



# **Buffalo Sabres**

**Daily Press Clips**

*Tuesday, January 29, 2013*

## **Maple Leafs-Sabres Preview**

Associated Press

January 28, 2013

The Buffalo Sabres have lost three in a row and could certainly use Thomas Vanek back on the ice.

The Toronto Maple Leafs, meanwhile, want some goals out of Phil Kessel.

With Vanek's status unclear, the Sabres will try to end their skid and continue their home dominance over the Maple Leafs on Tuesday night.

Buffalo (2-3-0) beat Toronto (2-3-0) on the road 2-1 on Jan. 21, but has since dropped three straight.

The Sabres' slide continued with Sunday's 3-2 loss at Washington, as Vanek was sidelined by a strained muscle. The left wing had been on the ice for all 11 of his team's goals prior to that contest, scoring three and assisting on six - one versus the Maple Leafs.

Vanek has 16 goals and 13 assists in 24 career home meetings with Toronto, including 18 points during the Sabres' current 10-1-0 stretch at home against their Northeast Division rival.

While health is the concern for Vanek, a lack of production has been the problem for Kessel. He has gone without a point in his last four games, and is without a goal through five contests for the first time since he was a rookie with Boston in 2006-07.

The star right wing had seven goals in his first five games last season en route to 37 and 82 points - both career highs and team bests.

"He's had chances. You want your goal-scorer to feel good about himself, and in some games you see the frustration," coach Randy Carlyle said. "Our message is don't display those things, just go out and focus on the next one - how you can get one and focus on how you can help a teammate get one. Go to those dirty areas and stop in front of the net.

"Shoot the puck. Shoot the puck. He can shoot the puck as good as anybody in the league and that's what we want him to do."

Kessel came up empty on seven shots on goal against the Sabres last week and misfired eight times in his last visit to Buffalo, although he did have three assists in a 6-5 overtime loss April 3.

In that meeting, the Leafs blew an early three-goal lead, and they may be reminded of that after squandering two-goal advantages in their last two games. Toronto surrendered five goals in a row in a 7-4 home loss to the New York Islanders on Thursday before giving up five unanswered to fall 5-2 to the New York Rangers two days later.

"The two games were our worst two games of the year," Carlyle said.

Carlyle may be without Clarke MacArthur, who had the nail on his pinky come off when he was slashed Saturday. He has one goal and two assists in his last three games after setting up James van Riemsdyk's power-play tally at Madison Square Garden.

Defenseman Dion Phaneuf had a tough time in Manhattan, posting a minus-4 rating after putting up a minus-3 against the Islanders.

Jason Pominville is looking to get back on the scoresheet for Buffalo after being held without a point for the first time this season Sunday. He had two points against Toronto last week, and has posted 12 in the past 11 home matchups.

The Sabres must decide if 18-year-old Mikhail Grigorenko will remain with the team or go back to juniors. The 12th overall pick in last year's draft doesn't have a point through five games, and playing one more would use up a year of his entry-level contract.

## **Grigorenko awaits decision on his fate**

*Young center may stay, may return to juniors*

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

January 29, 2013

Darcy Regier's dilemma of what to do with Mikhail Grigorenko would have been non-existent in a normal season. The 18-year-old would be in Quebec right now skating for his junior team.

Things changed with the lockout. While the Buffalo Sabres were idle, Regier got to watch the team's top prospect perform in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League and in world junior tournament exhibitions. The general manager noticed the kid had grown considerably since the Sabres' summer development camp.

"From the start of the year to where he is now, he's a much better hockey player," Regier said by phone Monday. "If we were making this decision back in September, I'd argue it would have been a lot easier than it is now."

The decision is whether to make Grigorenko a permanent member of the Sabres. His five-game tryout period is over. The first year of his entry-level contract kicks in with a sixth game, which could come tonight when the Sabres host Toronto in First Niagara Center.

The sixth game also could come Thursday when the Sabres visit Boston or Saturday when they play in Montreal. It might come Sunday when Florida visits Buffalo. Or it might come during the 2013-14 season if the Sabres send him back to Quebec.

"We really haven't made a final decision," said Regier, who planned to continue discussing the team's options today with coach Lindy Ruff. "It doesn't matter which way we go with this decision, there are pros and cons to it."

Grigorenko is patiently awaiting word. He hopes he's staying in Buffalo.

