



Buffalo Sabres

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Sabres Mailbag: Taylor Hall's future, Jeff Skinner's benching and what's the plan?

By Lance Lysowski
The Buffalo News
February 24, 2021

The noise around Ralph Krueger's lineup decisions grew louder Tuesday when the Buffalo Sabres coach scratched Jeff Skinner for a second consecutive game.

The Sabres winning that night in New Jersey won't quiet the fans, either. Skinner, a 28-year-old winger, is under contract for six more years with an average annual value of \$9 million. He's a premier 5-on-5 goal scorer who has struggled offensively since signing that lucrative contract in June 2019. It's unclear what the Sabres plan to do with their second-highest paid player.

With that in mind, we'll start the latest mailbag with a question about the ideal lineup:

Mike Bliss asks: Of all the players in the organization, which 12 forwards and six defensemen give the Sabres the best chance to win right now? What would your lines and pairs be?

Lance: Among the healthy players available, my lineup would be:

Skinner-Eichel-Reinhart

Hall-Staal-Cozens

Mittelstadt-Eakin-Olofsson

Ruotsalainen-Lazar-Sheahan

Dahlin-Montour

Bryson-Miller

Irwin-Jokiharju

Yes, I am aware some readers probably shouted at their laptops or smartphones when seeing Eakin in the lineup. The Sabres' penalty kill is in a dire situation. Jake McCabe, Rasmus Ristolainen, Tobias Rieder and Will Borgen are injured. Eakin can win faceoffs and has been strong enough in his role killing penalties.

Casey Mittelstadt deserves a long look, Skinner needs a real opportunity alongside his two former linemates and Arttu Ruotsalainen can adjust to the NHL on the wing, much like Dylan Cozens. This lineup will need to change when Rieder returns because he's a valuable player.

Paul Panfalone: Is it time to blow up the roster and start over again?

Lance answers: No. This is a very delicate situation, and we're going to find out if General Manager Kevyn Adams is ready for the challenge. He must make enough cap space to sign Taylor Hall, prove to Eichel there is a clear path to winning and decide what to do with Skinner.

Some analysts would say this team has too many holes to contend. I disagree. This version of the Sabres is underachieving. Injuries and Covid-19 have derailed them in many ways, but there is a strong foundation to build a winner. Hitting reset again would be catastrophic.

Tom Osika: Do you see the Sabres trading for a defenseman?

Lance answers: Teams won't be eager to part ways with effective defensemen. The Sabres aren't the only team dealing with injuries and a situation related to Covid-19. That said, Adams absolutely needs to make a trade.

Jacob Bryson was outstanding Tuesday in New Jersey. He looked far more prepared for the jump to the NHL, but he plays high-event hockey. Allowing high-danger chances typically doesn't sit well with Krueger. The Sabres will be stronger if they do not rely on Bryson too soon. Add a veteran defenseman who can help on the penalty kill.

Peter Morris: Gut feeling, what happens with Taylor Hall? Trade at the deadline? Sign another contract with the Sabres?

Lance answers: My gut tells me Hall is traded before the deadline and signs elsewhere. The Sabres can't afford to pay Hall, Eichel and Skinner. Sam Reinhart and Rasmus Dahlin will soon need contract extensions. Plus, Hall is in Buffalo because of Krueger, whose lack of success through two seasons will naturally raise questions about his long-term future with the Sabres.

Moving Hall and Eric Staal at the deadline would provide the Sabres with valuable assets. The injury to McCabe and uncertainty about Ristolainen make any playoff push seem far-fetched at this point. If the Sabres want to sign Hall, they would be wise to try to increase Skinner's value for a possible trade this summer to the Seattle Kraken, a team now led by two of his former general managers: Ron Francis and Jason Botterill. Any trade would require the Sabres to eat a considerable portion of Skinner's salary, but even that would be impossible if he is scratched or ineffective in fourth-line usage.

Adam Gosse: Should the Sabres hire a president of hockey operations to work with Kevyn Adams?

Lance answer: Assistant general managers are more important to any organization than a president of hockey operations. The Sabres currently don't have any assistant general managers, so there's no specific person overseeing Rochester. Amerks first-year coach Seth Appert can't be the one making roster decisions. It's an unprecedented year with significant shortfalls in revenue, but the Pegulas can't expect to win if they don't provide Adams with the personnel to succeed.

