



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

December 12, 2017

Sabres' Rodrigues answers the call after promotion

The Buffalo News

John Vogl

Dec. 11, 2017

Evan Rodrigues is doing something that Buffalo Sabres call-ups simply don't do.

He's producing.

In his first three games since arriving from Rochester, Rodrigues has two goals and three points. That's an impressive start anywhere. In Buffalo, it's especially noteworthy.

The shuttle from Rochester to Buffalo has been busy since the start of the 2015-16 season. The Sabres have called up 17 forwards, giving them a combined 227 games.

They've responded with just 24 goals and 21 assists.

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If Rodrigues can extend his point streak to three straight games Tuesday when Buffalo hosts Ottawa, he'll become the first recalled player to do so during the three-season slump.

"For my first three games of the year here, it's nice to step in and play good minutes right away," Rodrigues said Monday in KeyBank Center. "That definitely gives me a pat on the back and a little bit more confidence to just go out, play my game and believe in myself. If I play the right way, good things will happen."

After failing to record a point in his season debut, Rodrigues earned an assist Friday in Chicago and scored both goals during Sunday's 3-2 overtime loss in St. Louis. He centered for Scott Wilson and Sam Reinhart and skated 16:29, including 4:22 on the power play. He's on the penalty-kill unit, too.

"Evan's been terrific since he's been back," coach Phil Housley said. "It's good to have him down the middle contributing, more than just scoring goals."

Scoring matters, though, especially for guys coming up from Rochester. They're not expected to take over the top line, but any production is nice.

Instead, the Sabres have seen little to no offense from the likes of Cal O'Reilly (three goals, five assists in 31 games), William Carrier (five goals, three assists in 41 games), Justin Bailey (four goals, three assists in 39 games), Tim Schaller (one goal, two assists in 17 games), Dan Catenacci (no points in 11 games) and Kyle Criscuolo (no points in eight).

Rodrigues is on the list, too. After starting last season with the Amerks, he recorded four goals and two assists in 30 games with Buffalo.

The 24-year-old looks like a new man this year.

"I have a lot more confidence this year compared to last year," Rodrigues said. "They're giving me a good chance, and I just have to take full advantage of it and continue to believe in myself and continue to put in the work. If I do that, I think I'll have a good year."

Rodrigues had a chance to make the opening-night roster, but it disintegrated when he suffered a broken hand Sept. 22 during the third preseason game. He finally opened the season Nov. 17 in Rochester, and he recorded five goals and 10 points in eight games.

The Sabres recalled him last week, and the production continued.

"It took a couple games just to get control of my hand, get the strength back," Rodrigues said. "But once I got the first couple under my belt, I felt great. It felt like I was dominating, controlling the play and controlling the puck.

"I'm just trying to translate that into here, and I think I've done a pretty good job of that so far."

He's already tied for eighth on the team in goals, though that's an indictment of the team as a whole. The Sabres are still last in the NHL in scoring at 2.13 goals per game.

"We'd like to have more production from everybody," Housley said.

That includes Rodrigues' fellow call-up, Hudson Fasching. The winger has no points in four games and skated a team-low 6:47 against St. Louis.

"Hudson had a really good spark for us in Colorado using his speed, using his size, the physical element to his game," Housley said. "He just got a little bit away from that, and as a result his minutes went down.

"For him, it's just being that net-front presence and being tough to play against down low, getting his body over the puck and wearing other teams down in their own zone.

"Hudson's a terrific person, a really good competitor. It's everything we want in Buffalo, and he's going to get another opportunity."

Story topics: Evan Rodrigues/ Hudson Fasching

Sabres Notebook: Lehner can't stop disappointment; Beaulieu, Josefson practice

The Buffalo News

John Vogl

Dec. 11, 2017

Robin Lehner should feel better than he does. Losing keeps bringing him down.

The Buffalo Sabres goaltender was impressive during a three-game road trip, stopping 125 of 133 shots for a .940 save percentage. All he had to show for it was a 1-0-2 record.

"It's obviously hard to find a bright spot when you're losing," Lehner said Monday. "It really is."

History suggests good news could be coming. The Sabres host Ottawa on Tuesday, and Lehner has tormented his former team. He is 4-0-2 against the Senators with a .959 save percentage and 1.30 goals-against average.

