



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

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TONIGHT'S GAME: Utica @ Rochester

Injuries force Sabres to recall Taylor Fedun; Chad Johnson to start *Olean Times Herald*

By: Bill Hoppe

The Sabres' rash of injuries forced them to recall Taylor Fedun this morning. Will the defenseman play tonight against the Vancouver Canucks?

"I was the odd man out in practice today, so I assume I will not be," Fedun said this morning after skating inside KeyBank Center.

The 1-4-2 Sabres are so banged up, they summoned Fedun from the Rochester Americans just so they have an extra player tonight.

"We're pretty banged up," Sabres coach Phil Housley said. "We got to get some bodies up here just in case something happens. Feds had a really good, strong camp."

Still, the Sabres will use rookie defenseman Victor Antipin to replace Josh Gorges, who's day-to-day with a lower-body injury. The Sabres scratched Antipin, who spent his entire career overseas before this season, the last four games.

"It's good for me," Antipin, who's still learning the North American style, said of sitting out. Housley wanted Antipin to work on his defending.

"He's come a long way in that regard with a good stick position and body position, and he's got to use his speed," Housley said. "That's one asset he has, just to close quickly and create that body position early ... and also just making that first pass out of the zone."

The Sabres will also scratch forward Zemgus Girgensons, who's day-to-day after blocking a shot early in Tuesday's 5-4 overtime loss in Vegas. Winger Seth Griffin will move in after sitting out two games.

The Sabres also lost center Jacob Josefson to a lower-body injury in Sunday's 3-1 win in Anaheim. Josefson is sporting a walking boot on his right foot. To make room for Fedun, the Sabres place Josefson on injured reserve.

In other news, Housley will give goalie Chad Johnson his third straight start. No. 1 goalie Robin Lehner felt sick and missed Thursday's practice, although he skated this morning. The Sabres also play Saturday in Boston.

Tonight is the Sabres' first home contest since Oct 9. They went 1-2-1 on their four-game road trip.

What can help the Sabres, notoriously slow starters, open the game well?

"Details," Sabres winger Jason Pominville said. "I think you've always heard first game back from a road trip sometimes might be a little sloppy, some teams might have a tougher time. We got to

... jump on a team that played last night. They should be the tired. We should be the team that's ready to play and desperate.”

The Canucks lost 6-3 on Thursday in Boston.

In other injuries news, Housley said center Evan Rodrigues, out since hurting his hand four weeks ago, should start skating soon. Rodrigues is week-to-week.

Here are tonight's forward lines and defense pairs from left to right:

- Evander Kane, Jack Eichel and Pominville
- Justin Bailey, Ryan O'Reilly and Kyle Okposo
- Benoit Pouliot, Sam Reinhart and Griffith
- Matt Moulson, Johan Larsson and Jordan Nolan
- Marco Scandella and Rasmus Ristolainen
- Jake McCabe and Antipin
- Nathan Beaulieu and Matt Tennyson

After a wretched start at center, Reinhart, who has scored in two straight games, finally got going last week when Housley moved him to right wing. Injuries, however, forced him back to the middle.

“He found his niche going back to the wing and was contributing,” Housley said. “Going back to the middle, he's still going to be effective, he's going to play a 200-foot game. I really like the net-front presence he's provided for us on our power play.”

Recalled for insurance, Taylor Fedun is ready to contribute to the Sabres

Buffalo News

By: Amy Moritz

He was the last player off the ice Friday morning. And while he didn't know the plan, Taylor Fedun had a pretty good guess that he would be the odd man out when the Buffalo Sabres hosted the Vancouver Canucks a few hours later in KeyBank Center.

Fedun was recalled from the Rochester Americans on Friday and was the only healthy extra skater on the Sabres roster.

The defenseman's presence was an insurance policy, particularly with back-to-back games Friday against Vancouver and Saturday in Boston against the Bruins.

However he got to Buffalo, he's in the NHL for now. And any step toward his goal is a good step.