These hockey operations positions exist for a reason. It's time to build an analytics department around Jason Nightingale and strengthen the staff around Adams.

Rob R S asks: Do the Jack Eichel trade rumors have legs or is it more likely he's dealt in the offseason?

Lance answers: Let's be clear: There aren't actual trade rumors. This is bloggers chasing page views by turning Elliotte Friedman's answer during a radio interview into a headline. Nothing has changed with this situation since a report first surfaced about the New York Rangers calling the Sabres about Eichel. Eichel wants to win. Another regime change was difficult to swallow after all he's experienced in Buffalo. But Eichel still has a good relationship with Krueger and seemed encouraged by Adams' first offseason. Eichel's agent, Peter Fish, told TSN's Bob McKenzie in September that Eichel doesn't want out.

The Sabres need to show Eichel that the franchise finally has stability and that there's a clear plan to win. There's no substance to the trade chatter, at the moment.

Nathan Cohen: What needs to happen for Terry and Kim Pegula to understand that their current strategy as owners isn't working?

Lance answers: In some ways, it happened with the decision to fire Botterill and 21 other hockey operations employees in June. The Pegulas did not believe that management structure was going to produce a winner and they pivoted to the current plan with Adams.

Firing people isn't a cure-all. The Sabres parted ways with valuable employees and have yet to strengthen areas of need within the organization. The owners will continue to be involved because they pay the bills, but they need to understand that changing course every three years does more harm than good.

Dean Smith: Do you agree that benching a veteran player like Skinner, while at the same time giving a free pass to others with their lack of production, affects the way Krueger is viewed by the rest of the team?

Lance answers: This was a risky move by Krueger. It created a potential distraction and might have upset more than one player in that dressing room. Consistency matters and the modern-day athlete does not appreciate mind games. Krueger would do himself and his players a favor by being candid when discussing these matters publicly through the media.

Don't give a veiled response when asked why Skinner is scratched. Provide a better explanation as to why this team can't score more in 5-on-5 situations. Shoulder the responsibility on nights when your players don't execute a game plan. The same rah-rah responses about feeling pain following a loss don't sit well with a fan base that's one of the most knowledgeable in the National Hockey League.

I'm not suggesting Krueger throw Skinner under the bus in an interview with the media, but there's a delicate, more effective way to approach what's become an increasingly difficult situation.

@HockeyIQ716 asks: Should the Sabres keep Dylan Cozens at right wing or try him at center?

Lance answers: Keep him at right wing. The Sabres are handling Cozens' development brilliantly. Don't rush him into a role at center. Allow the 20-year-old to play in the top six along two outstanding veteran forwards in Staal and Hall. Cozens is going to learn a wealth of knowledge from Staal, who was an invaluable offseason addition.

It's remarkable how much better the Sabres are with Cozens in the lineup. Stick to the current plan and let him continue to build confidence. Cozens can take over at center next season.

Kyle Clar: Any extension talks between the Sabres and players on expiring contracts? Any surprises in Rochester so far?

Lance answers: No extension talks yet. The Sabres can begin negotiating with Hall's agent March 12. It's difficult to imagine the money working for both sides, but there's time to try to make the contract fit under the cap.

As for Rochester, Mattias Samuelsson is further along in his development than I expected. He's improved his play with the puck, specifically on breakouts, and remains solid defensively. The Sabres need a left-handed defenseman. Samuelsson should receive a look in the NHL this season.

Five players you forgot played for the Sabres

By Brayton J. Wilson

WGR 550

February 24, 2021

Nearly two weeks ago, a fun discussion was brought up during Schopp and the Bulldog in the afternoon on WGR: Who's your favorite Buffalo Sabres player that no one should remember?

Some of the names that were brought up were pretty great.

- Dan Paille
- Connor Knapp
- Mike Funk
- Joe Juneau
- Dainius Zubrus

Just to name a few in the Sabres' 50-plus years of existence in the National Hockey League.

Some of the names mentioned have more significance to fans than others, while others were able to have some success in their time in Buffalo. Everyone remembers specific players on the team for one reason or another, while some have a unique ability to remember players who maybe spent a small handful of games with the Sabres.

But who were some of those players that suited up for the Sabres that you may not remember?

Tim Kelly from RADIO.COM Sports has done a phenomenal job with his NFL series of articles featuring five players that you may have forgot played for a certain franchise. Spoiler alert: His Buffalo Bills feature could be coming "relatively soon".

