



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

March 23, 2018

As chances to play keep dwindling, Sabres' Gorges ponders uncertain future

The Buffalo News

Mike Harrington

March 23, 2018

Josh Gorges has played 779 NHL games, including 219 on the Sabres' defense over the last four years. There's a decent chance the 33-year-old is now inside the final 10 games of his career and it's questionable if he sees the ice anymore this season.

It's become an all-too-familiar ritual for Gorges. Practicing hard doesn't lead to many chances to play hard in a game.

"It's miserable. Just miserable," Gorges admitted to The Buffalo News Thursday in KeyBank Center. "It always sucks not playing. There's nothing good about it. There never will be. Then you add into the fact of where I am in my career, where I am with my contract, trying to look forward to what's going to come. After a year like this, it's hard to swallow. I don't know anything. We'll wait and see what comes."

Gorges has played in just 30 of the Sabres' 73 games this year and there hasn't been an injury at issue since early November. Gorges hasn't played since March 10 against Vegas, serving as a scratch in the last four games. Overall, he's missed nine of the last 11 games and 19 of the last 27.

"It's a difficult situation for sure and it's tough for us and for me as a coach to sit out players," said coach Phil Housley. "I never want to sit out any players. It's unfortunate but in the situation we're in and the situation that's he's in, he's done a great job of being a good teammate, working hard at every practice and being a pro. It's unfortunate we have to sit players but we have to make decisions."

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Gorges, acquired by the Sabres in 2014, is in the final year of the six-year, \$23.4 million deal he signed with the Montreal Canadiens in 2012. With a bloated cap hit of \$3.9 million, he's undoubtedly one of the key salaries Buffalo General Manager Jason Botterill is planning to eliminate from the team going forward.

Gorges made his mark with seven seasons playing for the Habs and they'll be the opponent here Friday night. It might be his last chance to face his former team – if he gets the chance at all.

"You want to be out there playing no matter who it is. The hardest part is it's been two weeks since I've been in a game," Gorges said. "You want to get out there but at the same time in your head you know you're a little rusty and timing might not be great. Will you see things at the same speed you need? Will the conditioning be OK? All those sorts of things. You think too much and you don't go out and play."

"If I get in again, I would relish the opportunity. Try to just turn the brain off and play. I've done it enough times where I should be able to just go out there and play. But it's easier said than done."

Gorges is one of the few Sabres remaining from the team's 2014-15 tank season and his feeling is like that of most fans: It's stunning to still see the Sabres languishing in last place in the NHL's overall standing.

"It is tough when you look in this room and you know we should be better. You just know," he said. "And there's no excuse for it, there's no reason for it. I couldn't give you an answer as to why. All I know is it's not good enough. It's not acceptable. At the end of the day, we are where we are because of the guys in this room. It's on us."

"We've got nine games left and it's a tough part of the season. There's always something to play for: Pride, contracts, your future, a lot of things. But the games aren't the same when you're this far out compared to the start of the year or midway through. It's sad. It really is. There's no other way to say it. The expectations were higher and we've just failed to meet them. It's plain and simple."

Gorges understood the anger Housley felt in the wake of Wednesday's loss, a mostly brutal affair against an improving but still bottom-of-the-barrel Arizona club. To Gorges, Housley's tough practice on Thursday was a message more about the entire season and not just one shoddy performance.

"It should be based on what it takes and what it should take to be in the NHL and not just about one game," he said. "That's a mentality and a mindset of competitiveness. Win your battle in the corner, win them at the bluelines, in front of the net. Be relentless in your pursuit to try to get that goal and try to stop them from getting that goal."

Gorges said his mind has wandered into the future plenty of times this season. Focus is easier once he hits the ice, but with less and less playing time comes more time for self-evaluation.

"It's your life, the only thing I've ever done with my life," he said. "It's difficult. Every player at some time goes through these situations and try to deal with it the best way you know how. ... I still think I can play in this league. I still think I have something to offer. It's a matter of being in a situation with a team that likes what you bring and likes what you offer. If there is a team that's like that, then that's great. And if not? We'll worry about that when that comes."

