Sabres to avoid the cap recapture penalty devised by the league for the 2013 collective bargaining agreement.

4. Cody Hodgson

Contract: Six years, \$25.5 million signed by Regier in September 2013.

Stats: 150 games, 26 goals, 31 assists, 57 points, minus-54 rating, 309 shots, 15:23 of ice time per game.

During the final year of his entry-level contract (the lockout-shortened season of 2012-13), Hodgson was second on the Sabres with 15 goals and 34 points while playing all 48 games. There was debate over whether to sign Hodgson to a long-term extension or a short-term bridge deal.

Regier went big.

Buffalo Sabres ✓@BuffaloSabres

A message from Cody Hodgson.

5:14 PM - Sep 11, 2013

53 53 Replies 305 305 Retweets 231 231 likes

Twitter Ads info and privacy

Hodgson led the Sabres with 24 assists and 44 points in 72 games during the first season of the contract. The wheels fell off in 2014-15.

Hodgson had six goals and seven assists in 78 games, a paltry point-per-game average of 0.17. His defense was non-existent (minus-28) and he skated just 12:50 per night.

Murray bought out the deal in June 2015. The Sabres caught a break. Hodgson was owed only one-third of his remaining \$19 million salary rather than the typical two-thirds because he was under age 26. The Sabres are paying him \$791,667 per year through 2022-23.

Hodgson has since been diagnosed with malignant hyperthermia. The genetic disorder, which can be triggered by prolonged physical activity, causes shortness of breath, blackouts and heart arrhythmia.

3. Tyler Myers

Contract: Seven years, \$38.5 million signed by Regier in September 2011, though it didn't start until 2012-13.

Stats: 148 games, 16 goals, 27 assists, 43 points, minus-49 rating, 219 shots, 22:44 of ice time per game.

Myers showed promise after two seasons, so Regier signed the defenseman to an extension with one year remaining on Myers' entry-level deal. The defenseman's game promptly regressed.

The first year of Myers' contract is the worst single-season value in Buffalo's history. Though the lockout shortened the 2012-13 season, Myers still received a full \$10 million signing bonus. He had three goals and eight points in 39 games while pocketing \$11.17 million.

His statistics picked up slightly during the following two seasons with 13 goals and 45 points in 109 games. Murray traded Myers to Winnipeg in February 2015.

2. Matt Moulson

Contract: Five years, \$25 million signed by Murray in July 2014.

Stats: 251 games, 35 goals, 59 assists, 94 points, minus-28 rating, 409 shots, 13:30 of ice time per game.

Moulson made a legitimate run for the top spot. He could eventually claim it. This has the potential to be the most unproductive season ever for a big-dollar player.

Moulson has no goals, no points, a minus-8 rating and eight shots in 12 games. The 34-year-old skates just 10:25 per night, ahead of only Nick Baptiste (8:02) and Jordan Nolan (9:06).

And that's when he plays. Moulson has been a healthy scratch in eight of Buffalo's opening 20 games. He's on pace to watch 33 games from the press box. He makes nearly \$61,000 per game, so that would be more than \$2 million to do nothing.

He's under contract for next season, too.

Signed when Murray needed to spend money just to get to the salary-cap floor, Moulson has at least had a few moments. He recorded 13 goals and 41 points in 2014-15 and scored 14 goals last season.

But that's not close to \$5 million worth of production.

1. Ville Leino

Contract: Six years, \$27 million signed by Regier in July 2011.

Stats: 137 games, 10 goals, 36 assists, 46 points, minus-18 rating, 127 shots, 15:17 of ice time per game.

Leino is the punch line yet again. He ekes out the title of worst contract by producing less per game than Moulson in goals (.14 to .07) and points (.37 to .34). Their respective raises tip the scale further.

Moulson signed after finishing a three-year, \$9.4 million contract. Murray gave the winger a bump of \$1.87 million per season. Leino had finished a two-year, \$1.6 million contract. His raise from Regier and the Sabres was a whopping \$3.7 million per season. He pocketed \$9 million in bonuses during his first two years.

Leino's best season was his first, and it was not impressive. He had just eight goals, 25 points and 78 shots in 71 games.

His final season is infamous. In 2013-14, Leino failed to score in 58 games. He had 15 assists, a minus-16 rating and only 38 shots while skating 14:26 per night. Despite his ineffectiveness, he was scratched only eight times, a number Moulson could blow past by Thanksgiving.

The Sabres bought out Leino in June 2014 and are paying him \$1.22 million a year through 2019-20. Each check is a reminder of the worst contract signed under Pegula ... so far.

Story topics: Darcy Regier/ Matt Moulson/ Terry Pegula/ tim murray/ Ville Leino

Sabres fall 3-1 to Carolina

WGR

Pat Malacaro

November 18, 2017

First Period

17:20 - A really bad turnover in their own zone turned into a quality scoring chance in the slot for Carolina, but a good block by Justin Falk to make up for the mistake nearly resulted in a goal at the other end. Jordan Nolan had a breakaway but missed the net with his shot. Kyle Criscuolo also did a nice job of selling out after what was not a good play initially. I talked about it in pregame, breaking out of their zone has dogged Buffalo all season long.

14:13 - Not ideal for Buffalo as Zemgus Girgensons shot the puck over the glass already on the penalty kill. The Sabres are down two men for the next 1:17.

12:26 - A very good job on the special teams by the blue and gold allows the team to kill off both penalties, and not really face much pressure in the process. Carolina had one chance late in the 5-on-4 on a shot-pass wide of the net, but Chad Johnson got himself into position, just in case.

8:27 - Buffalo still does not have a shot on goal in this game, but I do not feel like they have been dominated. Shots are 6-0 in favor of the Hurricanes this frame.