With that inspiration in mind, here are five notable players you may have forgot played for the Sabres:

1.) Vyacheslav "Slava" Kozlov

Kozlov was one of the two main pieces in the Dominik Hasek trade with the Detroit Red Wings in 2001, along with a first round pick in the 2002 NHL Draft. That first round pick eventually ended up belonging to the Atlanta Thrashers, who then turned the 30th overall selection into forward Jim Slater.

After a 10-year career with the Red Wings, where he amassed 415 points (202+213) in 607 games, the Russian forward played just one injury-riddled season in Buffalo, scoring nine goals and registering 13 assists for 22 points.

One thing Sabres fans might remember about Kozlov is how much he hated his time in Buffalo and wanted out during and after his first season. He ended up getting his wish after the 2001-02 season, when he was traded to the Thrashers and ended up spending the final seven years of his career in Atlanta.

While his one season in Buffalo was memorable for all the wrong reasons, his career in the NHL went quite well with 853 points (356+297) in 1,182 games, and two Stanley Cups with the Red Wings as part of the famed "Russian Five".

2.) Dave Schultz

It seemed like everyone in Buffalo hated Dave Schultz in his years spent with the Philadelphia Flyers as part of the "Broad Street Bullies" in the 1970s. While in Philadelphia, he won two Stanley Cups, including his second in 1975 when the Flyers upended the Sabres in six games.

But did you remember his two seasons spent with the Sabres from 1978 to 1980?

Schultz, otherwise known as "The Hammer", only appeared in 41 games with Buffalo, scoring three goals and adding three assists for six points, while also amassing 114 penalty minutes in his brief time with the Sabres. He also spent some time with the Rochester Americans in the 1979-80 season, where he scored 10 goals and registered 14 assists for 24 points, while also committing 248 minutes worth of penalties.

Those two seasons ended up being the final years of his NHL career, as he would retire and later pursue a coaching career in minor league hockey.

In his 535 games in the NHL with the Flyers, Los Angeles Kings, Pittsburgh Penguins and Sabres, Schultz put up a respectable 200 points (79+121), while registering 2,292 penalty minutes, which is good for 35th in NHL history.

3.) Rob Niedermayer

The younger brother of Hall of Fame defenseman Scott Niedermayer and former fifth overall pick of the Florida Panthers in the 1993 NHL Draft, Rob Niedermayer signed with the Sabres as an unrestricted free agent during the summer of 2010.

While his role with the Sabres in the 2010-11 season was a limited one, he still managed to net five goals and add 14 assists for 19 points in 71 games. In the 2011 Stanley Cup Playoffs (Buffalo's most recent appearance in the playoffs), the grizzled veteran was able to contribute with a goal and three assists in seven games before losing to the Flyers in the Eastern Conference Quarterfinal Round.

The following offseason, Niedermayer signed to play in Switzerland before calling it a career after 17 NHL seasons and 1,153 career games. In that time frame with the Panthers, Calgary Flames, Anaheim Ducks, New Jersey Devils and Sabres, Niedermayer went on to score 186 career goals and 283 assists for 469 points.

Although Niedermayer never lived up to the offensive expectations that hovered over him after his draft year, he still managed to carve a nice role for himself in his NHL career as a suitable depth player. He also managed to come away with a Stanley Cup with the Ducks in 2007, alongside his brother Scott.

4.) Doug Gilmour

With the Sabres pushing for a possible return to the Stanley Cup Final in the 2000 season, the team went out and acquired Gilmour from the Chicago Blackhawks at the NHL Trade Deadline.

The veteran center was a jolt of energy for the Buffalo lineup in 11 games to end the season, scoring three goals and adding 14 assists for 17 points. However, the Sabres ended up losing in the first round of the playoffs in a five-game series to the Flyers.

The next season saw Gilmour miss some time due to injury, but he still produced with seven goals and 31 assists for 38 points in 71 games. In the playoffs, Gilmour was a solid veteran presence in the locker room, but was relatively quiet with two goals and four assists in 13 games. Buffalo advanced as far as the seventh game of the Eastern Conference Semifinal Round against the Penguins, but Darius Kasparaitis ended the Sabres' hopes of a championship with the game-winning goal in overtime.

After the season, Gilmour went on to sign as a free agent with the Montreal Canadiens, and only ended up playing two more seasons before retiring after a Hall of Fame career.