Story topics: Buffalo Sabres/ Josh Gorges

Banged-up Johnson did not suffer concussion but Ullmark to start vs. Habs

The Buffalo News

Mike Harrington

March 22, 2018

There will be a need for a daily report on the Buffalo Sabres' goalies the rest of the way simply because there are now three of them on the roster. But injuries prompted coach Phil Housley to lay out his plan for Friday night's visit by Montreal after practice Thursday.

Linus Ullmark will get his third start of the season in the game and Robin Lehner, who has sat the last three games with bumps and bruises, will be the backup. Chad Johnson will sit this one out after taking a shot to the side of the head in Wednesday's 4-1 loss to Arizona.

Johnson was stunned by the drive during a first-period penalty kill but remained in the game. He skated off the ice during a stoppage about six minutes into the second period and did not return.

"We just held him off. It's day to day. He's a little banged up," Housley said. "He hasn't been diagnosed with a concussion but let's just err on the side of caution."

Zemgus Girgensons returned to practice Thursday and should be back in the lineup Friday. Rasmus Ristolainen and Marco Scandella took maintenance days and should play as well.

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Story topics: Buffalo Sabres/ Chad Johnson/ Linus Ullmark/ Robin Lehner

Sabres Notebook: The day after, Housley still miffed by Coyotes' loss; Ullmark to start against Habs

The Buffalo News

Mike Harrington

March 22, 2018

Furious after Wednesday's 4-1 loss to Arizona, Phil Housley's mood was no softer when the Buffalo Sabres returned to KeyBank Center for practice Thursday morning. Early in the workout, associate coach Davis Payne loudly chastised players for coasting through a drill. A few minutes later, Housley had seen enough.

Briefly stopping a drill, Housley excoriated the group by yelling, "Get on your toes and start ... working." And that, for the record, is an edited version of the coach's direction.

"I just thought we weren't doing what I told them to do, which was a simple execution play of attacking with wide speed and a middle-lane drive," Housley said after the workout ended. "So I just tried to get their attention and I thought the execution from that point was good."

Housley lit up his team after the game and was still fuming when he met the media a few minutes later, calling the loss "unacceptable" in what easily rates as the most fury reporters have seen this season from the first-year coach. The word in the dressing room Thursday was that was the message Housley conveyed during a video meeting prior to practice.

"He wants to get his message out and it's totally understandable," veteran winger Jason Pominville said after practice. "We've got to do our thing and go out there and work. If they feel we're not going hard enough, they've got to make sure they push those buttons and they did today. You saw the pace go up as soon as they did that."

Housley was particularly agitated by the fact the Sabres were outmanned by an Arizona team that was languishing at the bottom of the standings in the same neighborhood as Buffalo is. In recent weeks, the Sabres have posted wins over Tampa Bay, Boston, Toronto and Chicago, took Vegas to a shootout and battled Stanley Cup favorite Nashville hard for 55 minutes before eventually losing, 4-0.

"Maybe it's the way we prepare for teams that are elite teams in the league," Pominville theorized. "We know we have to show up and if we don't, we know it's not going to go our way. For some reason, we take the foot off the gas against teams that are kind of where we are in the standings."

Housley hopes his team learned a lesson from it heading into Friday's visit by Montreal.

"You look at the body of work in our last 20 games I think we've moved in a good direction," said Housley, whose club is 9-9-2 in that stretch. "But it reminds us you have to come prepared to play whether you're playing the best team in the league or you're playing one of the lower teams in the league. It's tough to win in this league and you have to have the same mindset. We didn't do what it was going to take to win in yesterday's game. I hope they're angry. I hope they're upset."

Linus Ullmark will get his third start of the season in Friday's game and Robin Lehner, who has sat the last three games with bumps and bruises, will be the backup. Chad Johnson will sit this one out after taking a shot to the side of the head in Wednesday's loss.

