



Buffalo Sabres

Daily Press Clips

January 9, 2018

Sabres call up defenseman Guhle, goalie Ullmark from AHL

Associated Press

Jan. 8, 2018

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The Buffalo Sabres have called up top defensive prospect Brendan Guhle and goalie Linus Ullmark from their American Hockey League affiliate.

The call-ups were made Monday, a day after Buffalo closed out seven straight games on the road with a 4-1 loss at Philadelphia. The Sabres host Winnipeg on Tuesday.

Guhle has seven goals and 13 assists for 20 points in 35 games in his first season with Rochester. He was Buffalo's second-round pick in the 2015 draft and played three games with the Sabres during the 2016 season on an emergency call-up basis.

Ullmark is tied for the AHL lead with 17 wins and ranks fourth with a .928 save percentage this season. He is 8-11-2 in 21 NHL career games.

Sabres reward Guhle as defense prospect continues his growth

The Buffalo News

By John Vogl

January 8, 2018

Brendan Guhle is putting his faith in the Buffalo Sabres' development plan. If they feel the defenseman should be in Rochester, that's fine by him. If they want to give him a chance in Buffalo, that's obviously a nice bonus.

It's time to cash in that bonus.

The Sabres have recalled their top defense prospect, and he's expected to be in the lineup Tuesday when Winnipeg visits KeyBank Center.

"They said I earned the recall, and I'll just play my best," said Guhle, who joined the Sabres for Monday's practice. "I was pretty excited. I feel pretty good."

The timing of the recall makes sense. Buffalo has home games Tuesday and Thursday, when it hosts Columbus, then heads out on its bye week. The Sabres can get a quick look at Guhle, then send him back to the Amerks with only one minor-league game missed.

"He's been playing some terrific hockey down in Rochester, and it's just a good time," Sabres coach Phil Housley said. "He's just earned his way up."

Guhle is tied for fifth on the Amerks with 20 points in 35 games. He has seven goals and 13 assists, putting him second among rookie defensemen in the American Hockey League.

"He's been taking strides every day," said Amerks goaltender Linus Ullmark, who was also called up because Robin Lehner is day to day with a neck injury. "He's a great puck-handler with great speed. He's been using it a lot."

Guhle has been a bright spot on the organization's radar since it drafted him in the second round in 2015. He shot toward the top last season when he appeared in three games as an emergency recall. The Sabres gave the 20-year-old a long look during training camp, but the plan was to let the first-year pro prove himself in Rochester.

He's been doing that.

"I was learning at the start of the year and getting more comfortable as the season's gone on, playing more to my strengths," said Guhle, who is known for his speed and offensive instincts. "I just wanted to become the best player I could be, and management feels the same way. Wherever I am at a certain point, it's what they feel is best for me, and I'm going to agree with that."

Guhle says his general hockey awareness has increased. He's learned where to be without the puck and how best to pass it.

"You're not going to see his true growth until you see him in a game, but he's obviously got good skill," said Sabres defenseman Jake McCabe, who was Guhle's partner during practice. "He skates really well. Just growing as a pro player, you find out pretty soon, especially in the American League, it's a tough game. I've heard he's had a good year so far. It's good for his confidence, and we'll see how he does."

Housley admits the Sabres have been tempted to call up Guhle throughout the season. Buffalo is last in the Eastern Conference at 10-23-9, and Guhle might have provided a boost. But the Sabres have been carrying eight defensemen, so they had plenty of options without rushing Guhle's development.

He's helped the Amerks to a 22-8-6 start.

"He's in a good spot," Housley said. "He's in a winning environment down there, which is great for the culture of their team. ... They were winning hockey games, so it was a great chance for him to get some games, develop, bring his game to another level.

"I really like his mobility, obviously, but I like the stick detail that he has defensively and what he does from our goalie working out. Obviously, you look at him and he's joining the rush and he's making things happen back there."

The Sabres haven't received much offense from their back end. The 11 defensemen used this season have combined for six goals and 44 assists in 252 games. Guhle leads the Amerks with 91 shots.

"Coming to the rink every day is a lot of fun, and I want to continue that here," he said. "I know a little bit what to expect, and that definitely helps. I'm just going to try and be myself. I'll be the same guy as I was in Rochester here. I'm not going to change anything.

"I'm just looking forward to getting the games going."

Sabres Notebook: Ullmark on Amerks; Antipin still ill; new lines

The Buffalo News

By John Vogl

Updated January 8, 2018

Linus Ullmark is going to the American Hockey League All-Star Game. The goaltender thinks he should have way more company.

Ullmark and left wing C.J. Smith will represent Rochester at the midseason gala later this month. Both have earned their way, but so have others on the impressive Amerks club that has started 22-8-6.

"We deserve a lot more people going to the All-Stars, not just me and C.J.," Ullmark said Monday in KeyBank Center. "That's just how I feel. We have an All-Star team, and that's how fortunate we've been."

