



# **Buffalo Sabres**

## **Daily Press Clips**

*November 13, 2017*

## **Max Pacioretty scores in overtime, Canadiens edge Sabres 2-1**

Associated Press

Nov. 12, 2017

MONTREAL (AP) — Max Pacioretty and the Montreal Canadiens are picking up speed after a slow start.

Pacioretty scored at 3:08 of overtime to give Montreal a 2-1 victory over the Buffalo Sabres on Saturday night. Pacioretty broke in alone and beat Chad Johnson with a backhand shot.

Andrew Shaw also scored for Montreal, and Charlie Lindgren made 34 saves to improve to 4-1-0. The Canadiens have won four of five to improve to 8-9-1.

“We’re trending the right way,” said Pacioretty, who set a team record with his 10th-career overtime goal. “We don’t want to stop this train with a poor performance.

“We felt the first period was very poor. We don’t want to lose the momentum we have right now in terms of our confidence. Emotions were high because we felt this was a very important game for our team.”

They caught a break in overtime when Sabres defenseman Nathan Beaulieu broke his stick. That allowed Phillip Danault to feather a pass ahead and send Pacioretty in alone to score.

“A power play with fresh ice in the third gave us an opportunity to get back in the game and, from there, we put our foot on the gas,” Pacioretty said. “We were skating much better.”

Ryan O’Reilly scored for Buffalo. The Sabres were coming off a 4-1 home loss to Florida on Friday night.

Buffalo struck first on a power play with 6 seconds left in the first period when O’Reilly scored into an open side during a scramble in Lindgren’s crease.

Montreal tied it on a power play 1:01 into the third when Shaw tipped Jonathan Drouin’s wrist shot inside the right post.

The 23-year-old Lindgren is 6-1-0 in seven career NHL games. His parents were in the stands.

“Playing at the Bell Centre on a Saturday night — it doesn’t get better than that,” Lindgren said. “I’m trying to stay in the groove. I want to be confident out there. I don’t want to be surprised by what I do. It’s what I expect. It’s a lot of fun.”

NOTES: The Canadiens announced that goalie Al Montoya has a concussion and is out indefinitely. Montoya hasn’t played since Nov. 4 in Winnipeg, although he dressed as backup to Lindgren for three games. Zach Fucale, called up Friday from AHL Laval, backed up Lindgren against the Sabres. No. 1 goalie Carey Price has missed five games with a lower-body injury. ... Josh Gorges returned after missing nine games for Buffalo and got into a first-period fight with Jordie Benn after taking a long run to put a hit on Brendan Gallagher.

### **UP NEXT**

Sabres: At Pittsburgh on Tuesday night.

Canadiens: Host Columbus on Tuesday night.

## **Luongo gets milestone win, Panthers beat Sabres 4-1**

Associated Press

Johan Bronstein

Nov. 11, 2017

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Robert Luongo got a milestone victory and the Florida Panthers snapped a losing streak.

Luongo broke a tie with Curtis Joseph for fourth place on the NHL career victory list with 455, making 24 saves in the Florida Panthers' 4-1 win over the Buffalo Sabres on Friday night.

"It's obviously nice, but for me it's about getting wins and getting into the playoffs," Luongo said. "These accomplishments are for a rainy day when you're sitting at home and not doing much. But for right now, the focus is on getting some points in the standings and winning some games and getting into the playoffs."

Evgenii Dadonov and Aleksander Barkov each had a goal and an assist, and Ian McCoshen and Vincent Trocheck also scored to help the Panthers snap a five-game skid on the first night of a back-to-back set.

"It's been a while since we won one," Luongo said. "The first win is the toughest one to get coming out of a slump. We've just got to try to build on it and the great thing is we get to play against tomorrow night and hopefully try to make it two in a row."

Kyle Okposo scored for the Sabres, and Robin Lehner stopped 27 shots.

Buffalo is 4-4-0 in its last eight games after a 1-5-2 start but has yet to win consecutive games this season.

"We were coming off a really good game and we lay an egg for the last 40 minutes," Okposo said. "We just got to find a way to be more consistent."

McCoshen scored 3:50 into the third period on a wrist shot from the blue line that slid past Lehner's right skate.

Luongo's biggest save came with less than seven minutes left in the third period when he lifted his glove above his head to catch Sam Reinhart's shot from the high slot.

"He was amazing," Panthers coach Bob Boughner said. "We were better defensively tonight in front of him but when it was time to make the big save in the end he came up huge."

Dadonov tied it 6:52 into the second period, scoring his seventh of the season from his knees off the from Aleksander Barkov's shot.

Barkov and Trocheck scored into the empty net 17 seconds apart late in the third period. Trocheck has a goal in four straight games.

"I think we figured it out right now," Barkov said. "We need to play the same way we played this game and good things will happen."

Okposo gave Buffalo a 1-0 lead with 6:58 left in the first period when he deflected Victor Antipin's shot from the point past Luongo. The power play goal was the Sabres' second in nine games.

NOTES: The Panthers acquired D Ludwig Bystrom from the Dallas Stars on Friday in exchange for D Reece Scarlett. Bystrom was loaned to Springfield Thunderbirds. ... Sabres D Nathan Beaulieu returned to the lineup after missing seven games with an upper-body injury. . Panthers D Mike Matheson (upper-body) got back on the ice after sitting out one game. ... Sabres D Josh Gorges missed his ninth game but skated the past two days and is ready to return, Sabres coach Phil Housley said. ... Sabres F Evander Kane had an assist on Okposo's goal and now has 16 points in 16 games. ... Panthers F Dryden Hunt made his NHL debut. He was signed as an undrafted free agent in March 2016. ... Luongo is 19-8-2 against Buffalo in his career.

UP NEXT:

Panthers: At New Jersey on Saturday night

Sabres: At Montreal on Saturday night.

## At least at back end, net results are improving for Sabres

The Buffalo News

By Mike Harrington

November 12, 2017

Ineffective offense, especially on the power play, and injuries on defense have plagued the Buffalo Sabres all season. At least the other facet of their game is getting shored up.

Buffalo goaltenders Robin Lehner and Chad Johnson combined to give up just five goals in the three games last week, which added to the frustration of a 1-1-1 stretch. Johnson, in particular, had one of his strongest games of the season in Saturday's 2-1 overtime loss in Montreal.

"We played a good game and we were right there to get two points out of the night," Johnson said after the game in Bell Centre. "It's just frustrating to not get the number of wins that we'd like but it's hockey and we've just got to regroup and take the positives out of this game."

Starter Robin Lehner was solid in Tuesday's 3-1 win over Washington and gave up only two goals in Friday's 4-1 loss to Florida that saw the Panthers score a pair of empty-netters to seal the deal. Throw in Johnson's 27-save performance Saturday and the Buffalo tandem compiled a 1.65 goals-against average and .940 save percentage for the week by stopping 78 of 83 shots.

Breaking down the net numbers for the season, however, tells a tale of very uneven play from all players on the ice. Overall, the Sabres are 27th in the league in goals-against and 29th in save percentage at just .888.

Lehner is 4-6-1, 2.90/.905 and has a ledger featuring huge disparities between home and road play. In KeyBank Center, Lehner is 2-2-1, 1.49/.952. But on the road, he's 2-4, 4.53/.848 and got pulled early in Brooklyn and Dallas.

Johnson is 0-2 at home with very ugly numbers (5.48 and .855). He's much better on the road, at 1-1-2, 2.96/.897. And while Johnson hasn't been victimized by many bad goals, he's been frustrated by not helping his team out with a few more saves. Heading into Saturday, he had given up 13 goals in his previous three starts.

"He was really good tonight," said Buffalo defenseman Nathan Beaulieu. "He was probably our best player. It sucks. You feel for him and for everyone else in the room."

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### NET RESULTS

Charting the Buffalo Sabres' goaltenders so far this season

	Lehner	Johnson
	W-L-O/GAA/Sv. %	W-L-O/GAA/Sv. %
Overall	4-6-1/2.90/.905	1-3-2/3.55/.885
Home	2-2-1/1.49/.952	0-2-0/5.48/.855
Road	2-4-0/4.53/.848	1-1-2/2.96/.897

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The goaltending question will be a seasonlong storyline to watch, with both players on one-year contracts and aiming for their next deal.

"I want to have great numbers and that's what it's all about in this league unfortunately," Johnson said. "But I've felt good about my games. They've been tough games with good scoring chances guys have capitalized on. .. I want to be able to make those saves. I've felt good about my game, which is hard to say sometimes when you're giving up four or five. You have to really be honest with yourself positive or negative regardless of the score."

Johnson stopped Alex Galchenyuk on a breakaway in the first two minutes Saturday, with the Sabres still fragile in the wake of Friday's clunker. It seemed to give the team life and Buffalo went on to outshoot the Canadiens, 16-7, in the first period.

Early in the third period, Johnson stopped former Sabre Paul Byron on another clear break a few seconds after Andrew Shaw had scored the tying goal.

"Chad was excellent," said coach Phil Housley "They just get that goal to tie it up and they get a breakaway and he makes a huge save for us. We don't get any points if he doesn't make that save. We can't fault our goaltending. They're giving us a chance to win and hopefully we can give them some run support as we move forward here next week."

Johnson said he could feel the momentum of the game shifting toward the Habs after the shaw goal and was happy to help his team stem the tide and preserve a point.

"Obviously after a goal it's huge the first minute or two," he said. "It's always the most important. I knew the next save was going to be important and it was a breakaway. So I'm happy for making that. If it helped preserve it ... it was positive to get the one point there."

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Housley was frustrated that officials took the rare step of huddling in overtime and taking away a high sticking penalty on Montreal center Jonathan Drouin, deciding not to make the call even though they had whistled the play dead.

"We get a penalty called back which was pretty odd that we're calling penalties back now," Housley said. "They said when he followed through on the shot, he was following through. But if you watch it, I disagree because you're in control of your own stick. To me, it was a penalty but it wasn't called."

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The Sabres were off on Sunday. They return to practice Monday and then head to Pittsburgh for Tuesday's game against the Penguins in PPG Paints Arena. It will be their first meeting of the season against the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions, who beat Nashville in the Cup final in June when Housley was an assistant coach for the Predators.

## **No punch from offense, no hope for Sabres to survive**

The Buffalo News

By Mike Harrington

November 12, 2017

MONTREAL -- From a multitude of possible discussion points, there's really only one thing to focus on in the wake of the latest gut-punch absorbed by the Buffalo Sabres.

The name of the game is putting the puck in the net. You can't do it, you don't win. Next case.

The Sabres have scored exactly one goal five times in their last eight games and that's simply taking them nowhere but yet again back to the draft lottery. Buffalo skated well for long stretches Saturday but still only managed one measly goal.

A broken stick, a lost puck battle and an elite deke undid all the good in the Sabres' game. Montreal's Max Pacioretty capitalized, sliding a backhand home past Chad Johnson with 1:52 left in overtime to give the Montreal Canadiens a 2-1 win over the Sabres in Bell Centre. Buffalo fell to 5-9-3 with its second straight loss but the loser point at least got the Sabres out of last place in the Eastern Conference.

The Sabres have a paltry 40 goals in 17 games and their puny average of 2.35 per game is 29th in the NHL. The only teams below them are the pathetic Arizona Coyotes (2.3157) and the stunningly bad Edmonton Oilers (2.3125).

Jack Eichel's team, a nearly AHL team and Connor McDavid's team. Who would have ever guessed that back in 2015? Who would have ever guessed that back in September?

"Scoring goals has been an issue," said Buffalo's Ryan O'Reilly, who netted his team's lone tally on a power play with 5.7 seconds left in the first period. "I had a lucky break on the power play but other than that I didn't generate nearly enough offensively.

"A lot of guys did good things and played hard. But when it comes down to it, the guys who play the most minutes have to put the puck in the net."

The Sabres had 35 shots on goal, equaling their most in the last eight games. Evander Kane and Sam Reinhart had five apiece, with Reinhart's total a season-high. Eichel had three on goal and six attempts in a much better offensive showing than recent games.

Nine players had at least two shots on goal for the Sabres. Almost nobody found the net. The entire defense corps remains 0-for-the-season.

"Tonight was a start," insisted coach Phil Housley. "It was our best night. We got pucks to the net. We were really gritty and dirty in front of the net. We continue to do that, we're going to break that one-goal thing. We had opportunities to score but the thing that was intriguing to me was when we delivered shots to the net we had guys willing to pay a price."

But Eichel, who has now gone a career-high eight games without a goal, still struggled with the puck at times and was in the penalty box on a slashing call when Andrew Shaw tied the game at 1:01 of the third period. Early in overtime, Eichel committed a grievous giveaway to Pacioretty but Johnson bailed him out by stopping the Montreal captain.

Johnson couldn't do anything on the winning goal, a play that started with Nathan Beaulieu snapping his stick in the Montreal zone to turn over possession to the Habs and O'Reilly losing a puck battle along the wall to Philip Danault at the Buffalo blue line. Danault, a former Chicago prospect, fed Pacioretty for the game's decisive breakaway.

"Possession in overtime literally is everything," Beaulieu said. "Whoever has the puck more is usually going to score. It couldn't have happened for a worse time for my stick to snap. It's really unfortunate."

