



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

November 22, 2017

Ready to face their old team, Pominville and Scandella know how to flip the script on a season

Buffalo News

Amy Moritz

November 21, 2017

They know how to flip the script.

Both Jason Pominville and Marco Scandella did it before as part of the the 2014-15 Minnesota Wild team.

Let's go back three seasons for a moment, when the Wild were near the bottom of the NHL standings and out of a playoff spot with an 18-19-0-5 record.

The Wild traded for Devan Dubnyk, giving up a third-round pick to the Arizona Coyotes for the goaltender. His first game for the Wild was in Buffalo on Jan. 15, 2015 and he proceeded to earn a shutout in a 7-0 win in KeyBank Center.

That sparked the Wild. They lost only seven games the rest of the season. They had the best record from that point on in the NHL at 26-7-0-2. They earned a wild-card playoff spot, going from the bottom quarter of the league into the postseason.

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So while the standings are dismal for the Buffalo Sabres, both Pominville and Scandella know from experience that the script can indeed be flipped.

"It was a snowball effect," Pominville said Tuesday afternoon after the Sabres practiced in KeyBank Center. "We won a game and then (Dubnyk) got confidence and the team got confidence and it kind of was a snowball effect. We kept believing and pushing. We were playing a lot of games with not a lot of days off so you just get in that rhythm and you feel good about your game, you feel good about yourself. The team feels good about itself. Just felt we couldn't be denied. No matter what, we were going to win that game. It's a great feeling to have."

The Sabres will be looking for that feeling, well, any positive feeling, when they host the Wild at 7 p.m. Wednesday in KeyBank Center.

It will be the first time Pominville and Scandella will play against their former team. They were traded to the Sabres in exchange for Tyler Ennis and Marcus Foligno over the summer.

And the return to Buffalo hasn't gone quite as planned for Pominville, who was with the organization from 2003 to 2013. The Sabres have lost three straight games and are winless in their last six (0-4-2). After a 3-2 loss to the Columbus Blue Jackets at home on Monday, the Sabres continue to have the worst record in the Eastern Conference and the second-worst in the NHL, one point better than the Arizona Coyotes.

"Anything's possible when you believe," Pominville said. "When you get back to that swagger, that confidence as a team, you feel like anything you do, you can't be denied. Right now, it's almost the other way where we're giving up a bounce and we're getting scored on or we're not getting the bounce offensively. And when you're going well those bounces offensively usually come a little easier but at the same time you've got to work for them. We're not going to sit here and feel sorry for ourselves. We are where we are. We've got to dig deep and keep working and keep pushing to be better."

Pominville is fourth on the Sabres in scoring thanks to a hot start. He had five points (four goals, one assist) in his first five games. His production has trailed off, but he's back on a line with Jack Eichel, which coach Phil Housley hopes will kick start the veteran's offensive touch. Pominville has gone six games without a point.

"Pommer really got off to a very good start," Housley said. "He's dipped a little bit. He was moved down to the third line to try and spread the balance around. He's been terrific. He's been working really hard and I'd like to have him find his scoring touch again now playing with Jack."

Scandella has become the ironman of the defensive corps. His average ice time is 23 minutes, 43 seconds. That's second only to Rasmus Ristolainen, who was averaging 27:09 before he went on the injured reserve list with an upper body injury on Nov. 4.

"Marco's done a terrific job," Housley said. "He's logged a lot of minutes and played in every situation. He's brought a great energy to our locker room. He says things at the right time. He's a true competitor."

Scandella played seven seasons with the Wild. Self-described as a "glass-half-full kind of person" he sees an opportunity for the Sabres to flip their script, just like Minnesota did three seasons ago.

"There's a lot of things that can change it," Scandella said. "It can be (a trade). It can be just a big come-from-behind win, a big win on the road, or just stringing a couple together. That's what we need to do. We need to find a way to win a game and it's just going to open everything up. Everybody's going to be squeezing the stick a little less hard."

"I think every hockey player to get to this point has gone through some adversity," Scandella said. "If you just know how to handle it, we've all been through it before. It's just the game of life. So you just have to be positive about it. Negativity, it just doesn't help anyone. It doesn't help the team situation. Staying positive is definitely what we need to do."