4:51 - Another penalty for the Sabres; this time Victor Antipin goes to the box for holding. This period has been very boring, and it can get even worse if Carolina is able to score here.

2:36 - The Bronx cheer goes up from the Sabres fan base as Evander Kane registers the first shot on goal for the team. Overall it is 8-1 Carolina.

End of Period

Goal Summary

BUF: none

CAR: none

Penalty Summary

BUF: 4:49 - Kyle Okposo (2 min., hooking). 5:33 - Zemgus Girgensons (2 min., delay of game). 15:05 - Victor Antipin (2 min., holding)

CAR: 17:37 - Marcus Kruger (2 min., hooking)

Shots on Goal

BUF - 4, CAR - 8

Second Period

16:13 - Much better jump by the Sabres this period. They are cycling the puck and creating chances. They have just one shot on goal so far, but are more active than the first twenty minutes.

8:28 - This game is the definition of vanilla. Almost nothing happening this period, and both teams seem content. Shots are 8-6 in favor of the 'Canes this period, and they lead 16-10 overall.

5:14 - HURRICANES GOAL. Right on cue, out of the penalty box Justin Williams gives the visitors a 1-0 lead. Buffalo had several good scoring chances in the first half of their power play, and failed to convert. That results in the chance the other way as Williams came out of the penalty box and was able to eventually walk in at the side of the net and score. 1-0 CAR.

End of Period

Goal Summary

BUF: none

CAR: 14:46 - Justin Williams (3) (Marcus Kruger, Brett Pesce)

Penalty Summary

BUF: 15:17 - Johan Larsson (2 min., high sticking)

CAR: 12:33 - Justin Williams (2 min., hooking)

Shots on Goal

BUF - 9 (13), CAR - 14 (22)

Third Period

14:55 - I wanted to see Buffalo come out with some urgency this period. My thought was that an early goal would force Carolina to turn up their play, instead of just try and lull the Sabres to sleep. Instead, it has just been another lackluster frame so far and Carolina can just let the seconds bleed off of the clock.

11:21 - A quick little outburst by the Sabres has put Carolina back on their heels. Scott Darling has had to be quick in his crease. It has not translated into a goal yet....yet.

7:33 - SABRES GOAL. Five-on-five there is no one I want on the ice more than Evander Kane, and that holds true. Ryan O'Reilly feeds the forward with a beautiful pass just inside of the line and Kane dances in before using a good wrist shot to tie the game. 1-1 tie.

7:23 - Kane's second goal of the night is called back after it was determined he kicked the puck into the net, after a short review in the war room in Toronto. Fans here are not happy with the call, but it was correct.

4:46 - HURRICANES GOAL. Chad Johnson is not able to bail Justin Falk out after flubbing the puck inside of his own end. Sebastian Aho is able to dance into the slot and beat Johnson five hole to give Carolina the one-goal lead again. 2-1 CAR.

:40.9 - HURRICANES GOAL. Joakim Nordstrom puts the finishing touches on this one with an empty net goal. 3-1 CAR.

End of Game

Carolina 3, Buffalo 1

Goal Summary

BUF: 12:27 - Evander Kane (11) (Ryan O'Reilly)

CAR: 15:15 - Sebastian Aho (3) (Tuevo Teravinen, Hadyn Fleury). 19:19 - Joakim Nordstrom (2) ENG (Marcus Kruger, Jaccob Slavin)

Penalty Summary

BUF: none

CAR: none

Shots on Goal

BUF - 12 (25), CAR - 11 (33)

From the Locker Room: Sabres-Hurricanes

WGR

November 18, 2017

The Buffalo Sabres (last in the Atlantic Division) played host to the Carolina Hurricanes (last in the Metropolitan Division) on Saturday night in KeyBank Center. Both teams started the game rather slow, with offense at a premium. For insight, the Sabres failed to register their first official shot on net until there were nearly 18 minutes gone in the first period. Carolina took a one goal lead late in the second period, and despite an Evander Kane game-tying third period goal (and an overturned second goal from Kane :10 later), the Hurricanes came away with the victory by a final score of 3-1. Go inside the locker room to hear reaction from Evander Kane, Chad Johnson, Justin Falk and Phil Housley following the loss.

Evander Kane:

On momentum swing and Buffalo's penalty trouble: "We had some momentum in the third period, then we took too many penalties to start. That doesn't help. We did a good job to kill them off, but they still got momentum off that, kind of like the other night. We had our opportunities to score, and we didn't. When they [Carolina] had their opportunities, they buried them."

On his disallowed goal in the third period: "I didn't agree with it. You go hard to the net. I was pretty self-conscious of not making a kicking motion and kicking the puck on net. Just going hard, and part of my momentum drilled the puck into the net. I guess Toronto thought differently."

Full audio: <http://www.wgr550.com/media/audio-channel/11-18-evander-kane-post-game>

Chad Johnson:

On recent lack of offense: "That's how it goes sometimes. We're in some tight games right now. That's just how it is; one bad bounce, that's the difference in the game there. We just have to keep pushing forward and correcting things and trying to be better."

On stronger defensive play: "For the most part, they [Carolina] didn't get any rush chances, except for those two there [two goals not counting third empty-net]. Most of their opportunities came on cycles and plays in the slot, and point shots for the most part. I thought we did a great job there. Again, they get two looks and they score. It's disappointing."

Full audio: <http://www.wgr550.com/media/audio-channel/11-18-chad-johnson-post-game>

Justin Falk:

On the puck that bounced over his stick for the go-ahead goal: "They flipped the puck, it went over Scandella, and I went to go pick it up. It landed and I thought it had settled enough to trust picking it up with my stick. As soon as I went to go for it, it ended up hopping over. Bad break."

On not getting any "lucky breaks" in the offensive end: "It's just sort of what's happening right now. Maybe we're not working hard enough to earn those breaks or to get the bounces that way. We just have to keep working and find our way here."