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"We just held him off. It's day to day. He's a little banged up," Housley said. "He hasn't been diagnosed with a concussion but let's just err on the side of caution."

Zemgus Girgensons returned to practice Thursday, playing with Jack Eichel and Jason Pominville, and should be back in the lineup Friday. Rasmus Ristolainen and Marco Scandella took maintenance days and should play as well. Benoit Pouliot was the odd man out at practice and could sit as a healthy scratch.

Mike Harrington



@ByMHarrington

When they did line rushes, Girgensons and Pominville were with Eichel. So it's Girgensons-Eichel-Pominville, Wilson-ROR-Reinhart, Bailey-ERod-Baptiste (together again), Nolan-Larsson-Okposo. #Sabres

11:38 AM - Mar 22, 2018

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See Mike Harrington's other Tweets

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The Sabres have returned forward Seth Griffith to Rochester. The Amerks are in the stretch drive of their season and can clinch a playoff berth as early as this week's set of back-to-back home games. They host Binghamton Friday and Springfield on Saturday in Blue Cross Arena.

Griffith has two goals and one assist in 21 games with the Sabres, but has been a major contributor in Rochester with 13 goals, 21 assists and 34 points in 36 games.

The Amerks can clinch a berth by getting three out of four points this weekend or if Laval gets only one point out of its four this weekend. Rochester is in third place in the AHL North, nine points behind Syracuse and four points ahead of Utica. The Amerks are 20 points ahead of Laval.

Center Vasili Glotov, a seventh-round pick in 2016 who became popular with fans and media at the Sabres' last two summer development camps, has signed an amateur tryout contract with the Cincinnati Cyclones, Buffalo's ECHL affiliate. Glotov, 20, had 29 goals and 14 assists in 64 games this season for Shawinigan in the Quebec League.

In wake of dreary loss, Housley keeps heat on Sabres at practice

The Buffalo News

Mike Harrington

March 22, 2018

Phil Housley wasn't a happy camper after Wednesday's 4-1 loss to Arizona and his mood had not softened one iota when the team returned to KeyBank Center for practice Thursday morning.

Early in the workout, associate coach Davis Payne loudly chastised players for coasting through a drill. A few minutes later, Housley had seen enough.

Briefly stopping a drill, Housley excoriated the group by yelling, "Get on your toes and start ... working." And that, for the record, is an edited version of the coach's direction.

"I just thought we weren't doing what I told them to do, which was a simple execution play of attacking with wide speed and a middle-lane drive," Housley said after the workout ended. "So I just tried to get their attention and I thought the execution from that point was good."

The Sabres had a video session prior to practice to review Wednesday night's ugliness and, suffice to say, the word around the dressing room was that there was no popcorn passed out to those watching.

Housley lit up his team after the game and was still fuming when he met the media a few minutes later, calling the loss "unacceptable" in what easily rates as the most fury reporters have seen this season from the first-year coach.

"He wants to get his message out and it's totally understandable," veteran winger Jason Pominville said after practice. "We've got to do our thing and go out there and work. If they feel we're not going hard enough, they've got to make sure they push those buttons and they did today. You saw the pace go up as soon as they did that."

Housley was particularly agitated by the fact the Sabres were outmanned by an Arizona team that was languishing at the bottom of the standings in the same neighborhood as Buffalo is. In recent weeks, the Sabres have posted wins over Tampa Bay, Boston, Toronto and Chicago, took Vegas to a shootout and battled Stanley Cup favorite Nashville hard for 55 minutes before eventually losing, 4-0.

Getting blown out at home by the Coyotes did not sit well.

"Maybe it's the way we prepare for teams that are elite teams in the league," Pominville theorized. "We know we have to show up and if we don't, we know it's not going to go our way. For some reason, we take the foot off the gas against teams that are kind of where we are in the standings. ... We have to make sure we step on the gas and have a little pride. That's what it is. Have a little pride in the room and come out with an effort."