Sabres Notebook: Josefson could return to lineup

The Buffalo News

Amy Moritz

November 21, 2017

The injury list is finally growing shorter for the Buffalo Sabres.

After taking the morning skate on Monday, center Jacob Josefson was back in KeyBank Center fully participating in the team's practice.

Josefson missed 15 games with an ankle injury he suffered during a 3-1 win over the Anaheim Ducks on Oct. 15.

"I kinda tweaked my ankle," Josefson said when asked what happened against the Ducks. "I had an ankle sprain. Took a while to get it ready to heal."

The 26-year-old, who signed as a free agent over the summer, was injured in the sixth game of the season and is still looking for his first points.

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"I only played like five games but I was starting to get my feet under me a little bit," Josefson said. "I was feeling better and better so obviously it was not fun to have an injury come in there. ... Obviously I'm very anxious to play so I'm hoping I can bring a lot of energy. Hopefully it's good to get some fresh legs in there."

At Tuesday's practice, Josefson skated on a line with Jordan Nolan and Kyle Okposo.

Head coach Phil Housley said Josefson "could be a possibility" in Wednesday's lineup against the Minnesota Wild. "We'll see how he reacts to practice. I thought he looked really good out there. Lot of speed."

Housley said when Josefson was in the lineup he provided "stabilization down through the middle, somebody that you can trust playing in any situation, especially on our penalty kill. He can relieve some minutes off our top guys. He provides speed and positionally he's one of the best on our team, just knowing where to be in the situation."

There was some more playing around with the lines as the Sabres desperately look for more offense.

Jack Eichel was back at center with Evander Kane and Jason Pominville. Ryan O'Reilly centered Benoit Pouliot and Sam Reinhart while Johan Larsson was between Zemgus Girgensons and Kyle Criscuolo.

Matt Moulson and Seth Griffith were the extra forwards.

On defense, the pairings were: Marco Scandella with Justin Falk, Jake McCabe with Victor Antipin, and Josh Gorges with Nathan Beaulieu. Casey Nelson was the extra defenseman.

The big jersey reveal for the 2018 Winter Classic is expected on Wednesday, but the Buffalo Sabre released some snippets through the "MyOneBuffalo" app on Tuesday. The Sabres will play the New York Rangers in the 10th annual outdoor game on Jan. 1 at Citi Field, home of the New York Mets.

Amy Moritz

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@amymoritz

The big reveal is tomorrow, but here are some "teasers" of the #Sabres jersey for the 2018 Winter Classic:

<http://buffalonews.com/2017/11/21/get-a-sneak-peek-of-what-the-sabres-will-wear-at-the-2018-winter-classic/> ...

2:42 PM - Nov 21, 2017

Get a sneak peek of what the Sabres will wear at the 2018 Winter Classic
The official jerseys for the Winter Classic haven't been released yet, but the Buffalo Sabres released
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The holiday season begins at KeyBank Center Wednesday as the Sabres announced participation in two programs.

The Salvation Army will launch its annual holiday kettle drive before Wednesday's game at KeyBank Center. The signature fundraiser aids those in need in the Buffalo area. The Amherst Knights youth hockey team will be at arena entrances with kettles to collect donations.

The Sabres have also partnered with Catholic Charities of Buffalo for the Sabres Holiday Angels program that allows fans to adopt a family in need.

Fans have four ways to become involved: 1. Adopt a family. Fans who register at sabres.com/holidayangels will receive information with details about the family they have chosen to support and buy gifts for. 2. Donate individual gifts. The items will be matched to a person or family in need by Catholic Charities. 3. Donate wrapping paper and wrapping accessories. 4. Donate gift cards.

Unwrapped gifts are due by Thursday, Dec. 14 and can be dropped off at Catholic Charities Montante Administrative Center (741 Delaware Ave.), Catholic Charities Lackawanna Pantry (75 Caldwell Place, Lackawanna) or Catholic Charities Town Square Food Pantry (2710 North Forest Road, Getzville). Gifts can also be brought to the Sabres Alumni Plaza outside KeyBank Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 14.