Lehner could use a pick-me-up. Despite getting four of six points during the road trip, Lehner left the crease following overtime goals by Chicago and St. Louis.

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"I'm just kind of disappointed," he said in KeyBank Center. "We're working hard. We're trying to turn things around, and they're big points for us. Obviously, the points are big, but just the emotion of winning right now is such a boost. When we win a game, it feels so good right now.

"If we do a few things and maybe just push that little bit extra, we could have come out 3-0 on this road trip. That would have been a hell of a boost for us. We still got four out of six, and that's a positive, but I hate losing. Most of the guys hate losing, and it's tough sometimes."

Despite the disheartening losses, Buffalo (7-17-6) has points in three straight games for the first time this season. It will look to make it four against a team facing similar struggles.

Ottawa is sliding toward the bottom with a 1-9-2 drought. The Senators are 9-12-7 and ahead of only Buffalo in the Eastern Conference.

Lehner can get the Sabres a little closer.

"We're working hard," he said. "There's a few things we need to get better at, and I need to get better at a few things, too. We're still heading in the right direction. We just need to get a little bit more consistent as a team, all of us, and we'll move forward from there."

Nathan Beaulieu lost so much weight last week that he refused to even dole the exact figure.

"A lot," the Sabres defenseman said. "I lost an extreme amount of weight and was pretty weak."

Flu-like symptoms rocked the 200-pound Beaulieu, who returned to practice after failing to join Buffalo on its road trip. He's questionable for Tuesday's game against Ottawa.

"It's tough with these things," Beaulieu said. "Some days you feel really good, and then some days you think you've still got a bit of it."

Beaulieu started feeling ill during the Dec. 2 game in Pittsburgh. He left after skating just 7:46.

"I threw up twice on the bench," he said. "It was just wasn't the right thing to do to be around my team. It wasn't fair to them. I didn't want to pass it on."

The Sabres returned home after the Pittsburgh game and left for Colorado on Monday. Beaulieu stayed home, missing Tuesday's victory over the Avalanche and the overtime losses.

"It was a really weird situation," Beaulieu said. "It was unfortunate, but those type of things you don't really want to fly with the team and spread the germs."

"It knocked me out pretty good, hit me really hard. I've never been hit by that before. ... I did everything I could to get back. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to. The guys did a great job, and hopefully I'll be out there soon."

The Sabres want Jacob Josefson to stick around longer than three games this time. So even though the center is making rapid progress with his ankle injury, his return to the lineup isn't imminent.

Josefson was a surprise participant in Buffalo's optional practice. He reinjured his right ankle Nov. 25, and the initial timeline was four to six weeks. He's skating in just more than two.

"It feels like I'm a little bit ahead of schedule, so the rehab must have been good," Josefson said. "It responded well, I think, so now it's a matter of getting back with the team."

That won't happen until the Sabres are sure his ankle can handle it. Josefson originally hurt the ankle Oct. 15, and he didn't return until Nov. 22. He suffered the same injury three days later.

"He's still week-to-week," coach Phil Housley said. "It's good to see him out there moving his feet and turning hard, cutting hard on his lower body. It's going to be a progression for him, but we've got to be smart because of his injury."

The setback was a disappointment for Josefson and the Sabres. He provided an immediate boost upon his return, earning an assist against Minnesota and scoring against Edmonton before leaving during a loss in Montreal.

"It was frustrating, but I feel a lot better now," Josefson said. "Hopefully, I can be in for the rest of the year."

Story topics: Robin Lehner

Sabres' Josefson healing rapidly, but he's still week-to-week

The Buffalo News

By John Vogl

December 11, 2017

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Taking part in Sabres' optional: Rodrigues, Fasching, Josefson, Beaulieu, Eichel, O'Reilly, Larsson, Antipin, Nolan, Reinhart, Girgensons, Wilson, Johnson.

12:03 PM - Dec 11, 2017

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Story topics: [Jacob Josefson](#)

Sabres' Beaulieu returns to practice after three-game absence

The Buffalo News

By John Vogl

December 11, 2017

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"A ton," the Sabres defenseman said Monday. "I lost an extreme amount of weight and was pretty weak."

Flu-like symptoms rocked the 200-pound Beaulieu, who returned to practice in KeyBank Center after failing to join Buffalo on its three-game road trip. He's questionable for Tuesday's home game against Ottawa.