"They made a good play. Skilled players making good plays," O'Reilly said. "It was my error. I should have at least thrown it back to our goalie or do something to at least make sure they don't get possession when we have a broken stick."

Johnson had stopped breakaways earlier in the game by Alex Galchenyuk and Paul Byron but was unable to hold the fort again.

"I tried to be patient because I know he likes to go 5-hole and had a little bit more time," Johnson said of Pacioretty. "He was going slow as well. It was real close, I had to bite and he went around me. My legs weren't long enough there to make the save."

It was the second disappointment of the season against the Canadiens, as the Sabres have lost both meetings in extra time after leading through 40 minutes. They suffered a 3-2 shootout defeat on opening night in KeyBank Center, giving up the tying goal in the final nine minutes of regulation.

"We have to keep our heads up in here," Beaulieu said. "I thought everyone was really good tonight. It's really unfortunate both times we've played Montreal we've had them on the ropes and couldn't get the job done."



## Sabres Notebook: Pouliot happy to survive his brush with NHL law

The Buffalo News

By Mike Harrington

November 11, 2017

MONTREAL -- Benoit Pouliot has been so productive of late, the last thing he wanted to do was sit out a game when he wasn't hurt. It looked like that was a possibility Saturday morning, as Pouliot had a phone hearing with the NHL's Department of Player Safety for a hit Friday night on Florida's Keith Yandle.

But the Sabres got good news Saturday afternoon when the league cleared Pouliot, issuing no suspension or fine. So the veteran winger was in his normal spot with Ryan O'Reilly and Kyle Okposo for Saturday's game against the Montreal Canadiens.

Pouliot entered Saturday with five goals and two assists in 16 games for the Sabres this season, with all of his goals coming over the last eight games. He said Sabres General Manager Jason Botterill gave him a heads-up Friday night that the league might be calling and that's exactly what happened.

"I saw the replay and I didn't think it looked as bad," Pouliot said prior to the game in Bell Centre. "The helmet came off and that kind of made it look bad. When we saw the replay on the slow-motion I thought it was a bang-bang play and it was fine."

NHL Player Safety ✓@NHLPlayerSafety

We have determined there will be no supplemental discipline for Benoit Pouliot. After a thorough review of all available angles and a hearing today with Pouliot, it was determined that the head was not the main point of contact.

11:50 AM - Nov 11, 2017

26 26 Replies 83 83 Retweets 224 224 likes

Twitter Ads info and privacy

Coach Phil Housley admitted he was caught off guard by the NHL giving the play a closer look.

"I thought Ben was just finishing his check," Housley said. "Yandle got tangled up a little behind the net and sort of leaned forward. I don't think it was his intention to get him up high. He was just out there finishing his check."

"They said I've just got to be careful with those types of situation," Pouliot said. "They told me, 'You're a smart player, you've never really been in trouble in your career. You're not playing the game that way but you've still got to be careful.' Those situations can be dangerous but fortunately Keith is OK too."

Cats On The Prowl @CatsOntheprowl

High hit by Pouliot on Yandle...no call:

9:34 PM - Nov 10, 2017

10 10 Replies 10 10 Retweets 9 9 likes

Twitter Ads info and privacy

Pouliot, who had never been part of a disciplinary hearing before, was not penalized on the play and Yandle was not injured. Both of those factors certainly impacted the decision. Still, it was a surprise because most players who are called to hearings at least get a fine and a large percentage earn suspensions.

"I was surprised afterwards when Jason told me the result of what they were thinking," Pouliot said. "It was a little surprising but at the same time a relief. I was like, 'Good'. I didn't think I deserved a suspension or anything else."

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Sabres defenseman Nathan Beaulieu made his return to Bell Centre after being acquired in a summer trade from Montreal. Beaulieu was selected 17th overall by the Habs in 2011 and played 225 games for them from 2013-2017.

"It's weird. I took a walk around the city this afternoon and it was just different," Beaulieu said. "It was nice to get back, see the familiar streets and just walk around and take it all in. But there doesn't need to be much to get up for this one."

Housley could relate, recalling his first game back in Buffalo with the Winnipeg Jets in 1991.

"It was very emotional," Housley said. "You went to battle with the guys across on the other side of the rink and you have to get comfortable right away, get settled into the game and just go about business because if you get caught up in the emotion sometimes that can work against you."

Asked what stood out about Bell Centre, a smiling Beaulieu quickly responded, "The best part is the hot dogs."

The massive arena's smoky dogs on sliced bread rolls are a favorite of fans as well as visiting media members, and players have been known to partake as well.

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Veteran defenseman Josh Gorges, who played 464 games for Montreal from 2007-2014, returned to the Buffalo lineup after missing the last nine games with a lower body injury. Rookie Victor Antipin, who has two points and is minus-4 in 12 games, was a healthy scratch. One of Antipin's assists was on Okposo's tip-in goal Friday night.

## **The Wraparound: Canadiens 2, Sabres 1 (OT)**

The Buffalo News

By Mike Harrington

November 11, 2017

MONTREAL -- Max Pacioretty's goal with 1:52 left in overtime gave the Montreal Canadiens a 2-1 win over the Buffalo Sabres Saturday night in a heartbreaker that saw the Sabres lead through 40 minutes but lose their second straight game.

The usual Bell Centre sellout crowd of 21,302 roared its approval as Pacioretty beat Buffalo goalie Chad Johnson on a breakaway with the backhand after Ryan O'Reilly fumbled the puck near the Sabres line.

Unknown in the net: Charlie Lindgren made 34 saves for the Canadiens as he continued his strong play in the face of injuries to starter Carey Price and backup Al Montoya. Lindgren, who spent most of last year at St. John's of the AHL, entered the game with a 1.35 goals-against average and equally scintillating .961 save percentage in his first three appearances this season.

Beat the clock: The Sabres opened the scoring with 5.7 seconds left in the first period as O'Reilly pulled a loose puck off the back boards and jammed it by Lindgren to give the Sabres a power-play goal to forge a 1-0 lead for the second straight game. Replays showed Evander Kane took the shot that O'Reilly corralled but the goal was listed as unassisted.

Slowly gaining power: The Sabres went 1 for 3 on the power play and have scored with the man advantage in consecutive games for the first time this season. They had been a paltry 1 for 25 on the power play in their previous eight games.

A new look: Coach Phil Housley made a couple major changes to his forward lines, putting Sam Reinhart with Jack Eichel and Kane while moving Jason Pominville down to the third line with Matt Moulson and Johan Larsson. The trio of O'Reilly between Benoit Pouliot and Kyle Okposo remained together. The fourth line was Zemgus Girgensons between Jordan Nolan and Nick Baptiste.

Pominville entered the game with no goals in his previous four games and just one goal in his last seven.

Pulling even: The Habs tied the game at 1-1 on Andrew Shaw's power-play goal at 1:01 of the third period. It was a mid-air deflection from in close by Shaw off a long Jonathan Drouin wrist shot from the middle that found its way past goaltender Chad Johnson's glove. It came with eight seconds left in a slashing penalty to Eichel.

In the net: Johnson made 27 saves for the Sabres, including two on clear breakaways. In the game's first 90 seconds, after Buffalo defenseman Nathan Beaulieu blew a tire to allow Alex Galchenyuk to speed in on a breakaway, Johnson robbed Galchenyuk with a right pad save. A few seconds after the Drouin goal, Johnson stymied former Sabre Paul Byron on a backhand.

Getting pugilistic: Former Canadien Josh Gorges returned to the lineup for the first time since suffering a lower-body injury Oct. 20 and had an impact with some physical play. Late in the first period, Gorges drilled Brendan Gallagher and was immediately challenged at center ice by Jordie Benn. The two traded blows for several seconds in a spirited scrap.

Up next: The Sabres are in Pittsburgh Tuesday night for their first meeting of the season with the two-time defending Stanley Cup champion Penguins. On Friday, they play the Detroit Red Wings in their first trip to Little Caesars Arena. The next home game is Saturday night against Carolina in KeyBank Center.

## **Sabres' Eichel is frustrated: 'I don't like my game right now'**

The Buffalo News

By John Vogl

November 10, 2017

The Sabres deservedly fell back into last place. Their star played poorly and knows he hasn't scored in seven games.

All is not well.

"Yeah, I'm frustrated," Jack Eichel said after Friday's 4-1 loss to Florida. "Yeah, I am. I don't like my game right now. I'm forcing things.

"I'm obviously not producing. I don't feel like I'm making an impact. It's tough. It's frustrating, you know?"

Oh, yeah. People know. People in Sabreland know almost nothing but frustration.

Buffalo backers again streamed out of KeyBank Center before the final buzzer, this one signifying a loss to the worst team in the Eastern Conference. Well, Florida was the worst team. After it improved to 5-8-2, last place belonged to the 5-9-2 Sabres.

Players have said the team is better than the record indicates, but that philosophy is gone after the loss to the Panthers.

"That's what the record says, that's what we are," forward Kyle Okposo said. "There's no bones about it. We are where we are for a reason. We've got to realize it and try and get better every day.

"It's been a lot of learning experiences this year, and I'm sick of learning experiences. It's not fun."

The fun has definitely departed Eichel's hockey world. He hasn't scored since Oct. 21 in Boston. The center has three assists during the seven-game slump.

The stat line was ugly Friday. He was minus-3 with two giveaways and three shots.

"I obviously didn't play well," Eichel said. "The best way to look at it is we've got another game."

The Sabres visit Montreal on Saturday night, though historically that doesn't mean a breakout game for Eichel. In nine meetings with the Canadiens, he has no goals, four assists and a minus-4 rating.

Overall in 16 games this year, he has four goals, 14 points and a minus-7. That's not the start he was looking for after signing an eight-year, \$80 million contract extension that kicks in next season. He's felt pressure to perform his whole life, so that's not where the troubles start.

He's not sure where they start.

"I don't know what it is right now," Eichel said. "I'm trying to pinpoint it, but I've got to be better."

Coach Phil Housley sees a player who is doing too much on his own.

"He cares, and he's a tremendous competitor," Housley said. "But I think he's got to focus his energy in making the right decisions. I know he puts a tremendous burden on himself. I think he's got to simplify his game and take what really is given.

"If you're going one against two, the good decision is to get it in deep. He means so well that it comes back against him, and now he's spending his energy going back to the defensive zone and spending the wrong energy down there defending."

Eichel wasn't alone in the defensive end. The Panthers swarmed the Sabres for long stretches, especially when the 1-1 game was still up for grabs.

"Coming off a really good game, and we lay an egg for the last 40 minutes," Okposo said. "We've just got to find a way to be more consistent. It's everybody. It's especially our forwards. I think we bear the brunt of the responsibility in that game.

"We didn't manage the puck. We weren't hard enough to play against down low. We let our D get just plastered all night, and we didn't have enough outs for them. We've got to be better as a group."

The team looked good during Tuesday's 3-1 victory over Washington. They looked bad while falling back into last.

"We scored one goal," Eichel said. "I just felt like we didn't create as much. I felt like we probably turned too many pucks over.

"It just wasn't there. We didn't make a lot of plays. We were chasing the game a bit, and that's what happened. They played a pretty patient game, made some plays, made more plays than we did, and that's why we lost."

## **Sabres Notebook: Luongo secures milestone win**

The Buffalo News

By Amy Moritz

November 12, 2017

Roberto Luongo knew he was one win away from passing Curtis Joseph for fourth place on the list of most career wins by a goalie in the National Hockey League.

"The media reminds me every day," the goaltender said with a smile.

The personal accomplishment Friday night was, truth be told, not all that important to the 38-year-old. What was important was getting the win for his team to help drag the Florida Panthers out of a five-game winless streak.

Luongo met both marks, making 24 saves in the Panthers 4-1 win over the Buffalo Sabres in KeyBank Center.

The team win was important. Career win No. 455? Well that means "not much right now," Luongo said.

"I think it's nice but for me it's about getting wins and getting into the playoffs. These accomplishments are for a rainy day when you're sitting at home and not doing much. For right now, I think the focus is on getting some points in the standings and winning some games and getting into the playoffs."

There's a long way to go for the Panthers to get into playoff contention. Friday's win brings them into a tie with the Sabres in the Atlantic Division, though both teams are still at the cellar of the Eastern Conference.

But the Panthers were able to exhale slightly Friday.

"The first win is always the toughest one to get coming out of a slump," Luongo said. "We've just got to try and build on it."

Wins have been plentiful for Luongo against the Sabres. In his 30 career games against Buffalo he is 19-8-0. He entered Friday's matchup with a 1.99 career goals against and a .933 save percentage against the Sabres.

"I think sometimes you feel more comfortable against certain teams than others," Luongo said. "With that being said, I couldn't tell you the reason why. Just something that happens, so I'll take it."

In this win, he was called on to make a few key saves in the final seven minutes with the Panthers clinging to a 2-1 lead. The first big save was a rebound that came to Sam Reinhart with 6:32 left in the game. Then with 1:57 left, Evander Kane was on the doorstep, but Luongo held his ground.

After that, the Panthers got a pair of empty net goals for some breathing room.