Gift cards may be mailed directly to Catholic Charities Parish Outreach and Advocacy, 741 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, N.Y., 14209.

For more information, contact Lauren Maguire at 218-1400 extension 2006 or via email at lauren.maguire@ccwny.org.

Sabres looking find some consistency in their game

WGR

Brayton Wilson

November 21, 2017

The Buffalo Sabres have hit a rut in their game and are currently riding a six-game losing streak. Buffalo will look to break out of their slump on Wednesday night when they host the Minnesota Wild at KeyBank Center.

On Monday, the Sabres fell behind 3-0 to the Columbus Blue Jackets in the third period, and had played a relatively conservative game for the first 50 minutes of hockey. In the final eleven minutes of play, Buffalo got goals from Sam Reinhart and Evander Kane to pull within one, and also stepped up the pressure with six shots on goal and more than a dozen shot attempts on goal.

Buffalo nearly tied the game in the two minutes of play on a powerplay, but a puck that had thought to have gone in was deemed inconclusive and the Sabres fell short to the Blue Jackets.

The Sabres have struggled with playing a consistent game for 60 minutes of hockey. The last time they got a full 60 minutes from the team, it resulted in a 2-1 win over the Washington Capitals on November 7th. That win happens to be the Sabres' last win before starting their current losing streak.

Sabres defenseman Josh Gorges understands that to play a consistent 60 minutes of hockey, the team needs to get in the right state of mind and be on the same page from start to finish.

"It's just a mindset. It's a matter of being ready from the start, knowing that we don't have the luxury of taking off a period, taking off five minutes or having dips in the game. It's gotta be a consistent effort and mindset throughout the game," Gorges said following practice on Tuesday.

"It's just a mindset of taking the positives out of that third period and controlling how we can play when our back is against the wall," echoed defenseman Jake McCabe. "Our back is against the wall right now, so we need that mentality throughout the whole 60 minutes. It starts from the first faceoff, and we have to keep rolling them over and building off each other."

So far through 21 games this season, the Sabres are averaging the fewest goals per-game at 2.29 goals, while averaging the fourth-highest goals against per-game at 3.48 goals. The Sabres have also not generated too many shots on goal, averaging 30.4 shots per-game. In games where the Sabres generate more than 30 shots a night, they are 5-3-4. In games where they've generated less than 30 shots, Buffalo is an astounding 0-9-0.

Minnesota comes in playing better than when they first started the season, and have earned points in five of their last six games. While their offense has been on and off at times this season, goalie Devan Dubnyk has been very good in net lately with four wins in his last five starts, a 1.60 goals against average and a .941 save percentage.

If the Sabres are going to want to snap their six-game losing streak, they will need to come prepared to play that complete game from start to finish.

"They're a good hockey team. They're deep, they play a well-rounded game," Gorges said. "We know that we have to be sharp. We don't have the luxury of having a let down, especially against a team like Minnesota. We have to be prepared to grind out a win for 60, maybe 65 minutes tomorrow."

"We just have to win. [That's the] bottom line at this stage of this season, and especially with the amount of games that we have coming up," McCabe said. "We've been playing six [games] in nine nights, we've got three in four coming up so tomorrow night's a big two points for us. Hopefully it'll carry us into the weekend."

This game against Minnesota also holds some meaning for Sabres defenseman Marco Scandella and forward Jason Pominville, as it will be the first time that they face their former team since this summer's trade that sent Tyler Ennis and Marcus Foligno to the Wild.

Scandella has been looking forward to this matchup against some of his old friends for some time.

"It'll be a little weird playing against my old team, but I'm very excited about it," Scandella said. "It's definitely been a day that's been marked on my calendar."

"It'll be a little emotional. I still have a lot of friends on that team, they're all friends. I may be going to dinner with them, so it will be nice to see everybody and catch up a little bit."

Sabres head coach Phil Housley knows a thing or two about playing against former teams following a trade. The hall of fame defenseman had been traded five times in his career, including the move back in 1990 when the Sabres traded him to the Winnipeg Jets as part of a deal for Dale Hawerchuk. Housley imagines that the emotions will be present on both sides for this game, especially for Ennis, Foligno and Scandella who were involved in their first trades this offseason.