"It's tough with these things," Beaulieu said. "Some days you feel really good, and then some days you think you've still got a bit of it. Good sweats are the best things you can do, so today was my best day yet. I'm pretty optimistic."

Beaulieu started feeling ill during the Dec. 2 game in Pittsburgh. He left after skating just 7:46.

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"It knocked me out pretty good, hit me really hard. I've never been hit by that before. ... I did everything I could to get back. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to. The guys did a great job, and hopefully I'll be out there soon."

Story topics: Nathan Beaulieu

Robin Lehner helps jumpstart Sabres

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

December 10, 2017

BUFFALO – It's no coincidence the Sabres' first three-game point streak this trying season materialized with perhaps Robin Lehner's best stretch of goaltending.

Lehner dazzled during the Sabres' 1-0-2 road run, stopping 125 of the 133 shots he faced, an average of 42 saves a night.

With a little luck or a few stronger minutes here or there, the Sabres could've won all three tilts.

A lot changed for the Sabres over a six-day stretch. The NHL's 30th-ranked team suddenly became much more competitive and started scoring some timely goals.

Meanwhile, Lehner stood tall, posting a .940 save percentage in that span.

Sabres coach Phil Housley sees signs Lehner, 26, is on top of his game.

"He's just focused, you can see it in his preparation," Housley said Monday. "He's dialed in, he controls his rebounds, he's square to the puck, he's in good position, he lets pucks hit him. He's a big guy. It just shows. I think he has a lot of confidence right now."

For one of the few times this season, the Sabres possess some momentum entering tonight's contest against the Ottawa Senators inside KeyBank Center.

Lehner, of course, will likely start against his old team, his fourth straight nod and 24th appearance overall. Right now, the Swede's on pace to play a career-high 63 games, four more than last season.

"I've felt in a rhythm," Lehner said. "It's nice of the coach to keep putting me out there."

While Lehner has some notable faults – he's the league's worst shootout goalie, for example – his 103-game Sabres career has mostly been solid.

A year ago, he posted a splendid .920 save percentage on a last-place team. This season, however, his numbers dipped as the Sabres imploded early.

Still, Lehner has insisted all year he feels fine, something he reiterated Monday.

"(It's) obviously hard to find a bright spot when you're losing, it really is," he said. "But I've thought a lot of my games this year have been good and (I'm) just trying to keep building on it. I think we've been playing better."

He added: "I've felt solid. Obviously, there's goals here and there you want to have. But I felt like most of the games I've been in have been one-goal games, we've been in them."

The Sabres just endured two one-goal games. In Sunday's 3-2 overtime loss in St. Louis, they rallied late – Evan Rodrigues tied it with 1:27 left – before Vladimir Tarasenko converted the Blues' 45th shot.

In Friday's 3-2 overtime loss in Chicago, the Sabres led 2-1 before Tommy Wingels scored short-handed with 3:22 left. After Jack Eichel missed a penalty shot in overtime, Gustav Forsling scored on the Blackhawks' 51st shot.

Following that goal, Lehner lost his cool as he walked to the dressing room.

In last Tuesday's 4-2 win in Colorado, Lehner's 35 saves helped secure only the Sabres' seventh win.

“Just the emotion of winning right now is such a boost,” Lehner said. “When we win a game, it feels so good right now. I think if we do a few things, maybe just push that little bit extra, I think we could’ve come out 3-0 this road trip.”

The Sabres play four of their next five games at home before the World Junior Championship will force them away for seven straight contests.

Lehner has quietly been one of the NHL’s best home goalies this season, going 3-6-1 with a 2.02 goals-against average, a .932 save percentage and one shutout.

His overall numbers – 6-12-4, 2.91 and .910 – have improved recently. Still, his road statistics – 3-6-3, 3.74 and .893 – are poor.

Lehner has been yanked twice on the road, including a Nov. 4 outing in Dallas in which he allowed three goals on seven shots in barely 10 minutes.

“If I have one more good game on the road, I think my numbers are going to be up there,” Lehner said. “It’s still too early in the year, the numbers are changing drastically. ... It all evens out. Your numbers land somewhere they’re supposed to be.

“When we have good numbers, it just doesn’t reflect me, it reflects the team. When I have bad numbers, it just doesn’t reflect me, it reflects the team. It’s a team game.”