"I learn things every day here," he said. "I feel like here I can learn a lot of things and I can improve a lot. I'd be really happy to stay."

Ruff and Regier said at the start of the process that Grigorenko would stay if he could contribute and help the team win. He has no points and the team is 2-3, but his presence makes them a more formidable squad. He gives the center-thin Sabres a third-line middle man with offensive talent.

"What he can do with the puck is pretty entertaining to watch," defenseman Tyler Myers said. "He's got a tremendous amount of skill, and he's worked hard. He hasn't looked out of place to me, but it's not my decision."

While Grigorenko is known for his offensive talent, he's held his own in the defensive zone. That's vital on a Ruff-coached team.

"He's put himself in a good position in respect to not being a liability when he's on the ice," Regier said. "From a coaching standpoint that allows you an opportunity to get back on the ice again."

If the Sabres ship Grigorenko back to juniors, it's to give him more experience being "the man." He had 29 goals and 50 points in 32 games with the Remparts and gets to play 20-plus minutes per night. If he stays in Buffalo, there are certain to be more games like Friday against Carolina, when he played just two shifts in the final 40 minutes.

"He would be in a go-to situation in Quebec," Regier said. "He'd be in virtually every situation that would allow him to improve his game."

Quebec has just 20 games remaining. The Remparts are seventh in the 18-team league, so Grigorenko would have the benefit of playoff games.

"I'm trying not to think about it a lot, just trying to work hard," he said. "For now I'm with the team, so it's good."

Grigorenko was one of the final four players on the ice Monday during the Sabres' optional practice. More than 90 minutes after it started, he was still skating alongside Nathan Gerbe and T.J. Brennan, taking shots on goaltender Ryan Miller.

"He's handled himself really well," Miller said. "He's been pretty professional. He understands you have to come in, do the work and take care of yourself. He's got good habits already in the locker room, off the ice. On the ice, he seems to be picking it up pretty well."

"Scoring opportunities change quite a bit from junior to NHL, and I think if he has a little more comfort in those situations he'll start to shoot for his strengths and you'll see some of his skill start to come out even more. It's tough to get chances in the NHL, and as soon as he starts to find those spots I think he'll be good."

Now it's just a matter of getting into another NHL game. It could be tonight. It could be next season.

"We'll support him either way," Myers said. "He's going to be an important player on this team in the future, if not this year as well."

## **Sabres haven't made Grigorenko decision yet**

By Joe Buscaglia

WGR 550

January 28, 2013

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- As the Buffalo Sabres fell to the Washington Capitals on Sunday, the brief five-game tryout for Mikhail Grigorenko expired along with the waning seconds of the contest.

The team now must make their decision on what to do with their 18-year old forward. There is still mystery surrounding the choice. Head coach Lindy Ruff said on Monday afternoon that they have not come to a conclusion on Grigorenko's immediate future just yet.

"No. No, and we don't have to right now," the head coach said after Monday's optional skate. "We'll have friendly discussions today."

If the Sabres were to play him for a sixth game, that would officially make 2013 Grigorenko's first year of his entry-level contract. If they elected to send him back to head coach Patrick Roy, Quebec and the QMJHL, then the former first-round pick would have all three years remaining when he shows up for training camp next summer.

Meanwhile, Grigorenko lays in waiting for the news on where he'll be for the rest of this season.

"It gets a little bit hard. But, you know, it's okay," the forward said Monday. "I'm trying not to think about it a lot. Just trying to work hard. For now I'm on the team, so it's good."

One of the alternative options could be to leave Grigorenko on the roster, but not use him in Tuesday's game against the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"Possibly. Yeah, that is one of the considerations," Ruff said. "Again, I thought he held up pretty good in last night's game. Had a great opportunity to score. Played his most minutes in any game.

On Monday, Grigorenko was on the ice during an optional practice run by assistant coaches James Patrick and Kevyn Adams.

He believes his learning curve has been expedited because he's been up with the Sabres to start the 2013 season.

"For sure," Grigorenko said. "I learn things every day here and I feel like here I can learn a lot of things and can improve a lot. I'll be really happy to stay."

Ruff has seen improvements as well, calling Sunday's game against Washington the best of the 18-year old's young career.

"He was good with the puck," he said. "Defensively, there's a little adjustment from the way they play in junior to the way we play. We're working with him, and wanna just continue to work."