While Gilmour's time in Buffalo may not be all that memorable, he was, no doubt, an electrifying player in the NHL career with 1,414 points (450+964) in 1,474 career games. He also finished his career with 188 points (60+128) in 182 career playoff games, including a Stanley Cup championship in 1989 with the Flames.

5.) Clark Gillies

It's another Hockey Hall of Famer that you may not remember spending time with the Sabres.

Gillies was part of the memorable New York Islanders dynasty that won four-straight Stanley Cup championships from 1980 to 1983. After a memorable 12-year run with the Islanders from 1974 to 1986, the, then, 32-year-old was claimed by the Sabres in the NHL waiver draft.

The left winger went on to spend two seasons with the Sabres, appearing in just 86 games with 15 goals and 19 assists for 34 points.

His best season came in the 1986-87 campaign, when he scored 10 goals and added 17 assists for 27 points in 61 games.

The next season saw Gillies only play in 25 games with five goals and two assists, while also adding an assist in five playoff games. The Sabres ended up losing that year in the Adams Division Semifinal Round to the Boston Bruins in six games.

In 958 career games over a 14-year span in the NHL, Gillies went on to score 319 goals and compile 378 assists for 697 points. In the playoffs, Gillies was phenomenal with 47 goals and 47 assists for 94 points in 164 games.

Honorable mention: Jaroslav Halak

Oh yeah, remember Halak?

No? Can't blame you, since he spent less than a week with the organization.

Yes, he did suit up for one game for the Sabres after being acquired from the St. Louis Blues as part of the Ryan Miller and Steve Ott trade on Feb. 28, 2014. No, he didn't actually play a game for Buffalo before being traded to the Washington Capitals on March 5.

In this case, Halak technically doesn't count, but he still deserves some sort of mention.

Sabres' Kyle Okposo starting to find groove following slow start

By Bill Hoppe

Olean Times Herald

February 24, 2021

BUFFALO – In the waning seconds of Tuesday's 4-1 win, Sabres winger Kyle Okposo grabbed the puck high in his zone and cleared it out just past the blue line.

A second later, center Cody Eakin scooped it up, skated through the neutral zone and scored an empty-net goal just before time expired against the New Jersey Devils.

In his 11th game this season, Okposo finally recorded his first point.

Okposo, 32, has started his 14th NHL campaign slowly, battling injuries after a 10-month layoff because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A lower-body ailment Okposo suffered in the final scrimmage sidelined him the first five games. Coach Ralph Krueger, whose Sabres host New Jersey tonight at KeyBank Center, said the veteran was also battling another undisclosed injury.

Incredibly, Okposo registered just one shot on goal in his first six outings.

"It was hard coming off 10 months not playing a game and just trying to find your rhythm and then miss the first five games," Okposo said on a Zoom call Sunday. "It's not easy, but you got to find a way to deal with it and you got find a way to contribute. I just felt like personally I was a little bit, I don't now, the game was fast, I was a little bit scatterbrained out there just trying to get used to it again.

"But I know that in the shortened season, we don't really have time for that."

So when the Sabres began their COVID-19 pause earlier this month, Okposo said he "kind of took a deep dive into my game."

The power forward consulted with some friends, coaches and others who analyze his play. He also went back and watched his games.

"I kind of narrowed my focus on a few different things, and usually when I do that, I just simplify, I make the game as simple as possible, and then my game starts to build from there," he said.

Krueger said on Saturday he had seen "bit and pieces" of Okposo's confidence emerge since the break ended.

"It's completely normal for a player of his style to need a little more time to get going after the long break and then the ... two different bodily injuries," Krueger said.

He added: "I see a healthy Kyle Okposo actually for the first time this season now and I believe that going to be a step back into being able to play in both directions the game that we need so desperately from him."

On Tuesday, Okposo pumped five shots on goal. He had only mustered nine in his first 10 games.

Okposo's Corsi For on Tuesday – the percentage of shot attempts by the team while a player is on the ice five-on-five – was a Buffalo-high 61.1%, according to NaturalStatTrick.com.

"I feel like since we've been back I've been more like myself," said Okposo, whose puck retrieval Thursday created the Sabres' only goal that night. "Our line's starting to click a little bit. I think we just got to pop that first once we're going to go from there."

The empty-netter was Eakin's first score this season, leaving Okposo, Jeff Skinner and Tage Thompson as the Sabres' regular forwards still goalless.