Phil Housley:

On how to produce more shot chances: "I think to get more shots, you just have to get them through. We talked about being a "shot mentality" team; give them credit, [Carolina] blocked a lot of shots. Our defense has to do a better job of finding lanes and delivering pucks to the net. We have to shoot pucks from everywhere: bad angles, off the rush, off the powerplay... we have to have that mindset."

On the team's slow start and the testing of patience: "It is testing my patience. I thought the last game in Detroit was really the end of my wick as far as remaining patient and making some adjustments and addressing that. We had opportunities to make it [2-1], and that's the difference in the hockey game. I still feel like we're not all on the same page and we're going to continue to work on that."

Full audio: <http://www.wgr550.com/media/audio-channel/11-18-phil-housley-post-game>

Reeling Sabres generate little early, lose to Hurricanes

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

November 19, 2017

BUFFALO – Fresh off an uninspired loss that rankled coach Phil Housley and, allegedly, his players, the Sabres responded by going the first 17 minutes without a shot on goal.

Oh, the Sabres still generated a scoring chance early in Saturday's 3-1 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes. For the second straight night, fourth-line winger Jordan Nolan, who has a 24-game goal drought dating back to Jan. 31, enjoyed a rare breakaway.

Nolan missed the net.

Finally, with 2:36 left in the period, Sabres winger Evander Kane pumped a shot on goalie Scott Darling.

The crowd of 18,028, which started buzzing when Kane grabbed the puck, responded with a prolonged Bronx cheer.

It was another surly night inside KeyBank Center.

The 5-11-4 Sabres are a mess one-quarter into the season. Saturday was their fifth straight loss (0-3-2). They've scored one goal in five of the last seven games and have scored only 46 this season.

Incredibly, Kane, who scored the lone goal Saturday, has 11, a stunning 24 percent of the Sabres' season total.

A day after Friday's disappointing 3-1 loss in Detroit, the Sabres mustered a feeble response.

"It is testing my patience," coach Phil Housley said of the Sabres at the 20-game mark. "I thought the last game in Detroit was really the end of my wick as far as remaining patient and making some adjustments and addressing that."

He added: "I still feel that we're not all on the same page."

The Sabres, the Eastern Conference's worst team with only 14 points, could be the NHL's bottom-feeder soon. The 31st-ranked Arizona Coyotes' 3-2 overtime win against the Ottawa Senators 3-2 earlier Saturday moved them to within three points of the Sabres.

Despite their struggles against the Hurricanes, thanks to a 10 wild seconds, the Sabres almost eked out a win.

After Kane tied it 12:27 into the third period, he appeared to score again as he bulled his way to the net on the same shift. The crowd, so quiet all night, erupted.

But video replays overturned the goal because Kane kicked the puck past Darling.

"I didn't agree with it," Kane said. You go hard to the net. I ... was pretty self-conscious of not making a kicking motion and kicking the puck in the net."

Carolina winger Sebastian Aho then won it at 15:15, beating Sabres goalie Chad Johnson after defenseman Justin Falk mishandled the puck inside his own blue line.

"When I went to go pick it up it had landed and I thought it had settled enough to trust picking it up with my stick," Falk said. "Soon as I went to go for it, the puck went over. Bad break."

Winger Justin Williams scored Carolina's first goal 14:46 into the second period on a two-on-one.

Housley has been overwhelmingly positive this season, and while he had some strong words following another loss, he also accentuated anything good his team accomplished.

“We battled back in the game,” Housley said. “We make a mistake and it ends up in the back of our net. I think bottom line is they took advantage of our mistakes and we didn’t take advantage of theirs. We had a breakaway, we had a partial breakaway (from center Johan Larsson), we got to score.”

When asked about the negative body language Jack Eichel often displays and the star center not getting back quickly enough on Williams’ goal – a Buffalo power play expired seconds earlier – Housley wouldn’t address it.

“Jack had a better game tonight, definitely was better in his own end and I really liked the speed he brought through the neutral zone,” Housley said.

Six weeks after signing an eight-year, \$80 million contract extension, Eichel has compiled five goals and 16 points. At that pace, he would score 21 goals and 66 points over a full season.

Why can’t the Sabres, who, on paper, boast two strong scoring lines, score more goals?

“A lot of that has to do with execution, a lot of that has to do with taking the puck to the net instead of playing along the perimeter,” Kane said. “I think we play along the perimeter way too much.”

Kane cited perimeter play as the reason the Sabres took so long to register their first shot.

“We have to shoot pucks from everywhere – bad angles, off the rush, off the power play, which I thought we did a pretty good job (of doing) except scoring in the second period,” Housley said.

“We put ourselves down, played in our own end, we missed the net on a few shots we had in tight,” Eichel said of the Sabres’ four-shot first period.

Sabres' Jason Pominville moving around lineup

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

November 19, 2017

BUFFALO – Moving Jason Pominville off the Sabres' top line wasn't related to the veteran winger's performance, coach Phil Housley said.

"He was playing terrific," Housley said prior to Saturday's 3-1 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes inside KeyBank Center. "We're trying to spark some other lines and find some balance."

Housley shifted Pominville to right wing beside center Johan Larsson and Seth Griffith or Matt Moulson last Saturday. Sam Reinhart, meanwhile, moved from his third-line center role to Pominville's place with center Jack Eichel and Evander Kane.

For more than a month, Pominville, Eichel and Kane formed one of the NHL's best trios. Pominville, 34, got off to a roaring start, scoring two goals opening night and compiling six goals and 12 points in the first 12 games.

But in three outings with Larsson on the third line entering Saturday, Pominville had zero points. His ice time has dipped about five minutes a night. In Friday's 3-1 loss in Detroit, Pominville skated a season-low 11 minutes, 12 seconds.

