



# **Buffalo Sabres**

## **Daily Press Clips**

*October 22, 2014*

## **Sabres-Ducks preview**

By Jordan Garretson

Associated Press

October 22, 2014

The Anaheim Duckshave bounced back from a season-opening loss in impressive fashion.

They'll look to keep rolling behind a solid power play and strong goaltending as seek their second win in nine days over the hapless Buffalo Sabres on Wednesday night.

Anaheim (5-1-0) comes off Sunday's 3-0 win over St. Louis, with Frederik Andersen stopping 28 shots against a team that scored six goals against Arizona a night earlier. The Ducks, who fell 6-4 to Pittsburgh in their opener, started last season in similar fashion, winning seven straight after an opening defeat.

Sami Vatanen became the sixth defenseman in team history to register two power-play goals for his first two scores of the season. He had three power-play goals in 61 career games previously.

"Hopefully he keeps going at that pace," coach Bruce Boudreau said. "We need those good quarterbacks and puck movers on the back end, and we need the shot threat."

Ryan Getzlaf assisted on both of Vatanen's goals Sunday to push his team-leading point total to eight.

Anaheim has improved with the man advantage, scoring six times on 24 opportunities in 2014-15 after finishing 22nd last season at 16.0 percent.

Matt Beleskey also scored his fourth goal and is on pace to easily surpass his career high of 11 in 2009-10.

Andersen improved to 25-5-0 in his career and has posted a 1.38 goals-against average while starting each game since John Gibson struggled against the Penguins. Andersen joins Boston's Ross Brooks (1972-75) as the only goaltenders to win 25 of their first 30 decisions.

"That's something you remember, obviously," Andersen said of his first career shutout. "It's like the players when they get that first goal. They will remember it forever."

Andersen could have a shot at another shutout Wednesday given Buffalo's offensive issues. The Sabres (1-5-0) are looking to avoid being blanked for a third straight game for the first time in club history after 1-0 and 4-0 losses to Florida and Boston.

Saturday's defeat to the Bruins marked the first time they've suffered two consecutive shutouts since the first two games of the 2003-04 season. Buffalo managed a season-high 32 shots but couldn't take advantage of seven power-play opportunities and fell to 0 for 22 in 2014-15. That slump is the longest to begin a season since the New York Rangers went scoreless on their first 32 chances in 2003-04.

Matt Moulson, who had 51 points last season, has one assist and is without a goal on 13 shots. Cody Hodgson has yet to score after finishing second on the club with 20 goals last season.

Buffalo has been outscored 22-7.

"The one thing about scoring, it's like the weather," coach Ted Nolan said. "Sometimes it's there and sometimes it's not. It's bad. Right now, it's bad."

The Sabres are being outshot by a league-worst 14.3 shots per game, a number inflated by their first meeting with the Ducks on Oct. 13. Anaheim held a 44-12 edge in the category in a 5-1 road win, with William Karlsson scoring two goals.

The 12 shots were one more than Buffalo's franchise low set in 1981. The Ducks have outscored the Sabres 17-6 while taking three straight meetings.

Corey Perry has seven goals and three assists in 10 career games against Buffalo.

## **Sabres will try to make amends against Ducks**

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

October 21, 2014

ANAHEIM, Calif. – Ted Nolan felt bad about publicly comparing the Sabres to a peewee team the last time they played Anaheim. The coach has since changed his interview approach. He's held back comments, and he's taken extra time before speaking so he won't be as emotional when he steps to the microphones.

Despite that, there's no denying the coach was right. It was men against boys last week when the Ducks smacked around Buffalo during a 5-1 victory. The players know it, and they didn't take offense to Nolan saying it.

"We know what he means," defenseman Mike Weber said Tuesday. "We felt the same way. We weren't prepared. In the locker room we weren't ready to play the style of hockey that's needed to be played against a team that's a Stanley Cup contender every year."

The Sabres insist they will be ready for the rematch tonight in Honda Center.

"It's pretty fresh in the mind how we played," Sabres forward Cody McCormick said. "It's fresh because it was so close, and we just weren't happy with the way we played that game."