"There hasn't been a ton of games for us down in Rochester," Fedun said in KeyBank Center on Friday. "We've only played three, so it's a pretty small sample size down there, but so far so good. It's always been my goal to get back here. It's one step in the right direction."

Fedun was one of the final cuts from Sabres training camp. In his seventh year of professional hockey, the 29-year-old has played in 39 NHL games – 27 of them coming with the Sabres last season.

He had a strong camp, was one of the last players assigned to Rochester, and was seen as a key piece of the Sabres depth.

And Buffalo already needs to use its depth.

Defenseman Josh Gorges (lower body) is listed as day-to-day while blue liners Justin Falk (undisclosed) and Zach Bogosian (lower body) are both on injured reserve. The forwards have taken a hit as well, with Zemgus Girgensons (lower body) day-to-day, Jacob Josefson placed on the disabled list with a lower body injury, and Evan Rodrigues still on the injured reserve with a wrist injury.

"We're pretty banged up. We've got to get some bodies up here in case something happens," Sabres coach Phil Housley said. Fedun "had a strong camp, and it's unfortunate he wasn't on our team, but he's been called up."

Fedun, who is an alternate captain for the Amerks, has one assist in three games as Rochester has started the season, 2-1.

"It's a completely different team with the energy in the locker room and, I think, with the way guys are getting along," said Fedun, who had 23 points in 29 games for Rochester last year.

"For me, it's the style that we're trying to play here. It's something that should be good for my game with the style that I try to play, in terms of trying to get back to pucks and move them up and jump into spots offensively. I think that's something where it's still early in the season, but it's something I hope will be a good fit for me."

Sabres recall Fedun

News 10 NBC

Staff Report

The Buffalo Sabres announced on Friday that they have recalled defenseman Taylor Fedun from the Rochester Americans.

After signing a two-year contract with the Sabres in June, Fedun has one assist in three games with the Americans. He played in 27 NHL games during the 2016-17 season and recorded a career-high seven points. He also led Sabres defensemen in assists per 60. His 5-on-5 shot attempts percentage ranked 23rd among all NHL defensemen with more than five games played in 2016-17.

Fedun has totaled 14 points and a plus-3 rating throughout parts of four NHL seasons. He has recorded 156 points and a plus-20 rating in 295 regular-season games throughout his six AHL seasons, adding eight points in 28 playoff games.

In a related move, the Sabres have placed forward Jacob Josefson on injured reserve

The Wraparound: Canucks 4, Sabres 2

Buffalo News

By: John Vogl

The Sabres didn't catch a break Friday. They didn't really deserve one.

Vancouver skated into KeyBank Center for its second game in two nights, and it thoroughly outplayed the rested Sabres to pick up a 4-2 victory. Buffalo fell to 1-5-2 in its forgettable start to the season.

The Canucks outshot the Sabres, 41-22, and had a 36-10 lead late in the second period.

As bad as the Sabres played, there were within a goal throughout the third period until Derek Dorsett scored into an empty net with 21.7 seconds left.

Disputed goal: The Canucks took a 3-2 lead with 11:50 left in the second period – or did they? The NHL said yes, and that was all that mattered.

Vancouver's Jake Virtanen corralled a pass out of the air near the Sabres' blue line. Still frames show that both of his feet were across the line while the puck was still on the blue paint and not on his stick. Quick puck movement allowed Daniel Sedin to score from close range.

The Sabres' Phil Housley issued a coach's challenge for offside. After a long, long review, the officials counted the goal. It was much to Housley's dismay.

The NHL Situation Room sent the following explanation: "After reviewing all available replays and consulting with the Linesman, NHL Hockey Operations staff confirmed that Vancouver's Jake Virtanen had possession and control of the puck as he entered the attacking zone prior to the goal. According to Rule 83.1, 'a player actually controlling the puck who shall cross the line ahead of the puck shall not be considered "off-side," provided he had possession and control of the puck prior to his skates crossing the blue line.'"

