



# **Buffalo Sabres**

## **Daily Press Clips**

*February 28, 2018*

## **With post-deadline roster set, Sabres move on to rugged final 19 games**

The Buffalo News

Mike Harrington

February 27, 2018

The Sabres reconvened at practice Tuesday in KeyBank Center, and it was mostly the same look they've had much of the season. The only ones who were missing were Kyle Okposo, whose wife went into labor earlier in the day, and Evander Kane.

Kane was traded just prior to the NHL deadline Monday and was the only player moved by General Manager Jason Botterill, who said there were no takers for unrestricted free agents like Benoit Pouliot, Josh Gorges or Justin Falk. Goalies Chad Johnson and Robin Lehner also remained, largely because very few teams were looking for help in net once Philadelphia acquired Petr Mrazek from Detroit.

Botterill got feelers about many players but wasn't interested in making deals for any of his core players, with center Ryan O'Reilly apparently getting decent interest. Those kind of moves will have to wait until the spring and summer. When he met the media Monday, the GM made it clear he's not happy with his team's nearly seasonlong standing of last place in the Eastern Conference and succinctly said, "the group we have is not working."

Those words resonated in the dressing room.

"We have to do a lot of things differently," said O'Reilly, now the team's top active player in goals (18) and points (45) with Kane traded and Jack Eichel injured. "We have to find a way to be much more consistent. It's our turn to build a foundation. We have to prove to this organization and this city that we can change things here and I want to be a part of it."

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"Hopefully it motivates them for sure," said coach Phil Housley. "It's a challenge right now that's been sent out."

Kane's loss will be felt, of course, since he had 20 goals. Zemgus Girgensons took his spot in practice Tuesday on the top line with O'Reilly and Reinhart.

"We knew it was coming. It's unfortunate and we wish him the best," O'Reilly said of Kane. "It's a big power forward out of the lineup. He adds a lot of size and scoring ability. But it's an opportunity. With the guys we have down, all of us have to bring up our games more."

The Sabres meet the Tampa Bay Lightning Wednesday night in Amalie Arena and it's the first of several rugged matchups they will face over the final 19 games.

Buffalo plays the Lightning twice in that stretch, which is highlighted by all four of its matchups with Toronto, both games against defending Western Conference champion Nashville and the first-ever visit to KeyBank Center by the expansion darling Vegas Golden Knights.

What's the focus?

"Get better. Keep trying to find our game, find our identity," Lehner said. "We see it at periods of time but we have to get to it consistently. When we put solid efforts in, really close games, we can come out on the winning part. We still have to play much better."

The Sabres are doing that of late, going 5-4-1 in their last 10 games. That's eighth in the Eastern Conference over that stretch but Housley wants to see more. The Sabres have won back-to-back games just three times all season, and are just 4-10-4 in the next game after a victory.

"We need to see consistency," Housley said. "We're a team that doesn't handle success very well. You have a big game against Boston and a lot of great efforts from all our players. Moving forward here, those guys in that room and the coaching

staff, we have a lot to prove leading into the summer. We've got to finish the right way. I like the challenge that we're facing some really tough teams. We'll really get a good evaluation on our guys."

O'Reilly said he wasn't too nervous on deadline day because he hadn't heard much from his agent about his name being bandied about. Same for Lehner, who said he had an otherwise "normal Monday" watching hockey shows on television.

"I want to be here. I want to be part of the solution here," O'Reilly said. "I want to help turn this thing around. I have a little bit of an opportunity here at the end of the season to do that but it is a business. When things don't work, things change. Adjustments are made. I personally want to be a part of the solution and change things."

"There's a lot of tough games in the the last 19 we have here," Lehner said. "The majority of them are playoff teams fighting. We need to get better. Every game is very important to us. It might not be to other people but to us in this room it's important. It's a part of showing you want to be here and that's part of the process right now."