On Saturday, Housley promoted Pominville to the second line with center Ryan O'Reilly and Benoit Pouliot. Kyle Okposo replaced Pominville beside Larsson.

Was leaving the top line tough for Pominville?

"Tough, a little bit, but, I mean, it's part of the game, it's a long season," Pominville said. "Minutes will probably go up again at some point and then they'll go back down. Lines will change again and it's always been that way, it'll never change."

Getting moved down the lineup won't change Pominville's attitude.

"They can put me in any situation and I'll go out there and try to work and battle do what I can do to help the team in any situation," he said. "So I'm fine with playing wherever with whoever. I'll bring the same thing I always do."

Pominville became accustomed to switching lines last year in Minnesota, coach Bruce Boudreau's first with the Wild. Pominville averaged only 14 minutes, 14 seconds of ice time a game, his lowest total since his rookie season.

"As you get older, I feel like you're maybe capable of maybe fitting in and finding a way to help linemates that play different styles," Pominville said. "That's an area that I think I can fit in in any situation."

Still, Pominville tries to showcase the same style wherever he's playing.

"I try not to change my game, but I try to read off what they do maybe a little bit better than when I was younger," he said.

xxx

Housley said defenseman Zach Bogosian (lower body) and center Jacob Josefson (lower body) are skating but still week-to-week. Bogosian hasn't played this season.

"They've made really good strides in that area," Housley said. "We're just being cautious."

Meanwhile, forwards Alexander Nylander (lower body) and Evan Rodrigues (hand) made their season debuts Friday in the Rochester Americans' 4-2 home win against the Hartford Wolf Pack.

Nylander was OK after enduring a big hit from former Sabres forward Dan Catenacci late in the contest.

Housley wants Rodrigues, who might've made the Sabres out of training camp, to receive more game action.

xxx

The Sabres had two healthy scratches, Moulson and defenseman Casey Nelson.

5 Observations: Hurricanes top Sabres 3-1

WKBW

Matt Bove

November 18, 2017

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WKBW) - On Saturday things went from bad to worse for the Buffalo Sabres as they dropped their fifth straight game, falling to the Carolina Hurricanes 3-1. With the loss, the Sabres remain in the basement of the Eastern Conference with a 5-11-4 record.

Five observations from Saturday's loss:

One lousy goal

Matthew Bové ✓ @Matt_Bove

Housley believes the #Sabres still need to get on the same page as a team. I think fans can agree.

10:19 PM - Nov 18, 2017 · Buffalo, NY

6 6 Replies 2 2 Retweets 15 15 likes

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This stat blew me away -- In five of the Sabres last seven games they have scored only one goal. After Saturday's loss, Evander Kane, who has been one of the Sabres only consistent goal-scorers, addressed the teams struggles offensively.

ADVERTISING

Matthew Bové ✓ @Matt_Bove

I asked Evander Kane, who has been the #Sabres only consistent goal-scorer this season, how his team can start finding the back of the net more than once a game @WKBW

10:08 PM - Nov 18, 2017 · Buffalo, NY

4 4 Replies 10 10 Retweets 32 32 likes

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Another wasted effort in the blue paint

For the second straight night, the Sabres best player was their goaltender and for the second straight night, they lost. This time Chad Johnson was between the pipes, turning away 31 of 33 shots faced. Both Carolina goals came on odd-man rushes as Johnson was left basically out to dry. For as much criticism as both Johnson and especially Lehner get on social media, they hardly deserve any of the blame, at least recently.

Home sweet home?

Not for the Sabres, who are now 2-5-1 in the friendly confines of KeyBank Center. Four of the Sabres next five games are at home -- that might not be a good thing.

Another bad month

After an abysmal October, Jack Eichel told reporters that they needed to bounce back with a strong November to get things back on track. So far that hasn't happened and the games are now ticking away. With Saturday's loss, the Sabres are now 2-4-2 in November [5-11-4] on the season. In order to finish the month with more wins than losses, the Sabres will have to win their next five games. Good luck.

At last

With 2:36 remaining in the first period the KeyBank Center crowd sarcastically erupted as Evander Kane recorded the Sabres first shot of the night. Buffalo finished the period with four shots thanks to a power play seconds after Kane broke the ice.

Cane-alytics @Cane_alytics

5v5 shots on goal after one:

Canes with TWO

Sabres with ONE

7:53 PM - Nov 18, 2017

3 3 Replies 45 45 Retweets 101 101 likes

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

The Sabres first-period performance is especially discouraging after their lackluster effort in Detroit on Friday where they only registered 20 shots. For a team that has such a hard time scoring goals, the Sabres really need to start getting more shots on net.

[View image on Twitter](#)

[View image on Twitter](#)

Matthew Bové ✓ [@Matt_Bove](#)

How many shots do the #Sabres have?

7:30 PM - Nov 18, 2017

4 4 Replies 6 6 Retweets 25 25 likes

Sabres lose 5th straight, fall to Hurricanes 3-1

WIVB

Nick Filipowski

November 18, 2017

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WIVB) – The downward spiral of the Phil Housley era continued on Saturday, as his club dropped it's fifth straight game, a 3-1 loss to Carolina.

Buffalo drops to 5-11-4 overall.

The Sabres, who began the night with the second fewest goals in the league, have now scored one goal in five on their last seven games.

The Sabres have struggled offensively all season, and it was once again evident on Saturday as the squad failed to register a shot on goal through the first 14 minutes of the game. Jack Eichel, Sam Reinhart and Jason Pominville were among those who didn't have a shot on goal through two periods.

Trailing 1-0 in the third, the Sabres took advantage of a Canes miscue, with Ryan O'Reilly threading a pass through to Evander Kane who buried his team leading 11th goal of the season to tie the game.