It appears they will have at least one more day to work with Grigorenko due to a lack of a decision that has been made public. It could just be a wait-and-see case on whether he'll be in the lineup against Toronto on Tuesday.

The Sabres are home against the Maple Leafs at First Niagara Center. As always, you can hear the play-by-play action on WGR Sports Radio 550.

## **Sabres optimistic Vanek will play Tuesday**

By Joe Buscaglia

WGR 550

January 28, 2013

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- The Buffalo Sabres dropped their third straight contest on Sunday, and did it without top scorer Thomas Vanek because of a muscle strain.

The forward suffered the strain in the second period of the team's home game against Carolina on Friday night. Vanek temporarily left the contest, but later returned in the third period.

A positive sign on Monday, Vanek took part in the team's optional practice.

"I felt a lot better today than I did yesterday, so we'll see how it reacts and how it feels tomorrow," Vanek said afterwards. Does he think he can play?

"I hope so."

That's the category that head coach Lindy Ruff seems to fall under as well. When asked about Vanek's availability for the team's next contest on Tuesday night, Ruff was hoping for the best.

"I would say that that looks... I'm optimistic about him playing tomorrow," the head coach said.

Vanek has been atop the team's scoring leaders since the season started. He has three goals and six assists in just four contests.

At this point, one of the most elementary aspects of playing hockey is what has given Vanek the most pain.

"Skating," he said. "If you can't skate, you're not gonna help out."

Vanek said he felt a lot better on the ice Monday in that respect, and then was asked what the key component to him suiting up will be.

"If I can skate," he said quite plainly.

Vanek was joined on the ice by seven other forwards during the optional practice. Marcus Foligno, Patrick Kaleta, Mikhail Grigorenko, Nathan Gerbe, Matt Ellis, John Scott and Cody McCormick also skated. All eight defensemen skated at one point in time on Monday. Robyn Regehr was only out there briefly. Both goaltenders participated as well.

Lindy Ruff provided a brief update on injured forward Ville Leino, saying there hasn't been much forward moving to speak of.

"He's just in the okay category," he said. "Even with the new treatment, progress seems slow"

The Sabres take on the Toronto Maple Leafs Tuesday at First Niagara Center. As always, you can hear the play-by-play action on WGR Sports Radio 550.



## **Sabres waiting to make decision on Grigorenko's future**

By Bill Hoppe  
Olean Times Herald  
January 29, 2013

BUFFALO – The fun part, slick Sabres prospect Mikhail Grigorenko said, comes when he touches the puck and makes a play on NHL ice.

“You realize you’re in (the) NHL and you did something good,” the 18-year-old said Monday after the Sabres prepared for tonight’s tilt against the Toronto Maple Leafs inside the First Niagara Center.

Grigorenko set his sights on the NHL as a child growing up in Khabarovsk, Russia, a city just 19 miles from the Chinese border and nearly 6,000 from Buffalo.

For 16 days, the center’s been living his dream with the Sabres.

But Grigorenko’s NHL run could be ending soon, at least for this season. The rookie played his fifth game Sunday. His next appearance activates the first year of his three-year, entry-level contract.

Do the Sabres, losers of three straight contests, burn that year in a lockout-shortened 48-game season? Or do they send the pointless Grigorenko back to the QMJHL, a league he was dominating with the Quebec Remparts? Remember, he’s too young to play in the AHL.

Right now, Grigorenko’s still with the Sabres.

He practiced Monday inside the FNC, although it’s unclear if he’ll play tonight.

Coach Lindy Ruff said the Sabres “don’t have to” make a decision on Grigorenko’s future yet.

Beyond Grigorenko’s play, which Ruff liked while skating him a career-high 17:10 during Sunday’s 3-2 loss in Washington, the Sabres are weighing several other factors.

“There’s lots of issues, and part of it is we’ve got issues at center with winning draws and the youth at center ice and whether Ville (Leino) can come back in and play,” Ruff said. “That’s all part of the discussions there with center ice.”

The Sabres could also scratch Grigorenko and “stash” him for a bit. Practicing against elite talent and watching from the press box might be beneficial.

“That’s one of the considerations,” Ruff said about sitting Grigorenko. “I thought he held up very good in (Sunday’s) game. (He had) a great opportunity to score.”

Grigorenko refused to say if he should stick around.

“I’m not the coach,” the first-round pick said. “I will not decide if I stay or not. I think I did everything I could. I’ve done a lot of work.”

