



# **Buffalo Sabres**

## **Daily Press Clips**

*Friday, November 04, 2011*

## **Sabres trying to move on at home**

*Ruff keeps his goalie plans a secret*

Miguel Rodriguez

The Buffalo News

November 4, 2011

Sabreland may be considered "Hockey Heaven" under Terry Pegula's ownership, but First Niagara Center has been anything but during the Buffalo Sabres' current five-game homestand.

The natives are restless. The all-world goalie is clearly agitated and the team has failed to build on a 5-2 start in which all the wins came away from the foot of Washington St.

Proof there's no joy in Pegulaville came to the forefront during Wednesday's 3-2 loss to the Flyers, a game in which Philly had an 11-2 edge in shots and 3-0 lead before the game was 6 1/2 minutes old. Former Vezina-winning goalie and Olympic hero Ryan Miller was chased after hearing boo-birds from the 18,299 -- reactions he normally hasn't experienced from the home fans.

Will Miller receive a chance to turn those catcalls into cheers tonight when Buffalo looks to end what has been a miserable 1-3 homestand on a winning note against the Calgary Flames?

Stay tuned.

While Miller said he was trying to rid his mind of Wednesday's loss and refocus on the task at hand, he went on the defensive when asked if he succeeded in doing that during the Sabres' workout Thursday at FNC.

"I don't know, guys. Like, are you going to start critiquing my practices now?" he said. "I'm just trying to reset and do my thing.

"I suppose I'm just trying to find a good place to be and just help the team where I can. I don't really know where to go because what I need to work on is a longer explanation than you guys are going to put on the air and I don't really care to share it because it's a process I do on my own. I'm obviously frustrated with certain elements and that's pretty obvious. I'm just trying to figure a good space to be in, get rid of the last few games and move on. That's what I want to start doing after this interview."

Normally a coach will quickly put his No. 1 guy between the pipes the next game after a bad night, especially when it's the first in a season in which Miller already has a shutout, a 40-save effort in a 3-1 win at Montreal and .922 save percentage to his credit.

When asked if the Sabres would be sticking to the schedule of splitting the weekend games today and Saturday in Ottawa between the goalies, coach Lindy Ruff said he's sticking to the plan. However, he opted to play coy when asked which game rookie backup Jhonas Enroth, who

stopped all 15 shots he faced in relief of Miller on Wednesday and is 2-0 with 1.39 goals-against average and .955 save percentage, would start.

"Which day? That's in a secret compartment in my office," said Ruff, whose response got a chuckle from the media.

What isn't a laughing matter is what's going on at home -- something that has Miller and his teammates scrambling for answers.

For the second straight season, home ice has been a disadvantage early in the campaign. The Sabres are 1-4 in five starts in Buffalo a year after an 0-6-1 mark put them in catch-up mode to make the playoffs.

They've talked about the problem. They've discussed playing a simple game and not trying to entertain the crowd with flashy plays.

The results haven't been there, only in-game lapses.

"We've got to keep pressing, it's just a matter of keeping going, sticking with it, stay with our system and try not to get frustrated," forward Brad Boyes said.

"When you're struggling to win games, usually that's the way it happens whether it's a mental mistake or something like that," said defenseman Robyn Regehr. "When you're rolling and get on a bit of a win streak you'll see teams that are feeling confident, they make mistakes out there and it doesn't seem to cost them. I think that's just a by product of the struggles we're going through right now. For us we need to work through them and build our game. Once we do that and get rid of some of our mental mistakes it won't be an issue."

One way to do that is with solid goaltending from Miller, the No. 1 guy.

"Everyone knows he's a world-class goalie," Enroth said. "He's going to be fine."

"As a player, when something doesn't go your way, you look at it, you say 'OK, what maybe I could have done here or there to be better' and then you move on because you have the next game," veteran defenseman Robyn Regehr said. "You can't dwell on it. ... He knows how to deal with rebounding from any type of performance."

## Heady play gives Kaleta a four-game ban

Miguel Rodriguez

The Buffalo News

November 4, 2011

One thing is certain -- the NHL home office has been keeping a close eye on Sabres forward Patrick Kaleta over the years.

The gritty agitator known for crossing the line of physical legality on the ice got nabbed by the discipline police, again, and will pay a steep price for using his head as a ramming device.

