



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

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TONIGHT'S GAME: Utica @ Rochester

Sabres send Justin Bailey back to Amerks

Buffalo News

By: John Vogl

Justin Bailey will get to play in Rochester rather than watch in Buffalo. The Sabres have sent the forward back to the Amerks.

Bailey played in five games, scoring once, after being recalled from Rochester for the March 10 game against Vegas. He was scratched in the last three.

Bailey was in Buffalo on an emergency recall. Because the Sabres had enough healthy players the past three games, they would have needed a regular recall to dress the 22-year-old. Teams have just four following the trade deadline, and the Sabres didn't want to burn one.

With center Casey Mittelstadt joining the Sabres, they were free to send Bailey back. Bailey has three goals and four points in 12 games with Buffalo. He has six goals and 11 points in 28 games with Rochester.

Former Spud Borgen signs with Sabres

Detroit Lakes Online

By: Chris Murphy

Former Moorhead hockey standout Will Borgen grew up dreaming of playing in the NHL. He used to tell his dad he doesn't know what he would do if he couldn't play hockey. He won't have to worry about that for awhile, as he signed a three-year, entry-level contract with the Buffalo Sabres on Sunday.

"Pretty cool. It's always been a dream of mine," Borgen said. "I signed this morning. It's been a lot to do. I've been on the phone all day and packing."

The deal will begin in the 2018-19 NHL season, as the defenseman signed an amateur tryout that will allow him to play for the top minor league affiliate for the Sabres for the rest of this season. Borgen will fly to New York on Monday to join the Rochester Americans in the American Hockey League.

"Once I got to high school I just wanted to get to college and the NHL has been a dream since I got drafted," Borgen said. "Just got to get stronger and work on all assets of my game to be honest. How I've been playing right now has gotten me this far. I'm just focusing on going to Rochester and hopefully playing well there."

The decision to skip his final season at St. Cloud State was not an easy one for Borgen. He would never talk about it with friends and family during the hockey season. If he was asked he would say he was focused on the current season.

"It's pretty hard," Borgen said. "I made some of my best friends at St. Cloud and they're still there. I'd love to play with them another year. It sucks to not be able to play college hockey, but it's also awesome to get a chance to play pro hockey."

Borgen was a 2015 Moorhead graduate, finishing his career with the Spuds with 18 goals and 54 assists in 84 games. He was a Mr. Hockey finalist in his senior season with Moorhead. He's the first player Moorhead hockey coach Jon Ammerman has coached to sign an NHL contract.

"Anytime a kid moves up, no matter to what level, it's always fun to watch him succeed," Ammerman said. "With his size and his skating ability that put him in the conversation. He competes so hard. With practice, with how hard he competed, you knew there was a chance. Obviously, a lot of things have to work out for a kid, but he competed so much harder than kids and it was just a different level. He was just different."

He played 106 games with St. Cloud State, notching 41 points. He was named National College Hockey Conference's Defensive Defenseman of the Year this season. Borgen was one of four collegiate players to be named to the U.S. Olympic men's hockey team this year. He also won a bronze medal with the U.S. team at the International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Championship in 2016. Borgen was selected in the fourth round, No. 92 overall, in the 2015 NHL Draft.

"I just personally feel like I'm ready to make the next step in my hockey career," Borgen said. "I had a great opportunity in St. Cloud. They developed me to this point to help me move on.

"I learned a lot. St. Cloud developed me. My coaches helped me a lot. They brought me in straight in from high school. I wouldn't have gotten to play world juniors or go to the Olympics without them. Also, Moorhead hockey obviously helped me a lot to get to college That's why I go back every summer."

Borgen has always been even-keeled off the ice. His agent had to warn Buffalo General Manager Jason Botterill that he was most likely going to get one-word answers of "Thanks" and "Yeah" in response to welcoming Borgen aboard and asking him if he's excited.

When Borgen tells his parents about an important decision over the phone, it generally is mid-yawn. That's how he told his dad he was signing an NHL contract. Borgen's dad, Bill, drove to St. Cloud to have lunch with him on Sunday. They talked about how he's going to room with St. Cloud State teammate Judd Peterson and about his flight Monday morning.

Bill asked Borgen if he was excited.

"Yeah," Borgen said.

SCSU players sign pro deals, others contemplating offers or returning
St. Cloud Times
By: Matt Hatten

The college hockey season for the St. Cloud State men's team finished Friday. By Saturday, there were a number of conversations taking place as to where a handful of players will be playing yet this season and beyond.