Story topics: Buffalo Sabres/ Robin Lehner/ Ryan O'Reilly

## **Sabres Notebook: E-Rod bullish on O'Regan, Lehner rebukes blogger, frantic Kane makes Sharks debut**

The Buffalo News  
Mike Harrington  
February 27, 2018

Coach Phil Housley said Tuesday he only knows Danny O'Regan from what he heard Monday when the Buffalo Sabres acquired the former American Hockey League Rookie of the Year from San Jose as part of the Evander Kane trade. O'Regan is heading to Rochester initially but Sabres center Evan Rodrigues has full knowledge of the organization's newest name.

Rodrigues played with O'Regan for three years at Boston University. When Rodrigues was a senior and O'Regan was a junior in 2014-15, they were joined on a line by a freshman center named Jack Eichel.

"It was a welcome surprise when I heard about the trade," Rodrigues said Tuesday in KeyBank Center. "His hockey sense, smarts and being able to read plays is there. He's always in open areas without guys around him. He's one of those guys who always stops at the netfront poking in rebounds and has really soft hands around the net. I think you'll see that with him. He has a knack for goal scoring, finding open areas and he can make plays."

O'Regan had 23 goals and 58 points last year for the San Jose Barracuda, the Sharks' AHL affiliate. He had just seven goals and 25 points this year in 31 games.

"I texted him. I'm sure he had a whirlwind of stuff going on but he was excited," Rodrigues said. "I was happy for him and he's happy to get a new opportunity."

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Eichel, meanwhile, watched practice from the stands Tuesday along with defenseman Zach Bogosian, who is out for the year after hip surgery. Eichel, who does not have a walking boot on his injured ankle, has not been made available to the media since he was hurt Feb. 10 in Boston; under NHL rules, injured players do not have to speak until they return to practice.

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Goalie Robin Lehner laughed off a report Monday that he had asked to be traded. A local blogger who does not cover the Sabres or professional sports suddenly emerged on deadline day with an unsourced tweet that Lehner had "made it known" to management he wanted to be dealt prior to the deadline.

"That was fake news," Lehner said. "It's funny how it works. Some blogger puts something out and I don't even know who that guy is and people seem to jump on it. A bunch of Swedish websites, serious websites, quoted that one. It's hilarious in this day and age you don't have to put a source on it. It's not true. I'm happy. I'm still a Sabre."

Lehner, who will be a restricted free agent after the season, is thankful the Sabres have given him his best chance to be an NHL starting goalie over the last two years.

"One hundred percent," he said. "I have no reason not to want to be here. The season has been what it's been, but I'm trying hard every day to get better and I've learned to really like it here. .. I have no reason to want to get out of here."

\*\*\*

Evander Kane was scheduled to make his debut with the San Jose Sharks Tuesday night in SAP Center against the visiting Edmonton Oilers. After flying from Buffalo Monday and arriving in the Bay Area around midnight Pacific time, Kane strode right on to the Sharks' top line with captain Joe Pavelski at center and Joonas Donskoi at right wing.

"I've been a healthy scratch the last two games, so just trying to get the legs going a little bit," Kane told San Jose reporters, referring to the Sabres' two weekend contests that he was forced to sit out to avoid injury. "Get the hands going and just do what I do best and hopefully the rest will take care of itself."

The Sharks certainly could use Kane's help offensively. Their power play was in an 0-for-20 slump and they scored just seven goals on a 1-2-1 road trip that ended with three straight losses. Tuesday's game opened a six-game homestand. In addition to knowing several of the Sharks players — injured center Joe Thornton picked him up at the airport — Kane said he knew head coach Peter DeBoer and all of the staff. Assistant Dave Barr coached him with the Sabres under Dan Bylsma in 2015-16.

"It's just nice to play some meaningful hockey," Kane said. "Every game is very important, every point is very important. I'm looking forward to tonight and moving forward here, playing some playoff-style hockey down the stretch to be able to get into the playoffs."

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The Sabres called up Seth Griffith from Rochester to be an extra forward on their Florida road trip. Kyle Okposo missed practice Tuesday because his wife went into labor and his status for the trip is uncertain.

Griffith has 13 goals and 21 assists in 36 games for the Amerks this season. He had two goals and an assist for the Sabres in an 18-game stint that began when he made the opening night roster and stretched until Nov. 25.