The Amerks are third overall in the AHL thanks to balanced scoring, quality defense and impressive goaltending. Ullmark is tied for first with 17 victories in 26 appearances and ranks fourth with a .928 save percentage.

"I've been there two years with a losing record, and this year we've been on fire," said Ullmark, who practiced with Buffalo because Robin Lehner is day to day after taking a shot off his neck Sunday. "The boys have been playing out of their minds. It's a great group of guys. There's a lot of fun going into practice every day and coming to the rink.

"Most of that is because of what kind of personnel we've got on the team and the management behind it."

Sabres General Manager Jason Botterill and Amerks GM Randy Sexton were determined to build a winner in Rochester. While Smith leads the Amerks with 31 points off 11 goals and 20 assists, the rookie is surrounded by AHL veterans Kevin Porter, Sahir Gill, Kyle Crisculo, Seth Griffith and Zach Redmond.

Ullmark will be thinking of them when he heads to the All-Star Game on Jan. 28-29 in Utica.

"I have a great team in front of me, first of all," Ullmark said. "If I play good and we lose, you might not go there."

Sabres reward Guhle as defense prospect continues his growth

The 24-year-old goaltender has embraced his role as a workhorse in the crease. He led the AHL with 55 appearances last season. This year, he ranks second in minutes and saves.

He's building an impressive résumé that should land him in Buffalo next season.

"We're in the minors for a reason, and we're there to develop our games and take it slow, bide our time until we're ready to play with the big boys," Ullmark said. "I have the same mindset going out there every day: making saves, stopping the puck. That's what I do for a living, and I'm going to keep on doing it."

* * *

Lehner stayed off the ice after taking a puck to the neck Sunday during a 4-1 loss in Philadelphia. He remained in the game but needed a maintenance day Monday.

Broad Street Hockey

✓

@BroadStHockey

Robin Lehner took a shot to the neck and stayed in the game. Dude is tough as nails.

3:14 PM - Jan 7, 2018

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Robin Lehner took a shot to the neck and stayed in the game. Dude is tough as nails. pic.twitter.com/Fh85d3vGTJ

— Broad Street Hockey (@BroadStHockey) January 7, 2018

Lehner could be in the lineup Tuesday when the Sabres host Winnipeg.

"Robin's good. He's just day to day," coach Phil Housley said. "I think Ullmark's here in just support in case we need to use him."

* * *

The flu bug continues to get the best of Victor Antipin. The Buffalo defenseman was absent for the 10th straight day due to illness.

"He's just got to work his way back in," Housley said. "He lost a lot of weight. He was ill, and those things don't happen overnight. He's going to take some time to gain some muscle and some strength back.

"Right now he's just starting that, and it's going to take a little bit of time for him."

Housley said Antipin could skate with the team this week. Buffalo hosts Columbus on Thursday, then enters its bye week. The next game isn't until Jan. 18 against the New York Rangers.

"Sometimes it hits different people different ways, and it seemed to hit him pretty hard," Housley said.

Antipin has four assists, 23 shots and a minus-3 rating in 24 games for Buffalo. He was scratched in seven of nine games before falling ill.

* * *

Housley changed his lines again as the team continues to struggle. Jack Eichel centered for left wing Zemgus Girgensons and right wing Kyle Okposo. Ryan O'Reilly was in the middle of Evander Kane and Jason Pominville. Evan Rodrigues skated between Sam Reinhart and Scott Wilson, who alternated with Benoit Pouliot. Jacob Josefson centered for Johan Larsson and Jordan Nolan.

The defense pairings featured Marco Scandella with Rasmus Ristolainen, call-up Brendan Guhle with Jake McCabe, Nathan Beaulieu with Zach Bogosian, and Josh Gorges with Justin Falk.

* * *

The Jets could have a familiar face in the lineup. Winnipeg recalled forward Brendan Lemieux before flying to Buffalo. The Sabres drafted Lemieux in the second round in 2014 but traded him to the Jets in 2015 as part of the deal for Kane and Bogosian.

Lemieux has one goal in seven games with the Jets. He has nine goals and 24 points in 24 games with the Manitoba Moose.

Guhle earned his call up to the Sabres

Brendan Guhle and Linus Ullmark were called up by the Sabres on Monday

WGR550

BRAYTON WILSON

JANUARY 08, 2018

Buffalo Sabres defenseman Brendan Guhle is having a marvelous rookie season in the American Hockey League with the Rochester Americans.

Through 35 games played this season, Guhle has seven goals and 20 points while playing primarily as a top-pair defenseman with the Amerks. Guhle leads the Amerks this season with 91 shots on goal, and has been creating plenty of offensive chances with his speed and skating abilities.

While fellow rookie C.J. Smith leads the Amerks in scoring this year, Guhle has been a key piece to the turn around in Rochester under first year head coach Chris Taylor.

The Sabres rewarded Guhle for his recent stretch of play with a call up to the big club on Monday, along with goalie Linus Ullmark.