"I don't think they saw our best game. I think we've had times where we've been able to skate with the top teams, and I don't think we showed that at all. We're going in wanting to prove ourselves, that we can play with them and steal a couple points in their rink."

The one-sided loss to the Ducks showed the rebuilding Sabres how far they have to go. Anaheim outshot the Sabres, 44-12, including a 17-3 rout in the first period.

"Obviously, they kind of jumped all over us," Weber said. "This is a team that does all the right things, from their first line to their fourth line."

While Buffalo hasn't added any skill during the eight days between games, it has changed its mindset. The Sabres know status quo won't work for a team with five losses in six games.

"We've been trying to actually take a lot from their game and from other teams we've played, just from the top down how a team plays within their system," Weber said. "It's where we're trying to get."

The players went to dinner together Monday after arriving in California. They looked rejuvenated Tuesday during an up-tempo practice. They looked like the loose group that had fun during training camp, not the miserable bunch that showed up once the puck dropped.

"It's had some ups and downs, I won't lie," McCormick said of the team's attitude. "But for the most part we got on the road, we had dinner together. Everybody's in high spirits. Going into this we're looking at it as the first game of the road trip. We've got to win the first one."

Nolan conducted individual and forward line meetings with the players, reiterating his themes of hard work and competitiveness.

"I like to see the way the guys really took their words into action," the coach said after practice. "It's a start, and hopefully it's a start to turn things around."

"We just needed a commitment to work, to battle and compete a little bit better. I'm not talking about just one or two guys. I'm talking about everybody, coaching staff included, in the way we prepare, the way we go to work, and we have to come with a little bit more determination and effort into what we do for a living.

"Mentally, we weren't doing what we could do as well as we could do it. When you do that, you create bad habits. We were creating bad habits in our work ethic. We just really wanted to adjust that."

It'll take more than work to beat Anaheim, which has an NHL-best five-game winning streak. Although it wouldn't be a surprise to see the Ducks take Buffalo lightly, Anaheim coach Bruce Boudreau is taking extra measures to ensure it doesn't happen.

"I've been in these things many times where you beat a team pretty good, coach calls you out and the next game you're playing your best game no matter what," Boudreau said. "That's what I think we're going to get from Buffalo: Buffalo's best game. So if we're not ready, it's going to be troublesome."

## **Zadorov practicing hard despite uncertainty**

By John Vogl

Buffalo News

October 22, 2014

ANAHEIM, Calif. – Nikita Zadorov's first choice, of course, would be to play for the Sabres. But he's stuck at eighth on the defense depth chart, and a spot in the lineup doesn't seem to be in his immediate future.

So, with that in mind, would the 19-year-old rather practice with the Sabres or play for his junior team?

"Playing somewhere," Zadorov said Tuesday.

The defenseman continued to practice with the Sabres and was one of the last players off the ice as Buffalo prepared for tonight's game against Anaheim. It's still unclear if Zadorov will remain with the Sabres for the long term or return to London of the Ontario Hockey League.

"I don't think it's my choice," Zadorov said. "It's not my job to make the decision with all that. I'm going to be there when they're going to tell me to be. I'm going to keep working hard, keep playing hard. It doesn't matter where.

"For me, it's kind of hard. I think it's hard for every player just to practice. Every player wants to play. I'm just going to keep working hard and wait for an opportunity."

The Sabres have kept Zadorov after wondering whether the 6-foot-5, 238-pounder was too big for juniors. His agent, Rolland Hedges, told The Buffalo News last week the Sabres had the option of letting Zadorov play in Russia's Kontinental Hockey League, but the NHL says that's not the case because of its collective bargaining agreement with the Canadian Hockey League, the parent of the OHL.

"Under the terms of our existing agreement with the CHL, the club is obligated to loan the player back to his CHL club," a league spokesman said in an email. "The team has no other option."

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After everyone was done practicing, Sabres rookie Sam Reinhart stayed on the ice to work on faceoffs with assistant coach Bryan Trottier. His effort didn't go unnoticed.