"They only had one or two (Grade A chances) I can think of," Luongo said of the late push by the Sabres. "The guys did a great job in front of me. They were picking up sticks so I could only remember one situation where there was a rebound. The guys did a good job letting me have the first shot. Other than that it was out of the zone. That's the type of defense we want to be playing."

It was just the second win of the year for Luongo, who missed six games with a lower body injury.

He leads all active goaltenders in games played (972), wins (455) and shutouts (73).

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On the other end of the ice, Robin Lehner made some spectacular saves, particularly in the second period. He gave up the game-winner in the third when Ian McCoshen used a screen perfectly to beat him from the blue line. It was a bit of bad luck. But for Lehner, bad luck comes to teams for a reason.

"We didn't deserve to win this game," Lehner said. "Something was going to go in and it usually bounces in the right team's favor."

Lehner noted that the Sabres were turning the puck over too much in this game and that the team clearly failed to apply the principles from their recent win over the Washington Capitals.

"We didn't keep doing what was successful against Washington. That's why we get these results," Lehner said. "I think we got lucky a couple of times in the first where they didn't capitalize on some of our turnovers, but we had turnovers in the first. We tried to address it in the locker room here but it didn't get addressed. It's a high-scoring team over there. We've got to keep playing a team game and everyone's got to do better. Every one. Every single person on this team. Me included."

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When Bob Boughner comes to Buffalo, he usually takes a minute to go past the spot where Memorial Auditorium stood.

He remembers playing the last year in the old Aud and moving a few blocks to the new arena. And one of the things he remembers are the banners.

"I've always loved coming back here. It's sort of where it all started," Boughner said. "Every time I go by the open area where the Aud used to be, I remember taking the banners down the last game and putting them back up here. There are a lot of good memories about being a Buffalo Sabre."

Boughner, now the head coach of the Florida Panthers, was part of one of those banners, playing for the Sabres in the 1996-97 season when they won the Northeast Division.

The defenseman played in parts of three seasons with the Sabres, who acquired him on Feb. 1, 1996 in exchange for a draft pick from the Florida Panthers. Two days later, he made his NHL debut with Buffalo. He recorded no points but picked up 12 penalty minutes.

That was par for the course with Boughner, who played in 177 games with the Sabres recording 13 points with 484 penalty minutes.

## **The Wraparound: Panthers 4, Sabres 1**

The Buffalo News

By John Vogl

November 10, 2017

The situation was the same as last time. There was one period left, and the game was up for grabs.

Unlike Tuesday, the Sabres couldn't take control.

Buffalo again failed to get a winning streak going, falling 4-1 to the Florida Panthers on Friday. The Sabres hoped to build off the 3-1 victory over Washington that was also tied, 1-1, but they instead lost to the only team that was behind them in the Eastern Conference.

Florida improved to 5-8-2, while the Sabres fell to 5-9-2.

Snapping a tie: The Panthers made it 2-1 with 16:10 remaining. Sabres goaltender Robin Lehner never saw the shot.

Defenseman Ian McCoshen took a shot from the left point, and it traveled through traffic and slipped between Lehner and the post. McCoshen has three goals, which is three more than the Buffalo defense corps.

Sealing it: Aleksander Barkov sent the puck into an empty net with 1:32 remaining, sending the fans to the exits after they unleashed a boo.

Those who stuck around saw another empty-netter. Vincent Trocheck scored with 1:15 left.

Feel the glove: Florida goaltender Roberto Luongo drew a gasp from the crowd when he got a glove on Sam Reinhart's point-blank blast with 6:30 remaining, keeping the Sabres in a one-goal hole.

Power returns: The Sabres' power play entered the game in a 1-for-25 slump. It struck on its first opportunity.

Defenseman Victor Antipin took a waist-high shot from the right point, and Kyle Okposo reached out to redirect it past Luongo with 6:58 left in the first. Okposo's second of the season and first at home gave Buffalo a 1-0 lead.

Evander Kane earned an assist, giving him 16 points in 16 games.

Nullifying a mistake: Antipin heard someone call for the puck in Buffalo's zone, and he blindly sent it to the middle of the ice – right onto the stick of the Radim Vrbata. The Florida forward skated in alone on Lehner, but the goaltender hit the ice and reached out his right pad to stop the attempt with 3:15 left in the first.

Buffalo finished the period with a 1-0 advantage.

Earning the tie: Florida came out flying in the second period, taking eight of the first nine shots. Lehner turned aside the opening seven. The Panthers made it 1-1 on the eighth.

After yet another scrum in front of the Buffalo net, Evgenii Dadonov spotted the loose puck and found an opening with 6:52 gone. Aleksander Barkov and Jonathan Huberdeau earned assists, giving the trio 48 points in 15 games.

Busy period: The Panthers outshot Buffalo, 15-9, during the second. Lehner stopped 14 to send the teams into the final period in a 1-1 tie.

Lehner's top save came two minutes before Florida scored. The puck was available in the slot, and Sabres defenseman Marco Scandella tied up Dadonov's stick to prevent him from scoring. Buffalo's Benoit Pouliot came flying in and inadvertently pushed the puck toward the net, but Lehner reached out to put his stick on the goal line.

Another fight: For the second straight game, there was a fight. The Panthers' Micheal Haley high-sticked Zemgus Girgensons with 10:51 left, and Jordan Nolan went after Haley and earned a decision.



Jake McCabe stuck up for Sam Reinhart against Washington's Tom Wilson on Tuesday.

Beaulieu is back: The Sabres welcomed Nathan Beaulieu back to their blue line. He returned after missing seven games with a lower-body injury.

Beaulieu skated with Antipin. The other pairings were Marco Scandella with Justin Falk, and McCabe with Taylor Fedun. Josh Gorges was the healthy scratch on defense.

Military honors: The Sabres celebrated Veterans Day and Military Appreciation Night with a ceremonial puck drop. Korean War veterans Richard Costo, Melvin Quast and William Webb, who also fought in World War II, were honored at center ice. The trio was joined by Sabres Hall of Famers Danny Gare and Rene Robert, who accompanied the veterans on a trip to Washington on Monday.

Standing ovation: The family of fallen Buffalo Police K-9 Officer Craig Lehner attended the game, and the fans gave them a standing ovation when they were introduced during the first commercial break. Robin Lehner wore a commemorative jersey honoring Craig Lehner during warmups, and the goalie was scheduled to present it to the late officer's family after the game.

The winner is ...: The Sabres are handing out a bobblehead on Fan Appreciation Night at the end of the season. The finalists were Gilbert Perreault and Dominik Hasek. Fans voted via noise during the second period, and Hasek was the winner. His bobblehead will free at the game April 4.

Counting the house: The Sabres announced 17,812 tickets sold.

Next: The Sabres complete their fourth of 16 sets of back-to-back games Saturday when they visit the Montreal Canadiens. The Habs have won three of their last four, but they're down to their No. 3 goaltender. Carey Price and Al Montoya are both injured, leaving the crease to Charlie Lindgren.

## **Robin Lehner said his tribute to Craig Lehner is for 'all he represents'**

The Buffalo News

By Amy Moritz

November 10, 2017

Robin Lehner didn't have any personal ties to Craig Lehner, the Buffalo K-9 officer who died during a police dive team training exercise last month.

But the Buffalo Sabres goaltender understood how the death impacted the Western New York community. And so Friday night, on Military Appreciation Night and what would have been Craig Lehner's 35th birthday, Robin Lehner will honor the fallen hero.

During warm-ups Friday night when the Sabres host the Florida Panthers, Lehner wore the team's special military-themed jersey with "C. Lehner" on the back. The jersey will be No. 43 instead of Lehner's usual No. 40, an homage to Craig Lehner's radio call sign, which was K-9 43.

"You really felt the loss through Buffalo here," Robin Lehner said after the team's morning skate in KeyBank Center. "I have a few friends that told me a lot about him. Some of them served with him. There have been a lot of fans, actually, on social media that have sent me some messages. It just feels right. What they do for this country, him being in the Army and being a police officer. It's not just him, it's for all he represents.

"It just felt right being military night. He served in the Army and obviously touched a lot of people in the city."

[View image on Twitter](#)

[View image on Twitter](#)

Buffalo Sabres ✓@BuffaloSabres

Robin Lehner will wear this jersey in warmups tomorrow to honor Craig Lehner, K-9 43.

6:02 PM - Nov 9, 2017 · Buffalo, NY

53 53 Replies 651 651 Retweets 2,263 2,263 likes

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

While the Sabres are putting the pre-game jerseys up for auction to benefit the Buffalo Sabres Foundation (the auction is currently live at [Sabres.com/auctions](http://Sabres.com/auctions) with bids closing at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18) Lehner's jersey will be presented to Craig Lehner's family.

"I'll give the jersey to the family after the game. Maybe meet some of the family after the game, too. It's for everyone in law enforcement and the military.

## **Canadiens top the Sabres 2-1 in overtime**

Buffalo falls, despite having a 1-0 lead heading into the third period

WGR 550

NOVEMBER 11, 2017

Once again, the Buffalo Sabres scored the first goal of a game, but once again ended up losing. This time, the Sabres fell to the Montreal Canadiens 2-1 in overtime on Saturday night at the Bell Centre.

Ryan O'Reilly opened the scoring in the final seconds of the first period with a powerplay goal. After that, the Sabres were unable to find the back of the net. Meanwhile, Montreal was able to finally beat Chad Johnson in the early stages of the third period with an Andrew Shaw goal on the powerplay. This game needed extra time to decide a winner, and with 2:52 left to play, Montreal sealed the deal with a pretty Max Pacioretty goal.

Here's how it all went down in Montreal:

First Period:

14:37: Eichel, Kane, and Reinhart had their first great chance of the game. Kane drove to the net, and Eichel just missed the bouncing puck with a lot of net to shoot at.

11:39: Beaulieu charges the net looking for a rebound, and very nearly scores in his return to Montreal. The game remained scoreless.

5:03: Beaulieu pinches down low, and Kane fails to cover for him. Josh Gorges played the 3 on 1 the right way, forcing a pass over his body to fly over the Canadiens player's stick.

3:27: Gorges delivers a huge hit on Brendan Gallagher, and then fights Jordie Benn. Gorges did very well for fighting a bigger man. Both defensemen landed punches in a spirited bout that lasted almost a full minute.

19:55: Sabres Goal. A scramble on the Sabres power play forces the puck behind the net. No Montreal player, including the goaltender, saw the puck, and Ryan O'Reilly easily tapped the puck into the net.

End of Period

Goal Summary:

BUF: 19:55 - Ryan O'Reilly (6) PPG (Unassisted)

MTL: NONE

Penalty Summary:

BUF: 16:33 - Josh Gorges (5 min., fighting)

MTL: 8:29 - Charles Hudon (2 min., closing hand on puck). 16:33 - (5 min., fighting). 18:33 - Artturi Lehkonen (2 min., holding)

Shots on Goal:

BUF - 17, MTL - 7

Second Period:

13:45: Eichel and Reinhart come in on a 2 on 1. Reinhart makes a nice pass to Eichel, who quickly shoots the puck, save by Lindgren. There's been talk of wanting Eichel to shoot more, this was a situation where he didn't think about it, just took the puck and ripped it on net. Something fans would surely like to see more of.

10:40: Reinhart gets another opportunity. With Kane driving hard to the net, Reinhart fires a wrist shot to the short-side top corner. Lindgren makes a good save, but Reinhart is getting more chances with this line than in one game, then any game all year.

1:09: The Sabres had few chances for much of the second half of the second. Their best chance came with roughly a minute left, where the puck laid in front of the net, and Kane nearly jammed the puck home. Not a ton of scoring chances by either team.

End of Period

Goal Summary:

BUF: NONE

MTL: NONE

Penalty Summary:

BUF: 0:50 - Jack Eichel (2 min., slashing)

MTL: 2:36 - Alex Galchenyuk (2 min., tripping)

Shots on Goal:

BUF - 11 (28), MTL - 11 (18)

Third Period:

1:01: Canadiens goal. On the powerplay, Jonathan Drouin let a wrist shot go from the point. Andrew Shaw tipped it past Chad Johnson Both Montreal forwards stood in front of the net, with no one checking them. Justin Falk was in the area, but Marco Scandella was off to the side, not covering anyone. The game was tied at 1.

11:58: Gorges is playing with a lot of energy. On his most recent play, Gorges raced to the point to keep the puck in, settled the puck down, and chipped it in. He's making a lot of simple, but smart decisions.

0:33: Eichel still having trouble finding room to create. Eichel hasn't scored since the comeback win in Boston, and has just 3 assists in his last 8 games. Several times, he tried to cut to the middle, or make a move, but was surrounded and lost the puck.

End of Regulation

Goal Summary:

BUF: NONE

MTL: 1:01 - Andrew Shaw (4) PP (Max Pacioretty, Jonathan Drouin)

Penalty Summary:

BUF: NONE

MON: NONE

Shots on Goal:

BUF - 7 (35) MTL - 8 (26)

Overtime:

3:38: Eichel made his best play of the game, toe dragging around a Montreal defender, and cutting to the net. He lost the puck at the last second, failing to end the game.

3:03: Canadiens goal. Nathan Beaulieu had his stick snap at the point, leading to a 2 on 1 for Montreal against Benoit Pouliot. Max Pacioretty got the puck, walked in alone, and beat Chad Johnson with a forehand, backhand move to win the game.