"I feel pretty good," Guhle said following practice on Monday. "[I was] learning at the start of the year and getting more comfortable as the season went on, playing more to my strengths, and [we] finished off with a solid weekend [with] two wins. They said I earned the recall, and I'm just playing my best."

Not many thought that the 20-year old defenseman from Edmonton, Alberta would see action in the National Hockey League this season with general manager Jason Botterill wanting to develop many of his young prospects in the AHL first. But with the Sabres in a situation where they need some sort of offensive spark from their blue line, head coach Phil Housley thought now was the perfect time to take a look.

"He's played some terrific hockey down in Rochester, so it's just a good time before we hit the break we can maybe utilize him in a game," Housley said.

"I think he's earned his way up. He's in a good spot, he's in a winning environment down there which is great for the culture of their team. It's just a good opportunity to see what he can bring to practice. I really liked his mobility obviously, but I liked the stick detail that he has defensively and what he does from our goalie working out. You look at him and he's joining the rush and making things happen back there."

Keeping Guhle in Rochester certainly would allow him to keep playing some top minutes in just about every situation imaginable for the Amerks. Entering his first professional season, it was clear that Guhle needed to work on some areas of his game that will make him more of a complete defenseman.

Last season, former general manager Tim Murray allowed Guhle to get a small taste of the NHL when he was called up on an emergency basis due to some injuries on the blue line. Guhle played in a total of three games before being re-assigned to the Western Hockey League, but did not register a point in his brief time with Buffalo.

Already through his first 35 games in Rochester, Guhle feels that he has become more assimilated with the pro game, which has allowed him to go out and be himself on the ice.

"I think just awareness overall, just getting more accustomed to the pro game, puck decisions, and where I've gotta be away from the puck. I think those are the three biggest things I've improved on since the start of the year," Guhle said.

"I know I just wanted to become the best player I can be, and the management feels the same way. Wherever I am at a certain point is what they feel is best for me, and I'm going to agree with that."

Ullmark has even taken note of how quickly he has picked up the professional game in his rookie season. The third-year veteran of AHL hockey has spent some time prior to this season with Guhle, and has been impressed with his play in both ends of the rink.

"He's taken lots of strides," Ullmark said on Monday following practice. "He's coming in as a rookie, or as a 'young guy' as we say, and he's been taking strides every day. Great puck handler, great speed, everything like that, and he's been using that

a lot. He wants to [produce] more points, I think everyone wants that, but he's been doing a solid job in the defensive zone all the time. I'm happy to have him in front of me."

While in Rochester, Guhle has been a big part of the winning culture that is being established under Taylor. The Amerks, this season, are third place overall in the AHL standings at 22-8-3-3, and are currently two points back of the Toronto Marlies for the top spot in the North Division. This all while getting some timely scoring from the offense, some strong and sturdy play on defense, and some of the best goaltending in the AHL from Ullmark.

Ullmark is having a career-year to this point, tied for the most games played this season (26) while also sitting tied for the most wins (17). Ullmark is also fourth in the AHL with a .928 save-percentage, and sixth in the league with a 2.27 goals-against average.

The 24-year old netminder is enjoying the fact that he is finally playing on a winning team in Rochester while continuing to better his game every day.

"It's been terrific," Ullmark said. "I've been there for two years with a losing record, and this year we've been on fire. The boys have been playing out of their minds. We've got a great group of guys, there's a lot of fun going through practice every day and coming to the rink. Most of that is because of what kind of personnel we have on the team and the management behind [us]."

"We've got a great group of guys down there," Guhle echoed. "They're all awesome teammates. I'm thinking about them today, hope they're having a good practice. I think coming to the rink every day is a lot of fun, and I want to continue that here."

"It's just a great leadership group, everyone is included. No one's gotta try and put on a face, everyone can be themselves, and it's a great group of guys. I don't know what else to say."

Guhle got the chance to skate on a defensive pairing with Jake McCabe at practice on Thursday, and was getting a considerable amount of reps in his first practice in Buffalo. If he manages to crack the lineup on Tuesday night when the Sabres host the Winnipeg Jets at KeyBank Center, he will just try to approach the game like any other one in Rochester.

"I'm just going to try and be myself," Guhle said. "I'll be the same guy I was in Rochester here, and I'm not going to change anything. I'm just looking forward to getting the games going."

Here's a look at how things shaped up at practice on Monday:

Forwards:

Kane - O'Reilly - Pominville

Girgensons - Eichel - Okposo

Wilson / Pouliot - Rodrigues - Reinhart

Larsson - Josefson - Nolan

Defense:

Scandella - Ristolainen

Beaulieu - Bogosian

Guhle - McCabe

Gorges - Falk

The Sabres did not have the services of Robin Lehner on Monday as he is listed as day-to-day with an upper-body injury. That was the reason for Ullmark's recall from Rochester, but the chances he appears in a game on Tuesday or Thursday are not likely.