Sunday, the Buffalo Sabres signed defenseman Will Borgen to a three-year contract that will begin in the fall of 2018. Borgen also has signed an amateur tryout agreement to play for Buffalo's American Hockey League team (its top minor league affiliate), the Rochester Americans, for the rest of this season.

Borgen, who is from Moorhead and a fourth-round draft pick of Buffalo's in 2015, will bypass his senior season to join the Sabres organization after being the NCHC's Defensive Defenseman of the Year and being named to the US Olympic team.

The Americans also have signed St. Cloud State captain Judd Peterson to an amateur tryout agreement for the rest of this season. Peterson, a 24-year-old forward from Duluth, was one of Buffalo's seventh-round picks in 2012.

SCSU's Peterson feeling good after hip surgery

Peterson's rights are owned by the Sabres until Aug. 15. Rochester has nine games left in the regular season before it starts the playoffs.

Peterson practiced with the Americans on Monday.

"I wasn't really expecting to come out here," Peterson said. "I talked to my family adviser after the game Friday and he told me to be around my phone and to wait.

"On the bus ride home Saturday, I got a call and he told me that they wanted to sign me to an ATO deal ... They're in a playoff push and they have their team set for the playoffs, which is why I was not expecting (this contract). This is 2-3 weeks to leave a good first impression on them and try to get them where they want to sign me for next year."

Peterson, who played mostly center each of the past two seasons for St. Cloud State, said he played right wing in practice for Rochester.

Schuldt leaps to new heights for SCSU hockey

Decisions

A few Huskies, who have been on the radar of NHL scouts, have made decisions about where they will play next season and some are considering offers.

The two most notable Huskies with decisions to make are continuing to process information and offers.

Junior defenseman Jimmy Schuldt, a top-10 finalist for the Hobey Baker Award, would not comment on where he is at regarding next season. Schuldt, a two-year captain, led the Huskies in assists (28) and was third on the team in points (38) in 40 games.

Schuldt, who is from Minnetonka, is an undrafted player and is believed to be fielding a number of offers. He has taken part in prospect camps with the Montreal Canadiens, Chicago Blackhawks and New York Islanders in the last two summers.

Eyssimont back leading SCSU in goals

Junior forward Mikey Eyssimont, who led the Huskies in goals (17) and was second in points (39) in 39 games, has not made a decision, either. Eyssimont, a fifth-round draft pick of the Los Angeles Kings in 2016, has led St. Cloud State in goals each of the past two seasons.

"Right now, I'm still on the fence," Eyssimont said. "I've got a little time to make my decision. I'm getting all the information I need to make the right decision."

He added that he should come to a final decision within a week.

Junior defenseman Jon Lizotte, who was also in prospects camp in Montreal over the summer, said that he plans to return to St. Cloud State next season. Lizotte, who also is undrafted, had 17 points and led the Huskies in plus/minus (plus-20) and blocked shots (85) in 40 games.

Goal by SCSU's Poehling getting lots of study

Center Ryan Poehling, a first-round draft pick of the Canadiens, did not return a phone call for this story. Poehling, though, said earlier this month that he is likely to return.

"Anything can happen, but at the same time, the NHL isn't a developmental league anymore," he said the first week of March. "When you're in (the NHL), you better be ready to play."

"As a 19-year-old, I'm still a young kid and I'm still growing into my body. The training and development in college has been tremendous for me. When I do enter the professional league, I want to be fully developed and ready to play hockey."

Poehling, who is from Lakeville, had 14 goals and 31 points in 36 games for the Huskies and also won a bronze medal playing for Team USA in the IIHF World Junior Championships.

Robby Jackson, another St. Cloud State player who was in Montreal's camp last summer, said that he is not in any rush to make a decision.

"Right now, I'm playing a video game and I'm not worried about it too much," he said of pro hockey. "There's plenty of time to decide. Right now, I'm making sure I pass my classes this semester so that I can be eligible for my senior season."

Jackson, 20, a junior forward from Alameda, California, had 15 goals and led the Huskies in points with 42 in 40 games.

If the players with eligibility left all return (minus Borgen), St. Cloud State's top nine players in points (and 11 of their top 12 in points) and all three goalies (David Hrenak, Jeff Smith and David Zevnik) would be back.