"Well the first one is always the toughest because it gets to be very emotional," Housley said following practice. "I bet it'll be very emotional for the guys that are on Minnesota that will be coming to Buffalo because you're playing in your own rink. If you're doing it on the road, it's one thing but when you're playing back at home it's very difficult. It'll be emotional, there's a lot of ties for [Tyler Ennis and Marcus Foligno] in Buffalo. There's a lot to prove for Marco and [Pominville]. Coming back to the team that [Pominville] started with, and Marco wanting a new opportunity. It's an emotional part of the game that people don't realize, it's very tough, but I'm sure those guys will fight through it."

As for Gorges, getting the chance to play against Ennis and Foligno will be a good chance to catch up since the trade in June. Although, Gorges doesn't intend to give an inch on Wednesday when his former teammates step on to the ice with him.

"It's always kind of fun to play against former teammates," Gorges said. "You become good friends with these guys; they're no longer on your team, but you remain friends and that's what's so great about this game. We'll go out there, we'll compete and those two guys are competitors. They're going to play hard, there's going to be some battles and then afterwards you're gonna go shake their hands and see how they're doing. It'll make for a fun game."

On the injury front, Jacob Josefson was practicing with the team again and taking part in line rushes for the first time since suffering a lower-body injury on October 15th against the Anaheim Ducks. Josefson was centering a line that featured Jordan Nolan on his left and Kyle Okposo on his right.

After practice on Tuesday, Housley said that there's a possibility he could return to the lineup on Wednesday.

"We're gonna see how he reacts to practice," Housley said. "Thought he looked really good out there with a lot of speed."

With all of the injuries that have riddled the Sabres for the first 21 games of the season, Housley is looking forward to getting another depth forward back in action for his hockey club.

"I think [it's] that stabilization down through the middle," Housley said. "[He's] somebody you can trust to play in any situation, especially on our penalty kill. He can relieve some minutes off our top guys, provide speed, and positionally is one of the best on our team; just knows where to be in situations in the offensive and defensive zone. He's very reliable."

Here's a look at the lines from Tuesday's practice:

Forwards:

Kane - Eichel - Pominville

Pouliot - O'Reilly - Reinhart

Girgensons - Larsson - Criscuolo

Nolan - Josefson - Okposo

Defense:

Scandella - Falk

McCabe - Antipin

Gorges - Beaulieu

Seth Griffith, Matt Moulson and Casey Nelson all participated in practice as the extra skaters.

Sabres' Jason Pominville, Marco Scandella learned from Wild tenure

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

November 22, 2017

BUFFALO – While perhaps a step slower at 34 years old, Sabres winger Jason Pominville still showcases many of the talents that have helped him score 267 goals and once made him an NHL All-Star.

Wednesday against his old team, the Minnesota Wild, Pominville will likely be reunited with center Jack Eichel and Evander Kane. At an age when most players are retired or graying, Pominville is still playing on a top scoring line.

Meanwhile, defenseman Marco Scandella, who arrived with Pominville, will almost certainly be the Sabres' top workhorse against the Wild, skating big minutes.

When the Sabres traded wingers Tyler Ennis and Marcus Foligno to the Wild on June 30, they wanted a savvy veteran forward and a puck-moving defender capable of playing in every situation.

Having scored six times in the first 21 games, Pominville, who played his first nine seasons with the Sabres, is on pace for his eighth 20-goal season.

"He's been terrific," coach Phil Housley said Thursday inside KeyBank Center.

As Pominville defies his age a bit, Scandella, 27, often looks like a defenseman in his prime, averaging 23 minutes, 43 seconds of ice time a game.

"Marco's done a terrific job," Housley said. "He's logged a lot of minutes and played in every situation, has brought a great energy to our locker room, he says the things at the right time. He's a true competitor."

But Pominville and Scandella haven't impacted the standings. The reeling Sabres have lost six straight games (0-4-2) and rank last in the Eastern Conference.

The transition for the players has been both easy and difficult.