Story topics: Buffalo Sabres/ Danny O'Regan/ Evan Rodrigues/ Evander Kane/ Kyle Okposo/ Robin Lehner/ San Jose Sharks/ Seth Griffith

## Evander Kane says goodbye and hello on social media

The Buffalo News

Mike Harrington

February 27, 2018

Evander Kane was easily the biggest user of social media during his time with the Sabres, so where else would you expect him to say farewell to Buffalo and hello to San Jose?

Kane did it Monday night on his Twitter account.

Evander Kane



@evanderkane\_9

Thank you @BuffaloSabres #EK9

5:28 PM - Feb 26, 2018

7,420

1,676 people are talking about this

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Kane thanked owners Terry and Kim Pegula, his coaches and teammates during his three years with the Sabres. He said he would never forget his outreach events with children that he did around the holiday season, but he saved his biggest thanks for the fans.

"The ultimate support that you guys give us throughout the course of a season, the good or the bad, I'll never forget," Kane said. "I've been able to grow as a person over the last three years in more ways than I can imagine. A big part of that is just being able to get in touch with the community and being able to get to know some great people throughout this city."

Two hours later, Kane said hello to folks in the Bay Area.

Evander Kane



@evanderkane\_9

Really excited to be apart of the @SanJoseSharks organization. Cant wait to play in the #SharkTank

7:48 PM - Feb 26, 2018

3,600

839 people are talking about this

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The Sabres and Sharks staged both of their meetings in October, with San Jose winning by scores of 3-1 and 3-2. The teams do not play again this season. Kane, in fact, will make no trips East the rest of the way as the Sharks' four remaining Eastern Conference opponents will all be played in SAP Center.

Kane was a man on the move Monday, as he quickly headed West to try to be in San Jose for Tuesday night's home game against Edmonton. Kane will get plenty of time to get acclimated to his new surrounding as the Sharks are starting a six-game homestand. They don't go on the road until a March 14 game in Edmonton.

The Sharks are currently second in the Pacific Division, one point ahead of Anaheim. Kane is looking to appear in the playoffs for the first time in his NHL career.

Story topics: [Buffalo Sabres](#)/ [Evander Kane](#)/ [San Jose Sharks](#)

## **Sabres' Lehner says report that he asked for a trade is false**

WGR550

Paul Hamilton

February 27, 2018

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) - On Monday, there was report making the rounds from an irresponsible blogger that Robin Lehner had asked to be traded. Lehner has been pretty consistent in his desire to be part of the solution in Buffalo. The Sabres goaltender said, "No that was fake news. It's funny how that works, some blogger puts something out, I don't even know who he is and people seem to jump on it.

"A bunch of serious Swedish web sites quoted that one and it's hilarious. This day and age you don't have to put a source on it, so it's not true and I'm happy I'm still a Sabre."

There were rumors out there that Lehner could be traded before Monday's trade deadline. Lehner is glad he wasn't, "Yes 100 percent, I have no reason to not to want to be here. I've learned to really like it here and we'll see what happens.

"Obviously some things have got to happen and we all understand that, but I have no reason to want to get out of here."

Once the season ends, Jason Botterill is going to have to make a decision on if he wants to keep Lehner or go with Linus Ullmark. It is possible he could have both of them in Buffalo. Lehner said, "I'm not worried about my future, I know I'm a good goalie and at the end of the day you've got kids and stuff so you kind of want to know, but I haven't gotten any indications from anyone that I'm being moved, so whatever happens, happens."

Botterill has no allegiance to Ryan O'Reilly as he didn't trade for him and he didn't sign him. Teams inquired about O'Reilly leading up to the deadline, and he knows when the offseason rolls around, he could be moved, "It's very likely, but it's out of my control. I want to be here, but it is a business and when things don't work, adjustments are made, but personally, I want to be part of it, I want to be part of the solution."

There have been many times in the past few years where O'Reilly has been embarrassed by his play and the teams play. He said if he and others are going to stay in Buffalo, they have to show they want to be here, "We have to prove to this organization and this city that we can change things here. I want to be a part of it."

Jack Eichel sat and watched practice with Zach Bogosian. After practice, Eichel grabbed a stick and gloves and did some off-ice work with rehab coach Dennis Miller. Eichel looked to be walking OK.