The winger looked to put the Sabres on top 2-1 seconds later, but his goal was waved off after the refs determined he kicked the puck in.

But, three minutes later Sebastian Aho tallied the game winner for Carolina, scoring after the puck jumped over Justin Falk's stick and straight to the winger to give the Canes a 2-1 lead. Joakim Nordstrom added an empty netter.

Aho's late goal lifts Hurricanes past Sabres

The Sports Xchange

Mark Ludiczak

November 18, 2017

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- Sebastian Aho is beginning to find his game. So are the Carolina Hurricanes.

Aho scored the go-ahead goal with 4:45 remaining to lead the Hurricanes to a 3-1 victory over the Buffalo Sabres on Saturday.

After Sabres defenseman Justin Falk, mishandled a bouncing puck, Aho grabbed the puck and raced toward the Buffalo net. Aho then beat Chad Johnson with a wrist shot for his third goal of the season.

It was Aho's fourth point in the last three games for the Hurricanes, who have won four of six games following a four-game losing skid.

"Good finish," Hurricanes coach Bill Peters said. "A few weeks ago that doesn't go in for him and now it does and then we found a way to play properly from that point on."

Justin Williams and Joakim Nordstrom also scored for Carolina (8-6-4).

"The Metro (Division) is really, really jammed and we've got to start getting ourselves on the other side of the line and pushing forward and seeing if we can get better," Williams said. "This is a good step and now we need to start getting something rolling positive in our direction."

Evander Kane scored for Buffalo (5-11-4). Johnson made 30 saves.

"I thought we got better as the game wore on and when you look at the game, it's a 1-1 game late in the third period," Sabres coach Phil Housley said. "We battled back into the game but we make a mistake and it ends up in our net. I think the bottom line is they took advantage of our mistakes and we didn't take advantage of theirs."

Williams opened the scoring with 5:14 remaining in the second. With a 2-on-1 opportunity, Williams faked a pass to his right before pausing and scoring on a wrist shot to the glove side. It was his third goal of the season.

Kane evened the score with 7:33 remaining.

After receiving a pass from Ryan O'Reilly inside the right circle, Kane's low shot went between Darling's legs for his 11th goal of the season.

Kane appeared to give Buffalo a 2-1 lead 10 seconds later but had a goal overturned after officials deemed he kicked the puck into the net. Kane was going hard to the net and kicked the puck after Darling initially made a pad save.

"I didn't agree with it," Kane said. "You go hard to the net. I was pretty self-conscious of not making a kicking motion or kicking the puck in the net. I thought part of my momentum drilled the puck into the net. I guess Toronto thought differently."

Nordstrom added an empty-net goal with 40.9 seconds remaining.

The Sabres got off to an extremely slow start on their home ice. Buffalo didn't record its first shot on goal until there was 2:36 remaining in the first period.

Scott Darling was terrific throughout for Carolina, making 24 saves. The goaltender's best moment came on an exceptional save on Kyle Okposo with one minute remaining in the first. Darling goaltender dove to his left at the top of the crease for a sprawling stop.

"I just shut my eyes and dove over there so I was just happy it hit me," Darling said. "It's just pure desperation. Lose it, dive, (and) hope for the best. It worked this time."

Darling also came up big with a slick breakaway save on Johan Larsson with five minutes remaining in the second.

One of Buffalo's better chances came midway through the third period from point-blank range by Jack Eichel, but Eichel didn't get all of the puck and Darling was able to make the save.

NOTES: LW Matt Moulson and D Casey Nelson were scratched for the Sabres. ... D Zach Bogosian (lower body) and D Rasmus Ristolainen (upper body) remain on injured reserve for Buffalo. ... D Klas Dahlbeck, RW Josh Jooris and RW Lee Stempniak were scratched for the Hurricanes. ... Stempniak, a Buffalo native, has missed 16 games with an upper-body injury and remains on injured reserve. ... This was the first of three meetings this season. Their next meeting is Dec. 15 in Buffalo. ... This was the 199th meeting between the teams

Aho, Hurricanes hand Sabres fifth straight loss

NHL.com

Joe Yerdon

November 18, 2017

BUFFALO -- Sebastian Aho scored at 15:15 of the third period to help the Carolina Hurricanes to a 3-1 win against the Buffalo Sabres at KeyBank Center on Saturday.

Aho, playing his 100th NHL game, gave the Hurricanes a 2-1 lead. He picked up a loose puck after a pass from Teuvo Teravainen skipped over the stick of Sabres defenseman Justin Falk, skated in against Chad Johnson and beat him with a wrist shot for his third goal of the season.

"I think [Aho] is really coming right now," Hurricanes coach Bill Peters said. "The confidence that he has to play with and hang on to pucks is important and that's a good line for us right now."

[WATCH: All Hurricanes vs. Sabres highlights]

After not scoring in his first 15 games, Aho has had a goal in three straight.

"I think I'm playing the same way, it's just you get the first one, it's easier to get, so I think that's just the key," Aho said.

Joakim Nordstrom scored an empty-net goal at 19:19 of the third that made it 3-1.

Scott Darling made 24 saves for the Hurricanes (8-6-4), who have won four of their past six games. The Sabres (5-11-4) have lost five straight.

Williams' top-shelf wrister

00:52 • November 18th, 2017

"It is testing my patience," said Sabres coach Phil Housley, whose team lost 3-1 at the Detroit Red Wings on Friday. "I thought the last game in Detroit was really the end of my wick as far as remaining patient and making some adjustments and addressing that. I thought tonight they get the break to get the second goal, we had opportunities to score and get it 2-1 and that's the difference in the hockey game. I still feel that we're all not on the same page and we're going to continue to work on that."