Kaleta received a four-game suspension Thursday from NHL disciplinarian Brendan Shanahan, who ruled Kaleta intentionally head-butted Philadelphia Flyers winger Jakub Voracek during a battle along the boards in Buffalo's 3-2 loss to Philly on Wednesday.

According to video posted at NHL.com (and linked to at the Sabres Edge blog at [buffalonews.com/blogs](http://buffalonews.com/blogs)), Kaleta tried to use his head, literally, to cause a turnover in the Flyers zone.

"As the video shows, Kaleta separates himself from the scrum along the boards," Shanahan explained during his ruling. "Kaleta lifts his head up, assesses the situation and then lowers his head and rams into the pile and driving his head upward and into his opponent's face. This is an illegal act.

"A significant factor in this incident is whether the contact is intentional, reckless or accidental. It is important to note that Kaleta was fined for committing the same act on Travis Zajac 13 months ago in a game against the New Jersey Devils. More recently, just nine months ago, Kaleta again committed this act on Tobias Enstrom in a game against the Atlanta Thrashers."

Kaleta will forfeit \$19,621.64 in salary, which will go to the Players' Emergency Assistance Fund. He'll miss tonight's game against the Calgary Flames, along with Saturday's at Ottawa, next Tuesday's against Winnipeg and next Friday's against Ottawa. He's eligible to return for the Nov. 12 game at defending Stanley Cup champion Boston.

The suspension along with long-term injuries to Jochen Hecht (concussion) and Tyler Ennis (ankle sprain) prompted the Sabres to call up forward Corey Tropp from Rochester, a 2007 third-round pick. The second-year pro and first-time call-

up shares the Americans' lead in goals (four) and has seven points in 10 games. He had 10 goals and 40 points last year in the AHL.

According to a Tweet from longtime Rochester reporter Kevin Oklobzija: "His style most closely resembles what the Sabres lost from Kaleta."

\* \* \* \*

Robyn Regehr wore the flaming 'C' logo of the Calgary Flames for 11 seasons.

The Sabres' stay-at-home defenseman, who was acquired in an offseason trade for blue-liner Chris Butler and center Paul Byron, admits it'll be strange tonight when he hits the ice for warm-ups and sees his former teammates across the way.

"It'll probably be a little bit awkward in pregame warm-up and see that uniform with all those guys ... most of them I played with, on the other side but I'm looking forward to it," said Regehr, a first-round pick who helped the Flames reach the Stanley Cup finals during the 2003-04 season. "I'd love to beat any team, but I think especially when you're playing a team that you've played with for a long time ... the first time you play them you always want to beat them."

Besides Butler, the game will be a homecoming for West Seneca native Lee Stempniak. The right winger, was acquired by Calgary via trade with Phoenix, scored his second goal of the season Thursday at Detroit and has five points in 11 games.

## **Sabres try to snap slump against Flames**

Davis Harper

NHL.com

November 4, 2011

**FLAMES (5-5-1) at SABRES (6-5-0)**

**TV: SNET-West (HD), MSG-B (HD)**

**Last 10** : Calgary 5-4-1; Buffalo 5-5-0

**Season Series:** This is the only game between the two this season. In their lone meeting last season, the Flames throttled the Sabres 5-2 in Calgary on Dec. 27 as five different players scored goals.

**Big Story:** This inter-conference matchup should provide an interesting test for two teams searching for consistent success as the regular season starts to heat up. After looking strong on a 4-1-0 road swing, Buffalo has lost two of three on its current four-game homestand. Calgary enters Friday winners of three of four, including a 4-1 win in Detroit on Thursday night that came two nights after the Flames' worst performance of the season, a 5-1 home loss to Vancouver.

### **Team Scope:**

**Flames:** It was a rebound night for the Flames in Detroit -- especially for the defense and goaltender [Miikka Kiprusoff](#). The defense blocked 20 shots and Kiprusoff stopped all but one of the 29 that got through.

"It's part of what we're about and when we do it the right way we're successful," coach Brent Sutter said. "Part of being a good defense is you've got to be a good blocked-shot team. There's a price you've got to pay to do that and it's something we address and talk about as a group. We certainly had it tonight."

In their five wins, Calgary has allowed just six goals.

