



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

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TONIGHT'S GAME: Charlotte @ Rochester

Sabres prospect Justin Bailey trying to evolve with Amerks

Olean Times Herald

By: Bill Hoppe

Even with a 6-foot-3, 210-pound frame, hitting can be difficult for Buffalo Sabres prospect Justin Bailey, a slick goal scorer trying develop more tools.

“It’s not as easy as people think, even as I think,” Bailey said Friday following the Rochester Americans’ 2-0 loss to the Utica Comets. “Hitting’s difficult to do.”

Bailey, 22, said he has learned thumping opponents – “Making sure that you’re not killing a guy from behind,” he used as an example – is an art.

“I know they want that up there,” he said of hitting.

Up there, of course, is Buffalo. Bailey has already played 40 NHL games, including 32 last season. This season, his third as a pro, was supposed to be the year the speedy winger finally cracked the Sabres out of training camp.

“I thought I was very, very close,” said Bailey, who was assigned to the Amerks again Sept. 30.

He added: “I know more than anybody how difficult it is going up and down, up and down all the time.”

Update: The Sabres recalled Bailey this morning.

Bailey said Sabres general manager Jason Botterill and coach Phil Housley gave him a “very positive” message as he left, telling him they “loved” his camp.

“But they want me to come down here and dominate, work on those little things, clean those up, so that when I come up there, then hopefully I don’t come back down,” Bailey said.

Bailey has dominated the AHL at times, occasionally morphing into perhaps the league’s most lethal scorer.

“When I’ve gotten hot, I’ve gotten very hot,” said Bailey, an AHL All-Star last season.

The Williamsville native scored two goals in the Amerks’ season-opening 3-1 win Oct. 6. Overall, he has compiled 45 goals in 125 AHL appearances.

That slick scoring, however, hasn’t translated to the NHL, where Bailey has scored just twice.

So Bailey, a second-round pick in 2013, has been trying to evolve and adapt his game for a different style. His future in the NHL might be as a third- or fourth-liner, a role the Sabres cast him in throughout the preseason.

“I felt like I added a couple tools, penalty kill and trying to play that fourth-line, third-line role where I bring energy, bring speed,” Bailey said. “The small details, sounds a little cliché, but making sure that every single shift, when it’s not top six up there, that I’m doing the little things that guys on the third and fourth line do.”

To thrive as a checker, Bailey must utilize his big frame and showcase physicality.

“It’s something I’m trying to do down here,” he said.

That was evident Friday as Bailey was the Amerks’ most physical presence inside the Blue Cross War Memorial, consistently bumping some Comets.

If Bailey keeps playing that style, he could earn another recall to the Sabres.

“There is still time, I’m still on that first deal of mine,” said Bailey, who just started the final season of his three-year, entry-level contract. “So I can come down here and clean those little things up and try to do everything I can to get back up there and make it very difficult for them to send me back down.”

Where is Alex Nylander?

Buffalo News

By: Mike Harrington

Former No. 1 draft pick Alexander Nylander has been off the ice since he was injured in the Sabres' first prospect game in mid-September. He missed all of training camp, derailing any hope of him cracking the NHL lineup. Now he's missed the start of the season in Rochester too.

But Nylander is getting closer to a return to the ice and a start to his season.

"It's a situation where obviously it's gone longer than we first anticipated," General Manager Jason Botterill admitted to The News prior to the Sabres' game Tuesday against the Vegas Golden Knights.

"But it's also a scenario where we want him to feel comfortable so this is not an injury that nags him the entire season. Hopefully we get him back on the ice next week and we start progressing from there."

The Sabres are calling it a lower-body injury and the problem is believed to be to Nylander's groin or hamstring.

"He's had a lot of time off so we're going to need some time for him to get back in hockey shape," Botterill said. "The last thing we want to do is put him out there and have him have a setback in one game."

The Amerks are 2-1 thus far and will have only played three times in the season's first 14 days before starting a back-to-back Friday at home against Charlotte.

"Fortunately, the situation in the American Hockey League is they don't have a lot of games right now," Botterill said. "So if Alex sits out a little longer, there's a lot of season left and he's not missing all that much time."

Sabres look to Bailey again for some offense

Buffalo News

By: Mike Harrington

With Kyle Okposo ill and most of the forwards not producing offensively, the Sabres have recalled winger Justin Bailey from Rochester.

Bailey, who has a team-high two goals in three games for the Amerks, should be available when the Sabres play the Anaheim Ducks tonight at 9 in Honda Center. The team will not be having a morning skate today.

Coach Phil Housley said before Saturday's 4-2 loss in Los Angeles that Okposo might miss tonight's game and that the team was targeting Tuesday's trip to Vegas for his return. Meanwhile, offensive production continues to be a huge problem as Buffalo has just 11 goals from four players during its 0-4-1 start.

Bailey can also add some punch to the penalty kill, which was a crushing 0 for 3 against the Kings after going 13 for 14 to start the season. Jacob Josefson lost the night's key faceoff and Benoit Pouliot failed to get to the point on Drew Doughty's game-winning goal.

Bailey, who had 23 goals and 36 points last year for the Amerks, has not produced much during multiple NHL stints with just two goals and two assists in 40 games. He failed to crack the lineup to start the season this year after a pedestrian preseason

In a corresponding move, the Sabres placed defenseman Zach Bogosian on injured reserve to make room on the roster for Bailey. Bogosian has yet to play this season due to a lower body injury suffered Sept. 30 in the final preseason game against the New York Islanders.

Justin Bailey called up to Sabres

Democrat & Chronicle

By: Andy Lipari

With a 0-4-1 start to the season, the Buffalo Sabres need a jolt, and they are counting on Justin Bailey to give it to them.

The Sabres announced Sunday they have recalled the forward to Buffalo and placed Zach Bogosian on injured reserve.

Bailey scored twice in the Amerks season opener against Syracuse and has a plus-2 rating after three games. Through six games, only four Sabres have scored a goal.

Last season Bailey ranked was third on the Amerks with 23 goals and 36 points in 52 games. In 40 career NHL games, the 22-year-old has two goals and two assists.

The Sabres were to play in Anaheim on Sunday night and there was no word from the Sabres that he would be ready to play in such a short amount of time. Buffalo heads to Las Vegas Tuesday in the final game of its west-coast trip, in which Bailey will likely make his season debut.

Sabres Recall Bailey

ESPN

By: Staff Report

With Kyle Okposo sick and many of the forwards ineffective, Jason Botterill has seen enough. The Sabres GM has recalled Justin Bailey from Rochester.

The winger had two goals and no assists in his three games with the Amerks.

Buffalo has scored 11 goals in its five losses with Evander Kane, Jason Pominville and Jack Eichel scoring 10 of them.

To make room for Bailey, Zach Bogosian has been placed on injured reserve.

Buffalo is in Anaheim tonight. Join Brian Koziol for the pregame starting at 9:00 when he'll be joined by Phil Housley, Rasmus Ristolainen and hopefully Bailey.