Kyle Okposo's wife went into labor so he was not at practice on Tuesday. Seth Griffith comes up from Rochester to take his place. In 18 games with the Sabres, Griffith has two goals and an assist. In 36 games with Rochester, the winger netted 13 goals and 21 assists for 34 points.

## **Sabres' Rodrigues knows the newest Sabre very well**

WGR550

Paul Hamilton

February 27, 2018

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) - Sabres forward Evan Rodrigues is very familiar with the man Buffalo got back from San Jose in the Evander Kane deal. Rodrigues spent three years playing on a line with Danny O'Regan at Boston University.

Rodrigues works out with O'Regan in the off season in Boston and he's happy to have another former teammate in the Sabres organization, "We've been good friends for years and played together for three years in college, so it was a welcomed surprise when I saw the trade."

Rodrigues also played on a line with Scott Wilson when they were kids up in Canada.

O'Regan isn't big, but he's fast. He was the American Hockey League's rookie of the year last season netting 23 goals and 35 assists for 58 points in 63 games with San Jose. Rodrigues isn't surprised with what he brings to the table, "It's his smarts and he's able to read plays. He always seems to be in an open area. He's one of those guys that can stop at the net-front and poke in a rebound."

Rodrigues said the two of them played on a line with Jack Eichel the one season Eichel was at B.U. They finished the top three scorers on the team.

On Tuesday, Eichel sat and watched practice with Zach Bogosian. After practice, Eichel grabbed a stick and gloves and did some off-ice work with rehab coach Dennis Miller. Eichel looked to be walking OK.

Kyle Okposo's wife went into labor so he was not at practice on Tuesday. Seth Griffith comes up from Rochester to take his place. In 18 games with the Sabres Griffith has two goals and an assist. In 36 games with Rochester the winger netted 13 goals and 21 assists for 34 points.

## **With trade deadline passed, Sabres want to finish strongly**

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

February 27, 2018

BUFFALO – Sabres goalie Robin Lehner spent Monday at home with his family monitoring the NHL trade deadline activity on television and radio.

Lehner insisted for weeks he wasn't worried about his future and wants to stay with the Sabres, something he reiterated Tuesday. But with a wife and two children, "you kind of want to know," he said.

In the morning, a tweet from someone outside the hockey world – "I don't know who that guy is," Lehner said – said he demanded to be traded.

"It's hilarious this day in age you don't have to put a source on it," Lehner said. "It's not true and I'm happy I'm still a Sabre."

He added: "I haven't gotten indications from anyone I'm being ... moved."

Despite the Sabres' sorry standing, Lehner, like a lot of his teammates, is relieved to be staying put.

"I have no reason not to want to be here," he said.

Jason Botterill mostly stayed quiet before the NHL trade deadline, only trading winger Evander Kane. Still, in assessing his 30th-place team's dismal performance, the Sabres general manager made it clear major changes will likely transpire following what is arguably the worst season in franchise history.

Botterill's words – "The group that we have right now is not working," he said Monday – should motivate the Sabres, coach Phil Housley said.

"It's a challenge right now that's been sent out," Housley said after the Sabres prepared for Wednesday's tilt against the Tampa Bay Lightning, the start of a two-game road trip. "I think the guys responded in the right way (by beating Boston on Sunday) after a poor effort in Washington. They came back and played collectively as a team, played for each other.

"I just told them when everybody has their 'A game,' we're going to be in every game. We can't have one, two or three guys not prepared or not playing up to their potential, because we won't like the result."

To Housley, a lot of his players "want to be here for the solution."

"We got a lot to prove here these last 19 games," he said.

Sabres center Ryan O'Reilly knows even with five seasons left on his seven-year contract, he could be available to another team after the season.

Botterill, remember, didn't acquire or sign him.

"It's out of my control," O'Reilly said of his future. "I think I have to do what I can. I want to be here. I want to be part of the solution here. I want an opportunity to stick around. I have a real good opportunity here."

Housley believes the Sabres have a terrific opportunity over the final five weeks. They play 12 contests against teams in a playoff spot or fighting for one.