Justin Williams gave the Hurricanes a 1-0 lead at 14:46 of the second period. He exited the penalty box and received a pass from Marcus Kruger, then skated deep into the Sabres zone before pulling up and taking a wrist shot from the left face-off circle that beat Johnson for his third goal.

"I've been passing up a lot of opportunities lately and I almost blew that one too," Williams said. "I'm happy to get one to help the team."

Evander Kane made it 1-1 at 12:27 of the third period when he skated in against Darling and beat him through the five-hole with a wrist shot for his 11th goal.

Kane's five-hole wrist shot

00:53 • November 18th, 2017

Kane nearly put Buffalo ahead 10 seconds later, but his goal was overturned on video review after it was determined he kicked the puck past Darling.

"I didn't agree with it," Kane said. "You go hard to the net. I ... was pretty self-conscious of not making a kicking motion and kicking the puck in the net."

Johnson made 30 saves.

Goal of the game

Aho's game-winner at 15:15 of the third period.

Aho's go-ahead goal

00:48 • November 18th, 2017

Saves of the game

Darling's saves against Kane at 4:04 of the third period.

Darling's pair of saves on Kane

00:26 • November 18th, 2017

Highlight of the game

Darling's save against Kyle Okposo at 18:58 of the first period.

Darling's great diving save

00:25 • November 18th, 2017

They said it

"We played a great game tonight. The hockey gods shocking us a little bit with that bounce and got [Aho] the breakaway, but he made a great play and that's how close these games are going to be all year. It's nice to be on the right side of it." -- Hurricanes goalie Scott Darling

"I thought we got better as the game wore on and when you look at the game, it's a 1-1 game late in the third period. We battled back into the game but we make a mistake and it ends up in our net. I think the bottom line is they took advantage of our mistakes and we didn't take advantage of theirs." -- Sabres coach Phil Housley

Need to know

Teravainen has seven points (three goals, four assists) in the past three games. ... The Sabres have scored two or fewer goals in eight of their past 11 games (3-6-2). ... Buffalo's first shot on goal came with 2:36 left in the first period.

What's next

Hurricanes: Host the New York Islanders on Sunday (5 p.m. ET; FS-CR, MSG+, NHL.TV)

Sabres: Host the Columbus Blue Jackets on Monday (7 p.m. ET; SN1, SNE, SNP, MSG-B, FS-O, NHL.TV)

Sabres fall to Hurricanes on Hockey Fights Cancer Night in Buffalo

Sabres.com

Jourdon LaBarber

November 18, 2017

For a moment at KeyBank Center on Saturday night, it seemed like Evander Kane may have willed the Buffalo Sabres toward a victory. Ten seconds after Kane had scored to erase a 1-0 deficit with 7:33 remaining, he crashed the net and again knocked the puck over the goal line, seemingly to give the Sabres a lead.

Instead, the goal was overturned when officials ruled that Kane had scored using a kicking motion, and the moment became a microcosm of the greater problem in an eventual 3-1 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes.

"It's a 1-1 game late in the third period," Sabres coach Phil Housley said. "We battled back in the game, but we make a mistake and it ends up in our net. I think the bottom line is they took advantage of our mistakes and we didn't take advantage of theirs."

Sabres fall to Hurricanes, 3-1

04:08 • November 18th, 2017

Sebastian Aho scored the game-winning goal for Carolina with 5:15 remaining in regulation, followed by an empty-net tally from Joakim Nordstrom with 40.9 seconds on the clock. Justin Williams also scored a goal to put Carolina on the board late in the second period.

To Housley's point, the Sabres saw several chances of their own go unfulfilled throughout the night. Jordan Nolan and Johan Larsson were unable to convert on breakaways, while Kyle Okposo and Jack Eichel both saw point-blank opportunities stopped by Carolina goalie Scott Darling.

The Hurricanes, meanwhile, capitalized when given the opportunity. Williams scored after exiting the penalty box upon the conclusion of a Buffalo power play, carrying the puck on a 2-on-1 rush until he faked a pass across the net, stepped back and shot across the body of Sabres goalie Chad Johnson.

Aho's goal came after a puck bounced over defenseman Justin Falk's stick in the defensive zone, freeing the Carolina forward with a clear path to the net.

Johnson ended his night having allowed two goals on 32 shots.

"They flipped the puck," Falk said. "When I went to go pick it up it had landed and I thought it had settled enough to trust picking it up with my stick. Soon as I went to go for it, the puck went over. Bad break."

The loss marked the fourth time in five games that Sabres managed to score just one goal. Part of their struggles, Kane said, has been their inability to execute on scoring chances. The other part has been their lack of shots.

On Saturday, the Sabres didn't register a shot until Kane lofted a wrister on goal with 2:36 remaining in the first period.

"We've had our chances, but we definitely need to generate more offense," Kane said. "As a team, a lot of that has to do with execution, a lot of that has to do with taking the puck to the net instead of playing along the perimeter. I think we play along the perimeter way too much."

Housley also cited the fact that Carolina blocked 14 of Buffalo's shots as part of their problem generating offense. Fixing that, he said, will come from a willingness to shoot from everywhere in the offensive zone.

"To get more shots you've just got to get them through," he said. "We talked about being a shot mentality team and give them credit, they blocked a lot of shots. Our D have to do a better job of finding lanes and delivering pucks to the net. We have to shoot pucks from everywhere."

With the loss, the Sabres are now winless in their last five games at 0-3-2.

"It is testing my patience," Housley said. "I thought the last game in Detroit was really the end of my wick as far as being patient and making some adjustments and addressing that ... I still feel that we're not all on the same page and we're going to continue to work on that."

Kane's odd night

Kane's five-hole wrist shot

00:53 • November 18th, 2017

The lamp lit and the horn sounded to signal goals for Kane on three separate occasions on Saturday, but only once did it actually show on the scoreboard. The first instance came late in the first period, when Kane's shot appeared to have gone in but had actually fallen on the back of the net.