In his NHL debut Tuesday, Sabres defenseman Jacob Bryson, 23, registered one shot on goal and a plus-2 rating while skating 17 minutes, 59 seconds. He also hit the post after joining the rush in the first period and took a tripping penalty in the second.

"He's a really smart player," Krueger said following the game. "We weren't surprised. There were times he still needed to correct the speed with which things happen, the gaps and how hard they are to get in the NHL. But with the puck, we liked his confidence throughout.

"He participated in the game without any fear. Just another good find for us on the defense, where we're going to need depth moving forward. It was encouraging to see that today."

—

The Sabres, who had a CBA-mandated day off Wednesday, returned goalie Dustin Tokarski from the taxi squad to the Rochester Americans.

Hamilton Take2: Is Jack Eichel starting to get his game in gear?

By Paul Hamilton

WGRZ

February 24, 2021

BUFFALO, N.Y. — This may sound really strange, but I think hitting two posts and missing a great opportunity shooting wide on the power play really helped Jack Eichel.

I talked about this on Tuesday's postgame show. First the Sabres captain missed the net on an open one-timer, and then he beat Devils goalie Mackenzie Blackwood twice but hit the post both times.

Eichel does have assists in three of his last four games, including one on Rasmus Asplund's goal on Tuesday, but he just hasn't seemed right. The game on Monday against the Islanders was in my mind easily his worst of the season. He looked hurt to me, but Ralph Krueger said Eichel is not playing hurt and just needs a boost in confidence.

After that power play I thought that Eichel appeared to gain confidence maybe because he was getting such good chances. You could see some pep in his skating.

He was engaged and winning battles, he was looking confident as he carried the puck up ice knowing that the opponent was seeing he had speed coming through the neutral zone. He was strong on his entries and wouldn't allow the defense to stop his forward momentum.

He was so excited after Asplund scored and you could tell he felt good for the kid.

Eichel has two goals this season and hasn't scored in eight games, but he just looked different against the Devils. He looked like he was enjoying the game again and it was coming to him easier.

Unfortunately, it's likely way too late because after just over a month of the season, it looks like this season has gotten away from the Sabres. Pittsburgh and the Islanders hold down third and fourth place in the East, seven points in front of the Sabres.

If the Sabres were in fifth place and seven points behind, that would be a whole different conversation, but they still must pass the Rangers, New Jersey and Philadelphia before they can even start setting their eyes on a playoff spot, and that's just too big a hill to climb with this kind of competition in the East.

Let me be Mr. Optimistic for a moment, and let's say they beat the Devils on Thursday and take both games from the Flyers over the weekend, all in regulation. That would give Buffalo 20 points, and they would be in front of the Devils for sure, but not necessarily Philadelphia because the Flyers played the Rangers on Wednesday night.

With there being only division games and many of them going to overtime guaranteeing points for both teams, you just can't dig this big of a hole and expect to crawl out of it.

Now if the Sabres could somehow put together a 10-game winning streak, then they would vault themselves back into the playoff race, but short of that, well, I won't use the words.

Hockey Analytics: Sam Reinhart All Powered Up

By Gus Katsaros

Yahoo! Sports

February 24, 2021

Entering Tuesday night's game against the New Jersey Devils, Buffalo Sabres Sam Reinhart, had three points at 5v5, with a point on 75% of on-ice goals scored. He added two assists against the Devils, one each at even strength and on the power play. His 5v4 performance this season has been exemplary and could be the fuel he burns brightly into his next contract negotiation. If he can sustain that pace. He is currently, earning a 5v4 point on 72.7% of on-ice goals scored – a far cry from his career average of 43.1%. His four goals on eight shots are ... well, exceptionally good, but let's not kid ourselves about a 50% shooting percentage.

At the end of 2020-21, the 25-year old will become a restricted free agent with arbitration rights. He'll be offered at least his last contract (\$5.25AAV) and his next deal will be an event of great debate.

Reinhart topped out at a career high 25 goals in 2017-18 (scoring 11 via 5v4), and followed up with career high 65 points in 2018-19 but with fewer goals overall – coincidentally the only seasons dressing for a full schedule.

While earning a career high in points, he generated his best individual expected goals and Corsi For (shot attempts for) at 5v5 – leading to 17 goals at 5v5, and potted only one goal at 5v4.