"I liked Sammy's effort in practice," coach Ted Nolan said. "I really did."

It remains to be seen whether the effort will translate to a spot in the lineup. The second overall draft pick, who was scratched last game, again rotated with Brian Flynn as center on the fourth line. One likely will sit against the Ducks in Honda Center.

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The Sabres are starting three games in four nights, so it was a given that both Jhonas Enroth and Michal Neuvirth will start in goal this week. Nolan confirmed it, though he didn't say who would play in Anaheim.

"This whole environment we have right now, everything is up for grabs: jobs and position and ice time," Nolan said. "I know it's only been six games, but we have to create an environment where we're competing."

The Ducks have the option of using NHL Second Star of the Week Frederick Andersen or John Gibson, who was the starting goalie on opening night and is back from a two-game conditioning stint in the minors. Andersen made 11 saves during the Ducks' 5-1 victory over the Sabres on Oct. 13.

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About a half-dozen fans watched the Sabres skate in Anaheim's practice rink, and nearly all of them asked players for a stick. One guy asked Nolan for his lumber, and he got it.

"You want this one?" the smiling coach asked with an incredulous tone. "Sure."

## **For Zadorov, it's Buffalo or London – or so I'm told**

By Kevin Ol;obzija

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

October 21, 2014

The Buffalo Sabres have not decided whether defenseman Nikita Zadorov will stay in the NHL this season. For that matter, they haven't even decided if he'll ever play in the NHL this season.

Zadorov, 19, has been on their roster since the season began, but he has been a healthy scratch for all six games. He did travel with the team for the three-game trip to the West Coast, which begins with Wednesday's 10:30 p.m. game at Anaheim.

Since he is still junior eligible and was drafted from a Canadian Hockey League team (OHL, WHL, QMJHL), the Sabres can play him in nine games before they would be forced to make a decision on where he spends the season.

Once he would play a 10th NHL game this season, the years start counting on his entry level contract. Drafted 16th overall in 2013, Zadorov played seven games with the Sabres last season (one goal) before returning to London.

They say there are only two choices: either in Buffalo, or back with his junior team, the Ontario Hockey League's London Knights.

Bill Hoppe of the Olean Times Herald reported on Sunday that Zadorov's agent, Rolland Hedges, said Zadorov's team in Russia has not granted a release. Even if that's true, the Sabres don't seem to believe it's an issue.

Sabres assistant general manager Mark Jakubowski told me that their position on Zadorov is quite clear: NHL or OHL.

"The information we have is that he is under contract to London and that's the only place we can send him," Jakubowski said. "We've talked to the league. If he's not in Buffalo, the league's position has been, 'No, we can't loan him to the American League, he has to go to London.' The league wouldn't even allow us to send him to the KHL."

Hedges did not respond to a phone message or email.

There is an 18-year-old drafted out of the CHL that is playing in the AHL now. Julius Honka was chosen in the first round of this year's NHL draft out of WHL Swift Current by the Dallas Stars.

Honka, however, is AHL eligible because he wasn't under contract to Swift Current. He instead was loaned to the WHL team by his team in Finland last season.

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The Amerks are home to play the Rockford IceHogs at 7:05 p.m. Wednesday, the first of three games this week (home with Adirondack Friday, at Adirondack Saturday).

Coach Chadd Cassidy said defenseman Jake McCabe (recovering from a "middle body" injury) will be a game-time decision.

Cassidy didn't name his starting goalie for Wednesday but did say Andrey Makarov will play this week. Nathan Lieuwen has played all three games.

The light schedule the first two weeks (Oct. 10, 11 and 18) made it nearly impossible to play both goalie and hope to have one that was on top of his game. Also, it's fair to assume Lieuwen started Saturday at Toronto (24 saves in a 4-1 win) because he deserved a chance to rebound from the loss to Hamilton on Oct. 11 (5 goals on 30 shots). He was too good last year not to have been given that chance.