St. Cloud State won the NCHC regular season title, was the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Division I tournament and finished 25-9-6 after losing in the first round of the national tournament to Air Force.

Duluth Native Judd Peterson Signs with AHL's Rochester Americans

WDIO

By: Staff Report

Duluth native and St. Cloud State University (SCSU) senior forward Judd Peterson has signed an Amateur Tryout contract with the Rochester Americans, the Buffalo Sabres affiliate in the American Hockey League, it was announced on Monday.

With the Huskies, Peterson skated in 151 career games and finished with 65 points. In his final season, Peterson scored six goals and 12 assists in 40 games while helping the team to an NCHC regular season championship as well as an appearance in the NCAA tournament.

He also helped SCSU win the NCHC Frozen Faceoff championship during his sophomore season and earned NCAA tournament bids in 2015, 2016 and 2018.

Prior to attending St. Cloud University, Peterson played two seasons with the Cedar Rapids Roughriders (USHL) from 2012 until 2014. In 93 career games with the Roughriders, he amassed 57 points on 27 goals and 30 assists.

Peterson was originally drafted by the Buffalo Sabres in the seventh round (204th overall) of the 2012 NHL Entry Draft.

Reeling in the Sabres' big fish is a huge catch for Botterill

Buffalo News

By: Mike Harrington

This has been a rough few months for Jason Botterill. He finally got to puff out his chest for a few minutes Monday evening. I actually saw him have multiple reasons to smile too. Good for him. He deserved the moment.

Botterill's dream of becoming an NHL general manager has been mostly a nightmare in his first season for the Buffalo Sabres. The first team he's put together is an abject disaster, worse than non-tank version Tim Murray or Darcy Regier ever put on the ice.

No one knows if Phil Housley, Botterill's first choice as an NHL head coach, has what it takes to succeed in the job. Social media's instant experts, of course, have already deemed Housley a scrapheap choice but, as I regularly remind folks, it was Botterill who put together a team that even Toe Blake couldn't win with.

Botterill put together a terrible defense corps, breaking even worse something that needed to be fixed. He froze and did nothing when the team started poorly. Claiming Jordan Nolan off waivers at the end of training camp? Whatever. The trade deadline netted him nothing and he sold off Evander Kane for pennies on the dollar and is now left with the prayer of a re-sign or a Sharks Cup title to get a first-round pick.

But one thing Botterill clearly knows is prospects and how to bring them along. We have no idea if he can sign an NHL free agent or win a trade but we know he can draft and you have to like his philosophies on development.

Monday in Air Canada Centre, the beleaguered GM was able to talk about a pair of victories off the ice and then enjoy a big third one on it as the Sabres posted a 3-2 victory to snap the Toronto Maple Leafs' 13-game home winning streak.

St. Cloud State defenseman Will Borgen is signed and headed to Rochester, where he will fortify the Amerks' blueline the rest of the season and into the Calder Cup Playoffs. And then came the big fish Monday morning: Just as the Sabres were wrapping up a routine pregame skate, the word emerged that Casey Mittelstadt had agreed to terms.

The Minnesota kid made it into Buffalo Monday night, will take a physical Tuesday and then sign his entry-level deal. He'll practice Wednesday in HarborCenter -- where he wowed the crowd at summer development camp a scant eight months ago. And then the big moment comes Thursday in KeyBank Center against Detroit when Mittelstadt will make his NHL debut, only nine months after coming up on the stage in Chicago as the initial first-round draft pick of the Botterill era.

Botterill isn't about taking plaudits for himself so we'll give him some. His pregame talk with reporters centered around having Mittelstadt ready to go come October, to be a full-timer next season. Next season started for Botterill weeks ago. As it should have.

It was striking to see how happy Sabres players were when word of the agreement filtered through the dressing room. Some of them skated with Mittelstadt last summer, either in Buffalo or in Minnesota summer leagues. Others watched parts of the World Junior Championship in Buffalo, either the Team USA opener the night before heading to New York for the Winter classic trip, or games on television while they were on the room.

They see what Botterill and everyone else does. Those hands. Silky smooth. The way the puck moves. If you were in HarborCenter in the summer, remember how Mittelstadt moved the puck around during drills? Summer stickhandling drills and the crowd was cheering. Never saw that before.