Home sweet home: The fourth career goal for Williamsville native Justin Bailey was his first at home, and the Sabres winger celebrated accordingly with just one minute gone. He flexed his arms then animatedly yelled as his teammates approached for a congratulatory hug.

Center Ryan O'Reilly set up the goal, chasing down a dump-in and putting a no-look backhand onto the stick of Bailey at the top of the crease. The winger sent his backhand past goaltender Jacob Markstrom.

Rally: The Canucks certainly didn't sulk after allowing the early goal. They rolled up shot leads of 12-1, 16-2 and 17-3 while tying the game with 8:04 left in the opening period. Markus Granlund collected a rebound in front of the net and banked his shot home off the post.

Turning it around: Teams rarely head into intermission with applause after getting outshot, 17-5, but Jack Eichel made the first period worth it. Starting from his own faceoff circle, the center streaked up the right boards, stickhandled between the legs of defenseman Ben Hutton in the Canucks' zone and beat Markstrom between the pads.

The goal with 2:40 left woke up the crowd of 17,050 and sent the Sabres into the break with a 2-1 lead.

One-sided second: There was no applause from the locals after 40 minutes. The Sabres were in a 3-2 hole and getting outshot, 37-13. Vancouver had a 20-8 advantage in the second.

Again? Yes, again: The Sabres gave up their sixth short-handed goal in just eight games, allowing the Canucks to tie it, 2-2. It was another odd-man rush. Chad Johnson stopped the shot by Brandon Sutter, but Derek Dorsett came from behind defenseman Matt Tennyson to easily deposit the rebound with 5:52 gone in the second.

The record for most short-handed goals allowed in a single season is 22, done by the Minnesota North Stars ('91-92), Pittsburgh Penguins ('84-85) and Colorado Avalanche ('95-96). The Sabres are on pace to give up 62.

Disappearing: Sabres defenseman Nathan Beaulieu did not come out for the third period. Kyle Okposo sat on the bench for the second half of the second period and first half of the third.

Lineup changes: With a long list of injuries, the Sabres mixed things up on forward and defense.

Victor Antipin returned to the blue line after being a healthy scratch for four straight. He dressed in place of Josh Gorges, who is day-to-day with a lower-body injury. The Sabres recalled defenseman Taylor Fedun from Rochester to serve as an extra.

Forward Zemgus Girgensons sat with a lower-body injury, so Seth Griffith returned after being scratched in the previous two. Buffalo placed center Jacob Josefson (foot) on injured reserve to open a spot for Fedun.

Rochester return: Forward Sean Malone, who suffered an injury prior to the Sabres Prospects Challenge in early September, made his season debut Friday night for the Rochester Americans.

Honoring the fallen: The Sabres held a moment of silence before the game for Buffalo Police Officer Craig Lehner, who died in the Niagara River during an underwater exercise. The ice was bathed in blue light during the silence.

Before the teams took the ice, the Sabres played their normal highlight package set to the song "Courage" by the Tragically Hip. When it ended, the words "Thank You Gord" popped onto the scoreboard and ribbon board in honor of Hip singer Gord Downie, who died this week following a fight with brain cancer.

Next: The Sabres boarded their charter following the game and flew to Boston. They'll face the Bruins at 7 p.m. Saturday in TD Garden. Boston is 3-3 after a 6-3 shellacking of Vancouver on Thursday night.

Amerks unable to hold lead against Charlotte

C&C WorldWide

By: Craig Potter

The first period started out so well for the Rochester Americans, despite taking just 5 shots, they held a 2-0 lead over the Charlotte Checkers on Friday night before 3,021 fans at the Blue Cross Arena in the first-ever meeting between the two clubs.

However, things took a turn for the worst in the second stanza as the visitors from North Carolina chased starting goalie Linus Ullmark with 4 consecutive goals. Adam Wilcox came on in relief with 5:10 to play in the second period.

The Checkers added a tally off Wilcox in the third period though the Amerks showed some life, taking 12 shots in the period, but they were unable to beat goalie Alex Nedeljkovic again.