"Makky deserves to play," Cassidy said. "But if we didn't play Nathan, then neither goalie is sharp. You couldn't win either way."

## Sabres seek scoring visiting Ducks

By Jon Lane

NHL.com

October 21, 2014

**SABRES (1-5-0) at DUCKS (5-1-0)**

**TV: MSG-B, BELL TV, PRIME**

**Season series:** This is the second of two games between the Buffalo Sabres and Anaheim Ducks. Anaheim rookie William Karlsson scored his first two NHL goals on Oct. 13 in Buffalo, where the Ducks outshot the Sabres 44-21.

**Sabres team scope:** Buffalo has been shut out in consecutive games for the first time since October 2009, has seven goals in six games, and is in a goal drought of 142:06. Their play led to coach Ted Nolan calling a team meeting upon arriving in Anaheim. "Right now it's not good enough," Nolan told WGR Radio in Buffalo. "The only people who can get ourselves out of this mess right now is ourselves. We know we're not playing that well. Our work ethic has to be much better." The Sabres' next three opponents (Ducks, Los Angeles Kings, San Jose Sharks) are a combined 13-3-2. Rookie center Sam Reinhart, a healthy scratch Saturday, skated on the fourth line during practice Monday and Tuesday. Nolan said Reinhart will play on the Sabres' trip through California, but wouldn't say if he'd be in the lineup Wednesday.

**Ducks team scope:** The Ducks, winners of five straight since a season-opening loss at the Pittsburgh Penguins, are refusing to look past the Sabres. "We don't want to be the team that gets them going," forward Ben Lovejoy told the Ducks website after practice Tuesday. "They are a team that if given some confidence can do some damage." Frederik Andersen is 5-0-0 with a 1.38 goals-against average and .950 save percentage, and is one of two NHL goalies (Ross Brooks) to win 25 of his first 30 starts. "He's made that big save, that key save, when we needed it," forward Nate Thompson said. Coach Bruce Boudreau could get John Gibson into his first NHL game since opening night. Gibson was sent to the American Hockey League last week and stopped 55 of 61 shots in two games.

## **Sabres fans might get peek at future as McDavid visits**

By Kevin Allen

USA Today

October 22, 2014

More than 10,000 Buffalo Sabres fans are expected in First Niagara Center arena Wednesday to see Canadian super prospect Connor McDavid play in what could be a preview of coming attractions.

McDavid is considered a franchise prospect, and the rebuilding Sabres are in contention to land the Ontario Hockey League center. His Erie Otters will play the Niagara Ice Dogs in an OHL regular-season game. It's plausible that McDavid could be playing for the Sabres next season.

"Our fans know that we have three first-round picks next year and two second-round picks," Sabres President Ted Black told USA TODAY Sports. "There is a lot of anticipation over the next several months."

Black said if there was a strong walk-up sale, the crowd could reach 12,000.

"It's part of our overall strategy to make Buffalo a hockey destination," Black said. "If we had a banner above our door, it would be: 'All roads to the NHL go through Buffalo.'"

McDavid and American center Jack Eichel (Boston University) are considered generational players, and Buffalo fans were able to see Eichel recently in the All-American Prospects Game at First Niagara Center. Roughly 8,000 fans attended that game.

This will be the first OHL game played at the arena. About 15% of Buffalo's fan base comes from Ontario. This game isn't solely about McDavid, although 35 NHL scouts requested credentials.

"Buffalo is a very strong hockey market, and this was in our wheelhouse to start with," Black said.

Black called the scheduling of the event a perfect storm because of McDavid's fame, Erie's close proximity to Buffalo and the Sabres being in rebuilding mode. The Sabres, last in the NHL last season, are 1-5 this season.

The top contenders in the McDavid-Eichel sweepstakes (every non-playoff team has a shot to pick first because of the lottery, but the team with the worst record is guaranteed to get one of those players):

**1. Buffalo (1-5):** The Sabres have scored eight goals in six games, and over the next four days they play on the road against the Anaheim Ducks, Los Angeles Kings and San Jose Sharks.