"I think Ullmark's here in support in case we need to use him, but we'd like to have him up here to give Robin [Lehner] a maintenance day and bring him up for practice," Housley said.

Housley also gave an update on the status of Victor Antipin on Monday. Antipin has not played a game since December 19th against the Boston Bruins, and recently has not been able to practice due to an illness. While it seems like Antipin is beginning to feel better, he may not be back in the lineup for some time yet.

"I think he has to work his way back in. He lost a lot of weight, he was ill, and those things don't happen overnight. He's going to take some time to gain some muscle and some strength back. Right now, he's just starting to get in the mix of that. It's going to take some time for him."

Nathan Beaulieu had a similar illness a few weeks back, and also missed a handful of games with the need to re-gain some strength and muscle when he felt better. Housley is hopeful that Antipin can return to the ice for practice later this week.

Sabres look to Brendan Guhle for spark

Olean Times Herald

Bill Hoppe

Jan. 8, 2018

BUFFALO – Earlier this season, as injuries decimated the blue line and the Sabres kept rookie Brendan Guhle in Rochester, the plan for their top defense prospect became evident.

The Sabres wanted Guhle to pay his dues, quietly develop in the AHL and eventually earn a recall.

“We were going through a tough stretch there, where you think about bringing guys up, we had some capable defensemen back there,” coach Phil Housley said Monday after the Sabres recalled Guhle. “We were giving them an opportunity to see what they can bring to our team.”

Through 42 games, the Sabres have used a whopping 11 defensemen. Only two – Jake McCabe and Marco Scandella – have remained healthy all season.

So for months, instead of summoning Guhle, 20, the Sabres utilized journeymen depth defensemen. Matt Tennyson, for example, played big minutes in October. For a few games in mid-November, Justin Falk skated on the No. 1 pair.

The Sabres also recalled three defenders – Taylor Fedun, Casey Nelson and Zach Redmond – ahead of Guhle.

“They were winning hockey games (in Rochester), so it was a great chance for him to get some games, develop, bring his game to another level,” Housley said.

But the reeling Sabres, who have a four-game losing streak (0-3-1) and an NHL-low 10 wins, desperately need a spark.

The slick Guhle, a 2015 second-round pick, has acclimated to pro hockey quickly, compiling seven goals and 20 points in 35 AHL games as a rookie with the upstart Americans. He also has pumped a team-high 91 shots on goal.

“They said I earned the recall,” Guhle said after the Sabres prepared for Tuesday’s home tilt against the Winnipeg Jets, their first game at KeyBank Center since Dec. 22.

He added: “I feel pretty good, learning at the start of the year and getting more comfortable as the season went on and learning more of my strengths.”

McCabe said: “When you’re winning and you’ve got confidence, you’re having fun out there, you’re just out there playing. I think that’s kind of what they wanted from (Guhle) the first few months of the year.”

Guhle’s puck-moving skills and offensive abilities should help the Sabres, whose defense has scored six goals all season. He scored a nifty overtime winner Friday, grabbing a loose puck inside the opposing blue line before roaring in.

“Just give him an opportunity, he’s playing some terrific hockey down in Rochester,” Housley said of why the Sabres recalled Guhle now. “It’s just a good time before we hit the break. We can maybe utilize him in a game.”

The Sabres also host Columbus on Thursday before beginning a four-day bye week. Guhle, who practiced beside McCabe, will almost certainly play Tuesday.

Still, Housley wouldn’t fully commit to dressing the youngster.

“It’s just a good opportunity to see what he can bring to practice,” he said. “I really like his mobility, obviously. But I like the stick detail that he has defensively and what he does from (around) our goalie, working out, you look at him, he’s joining the rush and making things happen back there.”

While Guhle’s promotion is special, he mentioned twice he was thinking about his Rochester teammates. The 22-8-3-3 Amerks have quickly grown close in three months.

“We’ve got a great group of guys down there and they’re all awesome teammates,” said Guhle, who played three NHL games last season during a recall from junior. “I’m thinking about them today and hopefully they’re having a great practice. Coming to the rink every day is fun.”

For the first time since the early 2000s, Rochester might be a legitimate Calder Cup contender. Besides talent, Guhle believes the Amerks’ leadership group – they brought back former captain Kevin Porter and ex-Sabres defenseman Nathan Paetsch – makes the team special.

“Everyone’s included, no one’s got to try to put on a face, everyone can be themselves,” Guhle said. “Just a great group of guys.”

He added: “I’ve only known them a few months. It feels like longer, I know them so well, great buddies.”

One of Guhle’s buddies, goalie Linus Ullmark, accompanied him to Buffalo. The Sabres also recalled the AHL All-Star because starter Robin Lehner had a maintenance day and is day-to-day, Housley said.

To Ullmark, 24, who played for two bad Amerks teams, this season has been “terrific.”

