



# **Buffalo Sabres**

**Daily Press Clips**

*December 15, 2015*

## **O'Reilly, Larsson rally Sabres to 2-1 win over Red Wings**

AP

December 15, 2015

DETROIT (AP) — Any team that can keep it close against the Detroit Red Wings in the third period has a chance.

Ryan O'Reilly and Johan Larsson scored 61 seconds apart late in the third, rallying the Buffalo Sabres to a 2-1 victory over Detroit on Monday night.

The Red Wings have blown third-period leads in nine of their last 14 games.

"I think it shows quite a bit of character on our part for sticking with it," Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said.

O'Reilly tied it 1-all at 15:46 when his deflected shot beat goalie Petr Mrazek between the legs. Larsson scored the winner with 3:13 remaining, his first goal in 30 games since April 6 last season against Carolina.

"Just going to the front of the net and maybe get a rebound and it comes right to my stick," Larsson said. "Really good to get that goal."

Despite its third-period lapses, Detroit had earned at least one point in 13 consecutive games.

"We've been playing a little bit sloppier lately," Red Wings captain Henrik Zetterberg said. "So maybe this was the little wake-up call here. Just got to get back to playing the right way for 60 minutes."

Buffalo snapped an eight-game winless streak in Detroit with its first victory there since Oct. 13, 2006.

After a scoreless first period, the Red Wings got the game's first goal at 4:01 of the second. Pavel Datsyuk found Brad Richards in the right circle and he beat goalie Chad Johnson glove side.

"I was just kind of waiting in the weeds there, hoping they left me open and he kind of waited until they all went to him," Richards said. "It's good to be that close and get a wide-open look."

In 22 career games against the Sabres, Datsyuk has nine goals and 13 assists.

Tomas Jurco had a chance to give the Red Wings a two-goal lead when he was awarded a penalty shot at 14:56 of the second, but Johnson made a glove save.

"I don't know what the percentage is on penalty shots, it's not extraordinarily high," Red Wings coach Jeff Blashill said. "You feel like you should score but that's not the way it really goes lots of times. He did what he could and made the move and it didn't go in."

Mrazek made 28 saves while Johnson had 32.

O'Reilly has a point in eight straight games, tying his career high, with four goals and seven assists during that span.

The Red Wings pulled Mrazek and had an opportunity with 10 seconds left and the extra skater, but Johnson made a diving save to stop Gustav Nyquist from tying the game.

"(Johnson) made a desperation move and then, what a save," Bylsma said.

NOTES: Red Wings defenseman Mike Green played in his 600th career game. The Red Wings remain one win shy of their 800th at Joe Louis Arena. ... Sabres defenseman Rasmus Ristolainen remains the only NHL player with an average ice time over 20 minutes with no penalty minutes. ... Ristolainen, who assisted on Buffalo's first goal, has 18 points (six goals, 12 assists) in his last 18 games.

## Difference for O'Reilly came through simplicity

By Amy Moritz  
Buffalo News  
December 15, 2015

DETROIT – The pace of play was more to the liking of the Buffalo Sabres than the last time they were in Detroit.

The Sabres slowed the game down, played a more puck-possession style than the free-wheeling run-and-gun game they got caught up in, and eventually lost, in Joe Louis Arena two weeks ago.

But systems and strategy aside, the difference for the Sabres came through simplicity.

Just shoot the puck and go to the net. Good things will eventually happen.

That's what happened for both Ryan O'Reilly and Johan Larsson as they tallied late goals to give the Sabres the 2-1 decision and their first win in Detroit since Oct. 13, 2006, and their first win in regulation in Joe Louis Arena since March 6, 1994.

O'Reilly scored with 4:14 left in regulation, tipping in a shot from Sam Reinhart. Just over a minute later, Larsson went to the front of the net as Mike Weber took a shot, putting him in the right place as the puck bounced onto his stick and he buried the opportunity for the game-winner.

"You can talk about the Xs and Os and the strategy of the game, but for us, we've got to play hockey," O'Reilly said. "We have to enjoy ourselves out there and we have to play together. We've got that mindset right now that's helping us play together and not overthink things. We're going to find ways to win games."

O'Reilly talked about the maturity of the team, being able to score in the final five minutes after Detroit goaltender Petr Mrazek had kept them off the board for the previous 55. The Sabres had 30 shots on goal, including 12 in the third period, with O'Reilly leading the charge with five.