"Those guys in that room and the coaching staff, we have a lot to prove leading into the summer," Housley said. "We got to finish the right way. I love the challenge that we're facing ... some tough teams that are trying to get into the playoffs. We'll really get a good evaluation on our guys."

Having won only 19 games, the Sabres, of course, haven't forged any identity over the past five months. That, Lehner said, will be a focus during the final stretch.

“We see it for periods of time, but we got to (do it) consistently,” he said. “When we put solid efforts in, it’s usually close games, we come out on the winning part.”

But the Sabres haven’t cobbled together more than three straight wins since December 2014. Last month, when they rattled off three consecutive victories, it appeared they might finally be turning a corner.

Then they quickly reverted back to their old ways.

“We need to see consistency,” Housley said of the final 19 games. “We’re a team that doesn’t handle success very well.”

Lehner added: “Every game is important to us. It might not be important to other people, but here in this room it’s important. It’s a part of showing you want to be here.”

The Sabres seemed loose during Tuesday’s practice inside KeyBank Center, ending the session with an empty-net goal competition.

“I guess there’s got to be a lot of relief,” Housley said. “Guys want to be here and want to be part of the solution. I really like the energy we had today.”

## Sabres goaltender Robin Lehner happy he wasn't moved at trade deadline

WKBW

Matt Bove

February 27, 2018

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WKBW) - With the NHL trade deadline in the rear-view mirror, the Buffalo Sabres were back to work on Tuesday without one of their top scorers from the past three seasons. Evander Kane was the only player dealt by Jason Botterill on Monday, but in the weeks leading up to the deadline, there were plenty other players who could reportedly be on the move. Sabres starting goaltender Robin Lehner was one of them.

"I have no reason to not want to be here," Lehner told reporters Tuesday. "Obviously, things have to happen and we all understand that but I have no reason to want to get out of here."

Matthew Bové

✓

@Matt\_Bove

I asked Robin Lehner if it was true that he demanded a trade before the deadline. He called in fake news and said it was bogus #Sabres @WKBW

12:00 PM - Feb 27, 2018

62

20 people are talking about this

Twitter Ads info and privacy

When asked about a report that Lehner demanded a trade leading up to Tuesday's deadline, the Sabres' goaltender said it was fake news.

"It's funny how it works though, some blogger puts something out, I don't even know who that guy is and people seem to jump on it. A bunch of Swedish websites, serious websites, quoted that one. It's hilarious in this day and age you don't even need to put a source on it. It's not true and I'm happy I'm still a Sabre."

Ryan O'Reilly was another player whose name was thrown around in trade scenarios on social media in the hours leading up to the draft. He admitted that it was weird seeing his name out there but agrees with Lehner and said he wants to be in Buffalo for the long haul.

"I want to be here, I want to be part of the solution here and I want to help turn this thing around," O'Reilly said. "I have a little bit of an opportunity here at the end of the year to that. But it is a business, when things don't work things change and adjustments are made. I personally want to be a part of it and be part of the solution."

As for the lone trade made, Sabres head coach Phil Housley said that you never know what's going to happen, all he can control are the players that are on his team. Kane no longer is, but Housley wished him well as he heads to his new team in San Jose.

"Well, I thought that Evander did a terrific job," Housley said. "The situation he was in, getting asked questions every day, I can't fault him on his effort. I thought he came to play every night."

Housley went on to say that the team would miss his production on the ice but believes Botterill did what was best for the team.

In return, the Sabres were sent two conditional draft picks and prospect Danny O'Regan, a former teammate of Evan Rodrigues and Jack Eichel at Boston University.

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"He always seems to be in an open area without guys around him," Rodrigues said about O'Regan. "It's a weird thing to say but he's one of those guys that always stops at the net front and he's able to poke in rebounds. [He] just has really soft hands

around the net. I think you'll set that with him, he has a knack for goal scoring, a knack for finding open areas and he can make plays."