Grigorenko understands all of the Sabres’ options.

“They could tell me today, they could tell me tomorrow, they could keep me for one week and practice,” Grigorenko said. “They could do a lot of things. So I’m ready for everything. Everything they will say, I would accept this.”

Grigorenko acknowledged “it’s hard but it’s OK” not knowing his fate.

“I’m trying hard not to think about it,” he said.

Sabres defenseman Tyler Myers experienced Grigorenko’s uncertainty as a 19-year-old three years ago. Myers established himself as an NHL force almost immediately. But the Sabres wouldn’t tell him he if was staying.

“I was glad that the (trial was) over and I finally knew what my situation was,” Myers said. “I think the worst part was not knowing. The game took my mind off it pretty well. I just focused on playing.”

Myers found out he was staying when he saw his name in the lineup for the Sabres’ 10th game.

“I really didn’t know anything,” he said. “I wasn’t told anything.”

Myers added: “(Grigorenko) looks like he fits in with this team. In saying that, it’s not our decision to make that call.”

Myers had two goals, five points and was a plus-8 when the Sabres decided to keep him. Grigorenko’s still searching for his first point and is a minus-1. He’s won 47 percent of his faceoffs, more than any Sabres center.

Ruff sees progress and believes Sunday’s performance was the youngster’s best so far.

“I think he was good with the puck,” Ruff said. “Defensively, there’s some adjustment from the way they play in junior (to the) way we play. We’re working with him.”

Only a quick pad stop from Capitals goalie Michal Neuvirth kept Grigorenko from scoring his first NHL goal.

“I almost scored a goal and had a few chances to score,” Grigorenko said. “Probably I just (don’t) have a lot of experience against goalies at this level. So it’ll be harder to score. As soon as I score (my first goal) I think it’ll be easier.”

Meanwhile, Ruff thinks winger Thomas Vanek (muscle strain) could play tonight after sitting in Washington. The Austrian, who already has three goals and nine points, skated during Monday's optional workout.

"I would say I'm optimistic about him playing," Ruff said.

Ruff was anticipating Vanek would play against the Caps. But Vanek didn't feel well enough after testing the injury prior to the game.

"There's no point in playing at 70 or 80 percent," said Vanek, who was injured Friday after getting tangled with Carolina's Alexander Semin. "You're not going to help the team."

In other injury news, Leino (hip) hasn't skated in about a week. Ruff said "progress seems slow" despite some new treatment.

"He's just in the 'OK' category," the coach said.

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The Sabres just completed a dizzying stretch, meaning Ruff couldn't make everyone skate Monday.

"You'd like to practice a few things today," Ruff said. "But with the schedule the way it is, you can't. We've got numerous guys with muscle strains and light groins. Coming out of five games in eight nights you didn't know what to expect. Well, now we know it's trying to get them rested and play a game."

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Not only did the Sabres begin Monday ranked 30th overall in faceoff percentage, at 40.1 percent, they stood 5.8 points behind 29th-ranked Vancouver.

Yikes.

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Sabres rookie defenseman T.J. Brennan, who's yet to play this season, participated in the warm-up Sunday.

"If Van went we may have used him," Ruff said.

## **Leafs, Sabres set to meet for second time**

By David Kalan

NHL.com

January 28, 2013

MAPLE LEAFS (2-3-0) at SABRES (2-3-0)

TV: LEAFS TV, MSG-B

Season series: Despite it being early in the season, this is the second meeting between the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Buffalo Sabres. Buffalo went into the Air Canada Centre for its second game of the season on Jan. 21 and left with a 2-1 win.

Big story: With both Toronto and Buffalo coming off tough road losses, the game Tuesday night is a big opportunity to build some positive momentum and climb out of the place both teams are currently sitting -- the Northeast Division cellar.

Team Scope:

Maple Leafs: In their last game the Maple Leafs appeared headed to a second impressive win in three games after taking a 2-0 first-period lead against the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden. After the opening 20 minutes, however, things stalled out significantly for Toronto. The Leafs managed just 17 shots on goal over the course of the entire game while giving up 42 shots on net and they were eventually victims of a Rangers comeback that was punctuated by a four-goal third period. That the loss came on the heels of 7-4 loss at home against the New York Islanders made the blown lead a tough pill to swallow, particularly considering that just three nights before their loss to the Rangers, the Maple Leafs had spoiled the Pittsburgh Penguins' home opener with a stunning 5-2 victory.