He had several good scoring opportunities but failed to connect. He was frustrated but channeled the energy into simple plays, like going toward the net when Reinhart wound up for a shot.

"I was a little frustrated," O'Reilly said. "I had some really good chances before that. ... It's just one of those things of going to the net and trying to create something. It was good play by Sam putting it in the area and for me it was just a lucky bounce going in."

It wasn't a different kind of lucky bounce for Larsson, who found the puck on his stick after a shot from Weber bounced off players and to him – alone in front of Mrazek. It was his first goal of the season.

"The puck came around and Webby shot it and I thought maybe I go to net, get a rebound or something but it came right on my stick and I was trying to get the release off quick," Larsson said. "It's a really good feeling."

And again the goal was a result of a simple, hockey play.

"We're not going to get in it in a fancy, passing, tic-tac-toe type of way," Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said. "We need to do it in a simple fashion and we need to get it in the offensive zone and sometimes we're going to have to grind it out to get our opportunities. The opportunities we did get tonight were a direct result of that. It's tough to do sometimes when you're down in a game and you need a goal, but we did."

While the Sabres stayed patient and simple on offense, Chad Johnson was keeping the team in the game.

Larsson had the game-winner, but it was Johnson with the highlight-reel sprawling save on Gustav Nyquist in the closing seconds to seal the win.

"That cage was absolutely as wide open as you can get from our angle," Bylsma said. "And Chad makes a desperation move to get there and what a save that was. It's a dynamic, dramatic glove save by him that preserves the victory."

While that's the save everyone will talk about, Johnson had 30 other saves and general strong play in the crease to limit a fast, offensively gifted Red Wings team to one goal.

"The shot total wasn't extremely high, but there was probably five or six very good Grade-A opportunities they had with some good players," Bylsma said. "He had one spectacular save but was real strong making some big saves for us throughout the game."

## Quick hits: Sabres 2, Detroit 1

By Amy Moritz  
Buffalo News  
December 15, 2015

DETROIT -- With two late goals, the Buffalo Sabres ended the Detroit Red Wings 13-game point streak nabbing a 2-1 win in Joe Louis Arena.

Detroit took a 1-0 lead in the second period on a goal from defenseman Brad Richards. The Sabres had power play chances, but failed to connect while goaltender Chad Johnson held down the fort.

The Sabres finally got the equalizer with 4:11 left in the third period when Ryan O'Reilly tipped in a shot from Sam Reinhart. Then with 3:13 left to play Johan Larsson got the puck alone in front of Petr Mrazek and beat the frozen goaltender for a 2-1 lead.

Detroit challenged the goal asking for an offside review, but officials ruled the play was onside and the goal stood.

It was the first regulation loss for the Red Wings since losing to Boston on Nov. 14.

**Powerless power play:** The Sabres went 0 for 4 on the power play. The Sabres had scored eight power play goals in their previous seven games, launching the unit to the second best in the NHL (23.4 percent).

**The 1-0 lead:** Detroit broke a scoreless tie at 4:01 of the second when Pavel Datsyuk skated into the Sabres zone, moved through the middle, drawing all the attention. He let go a great pass to his Brad Richards, who was alone in the right faceoff circle. Richards shot beat Chad Johnson under the bar and gave the Red Wings a 1-0 lead.

**Near shortie:** The Sabres started the second period on the power play and had some good puck movement going until the puck jumped past Rasmus Ristolainen at the left point. Darren Helm chased the puck down the ice and had a few steps on Ristolainen. That's when Chad Johnson charged out of his net to the right circle to try and poke the puck away, but he missed. Ristolainen recovered to take Helm and the puck behind the net saving the seemingly sure goal.

**Penalty shot:** With 14:56 left in the second, Tomas Jurco was awarded a penalty shot after he was brought down on a breakaway by Johann Larsson. Johnson easily made the glove save and the score remained a 1-0 lead for the Wings.

**Scoreless start:** The scoreless first period was highlighted by a few key scoring chances. While the Sabres held a 9-6 advantage in shots, the Red Wings had some quality chances particularly right in front of Sabres netminder Chad Johnson. Helping the Sabres defensive cause was penalty killing luck as the Wings hit a goalpost and had a prime chance bounce the wrong way off a leg during their only power play of the first. On the other end Petr Mrazek came up with some timely saves, including stopping a late rush from Evander Kane and Ryan O'Reilly.