Housley hopes his team learned a lesson from it heading into Friday's visit by Montreal.

"You look at the body of work in our last 20 games I think we've moved in a good direction," said Housley, whose club is 9-9-2 in that stretch. "But it reminds us you have to come prepared to play whether you're playing the best team in the league or you're playing one of the lower teams in the league. It's tough to win in this league and you have to have the same mindset. We didn't do what it was going to take to win in yesterday's game."

"I hope they're angry. I hope they're upset and now we have to get ready for tomorrow and what we can control. We've got to learn from that."

Story topics: Buffalo Sabres/ phil housley

The Sabres needed a practice wakeup call from the coaches

WGR550

Paul Hamilton

March 22, 2018

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) - It's bad enough that the Sabres have had so many half efforts to no efforts this season. Wednesday against Arizona was one of them, but it's worse when we see no response to start practice the next day.

In Thursday's practice, assistant coach Davis Payne had to tell some players to stop coasting and then Phil Housley had to stop practice. Housley said, "I just thought that we weren't doing what I told them to do, which was a simple execution play, so I just tried to get their attention and I thought the execution from that point was good."

That's all fine and good, but this team has played 73 games this season and they shouldn't need coaches on them to make them execute. Housley agrees, "It's very surprising, but it reminds us that you have to come prepared to play whether you're playing the best team in the league or you're playing one of the lower teams and you can't take anything for granted."

Phil Housley knew they weren't happy and it started with their video session, "I think when we reviewed the game it was very quiet in the room, so I hope that they're angry, I hope that they are upset.

"Sometimes we take three steps forward and then take one or two steps back and for me, I've been pretty honest with the group and I'm pretty fair on judging the game if we're competing and we have great effort and yesterday that wasn't the case, it was lack of."

Jack Eichel said of course he's not in a good mood after that game, "When things are going right everyone's probably looking around for the answer and your mood's down.

"The coaches are here to push us and that's their job, so nobody is really in a good mood today, so it's never easy coming to the rink on days like this, everyone's mood is in the dumps and it sucks to be honest with you. We've continued to make the same mistakes so frequently this year and I really don't know what else to say."

There were some Montreal writers in town wondering how the players react to the fan negativity in this town. Eichel doesn't blame the fans one bit, "I think they have a reason to be negative, you know, what have we really put on the ice as a product for them this year?

"We don't score goals, we really haven't made coming to the game worthwhile, so can you blame them? No you can't." Eichel added, "This is the third year that I've been here and we haven't put a steady product on the ice for them and it's frustrating for us because they've been so loyal and they've continued to come here and continued to support the team and continue to be positive. I think that's probably the hardest part."

Chad Johnson didn't practice, but Housley said he does not have a concussion, they just kept him off. Linus Ullmark will start Friday against Montreal with Robin Lehner backing him up.

Zemgus Girgensons came back to practice and likely will play Friday. Rasmus Ristolainen and Marco Scandella missed practice for maintenance days.

Thursday's lines:

Wilson - O'Reilly - Reinhart
Girgensons - Eichel - Pominville
Bailey - Rodrigues - Baptiste
Nolan - Larsson - Okposo

Guhle - Nelson
Beaulieu - Falk
Gorges - Antipin
Pouliot - Griffith

The Sabres send Seth Griffith back to Rochester

WGR550

Paul Hamilton

March 22, 2018

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) - With Zemgus Girgensons ready to return to the lineup on Friday, the Sabres have sent Seth Griffith back to Rochester.

In 21 games with the Sabres, the winger scored two goals and one assist for three points.

Griffith has gotten in 36 games with the Amerks this season, netting 13 goals and 21 assists for 34 points.

Buffalo hosts Montreal on Friday night.

Sabres need better efforts if they hope to be competitive

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

March 22, 2018

BUFFALO – It was a simple execution drill – “Attacking with wide speed and a middle lane drive,” Phil Housley explained – that forced the coach to lay into the Sabres.