“This year we’ve been on fire,” he said. “The boys have been playing out of their minds, a great group of guys. It’s a lot of fun going to practice every day and coming to the rink. Most of that is because of what kind of personnel we got in the team and the management.”

xxx

Housley said defenseman Victor Antipin, out the last two weeks battling the flu, could skate later this week.

“It seemed to hit him pretty hard,” he said. “It’s taken a lot out of him.”

Sabres call-up Guhle and Ullmark

By Nick Filipowski

WIVB

Published: January 8, 2018

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WIVB) – With Viktor Antipin still sidelined with an undisclosed illness, the Sabres recalled defenseman Brendan Guhle along with netminder Linus Ullmark.

Ullmark, who is tied in the AHL with 17 wins, is skating in place of Robin Lehner who took a puck to the net in the Sabres' 4-1 loss to the Flyers on Sunday.

Guhle has seven goals and 20 points in 35 games with the Amerks and could be with the big club for the foreseeable future. The defenseman also leads the Amerks with 91 shots.

Sabres recall Guhle and Ullmark from Rochester

WKBW

Matt Bove

Jan 8, 2018

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WKBW) - At long last, Brendan Guhle is returning to Buffalo. On Monday the Buffalo Sabres recalled Guhle and Linus Ullmark from Rochester, where they have spent the first half of the season.

Guhle, 20, has 20 points in 35 games with the Amerks this season. Ullmark has also been impressive and was named to his first AHL all-star game after posting a .928 save percentage and 2.27 goal against average.

Both Guhle and Ullmark have helped guide Rochester to one of their best starts in recent memory. While the Sabres have struggled, the Amerks have thrived and currently have a 22-8-3 record, good for second place in their division.

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Sabres PR

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@SabresPR

Sabres/Amerks injury report for Monday, January 8.

11:36 AM - Jan 8, 2018

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Bove's take:

When Brendan Guhle arrived at his first practice with the Sabres on Monday morning he was already one of their most talented defensemen. If grooming his game in Rochester wasn't a priority for Jason Botterill, Guhle would've made the Sabres out of training camp.

Whether or not he sticks around for more than a few days becomes the big question. Guhle worked with Jake McCabe in his first practice with the team, indicating, at least to me, that they intend on at least giving him a shot to play on Tuesday against the Winnipeg Jets.

Guhle's skating ability and offensive prowess make him a perfect fit on a Sabres' blueline that has struggled mightily. By no means is Guhle's game perfect, but in his shorts stints with the Sabres during the preseason and last year in three regular season games, it looked like he belonged in Buffalo and would be a staple on the roster for years to come.

#Sabres lines at practice:

Kane-O'Reilly-Pominville

Girgensons-Eichel-Okposo

Wilson/Pouliot-Rodrigues-Reinhart

Larsson-Josefson-Nolan

Scandella-Ristolainen

Beaulieu-Bogosian

Guhle-McCabe

Gorges-Falk

Antipin absent

Johnson & Ullmark the goalies.

11:21 AM - Jan 8, 2018

18 18 Replies 30 30 Retweets 168 168 likes

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As for Ullmark, I'd imagine he heads back down to Rochester once Robin Lehner is cleared to return. According to the Sabres, Lehner is day-to-day with an upper-body injury. Then again, what exactly does day-to-day even mean anymore?

After developing in Rochester, Guhle earns his chance in Buffalo

by Jourdon LaBarber

Sabres.com

January 8th, 2018

For the first half of this season, the Buffalo Sabres chose patience as their approach when it came to the development of defensive prospect Brendan Guhle. Veterans were recalled to fill injury-induced holes on the back end while Guhle adjusted to the professional game as a rookie in Rochester.

With two games remaining prior to Buffalo's bye week, the Sabres now see an opportunity to give Guhle his shot at the NHL level. The defenseman was one of two recalls, along with goaltender Linus Ullmark, to join the team for practice on Monday morning.

"I think he's just earned his way up," Sabres coach Phil Housley said. "He's in a good spot. He's in a winning environment down there which is great for the culture of the team. It's just a great opportunity to see what he can bring to practice."

Brendan Guhle (1/8/18)
03:16 • January 8th, 2018

The Sabres, who have practiced with eight defensemen for the majority of this season, are currently without Victor Antipin as he works his way back from an illness. Guhle rounded out the group of eight on Monday, but Housley said the plan is to get him at least one game ahead of the bye week.

Ullmark, meanwhile, joined the club as insurance with Robin Lehner taking a maintenance day. Lehner took a slap shot off of his neck in Philadelphia on Sunday and is considered day-to-day.

The benefits of allowing Guhle to begin the season in Rochester were twofold. It not only gave the young defenseman a chance to learn the pro game; it allowed him to develop within the winning culture that's being cultivated in Rochester this season. The Amerks are 22-8-3-3, placing them two points out of first place in their division.

To provide a sense of how close the team has grown in a half season, consider this: Guhle went out of his way twice to say that, while he was in the midst of his first practice of the season with the NHL club, he couldn't help but think of his teammates back in Rochester.