**No. 600:** Red Wings defenseman Mike Green played in his 600<sup>th</sup> NHL game Monday night. The 30-year-old former draft pick of the Washington Capitals is in his 11<sup>th</sup> NHL season and first with Detroit. "You always hope that you can accomplish that," Green said. "I think we all just hope to play one game so I'm definitely honored and privileged here to be able to play tonight in my 600<sup>th</sup>."

**No longer winless in Detroit:** This was the Sabres' first win in Detroit since Oct. 13, 2006.

**No more road woes:** The win snapped a three-game road losing streak and the Sabres improved to 6-7-2 away from First Niagara Center.

**Scratches:** Forward Cal O'Reilly was a scratch again. Recalled from Rochester on Dec. 4 he has yet to dress for the Sabres this year. Carlo Colaiacovo was the defensive scratch for the Sabres for the third straight game. Detroit scratched defenseman Jakub Kindl and forwards Drew Miller and Teu Pulkkinen.

**Next game:** The Sabres finish a road-home back-to-back stint hosting New Jersey at 7 Tuesday night in First Niagara Center.

## Sabres rally, end Red Wings' 13-game point streak

By Paul Harris

NHL.com

December 15, 2015

**DETROIT** -- Ryan O'Reilly and Johan Larsson scored 1:01 apart late in the third period to give the Buffalo Sabres a 2-1 win against the Detroit Red Wings at Joe Louis Arena on Monday.

"Kind of stuck with it. They're a good team. We tied it and then got a good bounce," Larsson said.

Brad Richards scored for Detroit (16-9-6), which had its 13-game point streak end (8-0-5). Petr Mrazek made 28 saves.

"It is disappointing to get out of this game with nothing," Red Wings captain Henrik Zetterberg said.

Chad Johnson made 31 saves for Buffalo (13-15-3), including a save on Gustav Nyquist with 19 seconds left. Nyquist appeared to have an open net from the bottom of the right circle but dove across the crease to knock Nyquist's shot away.

"Dive," Johnson said when asked went through his mind. "I was just trying to make the save."

O'Reilly tied the game 1-1 with 4:14 left when he tipped in a shot from the point by Sam Reinhart. It was O'Reilly's 11th goal of the season.

"We're not going to get goals in a fancy, tic-tac-toe manner. We're going to have to make it simple," Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said.

Larsson gave the Sabres a 2-1 lead when he put in a rebound with 3:13 left for his first goal of the season, ending a 30-game drought.

"Just going to the front of the net and maybe get a rebound and it comes right to my stick," Larsson said. "As time goes, you get more frustrated, but you've got to keep going out there and doing the right things."

Richards gave the Red Wings a 1-0 lead 4:01 into the second period when he one-timed a shot past Johnson, high on the short side, off a cross-ice pass from Pavel Datsyuk. It was Richards' second goal of the season.

"I was on my right, off-wing," Richards said. "I was just kind of waiting in the weeds there, hoping they left me open and he kind of waited until they all went to him. It's good to be that close and get a wide-open look."

Johnson denied Red Wings forward Tomas Jurco on a penalty shot with 5:04 left in the second period after it was ruled that defenseman Mike Weber interfered with Jurco on a breakaway. Jurco came in and cut towards the left wing boards, slowed down, came back to the middle of the ice and tried to beat Johnson with a forehand shot.

"Guys have different moves. I was just trying to stay with him," Johnson said.

Datsyuk hit the goal post on his own rebound with 8:40 left in the second period.

Johnson made a save against Red Wings defenseman Mike Green, who played his 600th game, on a one-time shot from the high slot with under eight minutes remaining in the second period.

"We had some opportunities," Red Wings coach Jeff Blashill said. "I thought there was some things that we did well, but we still got to find a way to win the hockey game."

# Sabres Rally to Stun Red Wings 2-1

By Dan Cave

WGR 550

December 15, 2015

Ryan O'Reilly and Johan Larsson scored late in regulation while Chad Johnson stopped 32 shots, including a highlight-reel save in the final seconds, giving the Sabres a 2-1 win at Detroit. Johnson sprawled across the crease, using his left arm to keep Gustav Nyquist's shot out of the net. The eye-popping save was one of 13 for Johnson in the final period and was immediately followed by Larsson diving to clear the puck, preserving Buffalo's first win at Joe Louis Arena in over 9 years.