Just hours after an embarrassing 4-1 home loss, the Sabres looked sluggish early during Thursday’s practice. At one point, associate coach Davis Payne barked at the players to stop coasting.

Housley finally had enough after watching them execute the drill incorrectly, yelling, “Get on your toes and start (expletive) working!”

“We weren’t doing what I told them to do ... so I just tried to get their attention,” Housley said after the Sabres prepared for tonight’s tilt against the Montreal Canadiens. “The execution after that point was good.”

Winger Jason Pominville, the Sabres’ oldest player at 35, said “it’s totally understandable” Housley briefly lashed out.

“We’ve got to do our thing and go out there and work,” he said. “If they feel we’re not going hard enough, they’ve got to make sure they push those buttons. They did today.”

But should it have taken that much to get the NHL’s worst team to start working? The Sabres’ wretched effort left Housley seething after Wednesday’s loss to the Arizona Coyotes.

Eleven hours later, they still looked lethargic.

“You look at the body of work the last 20 games (9-9-2), we’ve moved in the right direction,” Housley said. “But it reminds us that we have to come prepared to play, whether you’re playing the best team in the league or one of the lower teams in this league, that it’s tough to win in this league and you have to have the same mindset, you can’t take anything for granted.

“I thought we didn’t have what it was going to take to win (Wednesday’s) game.”

As Housley said, when the Sabres give strong efforts, they’re usually rewarded.

“When we do play well, when we work hard, when we stick to the game plan, we’re a pretty good team,” Pominville said. “When we deviate, when we get away from that, we’re a very average team.”

But calling the Sabres a “very average team” when their battle level drops is being kind. While they’ve played much better over the last two months, some brutal losses have often overshadowed their small successes. About once a month or so, an opponent throttles them at home.

“We have good nights and then we have nights where we’re really bad,” Sabres center Jack Eichel said. “I think that the best teams in our league really don’t do that. We need to find a way to bring it every night.”

Housley said hopes his players are “angry” and “upset.”

“Sometimes you take three steps forward and you take one, two steps back,” he said. “We’re not continuing to make that consistent momentum that we have.”

The Sabres haven’t consistently generated momentum because they play so poorly against bad teams. They’ve beaten the Tampa Bay Lightning and Boston Bruins, the Eastern Conference top two teams, five times. Meanwhile, they’re 0-1-2 against the hapless Canadiens, who have earned just six more points in the standings.

On Monday, the Sabres played the powerhouse Nashville Predators tough, forcing the NHL’s best team to defend much of the night. While they lost 4-0, the game was closer than the score indicated.

Two days later against the 29th-ranked Coyotes, the Sabres suffered a letdown.

“I don’t understand, maybe it’s the way we prepare for teams that are elite teams in the league,” Pominville said. “We know we have to show up, if we don’t it’s not going to go our way. For some reason we take the foot off the gas against teams that are kind of where we are in the standings.”

Several of the Sabres’ upcoming opponents – Montreal, the New York Rangers, Detroit Red Wings and Ottawa Senators – are far out of the playoff chase.

Could the Sabres totally implode over the final nine games?

“We got to make sure we step on the gas and have a little pride,” Pominville said. “That’s what it is, have a little pride in the room to come out with an effort. The rest will figure itself out but as long as we bring the effort, we should be fine.”

Fans, of course, are disgusted with the Sabres. Attendance has dropped dramatically in recent weeks. Wednesday’s announced crowd of 17,029 looked closer to 10,000.

“They have a reason to be negative,” Eichel said. “What have we really put on the ice for a product for them this year? We don’t score goals, we really haven’t made them coming to the game worthwhile. So can you blame them? No, you can’t.

“This is the third year that I’ve been here and we haven’t put a steady product on the ice for them. It’s frustrating for us because they’ve been so loyal and they’ve continued to come here, continued to support the team and continue to be positive. I think that’s probably the hardest part.”