Mittelstadt is probably better than five or six of the forwards the Sabres put on the ice here Monday night. In terms of raw talent? You could easily say only Jack Eichel has more. (Eichel, by the way, was spectacular Monday and said point-blank this team's success lies with him). Ryan O'Reilly joked Mittelstadt does things he can only dream of with the puck.

Thursday will be a familiar setting in KeyBank for Mittelstadt. Nice way to start. But the nights to really watch Mittelstadt will start Saturday in Nashville. And here next Monday in another game against the Maple Leafs. And April 5 in Tampa Bay.

You want a gauge of how ready he is, watch how he does against those teams. Those are some NHL elites.

Botterill and assistant GM Steve Greeley have kept a close watch on Mittelstadt all season at the University of Minnesota. Same with Borgen at St. Cloud. Things actually went in the Sabres' favor -- sorry, guys -- when their teams' college seasons when belly-up. Mittelstadt's Gophers needed only one thing to go well out of six possible scenarios and none came in so they were a stunning omission from the NCAA Tournament. Borgen's top-seeded team was the victim of a 1-16 UMBC-style upset at the hands of Air Force.

Botterill was in Sioux Falls, S.D., for that game. He said the approach was simple. Don't pounce. Let the kid ruminate over the loss and the end of his college season. Give him the time he needs. Reach out to the agent. Let the agent start the conversation with his client. Then move back in.

Botterill set out all the scenarios -- his favorite word by far in any conversation -- and waited for the response. Mittelstadt could have waited to see who Minnesota was going to hire as its new coach but he decided he'd come for an NHL deal and the Sabres knew they needed him. So they were willing to burn the first year of the deal in the final six games this season. Borgen wasn't getting that but now has a great chance in the Calder Cup playoffs.

It's a good move for all. In a season where almost nothing has gone well, this was Botterill's shining moment. After the stunning victory, the GM was all smiles again in the dressing room talking to young defensemen Brendan Guhle and Casey Nelson, two potentially key pieces going forward. Nelson, however, is a pending free agent. Botterill has more talking to do.

Starting Thursday, we get a look at what Mittelstadt means. Here's hoping Botterill's offseason goes as well as the last couple days did. The GM has a good head start on reshaping this club.

Casey's on his way as Mittelstadt signs with Sabres

Spectrum News

By: Staff Report

Casey Mittelstadt, the Sabres' most recent 1st round draft pick and highly prized prospect among fans, has signed with Buffalo after one year playing hockey in college.

Mittelstadt was picked at No. 8 but tallied 30 points as a freshman with the Minnesota Golden Gophers and helped lead Team USA to a bronze at the World Juniors. He earned tournament MVP honors after potting four goals in seven games, all of which were played in Buffalo.

The three-year, entry-level contract is with the Sabres organization, and lowly Buffalo has the fewest amount of points in the NHL.

St. Cloud's Borgen signs entry-level deal with Sabres, will report to Amerks

Buffalo News

By: Mike Harrington

St. Cloud State defenseman Will Borgen, whose top-seeded team was upset in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Friday, has signed his three-year entry-level contract with the Buffalo Sabres and will immediately report to the Rochester Amerks.

Borgen, 21, will head to the AHL on an amateur tryout offer and his ELC will kick in for the 2018-19 season. It will pay \$742,500 in the first season and the maximum \$925,000 for years two and three.

Buffalo's fourth-round pick in the 2015 draft, Borgen completed his junior year at St. Cloud and was named the National College Hockey Conference's Defensive Defenseman of the Year. The 6-foot-2, 188-pounder had two goals and 13 assists in 36 games this season for the Minnesota school. He was also one of four collegiate players named to the U.S. Olympic team but did not appear in a game in Pyeongchang.

The Sabres were certainly interested in bringing Borgen into their organization but the Huskies were the nation's top-ranked team and had designs on making the Frozen Four in St. Paul, Minn., which doesn't begin until April 5.

The plans quickly changed, however, when St. Cloud suffered a 4-1 loss to Atlantic Hockey champion Air Force in a first-round regional at Sioux Falls, S.D. Sabres General Manager Jason Botterill attended that game and quickly moved to get Borgen officially signed. He could be in the Rochester lineup as soon as Wednesday night's game against Utica.