## **Scoring**

- Brad Richards beat Chad Johnson glove-side 4:01 into the 2nd period. Taking a nice feed from Pavel Datsyuk, Richards one-timed his 2nd goal of the season into the net for the 1-0 Detroit lead.
- The Sabres struck quickly with two goals toward the end of the 3rd period. O'Reilly redirected a Sam Reinhart shot by Petr Mrazek, tying the game 1-1.
- Just 1:01 later, Larsson put Buffalo ahead for good. Mike Weber kept the puck in along the far boards, flinging it toward the net where Larsson scooped up the rebound and sent a wrister into the net for his 1st goal of the season and the 2-1 lead.

## **Game Notes**

- The win marked Buffalo's first at Detroit since October 13, 2006, a 3-2 shootout victory over the Red Wings. Per @SabresPR, you have to go back to March 6, 1994 for the Sabres' last regulation win in the Motor City.
- Detroit had an excellent chance to make it 2-0, but Chad Johnson used his glove to stop Tomas Jurco on a penalty shot at 14:56 of the 2nd. Jurco was slashed by Mike Weber on a break, setting up the penalty shot attempt.
- O'Reilly's team-leading 11th goal extended his point streak to 8 games (4 G, 7 A).
- Neither team scored in the opening period, but each side had one good chance. Mike Green ripped one off the post and Jack Eichel sent one at Petr Mrazek right off a faceoff, but the Detroit netminder turned it aside.

## **What's Next**

The Sabres go for their 3rd straight win on Tuesday night, back home for a 7 p.m. faceoff against the New Jersey Devils (15-11-4, 34 points). Hear the call on WGR 550 and the Buffalo Sabres Radio Network.

## **Sabres-Red Wings: From the Locker Room**

WGR 550

December 15, 2015

Ryan O'Reilly and Johan Larsson both found the net at opportune times on Monday, scoring about a minute apart late in the 3rd, to lift the Sabres to a 2-1 win over the Red Wings. Read what both players, plus goaltender Chad Johnson, told the media after the game.

### **Ryan O'Reilly**

[on the slower tempo of Monday's game] "Decisions had to be a bit better, limit our turnovers, play more of the north style, play out kind of game, and getting pucks deep and not trying to play their fineese game. For us, it was a lot better obviously. Limiting those guys to one goal is tough to do with the amount of skill that they have. I thought we showed great maturity tonight."

### **Johan Larsson**

[on scoring for the 1st time] "The more time goes, the more you get more and more frustrated. But, you have to go out there and do the right things. As long as you create chances you kind of have a good feeling. And then tonight, you get a good bounce and there it is."

"The puck came aroud, [Weber] shot it, and I blocked it. Hopefully, maybe I can go to the net and get a rebound or something, but it just came right on my stick and then just tried to get the release off quick."

### **Chad Johnson**

[on amazing save in final seconds] "Think it was just a shot from the point, rebound went over to [Nyquist] and he didn't one-time it to start with, so just desparation, jumped over."

"I thought we played everything we wanted to, the right way. Defensively, we were in good positions. They're going to get chances. It's like Calgary, the Edmontons...they're skilled teams, they make plays. You gotta be strong. Tonight you saw that, where we just stuck with it, used each other and did it strong."

## O'Reilly's goal sparks late comeback for Sabres in Detroit

By Jourdon LaBarber

Sabres.com

December 15, 2015

**DETROIT** – Eighteen seconds after he made a desperate dive to his left to preserve a lead that the Buffalo Sabres waited all night to capture, Chad Johnson met the embrace of his teammates as the clock expired on a wild finish at Joe Louis Arena on Monday night.

A potential shutout loss instead became the Sabres' second-straight win, all in the final 4:14 of the game. Ryan O'Reilly tipped in a goal to tie the game 1-1, Johan Larsson gave Buffalo the lead 61 seconds later and Johnson sealed it with one of his best saves of the season in the closing seconds of a 2-1 win over the Detroit Red Wings.

For the second game in a row, the Sabres snapped an opponent's streak by hanging in and winning late. They ended the Los Angeles Kings' six-game winning streak with a 2-1 overtime win on Saturday and snapped a 13-game point streak for the Red Wings on Monday.

"We have the skill in here to score goals," Johnson said. "Early on we were struggling, but now it doesn't matter what the score is or who we're playing. I feel like we have confidence."

Detroit's Gustav Nyquist was staring at a wide-open net when he took a shot from the bottom edge of the right faceoff circle with 18.2 seconds remaining. Johnson dived to his left, extended his arm and was able to make the save with his glove.