End of Game

Canadiens - 2; Sabres - 1 (OT)

Goal Summary:

BUF: NONE

MTL: 3:08 - Max Pacioretty (7) (Phillip Danault)

Penalty Summary:

BUF: NONE

MON: NONE

Shots on Goal:

BUF - 0 (35) MTL - 3 (29)

Goalies:

BUF: Johnson - 33 saves

MTL: Lindgren - 28 saves

Powerplays:

BUF: 1 for 3 (33.3%)

MTL: 1 for 1 (100%)

Three Stars:

Charlie Lindgren - MTL

Max Pacioretty - MTL

Chad Johnson - BUF

What's Next:

The Sabres are off to Pittsburgh to take on the Penguins on Tuesday night from the PPG Paints Arena. Faceoff is set for 7 p.m. with pre-game coverage on WGR starting at 6 p.m. with Mike Schopp and the Bulldog!

## **From the Locker Room: Sabres-Canadiens**

Hear from Nathan Beaulieu, Ryan O'Reilly, Chad Johnson, and Phil Housley following their 2-1 OT loss in Montreal on Saturday

WGR550

NOVEMBER 11, 2017

The Buffalo Sabres laced their skates on Saturday night against the Montreal Canadiens with hopes of shaking off a tough loss on home ice to the Florida Panthers a mere night ago. Despite another promising start, Ryan O'Reilly's powerplay goal in the waning seconds of the first period was not enough to hold up. The Canadiens battled back with an Andrew Shaw goal early in the third period, and sealed the deal with a Max Pacioretty overtime goal to grab a 2-1 win at the Bell Centre in Montreal.

Go inside the Sabres' locker room to hear reaction from Nathan Beaulieu, Ryan O'Reilly, Chad Johnson, and Phil Housley following the loss.

Nathan Beaulieu:

On his stick snapping moments before Pacioretty's overtime goal: "It was everything. Possession in overtime is literally everything. You watch 3-on-3 and whoever has the puck more is usually going to score. It couldn't have happened at a worse time... it's really unfortunate. The guys were really good tonight. We put up a gutsy effort; thought we deserved to win. What can you say? It's just really unfortunate."

On feelings in locker room after another tough loss: "We can't get frustrated. We have to use this as motivation going into Pittsburgh now. We played 60 minutes tonight. I mean, my stick snaps, puts the puck right in the middle of the ice and they go down and score, that's the way it's going to happen. Good teams are going to finish on those. Could have happened to anyone."

Full audio: <http://www.wgr550.com/media/audio-channel/11-11-nate-beaulieu-post-game>

Ryan O'Reilly:

On playing a good game, coming out with only one point: "I thought a lot of guys did things well. I don't think I handled the puck, I made some dumb error on the last goal. I don't think I handled the puck well at all tonight. I didn't create enough. Scoring goals is an issue [right now], I got a lucky break on the powerplay, but besides that I didn't generate nearly enough offensively."

On lack of offensive production and the pressure it's putting on the goaltending: "Our goaltenders have been playing great. We're not scoring goals. I'm not doing enough to create offensively. Like I said, today was just a lucky bounce on the powerplay, but 5-on-5 I haven't generated any good chances. It's frustrating; I wish I had the answer for it, but I'm pretty much skating around and doing nothing right now."

Full audio: <http://www.wgr550.com/media/audio-channel/11-11-ryan-oreilly-post-game>

Chad Johnson:

On playing so well and only earning one point for the effort: "It's just disappointing, obviously. We played a good game and we were right there to get two points out of the night. It was a good effort, I thought, by us, so it's just frustrating this year... not getting as many wins as I think we'd like right now, but it's hockey. I think we just have to regroup and take the positives from this game."

On whether or not this was the best the team has played in front of him this season: "First, I think [the Anaheim win] was a really solid effort. Tonight was, as well. I think, though, looking at the Anaheim game, there really wasn't a whole lot of good opportunities. I don't think they had any breakaways. We battled hard. It's a different team, obviously, but again I think that

chemistry overall and that foundation... you're sort of seeing it a little bit more than you did early on... Tonight, it was nice to kind of get in, be in some games and everybody really worked hard."

Full audio: <http://www.wgr550.com/media/audio-channel/11-11-chad-johnson-post-game>

Phil Housley:

On the team's effort: "I can't fault the effort of our guys. We out-shot them. We out-chanced them. We get a penalty called back, which was pretty odd that we're calling penalties back now. It was unfortunate because I thought the guys played real hard. They had a lot of good opportunities to make it 2-0, which we didn't, but we hung in there."

On the referee explanation on called-back penalty: "He said that when he followed through on the shot, that he was "following through". If you watch it, though, I disagree because you're in control of your own stick. To me it was a penalty, but it wasn't called."

On the difficulty of cracking an offensive slump: "I think tonight was a start. I thought it was our best night; we got pucks to the net, we were really gritty and dirty in front of the net. If we continue to do that we're going to break that [one goal curse]. We had opportunities to make it two, we had a 2-on-1, we had opportunities to score, but the thing that was intriguing to me is when we delivered shots in the front of the net, guys were willing to pay a price. If we continue to do that, we're going to score more goals. But we have to do it on a more consistent basis."

Full audio: <http://www.wgr550.com/media/audio-channel/11-11-phil-housley-post-game>

## **Pouliot will not face discipline from NHL**

Sabres forward Benoit Pouliot had a phone hearing with the league this morning, but avoids suspension  
WGR550

NOVEMBER 11, 2017

Buffalo Sabres winger Benoit Pouliot will not face supplemental discipline for his hit on Florida Panthers defenseman Keith Yandle.

Pouliot had a phone hearing with the NHL Department of Player Safety on Saturday morning. This type of hearing with the league generally leads to a shorter suspension, however the league deemed that Pouliot did not deserve any discipline for his hit. The hit Pouliot threw on Yandle did not draw any type of penalty at the time of the play.

Cats On The Prowl @CatsOntheprowl

High hit by Pouliot on Yandle...no call:

9:34 PM - Nov 10, 2017

10 10 Replies 10 10 Retweets 9 9 likes

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NHL Player Safety ✓@NHLPlayerSafety

We have determined there will be no supplemental discipline for Benoit Pouliot. After a thorough review of all available angles and a hearing today with Pouliot, it was determined that the head was not the main point of contact.

11:50 AM - Nov 11, 2017

26 26 Replies 83 83 Retweets 224 224 likes

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

Pouliot will be eligible to play against the Montreal Canadiens on Saturday night at the Bell Centre in Montreal. Faceoff is set for 7 p.m. right here on WGR Sports Radio 550.



## **Panthers pick up 4-1 win over Sabres**

Kyle Okposo scored the lone Buffalo goal in the loss

WGR550

PAT MALACARO

NOVEMBER 10, 2017

The Buffalo Sabres scored first on Friday night thanks to a goal from Kyle Okposo, but four unanswered goals by the Florida Panthers gave the visitors a 4-1 win at KeyBank Center. Robin Lehner looked good throughout the night, turning away 27 shots on 29 shots faced, but the Sabres' offense goes cold after scoring the game's first goal.

### First Period

15:51 - Once again, the Sabres have a jump in their skating early. We saw the same thing against Washington where they out-shot the visitors 7-1 in the early part of the first. So far it is just 2-0 in favor of the blue and gold, but they have controlled the play and the puck.

14:19 - Taylor Fedun takes the first penalty of the night for hooking. He has not had the best two shifts to start the game. His first included a whiff of the puck at the side of his own net. It did not yield any scoring chances, but was precarious none the less.

6:58 - SABRES GOAL. What a beautiful tip in front of the net by Kyle Okposo on a shot from the point by Victor Antipin. It was a total team effort on the power play goal. Nathan Beaulieu helped create the play, along with Evander Kane with some good work in the offensive zone to protect the puck. 1-0 BUF.

1:27 - A hustle and heads up play by Kane and Jordan Nolan puts Buffalo back to the man advantage. Nolan just chipped the puck into the offensive zone as he was making a shift change and Keith Yandle obstructed Kane's path to the puck. He sits for hooking.

### End of Period

#### Goal Summary:

BUF: 13:02 - Kyle Okposo (2) PPG (Victor Antipin, Nathan Beaulieu)

FLA: NONE

#### Penalty Summary:

BUF: 4:55 - Taylor Fedun (2 min., hooking)

FLA: 12:00 - Colton Sceviour (2 min., hooking). 18:33 - Keith Yandle (2 min., hooking)

#### Shots on Goal:

BUF - 6, FLA - 8

### Second Period:

15:50 - Hooking seems to be the penalty of the night tonight. The fourth hooking minor of the game goes to Jake McCabe and gives Florida a chance to tie the game up at 1 apiece. It has been a somewhat slow developing period for both teams so far. Wonder if this will ignite to offense one way or the other.

15:09 - Robin Lehner has had to make some big saves, and again he sprawls across his crease to keep Florida off the scoresheet. He has been tested, and so far has passed the test.

13:08 - PANTHERS GOAL. You can only get away with so many close calls, and finally Florida cashes in as a loose puck is at the top of the crease and Evgenii Dadonov is able to slam the puck home into an open net. That ties the game almost halfway through the game. 1-1 tie.

7:33 - Buffalo is being outplayed by the Panthers this period, but Jason Pominville nearly gave the blue and gold their second lead of the night. His slapshot was just off the mark on an odd-man rush. Still 1-1 as the middle frame continues on. Shots on goal are 10-6 in favor of the visitors this period, and 18-12 Florida overall.

End of Period

Goal Summary:

BUF: NONE

FLA: 6:52 - Evgenii Dadonov (7) PPG (Alexander Barkov, Jonathan Huberdeau)

Penalty Summary:

BUF: 3:51 - Jake McCabe (2 min., hooking). 9:39 - Marco Scandella (2 min., slashing)

FLA: NONE

Shots on Goal:

BUF - 9 (15), FLA - 15 (23)

Third Period:

15:52 - PANTHERS GOAL. Buffalo has slept walked through much of this game since their goal in the first period. A shot from the point by Ian McCoshen finds its way through traffic and gets to the back of the net. Florida has dominated. 2-1 FLA.

10:51 - Jordan Nolan sticks up for Zemgus Girgensons after he is knocked to the ice by Michael Haley by a hit to the face. It takes away the power play that the Sabres were getting as Nolan gets a roughing minor to go with his fighting major and Haley was already getting a high sticking minor added to the fighting major.

6:16 - There has been very little offense from Buffalo, but Sam Reinhart nearly tied the game but Roberto Luongo made an incredible save at the top of his crease to preserve the lead. Sometimes you just have to tip your cap to the other team on a nice play.

1:57 - The Sabres net is empty for the extra attacker, trailing by a goal.

1:32 - PANTHERS GOAL. That might do it as Sasha Barkov scores an empty net goal from just inside of the offensive zone. He left no doubt into the empty net. 3-1 FLA.

1:15 - PANTHERS GOAL. Vincent Trocheck's empty net goal certainly has ended it. 4-1 FLA.

End of Game

Florida 4, Buffalo 1

Goal Summary:

BUF: NONE

FLA: 18:28 - Alexander Barkov (5) ENG (Jonathan Huberdeau, Colton Sceviour). 18:45 - Vincent Trocheck (8) ENG (Aaron Ekblad)

Penalty Summary:

BUF: 9:09 - Jordan Nolan (5 min., fighting). 9:09 - Jordan Nolan (2 min., roughing). 20:00 - Nathan Beaulieu (2 min., roughing)

FLA: 9:09 - Michael Haley (5 min., fighting). 9:09 - Michael Haley (2 min., high sticking). 20:00 - Mike Matheson (2 min., roughing)

#### Shots on Goal:

BUF - 10 (25), FLA - 8 (31)

#### Goalies:

BUF: Lehner - 27 saves

FLA: Luongo - 24 saves

#### Powerplays:

BUF: 1 for 2 (50%)

FLA: 0 for 3 (0%)

#### Three Stars:

Jonathan Huberdeau - FLA

Roberto Luongo - FLA

Robin Lehner - BUF

#### What's Next:

The Sabres are off to Montreal to take on the Canadiens on Saturday night from the Bell Centre. Faceoff is set for 7 p.m. with pre-game coverage on WGR starting at 6 p.m. with Brian Koziol, plus Paul Hamilton live from Montreal!

## **Botterill needs to see more consistency**

Sabres general manager Jason Botterill sat down with Schopp and the Bulldog at (716) Food and Sport on Friday

WGR550

NOVEMBER 10, 2017

The Buffalo Sabres are looking to win a second straight game on Friday for only the second time this season. The Sabres grabbed a 3-1 win over the Washington Capitals on Tuesday night, and will hope to get a win over the Florida Panthers at KeyBank Center. The Panthers are the only team in the Eastern Conference with a worse record than the Sabres, sitting with a 4-8-2 record and 10 points.

Sabres general manager Jason Botterill joined Schopp and the Bulldog before the Sabres' matchup with the Panthers on Friday from (716) Food and Sport. Here are some of the highlights from their chat:

On the the Sabres recent play:

"Haven't been able to put two or three games together. Continue to see improvement. Now we have to see it carry over into the games."