**2. Carolina Hurricanes (0-3-2):** The Hurricanes were the last NHL team without a victory. Jordan Staal is out for three months with a broken leg, plus Eric Staal, Nathan Gerbe and John-Michael Liles are injured. Jeff Skinner and Andrej Sekera returned Tuesday.

**3. Florida Panthers (2-2-2):** With five goals in their first five games, the Panthers needed to prove they are not offensively challenged. They responded with a 4-3 overtime win against the Colorado Avalanche. Goalie Roberto Luongo, however, is their best hope of staying out of the McDavid-Eichel sweepstakes.

**4. Edmonton Oilers (1-4-1):** If the Oilers play as well as they did in Monday's 3-2 win against the Tampa Bay Lightning, they will move up the standings. But even with that rousing win, they have given up 27 goals in six games. The Oilers' key will be the play of goaltender Ben Scrivens, who was sharp vs. Tampa Bay.

**5. Winnipeg Jets (2-4):** The Jets played at a playoff pace last season after coach Paul Maurice's hiring in January, but they have not impressed this season. They scored two goals in a four-game losing streak before beating the Hurricanes 3-1 on Tuesday. The Jets, in the midst of a five-game homestand, have no power-play goals this season.

## **Sabres still can't score goals**

By Bill Hoppe  
Olean Times Herald  
October 21, 2014

BUFFALO — The Sabres, the lowest-scoring team in modern NHL history last season, have picked up where they left off in April.

Yes, it's still early, but the Sabres have scored just seven goals in six games, a paltry 1.17 average. The only team averaging fewer goals a game, the Florida Panthers, beat the Sabres 1-0 on Friday.

Four Sabres have scored this season. Tyler Ennis, Marcus Foligno and Zemgus Girgensons all have two goals. Torrey Mitchell has one.

That's it.

The power play is zero of 22. The defensemen have combined for two assists. Opponents just shut the Sabres out in consecutive home games for the first time since 1972. Saturday's 4-0 loss to the Boston Bruins extended their goal drought to 142 minutes, six seconds.

How can the 1-5 Sabres start scoring? Well, for starters, they need to have the puck more often. Opponents are outshooting them 227-141 this season.

"If you're spending too much time in your defensive zone, it's pretty hard to score some goals," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said Monday inside the First Niagara Center. "We have to tighten that area up first, and doing that is through communication. Good communication always eliminates duplication, too many people try to do somebody else's jobs. The effort's there, we're just not doing it the smart way."

The Sabres are scoring at a 96-goal pace for an 82-game season. That number, of course, will go up. But how much? The Sabres only scored 150 goals last season, 1.83 a game. Florida, the 29th-ranked offense, scored 33 more goals.

In 2013-14, the Sabres possessed only a few offensive weapons. Ennis' 21 scores led the team. One other player, Cody Hodgson, hit the 20-goal mark.

The Sabres added high-profile veteran scorers during the summer, signing wingers Brian Gionta and Matt Moulson to huge deals.

Gionta scored 48 goals in 2005-06 and, at age 34, had 18 last season. Moulson has 135 goals since the start of 2009-10, the 13th-most in the NHL over that span, according to [hockeyreference.com](http://hockeyreference.com). That's three more than Chicago Blackhawks star Patrick Kane.

Each newcomer has one assist. They're making a combined \$9.25 million this season.

Plenty of other established scoring forwards are struggling. Hodgson, Drew Stafford and Chris Stewart have combined for five assists.

"It's definitely there," Foligno said. "Those guys have confidence. They're goal scorers. It's not like we're missing that. It's just the second and third opportunities we got to put away."

Stafford added: "It's obviously disappointing. It's frustrating. You look at some of the guys especially we brought in. The guys we have on the roster, myself included, we're expected to score goals. We haven't done that."

Nolan has been saying his players must get inside and “dirty” – skate to the net and pay a price – to score.

“We got to put our players in better positions in order to try to score some goals,” he said. “We got to work harder. We’re trying to rectify that during practice and going to the net, moving the puck, shooting a little bit more, designing drills that you can do that.”