The loss to the Rangers was a particularly rough night for netminder James Reimer, who had an opportunity to grab the reins of Toronto's unsettled goalie situation after Ben Scrivens was pulled from the loss to the Islanders two nights earlier. If the Maple Leafs can manage to get solid play on the back end, however, they could wind up surprisingly opponents. With 11 goals in the last three games, it would appear the offense is not the problem.

Sabres: Buffalo might have been among the most impressive teams in the League in its season opener. On the strength of Thomas Vanek's five-point outburst, the Sabres trounced the Flyers 5-2 for a statement victory and knocked off the Maple Leafs in Toronto a day later to open 2012-13 at 2-0-0. Since then, however, the Sabres have hit the skids. Not only has Vanek missed time due to a muscle strain, but the team is now mired in a three-game losing streak after getting swept in a home-and-home against the Carolina Hurricanes and suffering a 3-2 loss to the previously-winless Washington Capitals this past Sunday.

Perhaps more forboding is the Sabres' lackluster offense of late. Since its season-opening win over Philadelphia, Buffalo has averaged just two goals per game while surrendering an average of 2.50 goals per game over the same stretch. If the Sabres' don't turn it around soon, things could be get out of hand very quickly. Buffalo doesn't have more than one day off at a time until Feb. 13 and 14, meaning there is little time for the players to catch their breath if the team starts to slide.

Who's hot: The Sabres' loss to the Capitals Sunday was the first time this season Jason Pominville failed to register a point, but he is still off to a strong start with three goals and five assists through five games this season. ... Mikhail Grabovski has scored a goal in each of the last three games for Toronto and added two assists over that span for good measure, while Nazem Kadri has quietly put up five points in five games this season.

Injury report: Thomas Vanek (lower-body injury) is considered probable for Buffalo Tuesday. The Maple Leafs, who recently lost Joffrey Lupul for six weeks with a broken forearm, may also be without Clarke MacArthur (lacerated finger), who is considered questionable.

## **OTT'S THOUGHTS**

By Steve Ott

Sabres.com

January 28, 2013

I experienced a lot of mixed emotions when I first found out that I'd been traded to Buffalo. I had a tremendous amount of support during my 10 years in Dallas, and had met a lot of great people. A lot of things in my life also changed while I was there, including my daughter being born. I guess you could say I was growing as a person, and I turned into an adult in Dallas. I was really thankful for all the great times there.

But as much as I loved it there, I was looking for that new adventure. You always wonder, and you hear the rumblings, but when it finally happens, it hits you. I was really excited once I found out it was Buffalo. Obviously my great friend Mike Weber has been talking about Buffalo and how awesome it is here for a long time. I felt like I already knew what I was getting into during my "gym talks" with Webby. You add all those things up, and I definitely had a lot of mixed emotions going on.

Not having been traded before, I learned quickly that it really never hits you until it actually happens. They said I was getting traded; then I wasn't getting traded. Then I wasn't again; but then I did get traded after all. It's a roller coaster when your name gets mentioned, starting with the trade deadline and then all the way into the summer. Once it happened I was really glad it was finally over. It also made me feel good right away when Darcy, Lindy and Mr. Pegula got on the phone and told me they were excited to have me. It made me feel really welcomed. And once I got to meet all the guys in the locker room, it was a real easy transition. The entire organization was super right from the get go.

I came to Buffalo almost right away, because I wanted to be set and ready to go in September for training camp. So I came down and got my place situated; had all the furniture from Dallas shipped here. I wanted to be ready so if the lockout hit, I didn't have to worry about anything. I wanted to not have any distractions, and that was key. I stayed here for about a month prior to when training camp was supposed to start, but I eventually took off back to Windsor so I could skate in the Detroit area with some more bodies once more teammates started to leave for other places to play. But right when we were called back – "unlocked" I guess you could say – I was able to come back to Buffalo and be ready to go like it was September.

The Buffalo fans have been so supportive of me right from the start, and I really appreciated that. You can really see the passion of the fans, and that was exciting from day one. I wanted to be a part of the Northeast way of things, because people up here truly love hockey. I was at the Buffalo airport last night, and I saw "Go Sabres" posted on the flight tracker board. Those little things just show the pride this city has for their hockey team; you see it all over the place. I was even at Wegmans last week and saw their Buffalo Sabres cookies. Everyone is just so excited the game is back, and seeing all the Sabres pride is a pretty neat thing.