On not calling up Brendan Guhle, and the guys in Rochester:

"We still have players in Rochester we're excited about that are having a good start to their season. Hopefully they can help us out in the second half of the year. We love having Mr. Guhle in our organization. Happy about how he started his season off. Playing big minutes against top players. We're estatic about how he's progressing. Bottom line is there is an element to Guhle staying down there, learning his roles. It's a scenario where it's not just for a 3 to 5 game stint. His individual development is more important than where we are at as a team."

On Robin Lehner's start to the year:

"I think Robin would tell you, he'd like to work on his consistency. However, I thought he was excellent in the Arizona game, coming back against Washington, excellent stat there. Hopefully tonight he comes out and takes hold of the net."

On paying goalies big money:

"If there can be stability in the net, I'm all for that. It's certainly a vital position. It's always scrutinized, if you can have a comfort level back there, it's a great thing for the team."

On what the team has done well, and can improve on:

"We have to get faster. Either from physically skating, or how you move the puck. I've been happy with our response to a tough loss. I think that'll improve our mental toughness. The penalty kill has done well so far, it's time for the power play to step up."

## **Lehner to honor fallen Buffalo Police Officer**

Robin Lehner will wear number 43 in warmup to honor Craig Lehner

WGR550

PAUL HAMILTON

NOVEMBER 10, 2017

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) - Friday night is Military Appreciation Night for the Buffalo Sabres as they host the Florida Panthers. The team will wear special military jerseys in warmup and Robin Lehner will honor fallen Buffalo K-9 officer, Craig Lehner.

Craig Lehner lost his life October 17 when he drowned during a training exercise. Lehner's radio call handle was K-9 43, so Robin Lehner will wear number 43. The Sabres goaltender said, "It's been a huge presence here and you really felt the loss through Buffalo. I've had a few friends that told me a lot about him and there have been a lot of fans on social media that sent me some messages and it just feels right."

Craig is also a veteran having served in the military and Lehner said, "What they do for this country, him being in the Army and then being a Police Officer, so it's not just for him, it's for everyone and all he represents."

[View image on Twitter](#)

[View image on Twitter](#)

Buffalo Sabres ✓@BuffaloSabres

Robin Lehner will wear this jersey in warmups tomorrow to honor Craig Lehner, K-9 43.

6:02 PM - Nov 9, 2017 · Buffalo, NY

53 53 Replies 651 651 Retweets 2,263 2,263 likes

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NHL rules will not allow Lehner to wear number 43 in the game, "We tried to do that, but it's kind of tough, we're using those jerseys in the warmup and it's the best we could do."

"We'll give the jersey to the family after the game and meet some of the family after the game too."

Today would have been Officer Lehner's birthday.

The Sabres put together their best team effort on Tuesday in a 3-1 victory over Washington. Lehner will start in goal tonight and he said if they play like that, they'll be fine. "Yes, 100 percent, it was a big game last game, but that game's over and we have to replicate, we have to come out and do the same things. Win or lose, I want to see us play the same way."

Lehner is 4-5-1 with a 3.00 goals against and .902 save percentage.

Buffalo has won two of three games and two out of three at home.

The power play has still been horrendous going 1-for-23. Tonight's game features the 30th best power play against the 30th best penalty killing.

Evander Kane has scored three goals in two games. Jack Eichel has three assists in four games.

Ryan O'Reilly has five points in four games and Benoit Pouliot has four points in three games.

Nate Beaulieu returns to the lineup after missing seven games. Josh Gorges missed eight and is ready to go, but Phil Housley didn't want to mess up the defense that played so well against the Capitals. Housley said Gorges might play Saturday in Montreal.

It's not good news for the Sabres that Roberto Luongo is in town. The Panthers goalie is 18-8-0 against Buffalo with a 1.99 goals against and .933 save percentage. He has shutout the Sabres five times.

This season, Luongo is 1-3-1 with a 3.53 goals against and .912 save percentage.

Luongo missed six games due to injury, but played the last two against the Rangers and Carolina.

The Panthers are coached by former Sabre Bob Boughner. His team has lost five straight games and are two points behind the Sabres in the Atlantic Division.

Montreal and Boston are three in front of Buffalo, while Detroit and Ottawa have a five point lead.

Goal scoring hasn't been a problem lately for Florida. In their last win they scored eight on Anaheim followed by games of two, five, three and four goals.

Jonathan Huberdeau has been healthy this season and has 16 points in 14 games. Vincent Trocheck has seven goals and nine assist in his 14 games while Aleksander Barkov has 15 points.

Huberdeau has been red hot picking up 11 points in his last nine games.

Trocheck has goals in three straight games.

Former Sabre Mark Pysyk averages 18:27 of ice-time per game. The former number one pick is fourth in defenseman ice-time behind Aaron Ekblad, Keith Yandle and Mike Matheson.

If you're not familiar with Matheson, he was the Panthers first round pick in 2012.

Ekblad was the number one overall pick in 2014, one ahead of Sam Reinhart.

Other high picks playing for Florida are Barkov, second overall in 2013, Huberdeau was third overall in 2011, Nick Bjugstad was 19th overall in 2010. Pysyk was taken by the Sabres 23rd overall in that same draft.

Luongo was the fourth overall pick by the Islanders in 1997.

Join Schopp and the Bulldog for the pre-game at 6 p.m. from (716) Food and Sport when they'll be joined by Phil Housley, Robin Lehner and Evander Kane.

## **Sabres stumble against Panthers, fall into last place**

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

Nov. 11, 2017

BUFFALO – Friday’s ugly 4-1 loss to the hapless Florida Panthers should erase any belief the Sabres are a better team than their meager record indicates.

The loss, the Sabres’ 11th in 16 tries (5-9-2), dropped them below the Panthers into last place in the 16-team Eastern Conference, a spot they have occupied regularly for years.

“It’s what the record says, it’s what we are,” Sabres winger Kyle Okposo said bluntly. “There’s no bones about it. We are where we are for a reason and we got to realize it and try to get better every day. It’s been a lot of learning experiences this year. I’m sick of learning experiences, it’s not fun. We got to be better on a nightly basis.”

On Friday night, at least the Sabres hung around. The Panthers scored two empty-netters, so it was a one-goal contest late.

Still, the Panthers thoroughly outplayed the Sabres after Okposo’s first-period power-play goal, dumping the puck in and wearing out the Buffalo defense. The Sabres looked nothing like the team that stymied the Washington Capitals in Tuesday’s 3-1 victory.

“We were coming off a really good game and we lay an egg for the last 40 minutes,” Okposo said. “We just got to find a way to be more consistent. I think it’s everybody, especially our forwards. I think we bear the responsibility of that game tonight.

“We didn’t manage the puck, we weren’t hard enough to play against down low, we let our D get plastered all night.”

Sabres goalie Robin Lehner added: “We didn’t deserve to win this game.”

Sabres center Jack Eichel assumed responsibility after the game, acknowledging he performed poorly. The third-year star, who’s in a seven-game goal drought, was a minus-3 on Friday, often forcing plays.

Sabres coach Phil Housley wants Eichel to relax and make the smart play.

“He cares, he’s a tremendous competitor,” Housley said. “I think he’s got to focus his energy also on making the right decisions. I know he puts a tremendous burden on himself, but I think he’s got to simplify his game and take really take what is given. If you’re going one against two, the good decision is to get it in deep.

“He means so well that it comes back against him, and now he’s spending his energy getting back into the defensive zone and spending the wrong energy down there defending.”

After Evgeni Dadonov tied it in the second period, Ian McCoshen’s point shot past a screened Lehner put the Panthers up 2-1 3:50 into the second period. While the Panthers got bodies to the net, the Sabres put very few in front of goalie Roberto Luongo, who stopped 24 shots.

“We didn’t pay the price to get into the interior,” Housley said. “We had a lot of opportunities from the point to shoot pucks.”

The Sabres had an opportunity enjoy a late power play when Michael Haley high-sticked winger Zemgus Girgensons in the face 9:09 into the third period. But winger Jordan Nolan fought Haley, earning a roughing penalty that negated the man advantage.

“He’s making the right choices, he’s sticking up for his teammate at an important time in the game,” Housley said. “So I’m glad that he did it.”

The Sabres play a road game tonight against the Montreal Canadiens.

## Respect growing for 1980s Sabres with Dave Andreychuk's Hall of Fame honor

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

Nov. 11, 2017

BUFFALO – Phil Housley laughed and sounded nostalgic recalling his memories of winger Dave Andreychuk and their eight seasons together as Sabres teammates.

The Sabres coach knows the 1980s aren't regarded as the franchise's golden era. Housley and Andreychuk advanced past the first round of the playoffs only once, as rookies in 1982-83. The decade is mostly known for its disappointment.

Still, the Sabres possessed some of hockey's all-time greatest talent under legendary coach and general manager Scotty Bowman. With Andreychuk, a 640-goal scorer, getting inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame on Monday, the perception of the 1980s Sabres might be changing, Housley said.

Those underachieving teams – Housley clearly had a blast playing on them – might finally be earning some respect.

Housley was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2015 as one of the highest-scoring defensemen ever. Bowman and center Gilbert Perreault were inducted long ago. Tom Barrasso was one of the NHL's best goalies, winning the Calder Trophy and Vezina Trophy as an 18-year-old rookie in 1983-84. Later in the decade, center Pierre Turgeon became one of the league's best scorers.

Bowman, of course, was fired in 1986. He would eventually win three more Stanley Cups as a coach with the Pittsburgh Penguins and Detroit Red Wings.

“Scotty never really got to see it through,” Housley said Thursday inside KeyBank Center. “It was a young team and Pierre Turgeon came and that (1989-90) team was really good (third overall). ... I think they made some changes because we didn't have any success.

“But I would've liked to see it really play through with Tommy Barrasso and the players we had at the time.”

The Sabres traded Housley after another first-round exit in 1989-90. Andreychuk lasted until 1992-93, when they dealt him halfway through his first 50-goal season.

But their individual runs were often spectacular.

The 54-year-old Andreychuk ranks 14th all-time in goals, which had been the highest total of any player not in the Hall of Fame. His 274 power-play goals are the most in NHL history. His 1,338 points rank 29th and his 1,639 games rank seventh.

Andreychuk had two stints with the Sabres, returning for a season in 2000-01 before captaining the Tampa Bay Lightning to the 2004 Stanley Cup. He ranks second in Sabres history with 368 goals, trailing only Perreault and Martin. Andreychuk ranks second with 406 assists and 804 points, trailing only Perreault.

Incredibly, Bowman drafted Housley (sixth overall) and Andreychuk (16th) in the first round in 1982.

“Scotty must've known something, right?” Housley said. “It's great, you get to come together as two teenagers and play together for eight years, really enjoyed playing with (Andreychuk). He was one of the true net-front guys back in those days beside Tim Kerr in Philly. Really hard to move, really made a living down there in front of the net.”

So why, after nine years of waiting, did Andreychuk finally get the call in 2017?

“It's maybe time,” Housley said. “You look at the players that have played in the 80s and 90s, there's a lot of great players that really had a big impact on the game, and sometimes you just wait your turn. I'm really happy to see him. Obviously, his stats speak for themselves. It's been a long time coming for him.”

Housley knows the magnitude of Andreychuk's induction won't hit him until he arrives in Toronto.



“Until you drive up and you have your first meeting at the hall and you see your picture in the Hall of Fame on the outside, it really hits you now you’re going to part of something special,” he said. “I think the biggest thing is right when you step on the podium, right before you got to deliver your speech, that’s when it really hits you, and I think that’s why you see a lot of guys that are really emotional, it just hits you like a hammer, the emotion part of it.”

xxx

The community’s emotional response to Craig Lehner’s death has moved Sabres goalie Robin Lehner, who honored the Buffalo K-9 Officer on Friday by wearing his name and radio number on a special Military Appreciation Night jersey.

The camouflage warm-up jersey had 43 and “C. Lehner” on the back. Craig Lehner, who died in a dive training exercise last month in the Niagara River, also served in the Army National Guard. The two have no relation.

“It’s been a huge presence here,” Robin Lehner said prior to Friday’s tilt against the Florida Panthers. “You really felt the loss in Buffalo the last week. I have a few friends that told me a lot about him that served with. There’s kind of been a lot of fans on social media, too, send me some messages.

“It just feels right, what they do for the country, him being in the Army and being a police officer. (It’s) not just him, it’s for everyone he represents, and especially in the City of Buffalo, it’s a big presence, they take a lot of pride in it.”

Lehner tried to use the radio number on his game jersey, although with the regular blue sweater being worn, it was too difficult to switch.

Craig Lehner would’ve turned 35 years old Friday. His family attended the game.

Notes: The Sabres made one lineup change, inserting defenseman Nathan Beaulieu, who missed seven games with an upper-body injury. Meanwhile, defenseman Josh Gorges (lower body) is also close to returning, Housley said. ... Sabres winger Justin Bailey (lower body) and defensemen Rasmus Ristolainen (upper body) and Matt Tennyson (ankle) were scratched.