Sabres' Nathan Beaulieu, Jacob Josefson return to practice

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

December 11, 2017

BUFFALO – On Dec. 2 in Pittsburgh, defenseman Nathan Beaulieu felt sick but tried gutting out some minutes for the reeling Sabres.

Beaulieu said he vomited twice on the bench before leaving the 5-1 loss to the Penguins.

“It just wasn’t the right thing to do, to be around my team,” Beaulieu said this afternoon following the Sabres’ optional practice. “It wasn’t fair to them.”

Beaulieu, 24, hasn’t played since then. He was so ill he didn’t accompany the Sabres for the final three contests of their four-game trip.

“It knocked me out pretty good, hit me hard,” he said. “I’ve never been hit like that before, lost an extreme amount of weight and was pretty weak.”

What’s an “extreme” amount of weight?

“A lot,” Beaulieu said, adding it was the most he had ever lost.

Beaulieu, however, is finally close to playing. He looked and sounded excited during his brief chat with the media. Sabres coach Phil Housley said Beaulieu’s day-to-day. The Sabres host Ottawa on Tuesday.

“We’ll see about tomorrow,” Beaulieu said.

Beaulieu was one of 13 Sabres who skated in today’s optional practice inside KeyBank Center following Sunday’s 3-2 overtime loss in St. Louis.

“Today’s been the best day yet,” he said.

Meanwhile, Sabres center Jacob Josefson also practiced today, his first appearance since re-injuring his ankle. Josefson has missed six straight games and 21 of the last 24.

The Sabres originally pegged his absence at four to six weeks after he tweaked his ankle Nov. 25.

“It feels like I’m a little bit ahead of schedule, the rehab’s been responding well,” Josefson said.

Housley said Josefson is still listed at week-to-week.

Beaulieu, Josefson join Sabres for optional practice

Sabres.com

Jourdon LaBarber

December 11, 2017

When Jacob Josefson tweaked his ankle in Montreal on Nov. 25, it was said he'd take four to six weeks to recover. For now, he's ahead of schedule. Josefson was back on the ice with the Buffalo Sabres for an optional practice on Monday, just two weeks removed from sustaining his injury.

Josefson was among a group of 13 that also included defenseman Nathan Beaulieu, who's missed the last three games due to an illness. Sabres coach Phil Housley said that Josefson remains week-to-week, while Beaulieu is day-to-day.

"It's good to see him out there moving his feet and turning hard, cutting hard on his lower-body injury," Housley said of Josefson. "It's going to be a progression for him but we've got to be smart because of his injury."

Sabres Now (12/11/17)

01:40 • December 11th, 2017

Josefson missed 15 games after initially sustaining his ankle injury in Anaheim on Oct. 15. He quickly made an impact upon returning to the lineup in mid-November, scoring a goal and an assist in two games, but reinjured the ankle early in his third game back.

"It was frustrating, but I feel a lot better now," Josefson said. "It feels like I'm a little bit ahead of schedule. The rehab's been responding well."

Beaulieu, meanwhile, left Buffalo's game in Pittsburgh on Dec. 2 due to flu-like symptoms.

"I threw up twice on the bench," Beaulieu said. "It just wasn't the right thing to do, to be around my team. It wasn't fair to them."

In the days that followed, Beaulieu said he felt weak and lost "an extreme amount" of weight. He said Monday was the best he's felt, and expressed optimism about his status for Tuesday's home game against the Ottawa Senators.

In the meantime, he was just happy to be on the ice with his teammates after a long week apart.

"It was unfortunate, I really wanted to get on the road and join the team," he said. "I thought they did a hell of a job on the road trip getting four out of six and showed a lot of passion, lot of grit. It was just really nice to see the boys this morning."

Well-deserved rest for Lehner, Risto

Phil Housley (12/11/17)

05:20 • December 11th, 2017

With a quick turnaround between their recent road trip and their game on Tuesday, the Sabres understandably kept a large group of players off the ice on Monday. Of the players who received rest days, none were more deserving than Robin Lehner and Rasmus Ristolainen.

Lehner started all three games in net for the Sabres and faced a combined 133 shots, stopping all but eight of them. Housley said it may have been the goaltender's best stretch of the season.

"I'd have to think so," Housley said. "I think he's been pretty consistent all year, but obviously we gave up way too much in Chicago and St. Louis and he provided us a chance to win. He saw a lot of rubber but he was up to the task. It's good to see."