"The away from the rink (part) has been really easy," said Pominville of returning to Buffalo with his family following four years in Minnesota. "To adjust to the moving, to the family stuff and the kid stuff has been really smooth. But obviously the on-ice (part) we would expect more and we expect more out of each other."

Still, recent history tells Pominville and Scandella the Sabres, who have five wins and 14 points, aren't finished yet.

Three years ago, they endured a losing streak similar to the Sabres' current skid. The Wild, a veteran team constructed to win the Stanley Cup, arrived in Buffalo on Jan. 15, 2015 losers of six straight contests and 13 of its last 15.

The Wild, which had just acquired goalie Devan Dubnyk, then shellacked the Sabres 7-0, igniting a 28-9-3 run to close the season.

“We won a game and then we got confidence and ... it kind of was a snowball effect,” Pominville said. “We kept believing and pushing. We were playing a lot of games with not a lot of days off so you just get in that rhythm and you feel good about your game, you feel good about yourself. The team feels good about itself, just felt we couldn’t be denied. No matter what, we were going to win that game.”

The Wild’s crazy finish taught Pominville a lesson he can draw on in difficult times.

“Anything’s possible when you believe,” he said. “When you get back to that swagger, that confidence as a team, you feel like anything you do, you can’t be denied. Right now, it’s almost the other way where we’re giving up a bounce and we’re getting scored on or we’re not getting the bounce offensively.”

“And when you’re going well, those bounces offensively usually come a little easier. But at the same time, you’ve got to work for them. We’re not going to sit here and feel sorry for ourselves.”

Scandella said the Sabres, who rank 31st overall in scoring and 28th in goals against, need “a spark to get the fire going.” One victory, he said, is “just going to open everything up.”

“There’s a lot of things that can change it,” he said. “It can be that. It can be just a big come-from-behind win, a big win on the road, or just stringing a couple together. That’s what we need to do.”

A win against the Wild would probably feel extra special for Pominville and Scandella, who was drafted by Minnesota and spent seven years with the team.

“It will be a little weird playing against my old team but I’m very excited about it,” Scandella said. “It’s definitely a day that’s been marked on my calendar.”

Sabres' Jacob Josefson ready to play

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

November 21, 2017

BUFFALO – Following his first full team practice since spraining his ankle Oct. 15, Sabres center Jacob Josefson pronounced himself ready to play.

“I’m anxious to get in,” Josefson said this afternoon inside KeyBank Center. “I’ve been on the side a while. I’m ready whenever they want me.”

So will Josefson, who has missed 15 games, return for Wednesday’s home tilt against the Minnesota Wild?

“It’s a possibility,” Sabres coach Phil Housley said. “We’re going to see how he reacts to practice. I thought he looked really good out there.”

Without Josefson, the reeling Sabres have been missing a reliable third- or fourth-line checker.

“That stabilization down through the middle, somebody that you can trust playing in any situation, especially on our penalty kill, can relieve some minutes off our top guys,” Housley said. “He provides speed and positionally he’s one of the best on our team, just knowing where to be in the situation.”

Josefson, a free agent the Sabres signed July 1, played six games before getting hurt in the Sabres’ 3-1 win in Anaheim.

“I was starting to get my feet under me, feeling better and better,” Josefson said.

Based on today’s lines, Josefson will likely play. The Swede pivoted Jordan Nolan and the struggling Kyle Okposo on the fourth line. Housley used these other trios:

– Evander Kane, Jack Eichel and Jason Pominville

– Benoit Pouliot, Ryan O’Reilly and Sam Reinhart

– Zemgus Girgensons, Johan Larsson and Kyle Criscuolo

Criscuolo, a center his first three NHL games, said he was a winger three seasons at Harvard.

Wingers Seth Griffith and Matt Moulson skated as extras Tuesday.

South St. Paul's Phil Housley embracing early challenges with Buffalo Sabres

Pioneer Press

Chad Graff

November 21, 2017

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Five years ago, before becoming one of the NHL's most sought-after coaches and leader of the Buffalo Sabres, Phil Housley was prepping for his eighth season as head coach of the Stillwater High boys' hockey team.