## 5 Observations: Panthers knock off Sabres 4-1

WKBW

Matt Bove

Nov 10, 2017

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WKBW) - Despite jumping out to an early lead the Buffalo Sabres failed to score a goal in the final 46 minutes of Friday's game, falling to the Florida Panthers 4-1. With the loss, Buffalo now sits in last place in the Eastern Conference with a 5-9-2 record.

Five observations from Friday's loss:

Matthew Bové ✓@Matt\_Bove

That's a terrible penalty for Nolan. I know he wants to defend his teammates but you can't throw away a power play like that, especially down a goal #Sabres

9:16 PM - Nov 10, 2017

16 16 Replies 7 7 Retweets 40 40 likes

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

Too little, too late

For nearly the entire second period and the first half of the third period, Buffalo's offense disappeared. When they finally woke up it was too late, losing to the only team in the Eastern Conference that entered the night with fewer points. This was a game the Sabres needed to build some momentum. Instead, they looked flat and couldn't generate much of anything.

Welcomed return

Matthew Bové ✓@Matt\_Bove

Anyone else think Beaulieu has looked really comfortable tonight?

8:32 PM - Nov 10, 2017

15 15 Replies 2 2 Retweets 102 102 likes

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

It was anything but a great start to the season for newly acquired defenseman Nathan Beaulieu in his first eight games with the Sabres. Beaulieu made several costly turnovers and at times looked to be hurting the Sabres, not helping them.

On Friday he returned to the lineup after missing the last seven games with an upper-body injury, putting together his most noticeable game of the season. Beaulieu looked comfortable with the puck, jumping into the rush at the right times while not hurting his team defensively. One game is surely a small of a sample size but Friday was a very impressive outing.

Power Play Progress....sort of

Entering Friday's game, no team in the NHL had allowed more power play goals than the Panthers. Perhaps that was just what the doctor ordered for the Sabres, who capitalized on their first man advantage of the evening. With the goal from Kyle Okposo, the Sabres now have more power play goals [seven] than shorthanded goals [six]. You may now collectively breathe a sigh of relief.

The good, the bad and the ugly

In the first period, Victor Antipin doubled his point total on the year [two points in 12 games] with the primary assist on Okposo's goal. Antipin took a nice feed from defensive partner Nathan Beaulieu before he fired a wrist shot into traffic. Okposo, who was parked right in front of the net, redirected Antipin's shot past Panthers goaltender Roberto 'Strombone' Luongo. It was a nice play by Antipin getting the puck to the net, rather than electing to make another pass.

However, Antipin's sloppiest play of the night happened just minutes later when he gift-wrapped a turnover to Radim Vrbata, who had just Lehner to beat. Luckily for Antipin, the Sabres goaltender was up to the task and made a sprawling save to prevent a goal. It was an up and down night for the Sabres rookie defenseman. More than anything, he needs to limit the sloppy mistakes like the turnover at the end of the first period.

7 games...

Despite averaging nearly a point-per-game, Jack Eichel hasn't found the back of the net since October 21 against the Bruins. After Tuesday's win against the Capitals, the Sabres assistant captain admitted that he needs to start shooting the puck more and his coach agreed.

Against the Panthers, Eichel had three shots but couldn't generate much offense, at least by his standards. Let's not get carried away, Eichel is and will continue to be the Sabres biggest offensive threat, he just is in a bit of a goal-scoring slump. If I were a betting man I'd imagine that ends soon.

## **Sabres fall flat in 4-1 loss to Panthers**

WIVB

By Nick Filipowski

November 10, 2017

Florida Panthers forward Evgenii Dadonov (63) celebrates his goal during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Buffalo Sabres, Friday Nov. 10, 2017, in Buffalo, N.Y. (AP Photo/Jeffrey T. Barnes)

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WIVB) – In a game featuring two teams at the bottom of the standings, it was the Florida Panthers getting the best of the Buffalo Sabres Friday night, edging out the Blue & Gold for a 4-1 win.

With the loss, the Sabres dropped to 5-9-2 overall, while the Panthers improved to 5-8-2. Florida had lost five straight games heading into the game.

After playing one of their most complete games in a 3-1 win over Washington on Tuesday, it was a disappointing effort over the final 40 minutes by Buffalo.

Kyle Okposo scored his second goal of the season, re-directing a shot from Viktor Antipin in the first period to give Buffalo a 1-0 lead.

Tied at one in the third period, Ian McCoshen scored the game-winning goal with a shot from the blueline, beating Robin Lehner.

Aleksander Barkov and Vincent Trocheck each tallied empty net goals in the final minutes.

## Pacioretty's record OT goal lifts Canadiens past Sabres

Sports Xchange

Chris Stevenson

Nov. 11, 2017

MONTREAL -- You would think owning a share of the Montreal Canadiens record for overtime goals, forward Max Pacioretty would have a pretty good idea what he was going to do when given the chance.

"Nope, not at all," said Pacioretty, who scored at 3:08 of overtime to give the Canadiens a 2-1 victory against the Buffalo Sabres at Bell Centre on Saturday and giving him sole ownership of the Canadiens overtime goals record.

It was the 10th regular-season overtime goal of Pacioretty's career, moving him past Habs greats Aurele Joliat and Howie Morenz.

"Was overtime always in place in the NHL? I don't know how much that means. It's cool any time you're acknowledged among great players like that," Pacioretty said.

Andrew Shaw scored for the Canadiens (8-9-1) and Charlie Lindgren made 34 saves.

Ryan O'Reilly scored for the Sabres (5-9-3) and Chad Johnson made 27 saves as Buffalo lost for the second straight night. The Sabres were beaten 4-1 to the Florida Panthers at home Friday.

Shaw tied the score 61 seconds into the third period on the power play when he tipped a shot by Jonathan Drouin. Buffalo's Jack Eichel was in the penalty box for slashing.

O'Reilly gave the Sabres a 1-0 lead with 5.7 seconds left in the first period on the power play.

After Sabres defenseman Nathan Beaulieu broke his stick at the Canadiens blue line in overtime, the Sabres lost a battle for the puck at their own line and Pacioretty skated in alone on Buffalo goaltender Chad Johnson. Pacioretty shifted to his backhand and gave the Canadiens their seventh win in their past 10 games.

"There was a lot of emotion because we felt that was a huge game for us," Pacioretty said. "We're climbing our way back into this thing. I know it's still early but to get every point right now we know is so valuable knowing that we lost a lot of points early in the year. There's a lot of emotions and we like the way our team is trending."

Lindgren, called up after Canadiens No. 1 goaltender Carey Price was injured Nov. 4, won for the third time in four games.

"We were kind of on our heels for the first 20 (minutes), but I thought we really answered the bell and dug our heels in and started playing our hockey," Lindgren said. "It was a really big character win for us."

Lindgren, a 23-year-old who went undrafted, said it's hard not to hear all the good things being said about his play.

"I'm trying not to. I'm just trying to stay in a groove," he said. "For me, this is what I want to do. I want to be confident out there and not surprised by what I'm doing at all. I think this is what I expected and it's been really fun."

"He's been awesome," Pacioretty said of Lindgren. "I keep saying it over and over. You see him make big saves, you see him battling and working so hard. He deserves all the credit he gets and all the people talking about how well he's doing because he puts in the work and that trickles down through the lineup."

The Sabres were held to one goal for the fifth time in their past eight games and are 3-4-1 during that span.

O'Reilly took the blame for the Sabres lack of offense.

"Our goaltender has been playing great," he said. "We're not scoring goals. I'm not doing enough to create offensively. Five-on-five I haven't generated any good chances. It's frustrating. I wish I had the answer for it. I'm pretty much just skating around and doing nothing right now."

O'Reilly also accepted responsibility for the winning goal. He was one of the Sabres who lost the battle for the puck before Pacioretty scored.

"He made a good play," O'Reilly said. "Skilled players making good plays. It was my error. I should have at least thrown it back to our goalie and or do something to make sure they don't get possession when we have a broken stick. It's my fault there."

Johnson said he tried to outwait Pacioretty, but the Canadiens forward made a good move.

"I tried to be patient," Johnson said. "I know he goes 5-hole all the time, too. He had a little bit more time and he was coming slow, as well. It was real close. I had to bite. I know he likes to go 5-hole and he just went around me. My legs just weren't long enough there to make the save. It's disappointing because I thought we were right there. Good for him, I guess, making that move."

Sabres coach Phil Housley said despite his team being held to one goal, he liked his players' willingness to get to the net.

"I thought tonight was a start," he said. "I thought it was our best night. We got pucks to the net. We were really gritty and dirty in front of the net. If we continue to do that, we're going to break that one-goal (trend). We had opportunities to score. Thing was intriguing to me was when we delivered shots in front the net, guys were willing to pay the price in front of the net and get second opportunities. If we continue to do that, we're going to score more goals, but we have to do it on a consistent basis."

NOTES: The Canadiens announced during the game G Al Montoya is out indefinitely with a concussion. ... G Carey Price missed his fifth game with a lower-body injury and was placed on injured reserve retroactive to Nov. 3. ... Canadiens starter Charlie Lindgren was backed up Zach Fucale, who was called up from the Laval Rocket of the American Hockey League on Friday. ... The Canadiens scratched D Brandon Davidson and C Torrey Mitchell. ... Sabres D Josh Gorges returned to the

lineup after missing nine games with a lower-body injury. D Victor Antipin came out of the lineup. ... The Sabres were without LW Evan Rodrigues (hand), D Zach Bogosian (lower body), C Jacob Josefson (lower body), RW Justin Bailey (lower body), D Matt Tenk and D Rasmus Ristolainen (upper body). ... C Seth Griffith was scratched for the Sabres

## Luongo reaches milestone as Panthers topple Sabres

Sports Xchange

Mark Ludwiczak

Nov. 10, 2017

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- Roberto Luongo reached another milestone on Friday but was much more pleased to see his team's five-game losing streak come to an end.

Luongo made 24 saves to help lead the Florida Panthers to a 4-1 win over the Buffalo Sabres. With the win, Luongo passed Curtis Joseph for fourth place all-time in wins by a goaltender with 455. On Tuesday, Luongo played in his 500th game with the Panthers.

"It's obviously nice but for me it's about getting wins and getting into the playoffs," Luongo said. "These accomplishments are for a rainy day when you're sitting at home and not doing much. But for right now the focus is on getting some points in the standings and winning some games."

Ian McCoshen scored the game-winner 3:50 into the third period. Evgenii Dadonov, Aleksander Barkov and Vincent Trocheck also scored for Florida (5-8-2).

"It was probably our best defensive game of the year," Luongo said. "We kept them really quiet for about 50 minutes."

Luongo's best moment came with 6:32 remaining on a critical stop on a wrist shot by Sabres center Sam Reinhart.

McCoshen's game-winner came on a screen shot with plenty of traffic in front of Sabres goalie Robin Lehner. With Barkov and Justin Falk jockeying for position in front of the net, McCoshen's shot from the left point found the bottom corner of the net to put Florida on top.

"It took whatever it took to win the game. We stuck to our game plan and we're really happy for this win," McCoshen said.

Kyle Okposo scored the lone goal for the Sabres (5-9-2), who were unable to string together back-to-back wins after a victory on Tuesday against the Washington Capitals. Lehner made 27 saves for the Sabres.

"You play a good, solid first period and you're doing the right things, making the right decisions and then the second period we made some poor choices," Sabres coach Phil Housley said. "Turning pucks over and as a result they turn into penalties and more penalties. ... We didn't pay the price to get into the interior. We had a lot of opportunities from the point to shoot pucks."

Okposo opened the scoring on a power-play goal with 6:58 remaining in the first period. The right winger picked up his second goal of the season by deflecting Victor Antipin's shot from the right point.

Dadonov evened the score 6:52 into the second. Lehner made an initial stop but gave up a big rebound in front of the crease. After the goaltender lunged toward the puck and came up short, Dadonov put the puck into the open net for his seventh goal of the season.

Barkov and Trocheck added empty-net goals late.

Lehner was terrific throughout for the Sabres. After a poor giveaway by Antipin late in the first period, Lehner reached to come up with pad save on a short breakaway by Radim Vrbata. Lehner also came up big five minutes into the second period on back-to-back saves on Nick Bjugstad.

He didn't get much help from his teammates, however.

"We were coming off a really good game and we lay an egg for the last 40 minutes," Okposo said. "We've just got to find a way to be more consistent. I think it's everybody, especially our forwards. We bear the responsibility of that game tonight." The Panthers have a chance to make it two wins a row with a quick turnaround. Florida is on the road against New Jersey Saturday night.

"It's been a while since we won one," Luongo said. "The first win is always the toughest one to get coming out of a slump. We've just got to try to build on it and the great thing is we get to play again tomorrow night and hopefully try to make it two in a row."

NOTES: D Josh Gorges, D Matt Tennyson and LW Matt Moulson were scratched for the Sabres. Gorges has missed time with a lower-body injury but is nearing a return. ... D Alex Petrovic, C Jared McCann (lower body) and G Antti Niemi were scratched for the Panthers. McCann is considered day-to-day. ... This was the first of four meetings between the two teams this season. The next meeting takes place on Feb. 1 in Buffalo. ... Panthers coach Bob Boughner played for the Sabres from 1996-98 after being traded from Florida to Buffalo

## Max Pacioretty scores in overtime, Canadiens edge Sabres

Canadian Press

November 11, 2017

MONTREAL — The Montreal Canadiens are steadily erasing a bad start to the season and they don't want to stop.