"Desperation, I jumped over. That's all I can really say," the goaltender said. "I just made the save, it was desperation."

His coach, watching from the bench, was able to add a few more words.

"That cage was absolutely as wide-open as you could [have], it looked from our angle," Sabres coach Dan Bylsma said. "Chad makes a desperation move to get there and what a save that was. It's a dynamic, dramatic glove save by him and preserves the victory."

There'd be no victory to preserve if O'Reilly wasn't able to capitalize on Buffalo's first goal late in the third. After he was unable to convert on multiple scoring chances in the period, the forward finally tipped a shot from Sam Reinhart between the pads of Detroit goaltender Petr Mrazek to tie the game 1-1.

"We had some good chances that we were getting with the forecheck and our speed," O'Reilly said. "We knew we were doing some good things there and we just had to maintain it. At some point we're going to get a bounce, and we did."

The goal extended O'Reilly's point streak to eight games (4+7), the longest for a Sabre since Tim Connolly's 16-game streak in 2009-10 and the second-longest active streak in the NHL.

Larsson's goal, on the other hand, was his first of the season. Defenseman Mike Weber kept the puck in at the blue line and slapped it towards the net, where it bounced off of the skate of Detroit's Mike Green and toward Larsson in the slot. Larsson's shot beat Mrazek to his glove side to capture the lead with 3:13 on the clock.

In a season where ringing posts and missing wide has kept him off the score sheet, Larsson said it felt good to finally be the one catching a break.

"The more time goes, you get more and more frustrated obviously," he said. "You've got to go out there and do the right things, as long as you create chances you kind of have a good feeling, and then tonight you get a good bounce."

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### **DETROIT STRIKES FIRST**

Pavel Datsyuk generated a game-high seven shot attempts, but it was an assist from the crafty forward that helped produce Detroit's only goal. Datsyuk dished a pass from the slot out to Brad Richards in the right circle, who snapped a shot to the near side of the goal and beat Johnson to give Detroit a 1-0 edge 4:01 into the second period.

"Every time he touches the puck it seems like there's a dangerous opportunity," Bylsma said. "Their goal is a great example of that. He's able to maintain possession, drag it to the middle, it looks like he's going to shoot and he makes a great play and finds Richards for their first goal."

Other chances for the Red Wings were fruitless. Mike Green rang one off the far-side post on Detroit's first power play, other chances missed the net and the rest were stopped by the Sabres' goaltender.

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### **CHAD MEANING GOOD**

Johnson made 32 saves on 33 attempts, keeping the Sabres in the game long enough for them to tie it at the end.

He stuck with a backhand from the slot by Detroit's Riley Sheahan just 1:41 into the game and saved strong chance for Henrik Zetterberg later in the period. In the second, when Weber slashed Tomas Jurco on a breakaway to set up a penalty shot, Johnson gloved Jurco's wrist to keep the Sabres' deficit at 1-0.

"The shot total wasn't extremely high but there were probably five or six grade-A opportunities that they had," Bylsma said. "[Johnson] had one spectacular save, but was real strong making some big saves for us throughout the game."

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### **MAYDAY'S MOMENT OF THE GAME**

*"With the game on the line, Chad Johnson made an all-world save to preserve the lead in the closing seconds for the Sabres. Johnson demonstrated a calm demeanor as he kept his team in the game throughout the night and his diving stop at the end was a perfect finish to a strong performance."* – Brad May, Sabres Studio Analyst

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### **OFF NIGHT FOR THE POWER PLAY**

The Sabres came into the night with the League's second ranked power play (24.4 percent), but it didn't do them any favors on Monday. Buffalo went 0-3 with the extra man, including a pair of advantages that bookended the second period.

Detroit's Brendan Smith was called for high-sticking with just one second remaining in the first period, putting Buffalo on the power play for 1:59 to begin the second. The Sabres were only able to put one shot on goal, however, and Richards scored a couple minutes later.

The second period finished with Buffalo on the power play for the third time, this time after a call against Tomas Tatar for holding with 1:31 remaining, but again it yielded no points.

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**RIGHT BACK AT IT**

The Sabres head home for the second leg of a back-to-back set when they host the New Jersey Devils at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at First Niagara Center.

Coverage begins at 6:30 p.m. with Tops Sabres Gamenight on MSG-B and Bell TV. The game can also be heard live on WGR 550.