In addition to trying to stay in game shape during the lockout, I also got engaged to my girlfriend Erica. I've been with her for about four years now. She's been amazing to my daughter, and that's a huge factor for me. She's an incredible person, and I feel completely spoiled by being with her. The lockout didn't really play a part in the timing of it; it was probably overdue in the sense of how happy we are. But it just felt right. I couldn't be happier and hopefully she feels the same way.

## **SABRES PROSPECTS REPORT**

By Kris Baker

SabresProspects.com

January 28, 2013

Joel Armia (2011, first round) scored twice Saturday, including the overtime game winner, as Assat Pori snapped a four-game skid with a 3-2 victory over KalPa. The lamp-lighting performance was the Finn's third two-goal game of the season, and first since early October.

After netting a goal and a helper in regulation time, the 6-foot-3 winger intercepted a pass and walked in for the forehand finish just 16 seconds into the extra session. Armia ups his season totals to 13 goals and 20 points through 33 contests for Assat, who remain eight points out of the final SM-liiga playoff spot with 15 games left to play.

### **WHL**

On Sunday, Andrey Makarov made 27 saves as Saskatoon blanked Moose Jaw 5-0. The shutout, Makarov's fifth of the year and third in his last 10 starts, improves his season mark to 18-16-3 with a 2.73 GAA and .912 save%.

Colin Jacobs (2011, fourth round) scored a pair of goals Saturday as Prince George pitched a 4-0 shutout of Everett. The multi-goal effort was Jacobs' first since notching a hat trick on opening night. The fourth-year forward leads the Cougars with 35 points (17+18), while his nine power play goals are tied for 16th in the league.

### **OHL**

Dan Catenacci (2011, third round) saw his six-game point streak come to a halt Friday as Owen Sound lost to Guelph 2-1. On Saturday, Catenacci was again kept off the score sheet as the Attack were defeated by the Storm for the second straight night, 5-0. The edgy center, who has not gone more than two games without a point all season long, heads into the week of play leading Owen Sound in points (59) and penalty minutes (89).

Justin Kea (2012, third round) recorded one assist last week as Saginaw kept pace as one of junior hockey's hottest teams by adding three more victories to their January haul. Kea cooled off in the goals column but continued to excel on the penalty kill, helping the surging Spirit to their ninth win in their last 10 games.

Defenseman Brady Austin (2012, seventh round) scored his third goal of the year Thursday but Belleville squandered a two-goal third-period lead in a 3-2 shootout loss to Peterborough. The wrist shot from the left point gave Austin his first tally since late November.

Barrie blueliner Alex Lepkowski (2011, fifth round) amassed a cumulative plus-four rating in the week's three games as the Colts maintained their spot atop of the Eastern



Conference standings. A stay-at-home anchor, Lepkowski has captured six assists this season while providing a rugged, physical element.

#### NCAA

Brad Navin (2011, seventh round) assisted on the game-winning goal Saturday as No. 20 Wisconsin earned the weekend sweep of Alaska Anchorage with a 2-1 victory. The helper was Navin's third point of the season (1+2) and first since Dec. 8. Sophomore defenseman Jake McCabe earned an assist and a plus-two rating in the weekend wins for the Badgers, who move on to face North Dakota next weekend.

Christian Isackson (2010, seventh round) centered a line with Seth Ambroz (CBJ) and Jake Parenteau for the second consecutive weekend as No. 1 Minnesota split their weekend set with No. 14 Minnesota State. The Gophers get a week off before resuming the WCHA schedule on Feb. 8 at St. Cloud State.

#### USHL

Judd Peterson (2012, seventh round) rang up his eighth goal of the year Friday as Cedar Rapids lost to Des Moines 3-2 in a shootout. The goal gives Peterson 21 points, good for third-most on the RoughRiders roster. Winless in their last six, Cedar Rapids trails Youngstown by three points for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, with Youngstown having three games in hand.

#### European Leagues

In Sweden, Linus Ullmark (2012, sixth round) made 23 saves Sunday to backstop MODO J20 to a 4-1 win over Brynäs IF. The impressive outing moves Ullmark to 5-0 in SuperElit Top 10 play, while posting a rock solid 1.39 GAA and .945 save%.