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At the time, he was still unsure where coaching would take him, or if he even wanted to leave the East Metro.

What's followed has been a meteoric rise through the coaching ranks, bringing Housley back to this city and the team that drafted him No. 6 overall as a defenseman out of South St. Paul High School in 1982.

After leaving Stillwater for an assistant gig with the Nashville Predators in 2013, Housley is relishing his first few months as the Sabres' head coach – even if they've yielded more losses than wins – as he prepares to coach against his local 9 the first time here Wednesday night.

"Obviously, when you're not winning, the pressure builds and you have to try to handle all those things and the stressful parts of the job," Housley said. "But I love the challenge. I love coming to the rink, I love getting better, whether as a coach or demanding more from players and trying to turn the organization around."

That certainly won't be an easy feat. The Sabres have missed the playoffs six straight years, a skid that cost the three previous coaches their jobs.

This season, injuries and offensive woes have the Sabres at the bottom of the Eastern Conference with a 5-12-4 record and an NHL-low 2.29 goals-per-game average.

Scoring was an issue with the Nashville Predators when Housley arrived as an assistant, before he helped mold the Predators' defensemen into one of the best units in the NHL, a group that helped lift Nashville to the Stanley Cup Final last season.

Phil Housley coaches Stillwater High School hockey players during a 2004 practice. (Pioneer Press file: Sherri LaRose-Chiglo)

Phil Housley coaches Stillwater High School hockey players during a 2004 practice. (Pioneer Press file: Sherri LaRose-Chiglo)

But injuries and a lack of depth have left Housley limited with the Sabres as the Hall of Fame defenseman tries to work with his Buffalo blue liners.

“We continue to work with those guys, but we’ve been banged up back there, which is too bad,” Housley said. “We haven’t had our top six since Day 1. That’s been a big problem for us trying to create chemistry with partners. But we just try to bring the compete level. That’s the measuring stick day in and day out.”

Housley has leaned on Marco Scandella, the former Wild defenseman traded to Buffalo this offseason, more than any other Sabres defenseman in recent weeks.

“He has a lot to teach,” Scandella said. “It’s about the little things. When he talks to you one-on-one, you listen. He’s been through it all with a long, successful career. He was an outstanding player and a visionary. So, he’s got a lot to teach to our defensemen.”

Housley wasn’t sure what he wanted to do when his playing career ended after two decades that yielded 1,495 NHL games, more than any other American-born player. With his four children still in school, Housley chose to stay in the East Metro and nabbed the Stillwater gig as a way to spend time with family and mentor young players.

“It was a unique situation. I could really test my patience with high school kids, with the things that they go through and the changing society they’re in,” Housley said. “There’s a tremendous amount of pressure on kids these days, so it really taught me a lot about young men and developing patience.”

He hasn’t needed much patience since becoming an NHL assistant coach in 2013. Four years with the Predators and a trip to the finals made him one of the most sought-after coaches this offseason.

The Predators lost to the Pittsburgh Penguins in Game 6 of the finals on a Sunday. That week, he was interviewing in Buffalo, and he was named the 18th head coach of the historic franchise that Thursday. “I’ve been very busy,” he said. “There was really no time to grieve; it was about getting ready for the Buffalo Sabres.”

“Obviously, our season hasn’t gone well – we’ve been banged up a little bit,” he added. “When you look at our record, obviously we’d like to have more wins. We’ve been in 12 one-goal games, so we’re close. Yet it seems so far because of where we are and the mountain we’ve got to climb.

“That’s part of being in this position. You have to continue to find ways to motivate and get your guys on the right track.”

Pominville, Scandella believe Sabres can rebound

Sabres.com

Jourdon LaBarber

November 21, 2017

With the Minnesota Wild coming to town on Wednesday, it was fitting for Jason Pominville to draw a comparison to his former team while assessing the current situation for the Buffalo Sabres after practice at KeyBank Center on Tuesday.

Specifically, Pominville looked back to the 2014-15 season, when the Wild had lost 12 out of 14 games prior to acquiring goaltender Devan Dubnyk on Jan. 14. The Wild won Dubnyk's debut 7-0 in Buffalo and then went on to win 28 of their last 40 games en route to a playoff berth.