Ristolainen, meanwhile, came 43 seconds short on Sunday of becoming the first Sabre to log 30-plus minutes in three straight games. He skated a combined 91:43 on the road trip, tallying 11 shots, 12 hits and 13 blocked shots along the way.

Housley said he'd like to cut down Ristolainen's ice time - doing so might allow him to become more active on offense - but added that the heavy workload was a testament to the defenseman's preparation and competitiveness.

"I think he brings a physical presence to the game," Housley said. "He's tough to play against. I know you wouldn't want to go into a corner [with him] because you're going to pay a price. It's good to see him being that type of player."

Up next

The Sabres will host the Senators for the first time this season on Tuesday. The Senators come to Buffalo having won just once in their last 12 games after making it to the Eastern Conference Final last season.

Coverage on MSG-B begins at 6:30 p.m. with GMC Gamenight, or you can listen live on WGR 550. The puck drops at 7 p.m.

Davidsson, Mittelstadt, Luukkonen and Budik named to World Juniors camps

Sabres.com

Kris Baker

December 11, 2017

Four Sabres prospects were named to preliminary rosters for the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship last week, and all four rode the momentum and made crucial impressions with their home teams before departing for their respective countries training camps.

After being named to the United States preliminary roster, freshman forward Casey Mittelstadt (2017, first round) recorded assists in each of his two games last week to give him points in five straight contests as Minnesota was swept by Ohio State with a 2-1 overtime loss on Friday and a 4-1 defeat the next night.

Through 19 games, Mittelstadt is tied for the second in team scoring with 17 points (5+12) while leading the Gophers with a plus-6 rating and 2.74 shots on goal per game.

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Feature story in this month's @USAHMagazine is a preview of the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship in Buffalo. #USAWJC

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2:52 PM - Dec 7, 2017

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In Sweden, two-way centerman Marcus Davidsson (2017, second round) followed up his World Junior nomination with one of his better games of the season Thursday, finishing off a give-and-go with a quick forehand for his second goal of the year to help Djurgården IF to a 6-3 triumph over Linköping HC.

Kris Baker

@SabresProspects

Marcus Davidsson gives, goes, gets it back for the goal as Djurgården doubles Linköping 6-3 #Sabres

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Davidsson, who was unable to point in Saturday's 4-3 overtime win over IF Malmö Redhawks, has nine points (2+7) in 23 games while averaging 12:00 of work per outing for the SHL's third-place club.

Defenseman Vojtech Budik (2016, fifth round) parlayed his inclusion on the Czech Republic's camp roster into a solid week for the Western Hockey League's Prince Albert Raiders, nearly doubling his season production with five points in the week's four games, including a one-goal, one-assist effort Wednesday in a 5-4 shootout loss to Medicine Hat.

Kris Baker

@SabresProspects

Prince Albert D Vojtech Budik gets to the top of the circle and fires for the rare goal, his second of the year and sixth of his 155-game WHL career, in the Raiders' Weds. loss #Sabres

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The wrist-shot goal was a rare feat for the defenseman Budik, who now has two on the season and six in his 157-game WHL career. In 27 games this season, Budik has gathered 11 points and 80 shots on goal.

In Finland, Leki goaltender Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen (2017, second round) won one of his two starts last week to bring his record to 9-7 with a 2.82 goals-against average and a .914 save percentage.

On Tuesday, Finland's projected World Junior starter made 27 saves in a 6-2 win over Jokipojat. Luukkonen followed up with a 30-save performance Friday to keep his club competitive in a 2-1 overtime loss to Kiekko-Vantaa.

All four players are expected to be key members of their teams when the World Junior Championship begins Dec. 26 at Key Bank Center and HarborCenter in Buffalo.

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Europe

Victor Olofsson (2014, seventh round) drove the net and roofed the puck for a pretty goal Thursday to help Frolunda HC to a 4-0 blanking of Karlskrona HK.

Kris Baker

@SabresProspects

#Sabres fans want to see a pretty goal? Check out Victor Olofsson today as he captured his 13th of the year. Feet-->body position-->snipe. He's at .57 goals/game, .91 points/game. Not bad.

4:42 PM - Dec 7, 2017

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On Saturday, the sniper circled and fired for another marker and later added one into an empty-net as Frolunda HC defeated Mora IK 3-1. Olofsson also provided a primary assist in the victory to have his hand in all three goals in the victory.