Sabres look to take lessons from Wednesday's loss

Sabres.com

Jourdon LaBarber

March 22, 2018

Phil Housley was vocal in expressing his frustrations with the way his team played in a 4-1 loss to the Arizona Coyotes on Wednesday night, a performance he deemed "unacceptable." He continued to voice his disapproval when the Buffalo Sabres returned to practice on Thursday.

The Sabres had a short but intense practice session, and at one point Housley had to stop them to demand better execution.

"I just thought that we weren't doing what I told them to do, which was a simple execution play of just attacking with wide speed and a middle lane drive," Housley said. "So I just tried to get their attention. The execution after that point was good."

Jason Pominville said he hadn't watched Housley's press conference with the media on Wednesday but noted that it likely resembled the coach's comments to the team after the loss. The message continued in the team's film session on Thursday morning.

"When we reviewed the game, it was very quiet in the room," Housley said. "So, to me, I hope that they're angry, I hope they're upset. Now we have to get ready for tomorrow and what we can control. We have to learn from that, though. Sometimes you take three steps forward and you take one, two steps back."

Sabres Now (3/22/18)

01:45 • March 22nd, 2018

The Sabres have lost their last two games, but the varying responses to those losses were telling. After falling 4-0 to Nashville on Monday, the team was able to draw some positives from the way they competed against the NHL's top team. They outshot the Predators in that game, 35-32.

It was a stark contrast to their reaction to the loss against Arizona, a team they trailed by one point at the bottom of the standings. The difference, Pominville said, was their effort.

"It's unacceptable that we have those types of efforts," Pominville said. "There's one thing you can control, is your effort. Yeah, there's mistakes that will be made and turnovers and stuff like that, but as long as you bring the effort on a nightly basis you'll get the respect from the guys in the room."

"I think you look at the body of work the last 20 games, we've moved in the right direction," Housley added. "But it reminds us that we have to come prepared to play, whether you're playing the best team in the league or one of the lower teams in this league.

"It's tough to win in this league and you have to have the same mindset, you can't take anything for granted. I thought we didn't take what it was going to take to win in yesterday's game."

Phil Housley (3/22/18)

05:02 • March 22nd, 2018

The Sabres have 11 wins at home this season with three games remaining at KeyBank Center. Jack Eichel could only empathize with fans who have been critical of their performance.

"I think they have a reason to be negative," he said. "What have we really put on the ice as a product for them this year? We don't score goals. We really haven't made them coming to the game worthwhile. Can you blame them? No, you can't. This is the third year that I've been here, and we haven't put a steady product on the ice for them, and it's frustrating for us because they've been so loyal.

"They've continued to come here, continued to support the team and continued to be positive. I think that's probably the hardest part."

Medical report

Zemgus Girgensons returned to practice after missing the past two games with an injury and expects to be ready to play in Friday's game against Montreal. Girgensons practiced on a line with Eichel and Pominville.

Chad Johnson was absent from practice after taking a shot off the mask on Wednesday, forcing him to leave the game in the second period. Housley said that Johnson has not been diagnosed with a concussion and is day-to-day. Linus Ullmark will start in net Friday while Robin Lehner will dress as his backup.

Lines at practice

20 Scott Wilson - 90 Ryan O'Reilly - 23 Sam Reinhart
28 Zemgus Girgensons - 15 Jack Eichel - 29 Jason Pominville
95 Justin Bailey - 71 Evan Rodrigues - 13 Nicholas Baptiste
17 Jordan Nolan - 22 Johan Larsson - 21 Kyle Okposo
67 Benoit Pouliot - 25 Seth Griffith

45 Brendan Guhle - 8 Casey Nelson
4 Josh Gorges - 93 Victor Antipin
82 Nathan Beaulieu - 41 Justin Falk

40 Robin Lehner
35 Linus Ullmark

Sharpen Up: March 22, 2018

Sabres.com

Chris Ryndak

March 22, 2018

The Buffalo Sabres were unable to top the Arizona Coyotes last night, falling 4-1 at KeyBank Center. Jordan Nolan scored the lone Sabres goal.