Matthew Bové

✓

@Matt\_Bove

Evan Rodrigues had nothing but good things to say about his former BU linemate Danny O'Regan, who the #Sabres acquired yesterday @WKBW

12:26 PM - Feb 27, 2018

23

See Matthew Bové's other Tweets

Twitter Ads info and privacy

Kyle Okposo was the lone Sabres skater not on the ice for practice. His wife went into labor on Tuesday morning, his status for Wednesday's game in Tampa Bay is unknown. In his place, the team has recalled Seth Griffith from Rochester.

## **With deadline behind them, Sabres have a lot to prove in final stretch**

Sabres.com

Jourdon LaBarber

February 27, 2018

With the trade deadline having passed and the majority of their team still intact, the Buffalo Sabres came to practice at KeyBank Center on Tuesday feeling like they still had something to prove.

Evander Kane may have been the only player traded Monday, but Jason Botterill was clear in saying that more change is on the horizon. For players who want to remain in Buffalo and be part of the solution, the remaining 19 games are an opportunity to prove it.

Count Robin Lehner as one of those players.

"We need to try to get better," the goaltender said. "Every game is important to us. It might not be important to other people, but here in this room it's important. It's a part of showing you want to be here."

Sabres Now (2/27/18)

01:50 • February 27th, 2018

The Sabres will have every chance to prove themselves given the quality of their competition. Their first post-deadline game will be on the road on Wednesday against a revamped Tampa Bay Lightning team that added forward J.T. Miller and defenseman Ryan McDonagh from the New York Rangers.

Even before the deal, the Lightning led the NHL with 89 points in the standings. The Sabres play the Lightning again later in the season, second-place Toronto four times and the Western Conference's top two teams - Vegas and Nashville - a combined three times.

"These last 19 games, looking at the schedule, I think 12 are [against teams] in the playoffs or playoff contention," Sabres coach Phil Housley said. "... It's good that we've played well against really good teams recently. I think that helps in our preparation, getting ready for these teams we're going to play."

HOUSLEY: After Practice

05:14 • February 27th, 2018

Indeed, the Sabres have played some of their best hockey against quality competition as of late. They beat the Lightning 5-3 at home on Feb. 13 and have two wins over third-place Boston in the past month, including a 4-1 victory on Sunday.

The challenge for the Sabres, Housley said, is becoming a team that responds well after victories. They've won back-to-back games on just three occasions this season, but have a chance to follow their win over Boston - which came on the heels of a disappointing loss in Washington - with a strong effort against Tampa Bay.

"I think the guys responded the right way after a poor effort in Washington," Housley said. "They came back and played collectively as a team, played for each other. It just told them that when everybody has their A game, we're going to be in every game.

"But we can't have one, two guys or three guys not prepared or not playing up to their potential because we won't like the result."

If the results stay the same, Botterill said to expect more personnel changes come spring.

"We have to find a way to be much more consistent," alternate captain Ryan O'Reilly said. "It's our turn to build the foundation. We have to prove to this organization, the city that we can change things. I want to be a part of it. I know I have to do a job."

A 'welcome surprise' for Rodrigues

Evan Rodrigues knows as well as anyone what the Sabres should expect from Daniel O'Regan, acquired from San Jose in exchange for Kane on Monday. O'Regan and Rodrigues were linemates for three seasons at Boston University, including the 2014-15 season when they were centered by Jack Eichel.

Rodrigues said that O'Regan and Eichel still live together during the offseason in Boston, and the three players still workout together.

"I texted him right after [the trade]," Rodrigues said. "He seemed really excited about it. He's looking forward to the new opportunity and I think he's looking forward to showcasing himself."

O'Regan, 24, was the AHL's Rookie of the Year last season, when he scored 58 points (23+35) in 63 games for the San Jose Barracuda. He's scored five points (1+4) in 22 NHL games over the past two seasons.

Rodrigues described O'Regan as a player who benefits from a high hockey IQ.

"He always seems to be in an open area without guys around him," Rodrigues said. "It's a weird thing to say, but he's one of those guys who always stops at the net front and he's able to poke in rebounds and just has really soft hands around the net. I think you'll see that with him."

Tuesday's practice

Kyle Okposo missed practice to be with his wife, who is in labor with their third child. Seth Griffith was recalled from Rochester after practice and joined the team for their trip to Tampa. Griffith scored two goals and an assist in 18 games with Buffalo earlier this season.