But the Sabres spend so much time defending, by the time they get the puck, they’re “too tired to attack,” Nolan said.

“So we got to get out of our zone much quicker and get to the dirty areas in order to score those goals, and we all know where they are, they’re in front of the net,” he said.

Stafford said “it all starts in our own zone.”

“If we’re running around in our own zone for 45 seconds, we got to dump it in and change, we’re not going to go in on the offense,” he said. “I think if we bear down in our own end, especially early in the game, get inside a little bit more, win the battle to the paint, I think they’ll start going in for us and the floodgates will open.”

Some luck would help, too. A simple bounce could buoy the Sabres.

“When you get one off your leg or your arm or something, your foot, it’s amazing the confidence you get,” Moulson said.

## **Connor McDavid can't avoid Sabres fans on Twitter**

By Bill Hoppe  
Olean Times Herald  
October 22, 2014

BUFFALO – Hockey phenom Connor McDavid mostly avoids the kind words that are being written about him.

"I've been trying to do that as much as I can, because it can either get in your head that you're too good, or bad press can also get in your head and do negative things for you," the slick Erie Otters center said Tuesday. "I just try to stay away from reading about yourself."

Some words, however, the 17-year-old can't avoid. For example, whenever the Sabres lose – and that's often – McDavid's Twitter account "just kind of blows up," he said.

In 140 characters or less, Sabres fans tell McDavid how badly they want him in Buffalo next season.

"I guess it contradicts what I've been saying about reading about myself," McDavid said inside the First Niagara Center. "It's a little bit different. I really can't explain it. It's pretty cool."

Buffalo fans have an opportunity to watch McDavid, the biggest junior prospect since Sidney Crosby, up close tonight in an Ontario Hockey League game against the Niagara Ice Dogs.

So far, McDavid, the consensus No. 1 pick in June's NHL Entry Draft, has lived up to his massive hype, compiling eight goals and 25 points in nine games this season.

McDavid has thought "a little bit" about Buffalo becoming his next home. Playing for the Sabres would be a "tremendous honor," he said.

"You can't really do too much of that, you just got to worry about yourself and playing your game, doing all the right things," he said. "If Buffalo happens to be the one that drafts me, that'll be great, then I'll be thrilled. It's the NHL. You kind of go where you're picked. Every city and organization is first class."

A loud portion of Buffalo's rabid fan base wants the Sabres, who are 1-5, to tank this season so they have greater odds of getting the No. 1 pick in the draft lottery.

Incredible, right?

Former Sabres defenseman Jay McKee, one of Erie's assistant coaches, understands why fans covet McDavid, a potential franchise-changing talent.

"The fans here should want a guy like that, they should tweet him," said McKee, who still lives in Buffalo. "It's pretty unique because you don't find players of his capability very often. It's not every year in the draft that you can find a guy like that, and I think this year is a special year."

McKee believes the fans' desire to have McDavid creates a "double-edged sword."

"Do you want to win? Do you want to have a draft pick?" he said. "If you want to get a chance to get Connor McDavid, you're going to have to finish real low in the standings. I understand the fans and their desire for having Connor — they should have that desire."

"It's just a tough situation. You don't want your home team to lose, but you do want a good draft pick."

## **Sabres' win-loss record impacting secondary ticket market**

By James Fink

Buffalo Business First

October 21, 2014

Fans looking to buy Buffalo Sabres tickets — either at First Niagara Center or when the team is on the road — will find they have one of the most affordable prices on the secondary ticket market.

Toronto Maple Leafs and Chicago Blackhawks fans can't make the same claim.

According to statistics compiled by Vivid Seats, which specializes in selling tickets for sports and entertainment events on the secondary, online market, Sabres' home games are the 19th most expensive in the 30-team National Hockey League. The Sabres' average home ticket price is \$123 while the median is \$91, according to Vivid Seats sales statistics.

No surprise but the Maple Leafs have the most expensive home ticket price with a \$368 price tag for games at the Air Canada Centre while the median sales price is \$325. The Sabres average ticket price is about 200 percent less than the Leafs and the median sale price is approximately 257 percent less than the Leafs.