"It's just a great leadership group," Guhle said. "Everyone's included. No one's got to try to put on a face. Everyone can be themselves. It's just a great group of guys, I don't know what else to say. I've only know them for a few months now. It seems like longer."

Guhle said he's used his time in Rochester to hone his decision-making skills and defensive awareness. Of course, the explosiveness he's shown through three training camps and a brief three-game stint with the Sabres on emergency recall last season is there too.

Just last week, Guhle put his skating on display to score this overtime winner:

Rochester Americans

✓

@AmerksHockey

What a beaut. 😊@guhles_'s OT winning goal. 🍏 #CaptainPorts

10:18 PM - Jan 5, 2018

7 7 Replies 86 86 Retweets 329 329 likes

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In 35 games this season, he's scored 20 points (7+13) and leads the Amerks with 91 shots.

"I really like his mobility obviously, but I like the stick detail that he has defensively and what he does from our goalie working out," Housley said. "Obviously you look at him and he's joining the rush and he's making things happen back there."

Phil Housley (1/8/18)
02:29 • January 8th, 2018

Whether this is a long-term recall remains to be seen. Whatever the outcome, expect Guhle to be on board.

"I know that I just want to become the best player I can be, and the management feels the same way," he said. "Wherever I am at a certain point is what they feel is best for me, and I'm going to agree with that."

Ullmark credits team for All-Star nod

Ullmark was selected to represent the North Division as an AHL All-Star for the second consecutive season last week, one of two Amerks representatives along with forward C.J. Smith. If it were up to the goalie, they'd have even more.

Linus Ullmark (1/8/18)
04:06 • January 8th, 2018

"It means that I have a great team in front of me, first of all," Ullmark said. "If I play good and we still lose, you might not go there. It's a lot easier to go there, and I think we deserve a lot more people going to the All-Star, not just me and C.J. That's just how I feel. We have an All-Star team."

Ullmark is tied for the AHL lead with 17 wins in 26 games this season.

Monday's practice

Housley said that Antipin will need to regain lost weight before he's able to return to the lineup. The defenseman did not travel with the team on their recent three-game road trip as he battled flu-like conditions.

"I think he's just got to work his way back in. He lost some weight, he's ill, and those things don't happen overnight," Housley said. "He's going to take some time to gain some muscle, add some strength back, and right now he's just starting that. It's going to take a little bit of time for him."

With Antipin absent, here's how the Sabres lineup looked at practice:

28 Zemgus Girgensons - 15 Jack Eichel - 21 Kyle Okposo
9 Evander Kane - 90 Ryan O'Reilly - 29 Jason Pominville
20 Scott Wilson / 67 Benoit Pouliot - 71 Evan Rodrigues - 23 Sam Reinhart
22 Johan Larsson - 10 Jacob Josefson - 17 Jordan Nolan

6 Marco Scandella - 55 Rasmus Ristolainen
82 Nathan Beaulieu - 47 Zach Bogosian
45 Brendan Guhle - 19 Jake McCabe
4 Josh Gorges - 41 Justin Falk

31 Chad Johnson
35 Linus Ullmark

Pu records hat trick in 1st weekend with Frontenacs

by Kris Baker










SabresProspects.com

Jan. 8, 2018

Cliff Pu (2016, third round) had an interesting week, one that began with him in a London Knights uniform and later saw him score a hat trick as a member of the Kingston Frontenacs.

After going without a point in the Knights' 4-1 victory over Sarnia on Monday, Pu was the key piece in a Thursday trade that landed him in Kingston as a hired gun for what the Frontenacs feel is a championship caliber squad.

Pu was kept off the scoresheet in his Fronts debut Friday in a 4-3 loss to Windsor, but he announced his presence in a big way the next night by getting into the dirty areas to net three goals plus an assist as Kingston outlasted Barrie 6-4.

Tweet from @OHLHockey: WATCH THIS: Night of firsts for new look @cliffp_8. @BuffaloSabres prospect scores his first   for @KingstonFronts then adds two more    for his first #OHL     in win vs BAR.
pic.twitter.com/uoV7Io281J

Pu concluded the wild week Sunday with a pair of assists in an 8-3 dismantling of Niagara.






Pu is currently ranked seventh in Ontario Hockey League scoring with 51 points (19+32) in 39 games.

Europe

Frolunda HC sniper Victor Olofsson (2014, seventh round) had an excellent week in Swedish Hockey League action, scoring a goal in all three of the Indians' contests.

The week began Tuesday with Olofsson connecting on a second crack after smoking a power-play shot off the pipe seconds before in Frolunda's 2-1 win over Farjestad.

Olofsson scored another pair of power-play markers from his usual spot in the right-wing circle in Thursday's 5-2 loss to Vaxjo Lakers HC, and drilled a dart from the top of the left circle the following day as Frolunda downed Djurgarden IF 4-1.