The moral of the story, Pominville said, is that everything remains possible at this point of the season.

"Anything's possible when you believe, when you get back to that swagger, that confidence as a team," he said. "You feel like anything you do, you can't be denied. Right now, it's almost the other way where we're giving up a bounce and we're getting scored on or we're not getting the bounce offensively.

"... We're not going to sit here and feel sorry for ourselves. We are where we are. We've got to dig deep and keep working and keep pushing to be better."

Sabres Now (11/21/17)

02:20 • November 21st, 2017

Following a loss to Columbus on Monday, the Sabres are 0-4-2 in their last six games and 5-12-4 this season. They nearly came back against the Blue Jackets, cutting a 3-0 deficit to 3-2 in the latter half of the third period, but ultimately fell short of tying the game.

Sam Reinhart scored to put the Sabres on the board in that game, which served to sprak the team for the remainder of the night. Likewise, Pominville and fellow former Wild player Marco Scandella said the Sabres need a spark to their season, similar to what Dubnyk was for them in 2015.

"There's a lot of things that can change it," Scandella said. "It can be that. It can be just a big come-from-behind win, a big win on the road, or just stringing a couple together. That's what we need to do. We need to find a way to win a game and it's just going to open everything up."

Stringing wins together has been one of Buffalo's struggles this season, having won back-to-back games on just once occasion. Few players know better than Pominville and Scandella about what it takes to create a winning streak, having both been a part of Minnesota's 12-game streak last season.

"You just get into that rhythm and you feel good about your game, you feel good about yourself," Pominville said. "The team feels good about itself. We just felt we couldn't be denied. No matter what, we were going to win that game. It's a great feeling to have.

"We had it last year when we won [12] in a row. You find ways to win where some games you probably don't deserve to ... It's definitely a fun feeling to have."

Coverage of Buffalo's game against Minnesota on Wednesday begins at 6:30 p.m. with GMC Gamenight on MSG-B. Puck drop is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Kane in the clutch

Not only has Evander Kane managed to score goals at an elite level dating back to December of last season, he's also showed a knack for coming up in clutch situations. Kane has scored tying goals in the last 10 minutes of regulation on three occasions this season - at Boston, at Vegas and at home against Carolina on Saturday - and two of those goals came in the final 2:30.

On Monday, Kane scored the goal that brought the Sabres within one with 3:32 left in the game. His seven third-period goals this season tie him for third in the NHL, with New York's John Tavares and Minnesota's Jason Zucker being the only players ahead of him with eight each.

"I want the puck on my stick when the game's on the line or in tough situations," Kane said. "I embrace those opportunities. You want to have the confidence, I want to be the guy to make the difference. That's been my personality ever since I put on skates."

Tuesday's practice

Phil Housley (11/21/17)

05:36 • November 21st, 2017

Jacob Josefson skated with the team for the second day in a row and is a possibility to join the lineup against the Wild on Wednesday, Sabres coach Phil Housley said. Josefson has missed 15 games since tweaking his ankle in Anaheim on Oct. 15.

He centered a line with Jordan Nolan and Kyle Okposo on Tuesday, with Matt Moulson and Seth Griffith skating as extra forwards.

"That stabilization down through the middle, somebody that you can trust playing in any situation, especially on our penalty kill, can relieve some minutes off our top guys," Housley said. "He provides speed and positionally he's one of the best on our team, just knowing where to be in the situation."

Josefson was held without a point in the six games he played prior to his injury, but said he felt like he was just starting to get his legs under him by the time he was forced leave the game in Anaheim.

"I'm very anxious to play," Josefson said. "I hope I can bring a lot of energy to the group. Hopefully it's good to get some fresh legs in there."

Okposo also practiced on the fourth line as he continues to try and work his way out of the slump he's experienced to begin the season. After an All-Star campaign a season ago, he's scored eight points (2+6) in 19 games.

"Kyle's a tremendous competitor and gets down on himself," Housley said. "I think today was a good example of what he has to bring. He has to bring the attitude of just working, bringing a speed element, and that's where it starts."