The third occasion, which would have been the go-ahead goal in the third period, was ruled to have gone in with a kicking motion.

"I didn't agree with it," Kane said. "You go hard to the net ... I was pretty self-conscious of not making a kicking motion and kicking the puck in the net."

The goal Kane did score was his team-leading 11th of the season and gave him six points (4+2) in his last six games.

Hockey Fights Cancer

The Sabres took the ice for warmups wearing lavender jerseys to kick off Hockey Fights Cancer Night at KeyBank Center, held in conjunction with the Courage of Carly Fund at Roswell Park Cancer Institute as part of the NHL's annual initiative to spread awareness and raise money for cancer research.

The jerseys are available now at auctions.nhl.com, with all proceeds benefitting the Buffalo Sabres Foundation.

Marco Scandella and Hurricanes captain Justin Faulk welcomed Cameron MacDonald and 5-year-old Lucy to center ice for a ceremonial puck drop prior to the game. Learn about their battles with cancer in the video below:

Hockey Fights Cancer Faceoff 2017

04:52 • November 18th, 2017

Members of the 11 Day Power Play, a group that set the world record for longest consecutive hockey game at HarborCenter and raised \$1.2 million toward cancer research in the process this past summer, were also recognized as recipients of the One Buffalo Community Award.

One Buffalo Award: 11 Day PP

00:55 • November 18th, 2017

Finally, click play on the videos below for Brian Duff's interview with Roswell Park Cancer Institute CEO Dr. Candace Johnson and Rob Ray's interview with Sabres play-by-play Rick Jeanneret.

Dr. Candace Johnson (11/18/17)

04:24 • November 18th, 2017

RJ on Hockey Fights Cancer

03:44 • November 18th, 2017

Up next

The Sabres continue their four-game homestand against the Columbus Blue Jackets at KeyBank Center on Tuesday night. It will be the second of three meetings between the two teams this season, with the Sabres having dropped the previous matchup 5-1 in Columbus on Oct. 25.

Coverage on Tuesday begins at 6:30 p.m. with GMC Gamenight on MSG-B, or you can listen live on WGR 550. Puck drop is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Sabres host Hurricanes on Hockey Fights Cancer Night in Buffalo

Sabres.com

Jourdon LaBarber

November 18, 2017

It's a fair assumption that, when the Buffalo Sabres take the ice in lavender sweaters for Hockey Fights Cancer Night prior to their game against Carolina on Saturday, nearly everyone on the ice or in the stands will be able to call to mind a person in their life who's been affected by the disease.

Phil Housley, for example, will think of his mother. MaryLee Housley was 59 when she passed away from glioblastoma in 2000.

"She's the one that used to bring me to the rink," the Sabres coach recalled. "My brother (Larry) and I are one year apart, my dad would bring my brother to the rink and my mom would bring me to the rink and just a great supporter.

"I still can remember her ringing that cowbell back in the day and just showing her support. She loved to come to the games and she was a great person to lean on."

PREVIEW: CAR at BUF (11/18/17)

02:25 • November 18th, 2017

Hockey Fights Cancer Night, hosted in partnership with the Courage of Carly Fund at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, is part of the NHL's annual initiative to raise money and awareness toward cancer research.

It also serves as an outlet for players to honor their loved ones who have battled the disease.

READ: A message from Karin Housley

"Cancer affects everyone. I'm no exception," Sabres defenseman Marco Scandella said. "I lost my dad a couple of years ago, so it's a special night for me. Everybody knows somebody who's been affected. It's a big night and I'm just going to play hard tonight."

Scandella's father, Francesco, passed away following a bout with prostate cancer in 2015.

"I just think about him every day," Scandella said. "He taught me everything I know. He was just a great example for me on how to be a man, so I just take that with me and I play with that every game and try to make him proud."

The lavender jerseys that the Sabres will wear during warmups will be available at auctions.nhl.com immediately following the game, and autographed Hockey Fights Cancer hats will be available for \$20 at KeyBank Center. All fans in attendance on Saturday will receive a commemorative lavender scarf.

If you can't make it to the game, coverage on MSG-B begins at 6:30 p.m. with the GMC Gamenight Pregame Show. You can also listen live on WGR 550, with puck drop set for shortly after on 7 p.m.

Slowing down the Hurricanes

Phil Housley Pregame (11/18/17)

04:50 • November 18th, 2017

The Sabres were disappointed with the way they handled the speed of the Detroit Red Wings in a 3-1 loss on the road on Friday. They'll have to do better against the Hurricanes, another team that has the ability to fly up and down the ice.

"They're a very fast team and they like to get the puck to the net," Scandella said. "They're kind of a sneaky team. They don't have superstars per say but they have a lot of really good, effective players that play the game hard, play the game honest. We're going to have to take away time and space."

The Sabres did not skate Saturday morning, but Housley did hold a team meeting at KeyBank Center.

"We've been put in this position before and had a great response," Housley said. "You look at last night's game, it didn't sit well with me. I don't think it sat well with them. Hopefully we can come out, have a strong first period and respond in the right way."

More time for Criscuolo

With so much of the game having been played on special teams on Friday, Kyle Criscuolo was limited to just 6:56 of ice time in his NHL debut. According to Housley, that ice time wasn't a reflection of his play.

"In those minutes, I thought he was our best effective player," Housley said. "He played well in his own end, finishing checks, bringing energy. He had a scoring chance in the second period. We're going to try and find some more ice for him."

Despite the limited ice time, Criscuolo was able to record two shot attempts and two hits against the Red Wings.

Rodrigues, Nylander play in Rochester

Evan Rodrigues and Alexander Nylander both returned from injury and played for the first time this season in Rochester's 4-2 win over Hartford on Friday. Rodrigues had been out since the preseason with a hand injury, while Nylander sustained his injury during the Prospects Challenge in September.