Max Pacioretty scored 3:08 into overtime and minor league call-up Charlie Lindgren turned in another strong game in goal as the Canadiens downed the Buffalo Sabres 2-1 on Saturday night.

After going 2-7-1 in the opening 10 games of the campaign, they are on a 6-2-0 run and now sit one game under .500 at 8-9-1.

"We're trending the right way," said Pacioretty, who set a team record with his 10th-career overtime goal. "We don't want to stop this train with a poor performance.

"We felt the first period was very poor. We don't want to lose the momentum we have right now in terms of our confidence. Emotions were high because we felt this was a very important game for our team."

It didn't appear that way as they were outskated and outshot 17-7 in the first period by a Buffalo team playing a second game in as many nights after a 4-1 loss at home to the Florida Panthers.

The Sabres (5-9-3) took the lead on a power play with six seconds left in the first period as Ryan O'Reilly scored into an open side during a scramble in Lindgren's crease.

The second period was only marginally better for Montreal, but the Habs managed to tie the game on their only power play of the game 1:01 into the third when Andrew Shaw deflected Jonathan Drouin's wrist shot from the point past Chad Johnson.

They caught a break in overtime when Sabres defence Nathan Beaulieu broke his stick. That allowed Phillip Danault to feather a pass ahead and send Pacioretty in alone to score on a deke to the backhand at 3:08.

"A power play with fresh ice in the third gave us an opportunity to get back in the game and, from there, we put our foot on the gas," said Pacioretty. "We were skating much better."

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They could not have won without Lindgren, who faced 35 shots. The rookie, called up last week from AHL Laval when No. 1 goaltender Carey Price suffered a lower-body injury, has been solid in four consecutive starts, going 3-1 and allowing only five goals for a 1.24 goals-against average and a .964 save percentage.

The 23-year-old is 6-1-0 in seven career NHL games.

This time, the Lakeville, Minn. native did it with his parents watching from the seats.

"Playing at the Bell Centre on a Saturday night — it doesn't get better than that," said Lindgren. "I'm trying to stay in the groove.

"I want to be confident out there. I don't want to be surprised by what I do. It's what I expect. It's a lot of fun."

The Sabres, who outshot Montreal 35-26 in regulation time and 35-29 overall, also had a weak (1-5-2) start to the season but have been only somewhat better since, going 4-5-0.

Lindgren may get an extended stay in Montreal.

The Canadiens announced that Price's regular backup, Al Montoya, has a concussion and is out indefinitely. Montoya hasn't played since Nov. 4 in Winnipeg, although he dressed as backup to Lindgren for three games.



Montoya may have been injured by a Dustin Byfuglien shot that rattled off his mask in Winnipeg.

"Unfortunately, we can assume it might be that but we can't be certain," said coach Claude Julien. "After the game and the next day he felt good. He was ready to play."

Zach Fucale, called up Friday from AHL Laval, backed up Lindgren against the Sabres. Price has missed five games with what the team called a "minor" injury.

Josh Gorges returned after missing nine games for Buffalo and got into a first-period fight with Jordie Benn after taking a long run to put a hit on Brendan Gallagher.

## Sabres' Benoit Pouliot avoids suspension for hit on Panthers' Yandle

Sportsnet

Mike Johnston

Nov. 11, 2017

@MikeyJ\_MMA

November 11, 2017, 12:16 PM

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Buffalo Sabres forward Benoit Pouliot will not be suspended for his hit on Florida Panthers defenceman Keith Yandle, the league's department of player safety announced Saturday.

Pouliot had a hearing Saturday morning to review the hit that caught Yandle up high behind the Panthers' net late in the third period of a 4-1 Florida win.

NHL Player Safety ✓@NHLPlayerSafety

We have determined there will be no supplemental discipline for Benoit Pouliot. After a thorough review of all available angles and a hearing today with Pouliot, it was determined that the head was not the main point of contact.

11:50 AM - Nov 11, 2017

26 26 Replies 83 83 Retweets 224 224 likes

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

Yandle didn't appear to be injured on the play. The hit popped his helmet off his head but he never went down to the ice and remained in the game.

## Sabres come up short in overtime loss to Canadiens

Sabres.com

by Jourdon LaBarber

November 12th, 2017

MONTREAL - For the second time this season, Nathan Beaulieu and the Buffalo Sabres thought they played well enough to win against the Montreal Canadiens but only came away with one point to show for it.

A non-call and a broken stick for Beaulieu preceded a breakaway chance for Max Pacioretty in overtime, and the captain of the Canadiens converted to clinch a 2-1 win for Montreal at Bell Centre on Saturday night.

Sabres coach Phil Housley was left feeling pleased with the way his team played the game, but disappointed with the result.

"I can't fault the effort of our guys," Housley said. "We outshot them, we out chanced them. We had a penalty called back, which was pretty odd that we're calling penalties back now. It was unfortunate because I thought the guys played real hard."

Sabres fall in overtime, 2-1

04:04 • November 11th, 2017

The Sabres appeared to have earned a power play in overtime on an apparent high-sticking call against Montreal forward Jonathan Drouin, only to find out that the officials had ruled that there was no penalty after huddling at center ice.

Housley said that the officials ruled that Drouin was following through on his shot at the time of the high stick.

"I disagree because you're in control of your own stick," Housley said. "To me it was a penalty but it wasn't called."

Beaulieu had his stick break at the Montreal blue line shortly after, allowing the Canadiens to take off on a rush. Ryan O'Reilly tried to regain possession in a battle along the boards but lost the puck to Phillip Danault, who fed Pacioretty with a clear lane to the net.

Knowing Pacioretty's tendency to shoot between the pads, Sabres goalie Chad Johnson looked to protect the five-hole. Instead, Pacioretty tucked a the puck between the post and Johnson's outstretched leg.

"Possession in overtime, it was literally everything," Beaulieu said of his broken stick. "It couldn't have happened at a worse time for my stick to snap. It's really unfortunate. Guys were really good tonight. We put up a gutsy effort and thought we deserved to win, but what can you say? It's just really unfortunate."

O'Reilly took responsibility for the play as well, saying he wished he had found an outlet to maintain possession.

"Just skilled players making good plays," O'Reilly said. "I should've at least threw it back to our goalie or did something to make sure they don't get possession. We have a broken stick, so that's my fault there."

Just as they had in their loss to the Florida Panthers on Friday, the Sabres took a 1-0 lead in the first period on the strength of a power-play goal. A shot that went wide during a scramble in front of the net found O'Reilly behind the goal, and he was able to quietly wrap around and lift the puck in.

O'Reilly pots rebound for PPG

01:01 • November 11th, 2017

But unlike in their loss to Florida, the Sabres felt good about the way they played in the second and third periods as well. They outshot the Canadiens 35-29 on the night, and Housley felt they had several chances to extend their one-goal lead. They simply were never able to convert.

Montreal needed just one goal to force overtime, which came on a deflection in front of the net from Andrew Shaw on a power play 1:03 into the third period.

"I think tonight was a start," Housley said. "We got pucks to the net, we were really gritty and dirty in front of the net. If we continue to do that we're going to break that one goal [barrier]."

"We had opportunities to make it two, we had a 2-on-1. We had opportunities to score. But the thing that was intriguing to me was that guys were willing to pay a price in front of the net and getting second opportunities. If we continue to do that, then we're going to score more goals. But you have to do it on a consistent basis."

Johnson was strong during a 27-save performance in net, which included multiple stops on breakaways. One such save was made on Paul Byron on the very next shift after Shaw had scored to tie the game.

Johnson denies Byron on breakaway

00:29 • November 11th, 2017

"Chad was excellent," Housley said. "We don't get any points if he doesn't make that save. You can't fault our goaltending. They've been giving us a chance to win. Hopefully we can give them some run support as we move forward."

Beaulieu's homecoming

The game marked Beaulieu's first time back to Montreal since being acquired by the Sabres during the offseason. Beaulieu played 225 games over parts of six seasons with the Canadiens, who drafted him with a first-round pick in 2011.

Beaulieu was greeted with boos from the Montreal crowd.

"I heard them," he said. "It was weird, just like playing them the first time [in Buffalo on opening night], it was different being on the other side of the bench. I felt weird the first couple of periods. I thought I calmed down in the third. Like I said the first time we played, I'm just happy the first one's over with."

Gorges returns

Josh Gorges returned from a nine-game absence stemming from a lower-body injury, and he made sure early that his presence was felt in a big way. Gorges laid out former teammate Brendan Gallagher with an open-ice hit late in the first period and then dropped the gloves with Jordie Benn.

"It helps our team," Housley said. "He brought a lot of energy tonight. He really lifted our bench at that moment, stepping up for us, and it's great to see. He's a character guy."

In total, Gorges tallied three hits in 15:56.

O'Reilly, again

With his power-play goal in the second period, O'Reilly now has 12 points (6+6) in his last 12 games. His four power-play goals lead the team.

The Sabres have also now scored power-play goals in back-to-back games for the first time this season, with Kyle Okposo having scored with the extra man against Florida on Friday.

Up next

The Sabres will return to action on Tuesday when they meet the Pittsburgh Penguins at PPG Paints Arena. Coverage begins at 6:30 p.m. with GMC Gamenight on MSG-B, or you can listen live on WGR 550. The puck drops at 7 p.m.

## **Beaulieu returns to Montreal as Sabres meet Canadiens**

Sabres.com

by Jourdon LaBarber

November 11th, 2017

MONTREAL - Nathan Beaulieu still remembers how strange it was to have dinner with Shea Weber in Nashville last season. Weber had spent his entire career in Nashville until being traded to Montreal in the offseason, and his emotions going into the game were uncharacteristic.

"I've never seen Shea get so uncomfortable and nervous, he was so weirded out by the whole situation," Beaulieu recalled. "I never understood it until I did it. It's really weird playing against your old team."

Beaulieu will experience playing in Montreal for the first time as a member of the visiting team when the Sabres meet the Canadiens on Saturday night. Beaulieu played 225 games for Montreal over parts of six seasons after being selected by the Canadiens in the first round of the 2011 draft.

Preview: BUF at MTL (11/11/17)

01:53 • November 11th, 2017

The experience won't be totally new for Beaulieu. He faced his former teammates once already this season, albeit in Buffalo rather than in Montreal. The Canadiens won that game 3-2 in a shootout.

Coming to Montreal, however, adds a new element that Sabres coach Phil Housley, having played for eight organizations during his NHL career, can attest to.

"I remember going back to Buffalo and it was very emotional," Housley said. "I went to battle with the guys on the other side of the rink. You have to get comfortable right away, get settled into the game and just go about business because if you get caught up in the emotion sometimes that can work against you."

Beaulieu made his return to the lineup in Buffalo's 4-1 loss to Florida on Friday following a seven-game absence due to an upper-body injury. Housley was impressed with the timing he displayed in the offensive zone in 21:06 of action.

"Being out three weeks, I guess I had some fresh legs," Beaulieu said. "I just wanted to bring that offensive instinct to the game. That's what I'm here for, that's what they want me to bring. Skating, getting up in the play and making things happen is part of my game so I'm just going to try to translate that tonight too."

Defenseman Josh Gorges, another former Canadien, will make his return to the lineup after missing the last nine games since sustaining a lower-body injury. Victor Antipin will sit as a healthy scratch to make room for Gorges in the lineup.

Chad Johnson will start in net for the Sabres.

Coverage begins at 6:30 p.m. with GMC Gamenight on MSG-B, or you can listen live on WGR 550. The puck drops at 7 p.m.

## Sharpen Up: November 11, 2017

Sabres.com

by Jourdon LaBarber

November 11th, 2017

The Sabres acknowledged after last night's loss to the Florida Panthers that there are areas of their game in which they need to develop more consistency. Luckily, they won't have to wait long for a chance to right the ship.

After falling 4-1 at home on Friday, the Sabres are right back at it tonight as they conclude their back-to-back set against the Montreal Canadiens at Bell Centre. The game will serve as a rematch of opening night, when Montreal won 3-2 in a shootout, and a homecoming for former Canadien Nathan Beaulieu.

Coverage begins at 6:30 p.m. with GMC Gamenight on MSG-B, or you can listen live on WGR 550.

Here's what you need to know.

About last night

Sabres defeated by Panthers, 4-1

04:02 • November 10th, 2017

Kyle Okposo scored his second goal of the season on the power play to give the Sabres a 1-0 lead heading into the first intermission, but they went on to allow four unanswered goals in their loss to Florida.

The general consensus in the dressing room afterward was that, from the second period on, the Sabres deviated from the style of play that had made them successful in their win over Washington three nights earlier.

Phil Housley summed it up when he spoke after the game:

Phil Housley Postgame (11/10/17)

02:43 • November 10th, 2017

"You play a good, solid first period and you're doing the right things, making the right decisions, and then the second period we made some poor choices," Housley said. "Turning pucks over and as a result they turn into penalties and more penalties, and then finally they scored a goal off it."

"All the work that we did and the realization of how we had to play against Washington, you get away from it."