Charting out the results, a 25.58% shooting percentage at 5v4 produced 11 goals in 2017-18, and the following season a career worst, 4.17% shooting percentage drained the shooting luck from the power play. The balance came in elevated 5v5 scoring – with an increase in shooting percentage to 11.64%.

He scored his third and fourth goals at 5v4 this season in consecutive games before Tuesday night versus NJ, where he added a power play assist, and ranked 12th overall in power play goals.

Focus on the series of columns to the far right for individual expected goals, Corsi For, Scoring Chances For, and High Danger Scoring Chances for. On the power play, Reinhart is producing consistent chances even if they aren't shaping up to be goals.

He recorded an assist on the Sabres first goal last night, ballooning his 5v4 Pts/60 rate – while earning a point on 72% of on-ice goals scored. That stat alone would be a concerning factor that should indicate a downturn, but scrolling through his power play rates (per 60), he's on a staggering pace while firing 57% prior to his eighth shot on goal Tuesday night – dropping his shooting percentage to 50%.

Still .. three points at 5v5 – at a career low pace, entering Tuesday before recording an assist on the Sabres second goal, while continuing to play alongside Eichel and Taylor Hall.

Hall replaced Victor Olofsson who was the third player from last season. His partnering with Eichel began during his career high season, playing with then productive, Jeff Skinner, following a trade that sent Ryan O'Reilly (his previous linemate) to the Blues.

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BUFFALO SABRES STRUGGLES

The Sabres have other deeper issues, starting with a struggling Jack Eichel – who picked up an assist on a 5v5 goal and begging the question, if both players improved – even a slight improvement moving the needle a few percentage points – while somehow maintaining pace on the power play could be producing exceptional totals. A career high scoring pace would be a solid foundation on which to build a case for a long term extension.

It can be argued since Reinhart entered in the NHL at 2015-16 as a rookie, he's been one of the best players on the club, as both a leader and in support – this is key. Sometimes in order for other players to reach their potential they need a catalyst to strengthen their game. Players in proper support positions help out teammates and the team in general, setting up structure within the system.

It's like salt.

Adding depth and flavor to cooking, it also effectively draws out moisture. Sprinkle salt on an eggplant or zucchini before cooking to draw out moisture, heightening taste, and making them easier to fry. Reinhart draws out the best skills in linemates playing in a support position, like salt draws out moisture.

I re-wrote his scouting profile for McKeen's Hockey a couple of years ago.

McKeen's - Scouting: Intelligence and subtly skilled, highlighted with elite vision and keen hockey sense – positions within structure, adjusting angles as plays evolve.. lines up as a winger or center .. efficient skating, functional, but lacking explosiveness .. clean turns and reversals – exploited in transition – with short crossover steps to enhance full stride acceleration .. quicker than appears with economic footwork .. can adapt to physical game along the boards .. emerged as a PP net-front presence – very effective orchestrating play below the goal line .. understated skill level – impromptu dangles out of nothing and brilliant puckhandling maneuvers exploiting quick hands .. passes look ordinary, yet conducts precision distribution across the offensive zone slotline and in dangerous areas .. smart and structured - attends to technical details in the defensive zone, .. fluid in cycle switches in support and battles in the offensive zone .. makes meticulous reads – influencing the game flow in every zone .. poised under pressure every move has rationale .. benefits greatly from spiking his intensity at certain key times .. drives play – the straw that stirs the drink.

That last piece is important, he's arguably been their best player, not their most skilled, that's a runaway Eichel, but Reinhart provides excellent on-ice characteristics when in the lineup.

Uncertainty clouds over Buffalo with a lot of different end game scenarios. If they end up trading Eichel, can a full on rebuild continue – and if so, Reinhart would fetch a small ransom on the trade market.

If he keeps producing like this, Buffalo may entice another team to take on the potential restricted free agent at the trade deadline. He would be a highly sought after commodity if Buffalo decided to go that route.

There's a lot of ifs in that statement, so it's probably best to take it with a grain of salt.

Tokarski reassigned to Rochester

By Jourdon LaBarber

Sabres.com

February 24, 2021

The Buffalo Sabres have reassigned goaltender Dustin Tokarski from the taxi squad to the Rochester Americans, the team announced Wednesday.

Tokarski has appeared in two games with Rochester this season, posting a .932 save percentage.

The Amerks' game Wednesday was postponed due to COVID-19 protocols affecting their opponent, the Syracuse Crunch. They are scheduled to resume play Friday at Utica.