The Sabres are also working to get 2017 top draft pick Casey Mittelstadt signed after his freshman season at the University of Minnesota ended last week as the Gophers did not make the NCAA Tournament. The team may be willing to burn a year of Mittelstadt's entry-level deal by having him play a few games in the NHL before heading to Rochester, but Mittelstadt is believed to be weighing a return to school for his sophomore season and the Gophers' decision on a replacement for outgoing coach Don Lucia is a key factor in that decision.

The Amerks clinched their first Calder Cup playoff berth since 2014 with Saturday's 4-2 win over Springfield in Blue Cross Arena. They still have nine games left in their regular season, which concludes April 14 at Syracuse. Rochester's playoff opponent will then be either Syracuse or Toronto, and the Amerks will be fortified by several players from the Sabres because Buffalo's season ends on April 7.

In addition to adding Borgen to the roster, the Sabres will be returning defensemen Brendan Guhle and Casey Nelson, forwards Justin Bailey and Nick Baptiste and goaltender Linus Ullmark to Rochester for the postseason in hopes of helping the Amerks win a first-round series for the first time since 2005.

Also Sunday, the Amerks announced they have signed forward Judd Peterson, Borgen's college teammate, to an amateur tryout deal. Peterson, 24, was originally drafted by the Sabres in the seventh round in 2012. He had six goals and a career-high 12 assists in 40 games this season and finished a 151-game college career with 37 goals and 28 assists.

Amerks get help with Sabres signing
Rochester First
By: Thad Brown

The Amerks clinched a spot in the playoffs Saturday.

On Sunday, they get reinforcement.

The Sabres announced Sunday defenseman Will Borgen has signed a three year contract and will report to Rochester.

This season, Borgen will officially be on an amateur tryout contract. The three year agreement signed today will kick in next season.

Borgen was a fourth round pick by the Sabres in the 2015 NHL Draft. He scored 15 points (2 G, 13 A) this past season with St. Cloud State, who was the #1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

The Huskies were stunned by Air Force 4-1 in round one, ending Borgen's junior season. He will skip his senior year to turn pro.

Borgen was also a member of the US Men's Hockey team that competed in the Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, but did not see any ice time. During the Under-20 World Junior Championships in Helsinki in 2015, Borgen collected three assists as the United States won a Bronze medal.

Will Borgen signs with Sabres, will report to Amerks

WIVB

By: Nick Filipowski

Defenseman Will Borgen has signed with the Buffalo Sabres and will report to their AHL affiliate in Rochester to join the Amerks during their playoff run, the team announced on Sunday.

The defenseman, who is leaving college after three years, was a fourth round pick by the Sabres in the 2015 NHL Draft, scored 15 points (2 G, 13 A) this past season with the Huskies, who were the #1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Borgen was also a member of the US Men's Hockey team that competed in the Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang but did not see any ice time. During the Under-20 World Junior Championships in Helsinki in 2015, Borgen collected three assists as the United States won a Bronze medal.

Borgen isn't the only player from St. Cloud State to be joining the organization. The Amerks announced they signed Judd Peterson who served as captain this past season with the Huskies. The 24-year-old forward was selected by the Sabres in the seventh round of the 2012 NHL Draft.

Peterson had six goals and 12 assists in 40 games this past season at SCSU. He found the back of the net 11 times as a junior and 16 times during his sophomore campaign.

Sabres sign highly touted prospect Will Borgen

WKBW

By: Matt Bove

At long last, highly touted prospect Will Borgen is joining the Buffalo Sabres organization. Borgen will forego his senior season with St. Cloud State and join the Rochester Americans as they prepare for a playoff push. His three-year entry-level deal with the Sabres will begin at the start of the 2018-2019 season.

Borgen, 21, was a fourth-round selection of the Sabres in the 2015 NHL Draft. In his junior season with the Huskies, Borgen logged big minutes with St. Cloud State, while tallying 15 points in 36 games. Borgen was also on the United State Olympic roster but did not appear in any tournament games.

Bove's take:

Will Borgen immediately becomes one of the Buffalo Sabres top prospects, especially on the blue line. Despite never putting up huge numbers in college or even in high school, Borgen has been a consistently dominant defenseman at every level. He's by no means a lock to be a productive NHL player but certainly an intriguing prospect the Sabres couldn't let slip away.

Borgen should also provide a big boost for the Amerks, who clinched a playoff berth Saturday. While it's certainly not the NHL, experiencing high-pressure games in the AHL will only help Borgen's long-term development. With a scarce cupboard of defensive prospects, this is a big win for Sabres GM Jason Botterill.