Housley said he was pleased with the way his defensemen weathered the offensive outburst brought on by the Panthers in the second period, but added that they eventually wore down after too many poor decisions in the neutral zone. Okposo, too, said it was the forwards who should shoulder most of the blame.

Kyle Okposo Postgame (11/10/17)

02:14 • November 10th, 2017

"Our puck management in the second period was not good and not where it needs to be," Okposo said. "It's frustrating. We can't string two complete games together. We played pretty well in the first, and they just dumped it in and ran our D all night. We've got to be better as a group of forwards. It wasn't good enough to win."

The Panthers broke a 1-1 tie at the 3:50 mark of the third period when Ian McCoshen took a shot from the point that sailed over the pad of Robin Lehner. The goalie said he'd liked to have made the save, but added that the Sabres ultimately got the result they deserved.

Robin Lehner Postgame (11/10/17)

01:23 • November 10th, 2017

"I want to save every goal and I've got to look at it and see what I can do better," Lehner, who made 27 saves, said. "But again, we didn't deserve to win this game. Something's going to go in, and they usually bounce in the right team's favor."

Military Appreciation

Military Night Ceremonial Faceoff

04:05 • November 10th, 2017

Last night was Military Appreciation Night at KeyBank Center, and the Sabres honored servicemen and women throughout the game. Veterans Richard Costo, Melvin Quast and Bill Webb, all three of whom served in the Korean War, dropped the ceremonial first puck.

You can read more about Costo, Quast and Webb, as well as the organization's other efforts throughout the week, [here](#).

The team also honored Airman First Class Christopher Kovacs of the U.S. Air Force and his father, Paul, who is a veteran of the Air Force, during the signing of the national anthem. Dan Dunleavy spoke with Kovacs during the first intermission:

Air Force Family Interview

02:42 • November 10th, 2017

The Sabres wore special camouflage jerseys during warmups, which are available now at [Sabres.com/auction](http://Sabres.com/auction). All proceeds benefit the Buffalo Sabres foundation.

The one jersey you won't find is that of Lehner, who used his jersey as an opportunity to honor fallen Buffalo K-9 Officer Craig Lehner, who passed away during a training exercise last month. The goalie wore "C. Lehner" on his nameplate and the No. 43 on his back, a nod to Officer Lehner's radio call sign.

After the game, he presented the jersey to Officer Lehner's family.

[View image on Twitter](#)[View image on Twitter](#)

Buffalo Sabres ✓@BuffaloSabres

Robin Lehner honored Officer Craig Lehner, K-9 43 with his special warm-up jersey tonight 🇺🇸

7:27 PM - Nov 10, 2017

5 5 Replies 200 200 Retweets 670 670 likes

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

Tonight's game

Nathan Beaulieu has admitted in the past that he has an extra chip on his shoulder when it comes to playing the Canadiens, the organization with which he had spent his entire career up until the Sabres acquired him via trade during the offseason.



Beaulieu made his return to the Sabres lineup last night following a seven-game absence due to an upper-body injury, meaning he'll make his return to Bell Centre for the first time as a member of the visiting team tonight.

The status of another former Canadien defenseman, however, is less concrete. Josh Gorges was deemed ready to return from his own eight-game absence on Friday, but Housley kept him out of the lineup against Florida in order to keep some consistency stemming from their win over Washington. Housley did not rule Gorges out for tonight's game.

The Canadiens have some question marks of their own as well. Forward Jonathan Drouin and defenseman Shea Weber both returned from their respective injuries for an optional practice on Friday, and coach Claude Julien said their status would be reevaluated prior to the game.

The Canadiens are also without goalie Carey Price, out with a lower-body injury.

From the notes

Evander Kane and Ryan O'Reilly are both riding hot streaks for the Sabres. Kane has 16 points (9+7) in 16 games this season after assisting on Okposo's goal on Friday, while O'Reilly has 11 points (5+6) in his last 11 games.

A goal tonight from Kane would mark the fastest start to a season in his career, topping his mark of 10 goals in his first 22 games in 2011-12.

Kane and O'Reilly have also both enjoyed recent success against the Canadiens as well. O'Reilly has 14 points (4+10) in 16 career games against Montreal, while Kane has eight points (2+6) in his last eight games against the Canadiens.

Jason Pominville, a Quebec native, has nine points (7+2) in his last eight games against Montreal.

## Sabres lack consistency in loss to Panthers

Sabres.com

by Jourdon LaBarber

November 10th, 2017

For the Buffalo Sabres, the key to any potential success going into their game against the Florida Panthers on Friday was simply to repeat what they had done well in their last game, a win at home over Washington on Tuesday night.

The Sabres were able to replicate that effort in the first period, but reverted back to bad habits in what eventually turned into a 4-1 loss at KeyBank Center.

"We didn't keep doing what made us successful against Washington," Sabres goalie Robin Lehner said. "We get these results."

Sabres defeated by Panthers, 4-1

04:02 • November 10th, 2017

After taking a 1-0 lead into the first intermission, the Sabres allowed four unanswered goals the rest of the way. Evgenii Dadonov scored to tie the game for the Panthers in the second period, Ian McCoshen gave them the lead in the third and Aleksander Barkov and Vincent Trocheck added empty-net goals late.

Kyle Okposo scored Buffalo's only goal of the game.

What had made the Sabres successful against the Capitals, and in several of their victories this season, was their ability to stay the course and stick to their game plan. That includes taking what's given to them in the neutral zone rather than forcing plays that lead to turnovers.

They were able to do that for the most part in the first period, and came away with a 1-0 lead to show for it. Okposo scored his goal on the power play by positioning himself in front of Florida goalie Roberto Luongo and tipping a lofted shot from defenseman Victor Antipin.

Okposo tips home PPG

01:05 • November 10th, 2017

But the Panthers outshot the Sabres 15-9 in the second period, earning two power plays along the way. After Lehner made some outstanding saves to maintain Buffalo's lead, Dadonov finally scored on a rebound at the 6:52 mark of the period.

"You play a good, solid first period and you're doing the right things, making the right decisions, and then the second period we made some poor choices," Sabres coach Phil Housley said. "Turning pucks over and as a result they turn into penalties and more penalties, and then finally they scored a goal off it."

"All the work that we did and the realization of how we had to play against Washington, you get away from it."

Okposo said the burden of the loss should be placed on Buffalo's forward group. He said they weren't hard enough to play against down low, didn't provide their defensemen with outlets and mismanaged the puck when they had it. Housley said he thought his defensemen did a good job to weather the storm, but eventually they wore down.

"Our puck management in the second period was not good and not where it needs to be," Okposo said. "It's frustrating. We can't string two complete games together. We played pretty well in the first, and they just dumped it in and ran our D all night. We've got to be better as a group of forwards. It wasn't good enough to win."

McCoshen snapped a shot from the point that sailed over Lehner's pad to give Florida a 2-1 lead 3:50 into the third period. The Sabres outshot the Panthers 10-6 in the period, but their comeback effort came to a premature end when Florida netted two empty-net goals in a 17-second span.

"I want to save every goal and I've got to look at it and see what I can do better," Lehner, who made 27 saves, said. "But again, we didn't deserve to win this game. Something's going to go in, and they usually bounce in the right team's favor."

The Sabres fall to 5-9-2 with the loss, and have won back-to-back games just once this season. They're still learning how to play the same way consistently, but Okposo summed up their frustrations with the length of that process afterwards.

"We are where we are for a reason," he said. "We've got to realize it and try and get better every day. It's been a lot of learning experiences this year. I'm sick of learning experiences. It's not fun. We've got to be better on a nightly basis."

## Military Appreciation

### Military Night Ceremonial Faceoff

04:05 • November 10th, 2017

Friday night was Military Appreciation Night at KeyBank Center, with the Sabres honoring servicemen and women during and prior to the game. Veterans Richard Costo, Melvin Quast and Bill Webb, all three of whom served in the Korean War, dropped the ceremonial first puck.

You can read about the trip that Costo, Quast and Webb took to Washington, D.C. with Sabres alumni Danny Gare and Rene Robert here.

The team also wore special camouflage jerseys during warmups, which are currently available for auction at [Sabres.com/auction](http://Sabres.com/auction). All proceeds benefit the Buffalo Sabres foundation.

Lehner wore "C. Lehner" on his name plate during warmups as well as No. 43, both of which were to honor fallen K-9 Officer Craig Lehner. He presented Officer Lehner's family with the jersey following the game.

### Up next

The Sabres will be back at it against another divisional opponent when they meet the Montreal Canadiens at Bell Centre on Saturday night. It will be the second meeting between the two teams this season, with Montreal having won the first matchup 3-2 in a shootout.

Coverage on MSG-B begins at 6:30 p.m. with GMC Gamenight, or you can listen live on WGR 550. The puck drops at 7 p.m.

## HALL: Road trippin' and honoring our military

Sabres.com

by Lauren Hall

November 10th, 2017

For my first blog post of the season, I'm excited to share some fun things we have been up to away from the rink over the last couple weeks!

The season is still young, but we've already made one successful tour stop with our Road Crew presented by Delta Air Lines. With Duffer no longer traveling to away games, I was honored to get the call up to host the event at Parlay Sports Club in Dallas last Friday night.

[View image on Twitter](#)

[View image on Twitter](#)

Lauren Hall ✓@LaurenHall

Thank you @ParlaySportsBar for hosting our Road Crew party in Dallas last night & the 200 local fans who came! Now let's go beat the ★'s 🏒

5:41 PM - Nov 4, 2017 · Dallas, TX

2 2 Replies 2 2 Retweets 44 44 likes

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This was my first time attending a Road Crew event, and I was so delighted to meet so many Sabres fans from Texas! I was especially impressed at how many of them keep close tabs on the team through our website and social media coverage from afar.

Thank you to the 200 or so fans who came out and helped us raise some money for the Sabres Foundation the night before our game against the Stars. Our next stop will be in New York on January 17th - so mark your calendars!

[View image on Twitter](#)

[View image on Twitter](#)

Buffalo Sabres ✓@BuffaloSabres

Texas-sized turnout for @DisplacedSabres group photo. #Sabres

8:47 PM - Nov 4, 2017

21 21 Replies 20 20 Retweets 112 112 likes

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After Dallas, the next trip on my schedule was to Washington, D.C., where we organized a special day to say thank you to some local military veterans.

Like many professional sports teams, the Sabres have made supporting veterans and their families a priority for years, through programs such as Tickets for Troops and our annual Military Appreciation Game. This event however, was unprecedented.

[View image on Twitter](#)

[View image on Twitter](#)

Lauren Hall ✓@LaurenHall

Good morning from our nation's capital! us The @BuffaloSabres alumni brought veterans from WNY to see the memorials today to say thank you ♥

7:48 AM - Nov 6, 2017 · Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)

2 2 Replies 2 2 Retweets 49 49 likes

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On Monday, the Sabres sponsored a trip for three Western New York war veterans to our nation's capital to visit the memorials for the wars they fought in. We worked with the Veterans One Stop Center of WNY to plan the day, which included stops at the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and the Vietnam War Memorial, as well as Arlington National Cemetery.

Danny Gare and Rene Robert accompanied the men on the trip, too. (I was honored to be here as well!)

[View image on Twitter](#)[View image on Twitter](#)

Lauren Hall ✓@LaurenHall

First stop on our @BuffaloSabres Military Appreciation Trip: WWII Memorial with 92-year-old army veteran Bill Webb  
9:42 AM - Nov 6, 2017 · Washington, DC

Replies 4 4 Retweets 20 20 likes

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As you may imagine, it is especially moving to visit these national monuments along with men who protected our country in the wars.

A highlight of the day for me was seeing so many other visitors to the memorials, including many young people from school tour groups, go out of their way to stop and say thank you to our guests, Bill Webb, Dick Costo, and Mel Quast. As Mel told me, his hand was sore from all the handshakes he received!

[View image on Twitter](#)[View image on Twitter](#)[View image on Twitter](#)[View image on Twitter](#)

Lauren Hall ✓@LaurenHall

Korean War Memorial with our veterans. Mel thinks he found himself on the wall us

10:53 AM - Nov 6, 2017 · Korean War Veterans Memorial

3 3 Replies 9 9 Retweets 141 141 likes

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By the end of the day, the veterans had bonded so much with our Sabres alumni that it was sad to see the trip wrap up. Luckily, all five men will reunite tonight when Bill, Dick, and Mel attend our game against the Panthers to participate in our pregame Military Appreciation Night ceremony. So if you have tickets, make sure to be in your seat early!

Finally, I'd like to wrap up this blog post by saying thank you to a military member in my life, who recently surprised me at a home game!

[View image on Twitter](#)

[View image on Twitter](#)

Lauren Hall ✓@LaurenHall

When your friend who lives in HAWAII casually shows up and surprises you at a Tuesday night game. Lucky charm #sabres

9:52 PM - Oct 24, 2017 · Buffalo, NY

1 1 Reply Retweets 32 32 likes

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Jillian Piaggione is a Williamsville native who attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, went to medical school at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and is now a resident in the General Surgery Program at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

She is my hero!

Thank you to every men and women like Jill, Bill, Mel, and Dick who have made sacrifices for our freedom. We can't wait to honor you at tonight's game!