Tweet from @SabresProspects: Victor Olofsson struck twice on the PP today as Fr   lunda dropped a 5-2 decision to V   . Goals #17 and 18 on the year. #shooter pic.twitter.com/qPjMpZxgjz

Tweet from @SabresProspects: Slick Vic scores for the third straight game, moves back into a share of the SHL goal scoring lead with his 19th of the year (through 32 games). #Sabres pic.twitter.com/nWc2KlIKCk

The productive week gives Olofsson 19 goals in 32 games, which ties for second overall among league scorers, and a total of 28 points, which ranks second on his team.

Rasmus Asplund (2016, second round) notched an assist Tuesday while skating for 20:04 as Farjestad BK fell to Frolunda HC 2-1.

Asplund continued making plays Thursday with one assist in a 5-1 triumph of Rogle BK, and he got back to work Sunday with a pair of helpers as Farjestad edged HV 71 6-5 in overtime.

Asplund has points in three straight contests and 11 of his last 14 to boost his season take to four goals and 18 assists through 32 games.

Djurgarden IF forward Marcus Davidsson (2017, second round) returns to SHL action this week after earning a silver medal with Team Sweden at the 2018 IIF World Junior Hockey Championship. Davidsson has collected nine points (2+7) while averaging 12:00 of work through 23 outings.

Finland's World Junior Championship goaltender Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen (2017, second round) rejoins his teammates with LeKi of Finland's second professional division, Mestis, where has won 10 of his 18 starts this season with a 2.76 goals-against average and a .914 save percentage.

In Finnish junior action, Oskari Laaksonen (2017, third round) was held without a point as Ilves U20 continued the SM-Liiga Junior A season with a pair of wins over IFK Helsinki and Vaasan Sport. Laaksonen has captured three goals and 11 points in 37 games.

NCAA

Casey Mittelstadt (2017, first round) returned to action with his University of Minnesota teammates Sunday, producing three shots on goal as Minnesota upset top-ranked St. Cloud State 2-0.

Through 20 games, Mittelstadt ranks third in team scoring with 17 points (5+12) while leading the Gophers with 2.75 shots on goal per game.

Boston College defenseman Casey Fitzgerald (2016, third round) jump in from the point to finish off a power-play goal Friday as Boston College fell to Michigan Tech 3-2 at the Ice Vegas Invitational.

Fitzgerald, who recorded three shots on goal in Saturday's 3-3 tie with Northern Michigan, has four goals and 12 points at the 20-game mark.

Christopher Brown (2014, sixth round) was blanked Friday as Boston College fell to Michigan Tech, but rebounded with his sixth goal of the year in Saturday's tie with Northern Michigan.

Through 21 games, Brown has 11 points and 50 shots on goal.

After a quiet night in Friday's 5-1 loss to Penn State, Wisconsin forward Linus Weissbach (2017, seventh round) finished off a two-on-one rush Saturday for his sixth goal of the year in the Badgers' 3-3 tie with the Nittany Lions.

Through 20 games, Weissbach has connected for 15 points, 39 shots on goal, and a minus-3 rating.

Jacob Bryson (2017, fourth round) netted one assist last week as Providence blanked Brown 5-0 and closed the weekend with a 5-2 triumph over Merrimack.

Bryson has one goal and a team-best 15 helpers through 22 games.

Massachusetts defenseman Ivan Chukarov (2015, seventh round) picked up an assist Friday in a 5-3 loss at Yale, and followed up with a minus-1 effort Saturday as the Minutemen were throttled 8-3 at Massachusetts-Lowell.

Chukarov has played in 10 games this season, amassing four assists and 12 shots on goal.

William Borgen (2015, fourth round) logged a combined plus-2 rating with three shots on goal over the weekend as St. Cloud split a pair of games with Minnesota, winning 5-2 on Saturday before being shut out 2-0 on Sunday.

Borgen has played in every one of the Huskies' 19 contests, scoring eight points (1+7) with a plus-7 rating.

St. Cloud State forward Judd Peterson (2012, seventh round) contributed seven shots on goal in the weekend split with Minnesota to keep him at 11 points (2+9) in 19 games.

Sophomore forward Brett Murray (2016, fourth round) did not play as Penn State defeated Wisconsin 5-1 on Friday and remained out of the lineup for Saturday's 3-3 tie with the Badgers, leaving him with five points (1+4) in 16 appearances.

Defenseman Philip Nyberg (2016, fifth round) did not dress over the weekend as Connecticut sustained losses to Quinnipiac and Merrimack.

Nyberg has scored twice and produced one assist while earning a plus-5 rating in 12 games with the Huskies.

Maxwell Willman (2014, fifth round) remained out of the Brown lineup over the weekend. Willman has skated in just nine of the Brown's 13 contests this season, picking up one goal, five points, and 25 shots on goal.

OHL

Defenseman Austin Osmanski (2016, seventh round) logged a cumulative minus-4 last week as Peterborough began the year with four consecutive losses.

Osmanski has produced one goal and 12 points in 37 games.