Rodrigues appeared to be on a track to make the NHL roster with his play in the preseason, and Housley said his reassignment to Rochester was partially a matter of regaining his timing.

"It's going to take time," Housley said. "When you miss that much time in camp and moving forward in the regular season, you have to find your timing back. That's one of the reasons why we brought him down."

In other injury news, Housley said that forward Jacob Josefson and defenseman Zach Bogosian both continue to skate on their own but remain week-to-week.

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 Criscuolo - 17 Jordan Nolan

6 Marco Scandella - 41 Justin Falk

19 Jake McCabe - 82 Nathan Beaulieu

4 Josh Gorges - 93 Victor Antipin

31 Chad Johnson

40 Robin Lehner

Sharpen Up: November 18, 2017

Sabres.com

Chris Ryndak

November 18, 2017

It's Hockey Fights Cancer Night presented by the Courage of Carly Fund at Roswell Park Cancer Institute tonight at KeyBank Center. The Carolina Hurricanes are in town and the Sabres are looking to snap an 0-2-2 skid.

We'll have more on Hockey Fights Cancer Night after the jump, but if you can't wait for that, click here for all the details, including details on giveaways and the autographed hat sale. It's also the place where you can print out your "I'm Fighting For" and/or "I'm A Survivor!" placards.

Here's what you need to know.

About last night

Sabres defeated by Red Wings, 3-1

04:35 • November 17th, 2017

It was a game that Robin Lehner called "ugly." Buffalo lost 3-1 to Detroit at Little Caesars Arena and no one was happy about it afterwards. Check out the locker room sound here as well as in the Lexus Postgame Report.

Phil Housley Postgame (11/17/17)

02:48 • November 18th, 2017

"We didn't have much discipline in that part of the game," coach Phil Housley said. "...I think it comes down to getting prepared to play. I think we need more commitment to winning. 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.

"...When we don't battle, it's very evident. We lose coverage and we have breakdowns. There are mistakes that are made."

Robin Lehner Postgame (11/17/17)

02:13 • November 18th, 2017

The Sabres got into some penalty trouble in the second period that gave Detroit a competitive edge and allowed them to control much of the play the rest of the way.

Lehner made 30 saves in net and when Detroit wasn't missing their chances wide, he was making timely saves for much of the game.

Evander Kane Postgame (11/17/17)

02:06 • November 18th, 2017

"I can't say enough about his game all year," Evander Kane said of his goaltender. "He's been outstanding. He makes four, five highlight-reel saves every night. Nobody talks about it probably outside of this locker room, but he deserves a lot of credit. We left him to hang out to dry and he should've had a shutout tonight with how well he played."

Lehner, meanwhile, is only looking to add numbers to the Win column.

"Yeah but it doesn't matter [how well anyone thinks I played]," he said. "It doesn't matter. I can feel [as] good as I want about a game, but we're not winning right now. It really doesn't matter to me. Honestly, it's tough. It's very tough. But again, we're professionals. We've got to move on. But these ones are tough. It was an ugly game."

Ryan O'Reilly Postgame (11/17/17)

02:01 • November 18th, 2017

Ready for tonight?

The team will hold a meeting at 11 a.m. today as they prep for tonight's game. We'll have lineup news and notes for you. And since it's a special night, here's some more info on what you can expect during Hockey Fights Cancer Night:

As part of an NHL-wide initiative to raise money and awareness for cancer research, the Sabres will be hosting events throughout the night in support of local cancer patients and their charitable organizations. All fans attending the game will receive a co-branded Sabres and Courage of Carly Fund scarf.

Volunteers from Roswell Park will be on hand selling raffle tickets for chances to win Sabres experiences and autographed items. Tickets will be sold on the 100 level near the HarborCenter bridge until the second intermission. Furthermore, an online auction featuring unique Sabres autographed merchandise and experiences will be running this week at sabres.com/auctions. This auction will start on Nov. 18 at 9 p.m. and close on Nov. 26 at 9 p.m., with all proceeds benefitting Roswell Park Cancer Institute

To commemorate the night, all Sabres players will wear purple jerseys and use sticks with purple tape during warmups. The jerseys will be auctioned off online immediately following the game. Sabres coaches and broadcasters will be wearing commemorative Hockey Fights Cancer™ ties and there will be a ceremonial puck drop before the game, so fans are strongly encouraged to be in their seats early.

Roswell Park volunteers will also be stationed at tables throughout the concourse to help fans fill out "I'm fighting for ____" placards that will be held up at a designated time during the second period.

Flashes of Hope will also be set up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. near the elevators on the street level of the arena to give cancer survivors an opportunity to have their photos taken professionally.

Fans attending the game will have the opportunity to purchase autographed Hockey Fights Cancer™ hats for \$20. The hats have been donated by New Era Cap Company and will be sold before the game and through the second intermission. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Wives and girlfriends of Sabres players will be on hand to assist with the sale. Hockey Fights Cancer™ shirts will also be on sale in the Sabres store.

Members of the Courage of Carly Fund will join other cancer patients from Roswell Park throughout the game in suites donated by the Sabres organization and Sabres players Ryan O'Reilly and Zach Bogosian. After the game, pediatric cancer patients will have the opportunity to meet with Sabres players in the team's locker room area.

World Juniors update

Last night in Detroit, USA Hockey Assistant Executive Director Mike Bertsch joined Dan Dunleavy to talk about the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship, which will be held in Buffalo next month (yes, it's that soon!).

Mike Bertsch with Dan

03:33 • November 17th, 2017

You can purchase your ticket packages, including tickets to the outdoor game between the U.S. and Canada at BuffaloWorldJuniors.com.