Here's how Buffalo's lineup looked at practice, with Okposo absent from his spot alongside Scott Wilson and Rodrigues:

28 Zemgus Girgensons - 90 Ryan O'Reilly - 23 Sam Reinhart

20 Scott Wilson - 71 Evan Rodrigues

67 Benoit Pouliot - 22 Johan Larsson - 29 Jason Pominville

17 Jordan Nolan - 10 Jacob Josefson - 13 Nicholas Baptiste

Defense: 4 Josh Gorges, 6 Marco Scandella, 8 Casey Nelson, 41 Justin Falk, 55 Rasmus Ristolainen, 82 Nathan Beaulieu, 93 Victor Antipin

40 Robin Lehner

31 Chad Johnson

## Sharpen Up: February 27, 2018

Sabres.com

Chris Ryndak

February 27, 2018

The NHL Trade Deadline has passed and Buffalo will welcome one new player into the organization: forward Daniel O'Regan.

Sabres general manager Jason Botterill acquired O'Regan, a conditional first-round pick in the 2019 NHL Draft and a conditional fourth-round pick in the 2019 NHL Draft from the San Jose Sharks in exchange for forward Evander Kane.

The status of the first-round pick is contingent on the Sharks either re-signing Kane during the offseason or winning the Stanley Cup this spring. If neither of those conditions are met, it becomes a second-round pick in 2019.

The Sharks have the option to push the fourth-round pick in 2019 to the third round in 2020.

Here's what you need to know.

Sabres Now (2/26/18)

02:20 • February 26th, 2018

### On O'Regan

O'Regan has appeared in a career-high 19 NHL games with the Sharks in his second professional season in 2017-18, tallying four assists.

Last season, in his first professional season with the San Jose Barracuda, he earned the Red Garrett Award as the AHL rookie of the year with a team-high 58 points (23+35) in 63 games.

The Berlin, Germany native (who grew up in Needham, Mass.) has totaled five points (1+4) through 22 NHL games in two seasons with San Jose, adding 83 points (30+53) in 94 AHL games.

Prior to beginning his professional career, O'Regan played four seasons at Boston University, totaling 154 points (66+88) in 154 games. He was linemates with Jack Eichel and Evan Rodrigues during the 2014-15 season. They were 1-2-3 in team scoring with Eichel winning the Hobey Baker Award that year.

Here's what Jason Botterill had to say about the trade. We have a full report here.

### Jason Botterill Trade Deadline

13:31 • February 26th, 2018

"We are very impressed with his skill level, certainly his hockey sense," Botterill said. "You look at last year, the success he had at the American Hockey League, we think he's ready to make the jump here."

"We've tried to build Rochester up to have a winning environment down there. He'll certainly help them there down the run and we're hopeful that, once he gets into our organization and plays some games, he'll be in the mix for a call-up."

On the trade, Botterill said that they had one "legitimate offer" for Kane.

"We certainly had a lot of interest, a lot of discussion with different teams," Botterill said. "The bottom line is we had one legitimate offer for Evander, and that's why we worked off of it with San Jose."

His willingness to trade players with term stems from the same hard truth that convinced him to trade Kane rather than pursue an extension. The current mix of players, he said, has not worked

"I'm not putting the blame all on Evander Kane," he said. "There's a lot of blame to go around - coaching staff, management, players - we have to be better in certain situations. The bottom line is the mix that we have right now was not working, so we had to make adjustments.

"So yes, Evander Kane was [traded] because we were able to get some assets back that were very helpful for our organization. Throughout the summer here, spring and summer, we'll be making more adjustments to help our organization."

When it comes to the spring and summer, Botterill will be (among other things), looking at signing college free agents, the NHL Draft on June 23 in Dallas, and the opening of unrestricted free agency on July 1.

What's happening today

The Sabres will be back at practice this morning before heading out to Tampa as they prepare for tomorrow night's game against the Lightning. Then they'll play the Panthers on Friday.

We'll have full coverage here on Sabres.com. Buffalo is back home on Tuesday against Toronto.