WHL

Defenseman Vojtech Budik (2016, fifth round) returned from the World Junior tournament Saturday, connecting for a goal and an assist on the overtime winner as Prince Albert got past Red Deer 2-1.

Tweet from @SabresProspects: After finishing the WJC t-4th among D in points with five helpers, Vojtech Budik got right back at it last night with 1+1 in Prince Albert's 2-1 OT win #Sabres pic.twitter.com/qn9p2FRuWh

Budik earned another helper Sunday in a 4-1 loss at Regina, bringing his season totals to three goals and 11 points through 34 games.

Red Deer winger Brandon Hagel (2016, sixth round) remained out of action as he recovers from an upper-body injury. Hagel, who has seven goals and 23 points through his first 27 games, could return to the lineup in the coming week.

QMJHL

Vasily Glotov (2016, seventh round) scored a pair of goals Wednesday to help Shawinigan to a 6-1 victory over Rouyn-Noranda.

Tweet from @SabresProspects: Two more goals for Vasily Glotov last night to boost his Cy Young campaign to 17-5 #Sabres pic.twitter.com/7MIzyVVXQF

Glotov remained productive with an assist in Friday's 6-1 loss to Quebec, and added another goal and an assist to his stat line Sunday in a 4-2 victory over Blainville-Boisbriand.

Glotov has come on of late with points in six of his last eight games, giving him a season total of 25 (18+7) through 37 appearances with the Cataractes.

For more on all the youngsters in the Sabres pipeline, check out Kris Baker's website, SabresProspects.com. You can also follow him on Twitter (@SabresProspects) for in-game updates throughout the week on any Buffalo prospects that are in action.

Sharpen Up: January 8, 2018

by Chris Ryndak

Sabres.com

January 8th, 2018

Buffalo is back at practice today at KeyBank Center following their seven-game stretch away from home. They'll host the Winnipeg Jets tomorrow night and a few new faces could be in the lineup.

Here's what you need to know.

Guhle, Ullmark called up

BUFFALO, NY - DECEMBER 06: Brendan Guhle #45 of the Buffalo Sabres skates against the Edmonton Oilers during an NHL game at the KeyBank Center on December 6, 2016 in Buffalo, New York. (Photo by Bill Wippert/NHLI via Getty Images)

BUFFALO, NY - DECEMBER 06: Brendan Guhle #45 of the Buffalo Sabres skates against the Edmonton Oilers during an NHL game at the KeyBank Center on December 6, 2016 in Buffalo, New York. (Photo by Bill Wippert/NHLI via Getty Images) Bill Wippert/Getty Images

The Buffalo Sabres today announced the team has recalled defenseman Brendan Guhle and goaltender Linus Ullmark from the Rochester Americans (AHL).

Guhle (6'2", 196 lbs., 7/29/1997) joins the Sabres for the first time this season after appearing in his first three NHL games with the team in December 2016. A native of Edmonton, Alberta, Guhle has 20 points (7+13) and a team-high 91 shots through 35 games with the Americans in his first full professional season, ranking second in points among rookie AHL defensemen.

Recently named to his second consecutive AHL All-Star game, Ullmark (6'4, 221 lbs., 7/31/1993) is currently tied for the AHL lead with 17 wins in 26 games this season and ranks fourth in the league with a .928 save percentage. The Lugnvik, Sweden native posted an 8-11-2 record with a .913 save percentage and a 2.62 goals-against average in 21 NHL games during the last two seasons.

--We'll have more for you during practice so follow along on social media.--

About yesterday afternoon

From the Lexus Postgame Report...

Sabres fall to Flyers, 4-1

04:05 • January 7th, 2018

For the third game in a row, the Buffalo Sabres found themselves lamenting an incomplete effort following a 4-1 loss to the Philadelphia Flyers on Sunday afternoon. Unlike in their last two games, however, it wasn't their start that they were unhappy with.

Buffalo controlled the play in the first period and took the lead on a power-play goal from Ryan O'Reilly early in the second. Philadelphia captured momentum from that point on, taking a 2-1 lead into the second intermission and finally adding two more goals in the game's final minutes.

"I thought we really came out strong," Sabres coach Phil Housley said. "I think we controlled the play. Obviously we get that big power-play goal to get the first goal of the game, and then from that point we just changed the way we were playing for some reason.

"A lot of east-west plays, turnovers, [poor] puck management, uncharacteristic of what we were doing in the first period."

Ryan O'Reilly Postgame (1/7/18)

02:51 • January 7th, 2018

"We were staying with it, and then we got away from it and for some reason we wanted to make plays instead of trying to do the right thing and make the right choices," Housley said.

Robin Lehner Postgame (1/7/18)

01:14 • January 7th, 2018

"I really thought Robin played strong, especially in the third when we needed a couple of big saves getting caught down low," Housley said. "Guys were beating us up the ice and he was able to come through for us to keep it 2-1. We just couldn't find that run support that we talked about."