9 Dec

Kris Baker

@SabresProspects

Let's go out on a limb and say that Victor Olofsson's hip procedure worked. Two goals (one ENG) plus one assist today. Points in nine straight games (eight straight since minor surgery).

11+7 in his last 12 games.

Season: 24GP 15-9-24

15 goals good for solo 2nd in SHL#Sabres

Kris Baker

@SabresProspects

Victor Olofsson continues to show he can make the most of the space he's given. Goal and an assist from yesterday (also had an empty-netter): pic.twitter.com/cEVviNKjS9
6:04 PM - Dec 10, 2017

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Olofsson has been red hot of late, capturing points in nine straight games and boosting himself to a point-per-game player with 24 in as many games. His 15 goals rank second in the entire Swedish Hockey League.

Rasmus Asplund (2016, second round) captured an assist Thursday as Farjestad BK fell to Vaxjo Lakers HC 5-4, but the centerman left the game after being elbowed in the head with less than five minutes to play and did not return. He'd miss the next two games with his future timetable yet to be determined.

Asplund has centered Farjestad's second line all season long, has points in six of his last seven games and a total of 16 (4+12) through 26 contests.

In Finnish junior action, Oskari Laaksonen (2017, third round) was unable to point last week as Ilves U20 lost a pair of games before closing the week Saturday with a 3-2 win over Tappara.

Laaksonen, who eclipsed the 23:00 of action in all three contests last week, has captured three goals and 11 points in 33 games.

NCAA

Christopher Brown (2014, sixth round) set a screen and knocked in a rebound Saturday as Boston College fell to Northeastern 5-2. Brown, who now has gotten on the score sheet in consecutive games for the third time this season, heads to the break with five goals and 10 points through 18 outings.

Boston College defenseman Casey Fitzgerald (2016, third round) produced five shots on goal in the Saturday loss to Northeastern.

Fitzgerald collected three goals and nine points in his first dozen games, but his production has run dry with no points in his last five games. The third-year defender has posted five shots on goal or more in six of his 17 appearances.

Maxwell Willman (2014, fifth round) did not play last week as Brown was bested by Bentley 3-1 on Wednesday before rebounding with a 2-2 tie Saturday at Vermont.

Willman has skated in just nine of the Brown's 13 contests this season, picking up one goal, five points, and 25 shots on goal.

Jacob Bryson (2017, fourth round) went without a point over the weekend as Providence defeated RIT 8-3 on Saturday before dropping the tail end of the weekend set by a 4-0 score. Bryson has 12 points, including 11 assists to serve as the team's co-leader in the category, and a plus-2 rating through his first 18 games.

Linus Weissbach (2017, seventh round) picked up a helper Friday to extend his point streak to six games as Wisconsin was defeated by Notre Dame 3-2.

Weissbach was shut out the next night as the Badgers closed out the first half of the season with a 6-0 loss to the Fighting Irish, giving the freshman five goals and 14 points in 18 appearances prior to the break.

Ivan Chukarov (2015, seventh round) recorded an assist for the third-straight game Tuesday as Massachusetts was drilled by Connecticut 8-2.

Chukarov saw his streak snapped Sunday in the Minutemen's 2-1 win at Union, leaving the junior rearguard with three points (0+3) and 10 shots on goal in eight games since returning from an injury that saw him miss the first nine dates of the schedule.

William Borgen (2015, fourth round) recorded a combined three shots on goal as St. Cloud State tied North Dakota 2-2 on Friday, and closed the series with a 3-1 win on Saturday. Borgen has appeared in all 15 of the Huskies' contests, contributing one goal and eight points

Judd Peterson (2012, seventh round) produced three shots on goal over the weekend as St. Cloud State played to a tie and victory over conference rival North Dakota. Peterson has connected for 10 points (1+9) in 15 games while winning a team-high 123 faceoffs.

Brett Murray (2016, fourth round) did not play over the weekend as Penn State hit the break with a non-conference sweep of Robert Morris via 5-2 and 7-4 victories.

The sophomore winger has five points (1+4) and 37 shots on goal while skating in 16 of the Nittany Lions' 20 games.

Philip Nyberg (2016, fifth round) posted identical one-shot-on-goal, plus-1 efforts last week as Connecticut smoked Massachusetts 8-2 on Tuesday and doubled Colgate 4-2 on Saturday.