The Carolina Hurricanes have the lowest average ticket price of \$86 and a \$45 median sale price.

By comparison, when teams like the Blackhawks or the Pittsburgh Penguins hit the road, their impact on the median sale price sees tickets increase on Vivid Seat's secondary market by 54.5 percent and 49 percent, respectively.

The Sabres' road ticket prices actually see an 8.9 percent drop in median sales. In other words, the team's 1-5 record is not causing a drive up in ticket prices when the Sabres hit the road.

The Arizona Coyotes have the worst impact on median, secondary market ticket sales values with an 18.3 percent drop, according to Vivid Seats research.

## **Sabres Reinhart has a huge resource here**

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

October 21, 2014

**Anaheim, CA (WGR 550)** -- Sam Reinhart got another new experience in the NHL on Saturday, he was a healthy scratch.

You could see the 18 year old's play was slipping as he went along in his first five games so Nolan put him upstairs.

Being scratched is more than just not playing that night. Each player not dressing goes through extensive training after the other players leave the ice in the morning skate. They also get a chance to watch the game from above which makes the game seem slower and gives a player a much different perspective. Reinhart is a very mature 18 and he had a good attitude about what happened, "I think it was another opportunity for me to learn, I feel I have a lot more to give and when you're watching up high the game looks so much easier and then all you want to do is get out there more."

Now that the kid has had that chance to watch, he feels he'll be better, "I think I'm a lot more desperate now and I'm slowly starting to learn that, so I'm really excited that hopefully I get in there some time soon. It's a tough league to do things and I think the intensity and the little things in my game that when I do those things with just a little more intensity, then I should be fine."

Reinhart wants to play Wednesday in Anaheim, but at least Ted Nolan is seeing progress, "I'm not too sure if he'll play, but I liked Sammy's effort here today in practice I really did. I thought it was one of his better practices so we'll think about that over supper tonight and let him know."

Reinhart was the last player off the ice Tuesday because he was practicing face-offs and getting pointers from one of the best centermen of all-time in Bryan Trottier. Reinhart is only winning 26.5 percent of his draws. He really enjoyed the tutoring on Tuesday, "He was going over desperate situations when you're not necessarily trying to win the draw, but you scramble and give the rest of the guys a chance. It's a tough thing to win them clean, so that's a big part of it."

It's so invaluable to have a resource like that on the coaching staff. Reinhart said, "When I was coming in my dad reminded me that he was probably the best centerman in the league for a majority of his career and he wasn't very fun to play against, so it's nice having him here and I'm definitely taking advantage of what he has to offer."

## **Sabres' Nolan got extra in practice**

By Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

October 21, 2014

**Anaheim, CA (WGR 550)** -- As the Sabres took the ice in Anaheim for practice it was very obvious they were faster and more focused. Things were crisp and players lingered for about 25 minutes after practice ended working on things. Ted Nolan said it's something he stressed, "We had a nice meeting yesterday and we talked about the importance of each and every one of us has got to be better. I liked seeing how the guys put their words into action out here today and hopefully it's a start to a turnaround."

There have been lapses in the team's work ethic to start the season and Nolan said, "We just needed a commitment and I'm not just talking about one or two guys, I'm talking about everybody, coaching staff included in the way we prepare and the way we go to work."

Nolan has said many times that you play the way you practice. He said, "We were creating bad habits in our work ethic, so I wanted to adjust that. I looked at the tape over and over, we had individual meetings, we had line meetings and we all came to a consensus that we have to compete harder."

Sam Reinhart sat out the last game and according to Nolan, it's not clear if he'll play Wednesday, "I'm not too

sure, I liked Sammy's effort here today in practice I really did. I thought it was one of his better practices so we'll think about that over supper tonight and let him know."

Jhonas Enroth has played all but one game so far this season, but Michal Neuvirth will play this week according to Nolan, "Yes we'll definitely use both. In this environment that we have right now, everything's up for grabs with jobs and positions and ice time, I know it's only been six games, but we have to create an environment here where we're competing."