Here's how the full lineup looked at practice:

9 Evander Kane - 15 Jack Eichel - 29 Jason Pominville
67 Benoit Pouliot - 90 Ryan O'Reilly - 23 Sam Reinhart
28 Zemgus Girgensons - 22 Johan Larsson - 51 Kyle Criscuolo
17 Jordan Nolan - 10 Jacob Josefson - 21 Kyle Okposo
26 Matt Moulson - 25 Seth Griffith

6 Marco Scandella - 41 Justin Falk
19 Jake McCabe - 93 Victor Antipin
4 Josh Gorges - 82 Nathan Beaulieu
8 Casey Nelson

40 Robin Lehner
31 Chad Johnson

Sharpen Up: November 21, 2017

Sabres.com

Chris Ryndak

November 21, 2017

The Sabres' came up short last night against Columbus and will be tasked with snapping a six-game losing streak tomorrow night at home when Minnesota comes to town.

Here's what you need to know.

About last night

Sabres edged by Jackets, 3-2

04:59 • November 20th, 2017

"You're playing against one of the best goaltenders in the league and we talked about making it difficult for him," coach Phil Housley said of Blue Jackets netminder Sergei Bobrovsky. "At times we did. That last play I thought we did an excellent job of crashing the net."

"... I think we've still got to get more pucks to the net. You can see the goals that we scored, especially that last one, was a result of that. The second period we got away from the desperation we need and the 1-on-1 battles, the compete in those areas that we need."

Sam Reinhart and Evander Kane each scored to cut down on what was a 3-0 Columbus lead midway through the third period. Buffalo turned the pressure up at that point, and nearly tied the game on a goal that ended up being disallowed with 1:46 remaining. From the Lexus Postgame Report...

Phil Housley Postgame (11/20/17)

03:47 • November 20th, 2017

"It's frustrating knowing how we can play, how we can be against really the best teams in the league," Reinhart said. "We've got to find a way to mentally demand more and expect more."

"... We're waiting too much for one break in a game. Unfortunately, as of late there hasn't been many goals for us early in games that have led to us playing the way we're capable of."

Sam Reinhart Postgame (11/20/17)

02:36 • November 20th, 2017

Kane described the Sabres' effort in the third period as the product of an attitude adjustment.

"It's a mindset, it's an attitude," he said. "It's kind of an 'F you' attitude, especially with the situation we're in. We have nothing to lose. I don't understand the starts. We score two goals tonight but we didn't get our first goal until the 10 minute mark of the third period so we're not creating enough offensively."

"... When we do decide to put pucks on net it creates opportunities to make plays off those shots if they don't go in. We've got to find a better way to get the puck towards the net. We've got to find a mindset to just put the puck on net to create opportunities for ourselves."

Evander Kane Postgame (11/20/17)

04:13 • November 20th, 2017

Buffalo will be back at practice today. We'll have full practice coverage here.

From @SabresPR's postgame notes

With his goal tonight, Sam Reinhart now has a point in five of his last six games against the Blue Jackets (4+1).

Victor Antipin's assist on Reinhart's goal gives him three assists in his last four games.

Ryan O'Reilly's assist gives him a three-game point streak and nine points (4+5) in his last 10 games.

Evander Kane's 12th goal of the season ties him for fifth in the NHL. He now has 10 points (6+4) in his last 10 games against Columbus, dating back to the beginning of the 2013-14 season.

Jack Eichel recorded his 11th primary assist of the season tonight while leading all Sabres forwards in ice time with 20:54. He is now tied for fifth in the league in primary assists.

Want to see the Sabres' Winter Classic jersey before anyone else?

Download the updated My One Buffalo app today and make sure you're a registered member to receive an exclusive sneak peek at the jersey Buffalo will be wearing for the 2018 Bridgestone NHL Winter Classic on Jan. 1 against the Rangers.

And tomorrow, you'll get a full look here at Sabres.com and on our social media accounts so stay tuned.

Turkeys for Tickets Recap

Turkeys for Tickets 2017

02:18 • November 20th, 2017

Thanks again to everyone who made our Turkeys for Tickets Drive this Thanksgiving a success.