Sahir Gill forced a turnover in center ice and passed to Rochester forward Adam Krause, who raced down the right wing and beat the Checker netminder for a 1-0 lead nearly 8 minutes into the game.

Defenseman Zach Redmond added a power play tally in the final two minutes of the stanza. That proved to be the last goal the hosts would score on the night.

Charlotte outshot Rochester, 12-5, in the second period while outscoring the Amerks, 4-0.

***NOTES** – Rochester Americans General Manager Randy Sexton announced on Thursday that the team has signed defenseman Stuart Percy to a Professional Tryout. Percy, 24, appeared in 37 games for the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins last season, scoring one goal and adding seven assists for eight points. A former first-round pick of the Toronto Maple Leafs in 2011, the Oakville, Ontario, native has also amassed 64 points (10+54) over parts of five seasons with the Toronto Marlies and has notched three assists in 12 career NHL appearances for the Maple Leafs. Prior to turning pro, the 6-foot-1, 193-pound blueliner played four seasons with Mississauga of the Ontario Hockey League, where he totaled 121 points (25+96) in 218 games...Friday's game against the Checkers was the first-ever in Rochester...The Amerks close out the weekend homestand on Saturday at 7:05 pm against the Utica Comets...Justin Bailey score Buffalo's first goal on his recall last weekend in the Sabres victory over the Ducks in Anaheim. It marked Buffalo's first win of the young season. The Sabres also were home Friday night.

Amerks fall to Charlotte in first-ever meeting

13 WHAM News

Staff Report

After jumping out to a 2-0 lead, the Rochester Americans (2-2-0-0) allowed five unanswered goals Friday night before falling 5-2 to the Charlotte Checkers (4-1-0-0) at The Blue Cross Arena.

The Amerks were paced by forward **Adam Krause**, who appeared in his 100th professional game, and defenseman **Zach Redmond** as each scored their first goals of the 2017-18 season. Goaltender **Linus Ullmark** finished the night with 12 saves before being replaced by **Adam Wilcox** late in the second period.

Roland McKeown, Trevor Carrick, Zack Stortini and Andrew Poturalski all scored their first markers of the season for the Checkers while rookie Warren Foegele finished the scoring for Charlotte with his fifth of the year. Second-year netminder Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 20 of the 22 he faced to pick up his third straight win to begin the campaign.

After the Amerks took 2-0 lead going into the first intermission, the Checkers responded with the next four goals to grab a 4-2 Charlotte lead after 40 minutes of play.

“We just didn’t play with confidence, we didn’t finish hits, we didn’t do anything very well tonight,” said Amerks head coach **Chris Taylor**. “It was just evident. We were lucky to be up 2-0 after the first. We just weren’t good enough.”

The Amerks had their second five-on-three-man advantage of the contest during the second period but could not capitalize. Despite several scoring opportunities, the Checkers killed off both infractions before Foegele knotted the game at 2-2 with 11:04 to play in the second stanza.

Charlotte would put an early end to Ullmark’s night with 5:10 left in the period as they tacked on a pair of tallies 59 seconds apart from Carrick and McKeown to take a 4-2 lead.

“We were not good enough tonight,” Taylor said. “I understand it is a process but a loss like tonight is unacceptable. We have to put this one behind us. I expect us to come out strong and hard.”

The Checkers rounded out the scoring 47 seconds into the final period before Nedeljkovic held off all 12 Amerks shots to give the Amerks their second lost in as many games.

The Amerks return to action at 7:05 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21 when they welcome back the Utica Comets to The Blue Cross Arena for the second time in eight days to bring the weekend to a close. All the action will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

Goal Scorers

RCH: Krause (1), Redmond (1)

CHA: Stortini (1), Foegele (5), Carrick (1), McKeown (1), Poturalski (1)

Goaltenders

RCH: Ullmark – 12/16 (L) | Wilcox – 15/16

CHA: Nedeljkovic – 20/22 (W)

Shots

RCH: 22

CHA: 32

Special Teams

RCH: PP (1/8) / PK (4/4)

CHA: PP (0/4) / PK (7/8)