Nyberg has appeared in 11 games this season, notching two goals and three points while leading the team with a plus-6 rating.

OHL

Cliff Pu (2016, third round) captured five points in the week's three games, highlighted by sniping his 14th goal and adding a pair of assists in Sunday's 6-2 shredding of Erie. Through 29 games, Pu has lit the lamp 14 times and posted 39 total points.

Kris Baker

@SabresProspects

Cliff Pu goes high glove for his 14th goal of the year. Pu finished with a goal and two helpers in London's 6-2 win over Erie.
#Sabres

7:45 PM - Dec 10, 2017

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Defenseman Austin Osmanski (2016, seventh round) notched an assist Thursday in Peterborough's 5-4 overtime victory over Sudbury, and then ended the week without a point in losses to London and Sarnia. Osmanski has one goal and 12 points at the 30-game mark.

WHL

Red Deer winger Brandon Hagel (2016, sixth round) sat out of the week's action as he recovers from injury, leaving him with seven goals and 23 points through his first 27 games.

QMJHL

Vasily Glotov (2016, seventh round) went without a point in the week's three games as Shawinigan won once in three tries.

In 29 games, Glotov has amassed 12 goals, five assists, and 91 shots on goal.

For more on all the youngsters in the Sabres pipeline, check out Kris Baker's website, SabresProspects.com. You can also follow him on Twitter (@SabresProspects) for in-game updates throughout the week on any Buffalo prospects that are in action.

Sharpen Up: December 11, 2017

Sabres.com

Chris Ryndak

December 11, 2017

Thanks to Evan Rodrigues' pair of goals, the Sabres battled back last night in St. Louis to earn a point against the Blues. Buffalo comes home from their three-game trip with points in each game (a win over Colorado and overtime losses to Chicago and St. Louis).

Buffalo is back at practice today. They'll host Ottawa tomorrow night at KeyBank Center. We'll have full coverage for you here at Sabres.com.

Here's what you need to know.

Sabres fall to Blues in OT, 3-2

04:44 • December 10th, 2017

From the Lexus Postgame Report...

Coming into their game against the St. Louis Blues on Sunday evening, the Buffalo Sabres eyed an opportunity to head home from their three-game road trip having taken five out of six available points. Thanks to an overtime goal from Vladimir Tarasenko, they'll have to settle for four.

Phil Housley Postgame (12/10/17)

03:04 • December 11th, 2017

Evan Rodrigues scored a pair of third-period goals to bring the Sabres back from a 2-0 deficit, the latter of which tied the game with 1:27 remaining in regulation, but Tarasenko scored with 36 seconds left in overtime to clinch a 3-2 win for the Blues.

The loss concludes a road trip that began with a win in Colorado on Tuesday, followed by an overtime loss in Chicago on Friday. "Respect" was the key word used by players and coach Phil Housley alike when evaluating this game, and it was what differentiated their slow start from their strong finish.

Evan Rodrigues Postgame 12/10/17

02:24 • December 11th, 2017

"I think in the first couple [periods] we gave them a little too much respect," Rodrigues said. "Obviously they're a good team, but we let them make plays and we let them have the puck. I think in the third we played a little bit more free and knew we had to take it to them. We had nothing to lose, and I think that's when we played our best."

"He's got a good nose to where to be in the right position at the right time," Housley said. "The puck, sometimes in games, follows you. It was following him tonight. He has some good speed, he has really good lateral movement and he gets into those areas to score. It was good to see him get on the board."

Jack Eichel Postgame (12/10/17)

02:04 • December 11th, 2017

With a 42-save effort, Lehner concluded the road trip having faced 133 combined shots in three games. You wouldn't know it by watching him play on Sunday, as the goaltender was once again a calming and consistent presence in net for the Sabres.

Robin Lehner Postgame (12/10/17)

02:40 • December 11th, 2017

"I feel a little bumps and bruises here and there," Lehner said. "But I'm just trying to keep building on my game. It was four big points out of six, even though we lost two overtimes. We're trying to take it a step at a time in the right direction. We've just got to keep working."

Coming up today

We'll have practice coverage for you today as well as Kris Baker's Sabres Prospects Report, which takes a look at the players in the system who could be heading to Buffalo for the World Junior Championship in a few weeks.