Enroth looks at 36 shots per start while Neuvirth saw 44 in his game.

## **Sabres energized at Tuesday's practice**

By Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

October 21, 2014

**ANAHEIM** – While the California sun was beaming outside, the Buffalo Sabres were hard at work within the cold confines of the Anaheim Ducks practice facility Tuesday.

The practice at Anaheim ICE marked one of their most energetic and up-tempo practices for the team so far this season. After a few disappointing performances on the ice, Ted Nolan challenged everyone from the coaches to the players to find solutions to their problems. He said the answers they came up with started with each individual working to the best of his ability.

"Each and every one of us, we've got to be better. We had a nice sit-down discussion about it and I liked to see the way the guys really took their words into action today," Nolan said. "Hopefully it's the start of turning this thing around."

Buffalo is set to take on the Ducks on Wednesday at Honda Arena. Faceoff is scheduled for 10:30 p.m. EST with the Tops Gamenight pregame show starting at 10 p.m. on MSG and Bell-TV. The game can also be heard live on WGR 550.

Sabres alternate captain Matt Moulson noticed a difference in the team's attitude as well in practice and noted that it was a bit more physical than usual.

"It was a good practice. We know we have to be better and bring that compete level more consistently," Moulson said. "We demanded that out of each other."

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### **STICKING WITH IT**

Buffalo practiced with the same line combinations and defensive pairings as they did in practice on Monday.

26 Matt Moulson – 63 Tyler Ennis – 12 Brian Gionta  
82 Marcus Foligno – 19 Cody Hodgson – 80 Chris Stewart  
17 Torrey Mitchell – 28 Zemgus Girgensons – 21 Drew Stafford  
44 Nicolas Deslauriers – 65 Brian Flynn – 23 Sam Reinhart – 8 Cody McCormick  
36 Patrick Kaleta (red, non-contact jersey)

4 Josh Gorges – 57 Tyler Myers  
6 Mike Weber – 41 Andrej Meszaros  
61 Andre Benoit – 55 Rasmus Ristolainen  
51 Nikita Zadorov – 24 Tyson Strachan

1 Jhonas Enroth  
34 Michal Neuvirth

Although the team has been shut out in back-to-back games, Nolan has decided to let these combinations continue to work through it. Buffalo has never been shut out in three-straight games.

"If you look at why we didn't score, it's not so much that the line combinations, I don't think. It's the effort in order to score," he said. "If so-and-so isn't going to the net, he's not going to score. If so-and-so's not shooting the puck, it doesn't matter who he plays with or how often he plays, we're not going to do it.

"Over in Latvia, they always said, 'Never look for a black cat in a dark room.' It's the same thing here. You ain't gonna score if you don't shoot. So we have to shoot and create some traffic. It doesn't matter who you play with."

Rookie Sam Reinhart may not dress for Wednesday's game as Nolan said he'll wait to make a decision. The 2014 second-overall pick was a healthy scratch Saturday night.

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### **LOOKING FOR A BREAK THROUGH**

The team is also looking for its first power-play goal of the season. While the units have had some quality chances, they haven't been able to convert on any of their 22 opportunities thus far.

"It's the same thing 5-on-5, when the puck's not going in, the less you think the better. Just continue to work hard," Moulson said. "If you're working hard on the PP, usually you're getting chances. Put pucks there and if you're working to get guys there, you're going to get goals."

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### **NO STARTER NAMED YET**

Nolan would not divulge his starting goaltender for Wednesday, but said that both Jhonas Enroth and Michal Neuvirth will see playing time on the West Coast trip.

Enroth has started five of the team's six games so far and has faced the most shots against in the League (183). Neuvirth made 39 saves in his lone start this year, a loss at home to the Ducks.

Neuvirth has looked especially dialed in during practice the past few days and hopes that will carry over into his next start.

"I'm just going day-by-day right now and working hard in practice," he said. "Whenever I get a chance, I want to be ready and help my team get a win."