Chad Johnson left the game with an injury early in the second period, putting Linus Ullmark between the pipes. He stopped 12 of 13 shots to close out the game. Johnson took a shot off the mask in the first period and finished with 13 saves.

Housley did not have an update on Johnson's condition after the game so stick with us later today for full practice coverage. Buffalo hosts Montreal tomorrow night (Family Packs are available now).

Here's what you need to know.

About last night

Sabres fall to Coyotes, 4-1

03:48 • March 21st, 2018

From the Lexus Postgame Report...

Phil Housley had stressed how important the two available points were for the Buffalo Sabres against the Arizona Coyotes on Wednesday night. The Sabres began the night trailing the Coyotes by one point at the bottom of the standings, leaving a lot of pride on the line in their matchup.

Phil Housley Postgame (3/21/18)

02:29 • March 21st, 2018

Having an opportunity to climb out of the cellar made the outcome all the more disappointing. The Sabres only trailed by a goal going into the second intermission but managed just six shots in the third period of an eventual 4-1 loss. Housley voiced his frustration with his team's work level after the game.

"It's an opportunity to get back in the game, and they outworked us in the third period," he said. "I'm telling the group that we have 10 periods left to play in this building [this season], that's what's the frustrating part, because it's not the way we have played, it's not the response we're looking for. It's disappointing."

Ryan O'Reilly Postgame (3/21/18)

01:32 • March 21st, 2018

Arizona won the special teams battle, going 2-for-3 on the power play with a pair of first-period goals from Dylan Strome and Derek Stepan while Buffalo went 0-for-4. Housley acknowledged the impact special teams had on the game but was more displeased with the Sabres' play at 5-on-5.

Housley has said in the past that learning to respond to those strong performances remains an area in which his team still needs to grow, which he reiterated Wednesday.

Brendan Guhle Postgame (3/21/18)

01:21 • March 21st, 2018

"That's just where we are as a group," Housley said. "We can't handle success. By the way, we lost that game 4-0 so you think you'd come out gangbusters to start the game. It was a very meaningful game in the respect that you're last place in the league. That's what's hard to swallow and it's just unacceptable."

Postgame notes

Jordan Nolan Postgame (3/21/18)
01:46 • March 21st, 2018

With his goal, Jordan Nolan now has four goals in his last five games against the Coyotes. His five career goals against the Coyotes is his highest total against any NHL team.

After picking up an assist, Evan Rodrigues now has six points (2+4) in his last six games.

Ryan O'Reilly went 27-for-39 (69.2 percent) on faceoffs tonight. His 27 wins moved him past Patrice Bergeron (2015-16), Mark Messier (1997-98) and Mats Sundin (1997-98 and 1998-99) and into 11th place on the all-time single-season list with 1,150 faceoff wins this season.

(Thanks @SabresPR!)

Scott Bowman Showcase is tonight

The 14th annual Scotty Bowman Showcase consists of three all-star hockey games at KeyBank Center between high school-aged players from the Buffalo and Rochester areas. Tickets for the event are \$5.

Check out the full rosters [here](#).

The first game will begin at 5 p.m. with high school juniors from the two cities facing off against one another for the Tim Horton Memorial Cup.

The next game will take place at 7 p.m. between high school seniors from each city. The winner of the second game will be awarded the Scotty Bowman Cup. This award and the event are named after the legendary Scotty Bowman, the winningest coach in NHL history. Bowman will be in attendance to present the Bowman Cup to the victorious senior team.

The third game will feature players from Buffalo and Rochester who play prep school or junior hockey, either locally or elsewhere. The players will be split up into even teams and will face off for the Rick Martin Memorial Cup at 9 p.m.

For more information on this year's edition of the Scotty Bowman Showcase, please contact Ed Grudzinski at ed.grudzinski@sabres.com.