**Sabres:** Buffalo has played five one-goal games and lost four of them. Whether it's allowing early strikes -- Philadelphia scored twice in the first two minutes in Wednesday's 3-2 loss -- or late-game daggers -- the game before, Florida scored on a power play with two minutes to go to break a third-period tie in another 3-2 loss -- the Sabres just can't seem to keep it together for a full 60 minutes.

"That's it," a dejected coach Lindy Ruff said after the loss to the Flyers. "Until we play a complete 60 minutes, or even something close to that, you won't win. When you deserve to win, you win. We deserved to get back in the game, because we worked hard in the second and third, but we didn't deserve to win."

**Who's Hot:** After going 2-2-4 in October, Flames captain [Jarome Iginla](#) appears to be finding his groove. Iginla had two goals and an assist in Detroit and has matched his October production in the first two games of November.

**Injury Report:** Flames forward [Mikael Backlund](#) has been on IR since the beginning of the season with a broken finger. ... Buffalo's [Tyler Ennis](#) is out for another week or two with a sprained ankle, and [Jochen Hecht](#) (concussion) has yet to play this season.

**Stat Pack:** If defense wins championships, the Flames are headed in the right direction. Calgary gave up its first road power-play goal of the season Thursday in Detroit, when Danny Cleary bounced an errant puck off his chest into an empty net. The Flames had previously killed 13 straight man-advantages.

**Puck Drop:** Sabres fans held their breath when talisman [Thomas Vanek](#) left the ice Wednesday with a gash above his right eye. Twenty minutes later, Vanek returned with stitches. Buffalo is lucky the incident wasn't more serious -- the Austrian leads the way with eight goals and eight assists entering Friday's game.

## **Calgary (5-5-1) at Buffalo (6-5-0)**

Jeff Mezydlo

STATS

November 4, 2011

Buffalo has been unable to take advantage of an extended stretch of home games. A visit from the [Calgary Flames](#) might provide a good opportunity for the Sabres to conclude their homestand on a positive note.

The Sabres look to avoid a third consecutive loss by continuing their home dominance of the Flames on Friday night.

Buffalo (6-5-0) appeared to have some momentum after a 4-1-0 road trip, but instead has lost three of four on a five-game homestand, with each defeat decided by one goal.

The Sabres, 2-4-0 at First Niagara Center this season after going 21-16-4 there in 2010-11, gave up all three goals in the first period Wednesday against Philadelphia for its second consecutive 3-2 loss.

“It’s things we talked about throughout the first part of the week, about being better with the puck, and we weren’t,” said Sabres captain [Jason Pominville](#), who has three goals and three assists on the homestand. “The message is there, we have to go out and do it.”

The Sabres have executed much better while going 7-0-0 with a tie at home versus Calgary since a 3-1 loss March 15, 1996. Buffalo has won each of the last two meetings in western New York in a shootout, the most recent 2-1 on Nov. 13, 2009.

[Ryan Miller](#) has allowed three total goals while earning the wins in both of the last two home matchups versus Calgary, but will need to be better Friday after he was pulled in the first period against the Flyers for allowing three goals on 11 shots.

The Sabres are grateful that leading scorer [Thomas Vanek](#) will be on the ice after he missed about 20 minutes Wednesday to receive stitches for a gash above his right eye. Vanek has eight goals and eight assists this season.

Though the Flames have struggled in Buffalo, they beat the Sabres 5-2 at home in the teams’ most recent meeting Dec. 27.

Calgary (5-5-1) opened its three-game road trip Thursday with a 4-1 victory at Detroit. [Jarome Iginla](#) had two goals and an assist as the Flames won for the third time in four games.

Iginla doubled his previous goal total for the season, scoring for the first time since Oct. 20.

“It feels good, for sure,” he said. “To see that first one go in on the power play - it’s been a little while.”



Iginla scored against the Sabres last season, but has gone without a point in his last three games at Buffalo.

The Flames allowed their first power-play goal in 14 chances on the road this season when Detroit's Dan Cleary scored in the second period Thursday.

[Miikka Kiprusoff](#) stopped the Red Wings' other 28 shots to earn the win. He is 3-1-2 with a 1.79 lifetime goals-against average versus the Sabres.

Buffalo will be without forward [Patrick Kaleta](#), who was suspended four games by the NHL after he went head-first into a crowd of players during Wednesday's loss and struck Philadelphia's [Jakub Voracek](#) in the chest and face. Kaleta has one goal in 11 games this season.

## **Sabres F Kaleta suspended 4 games for head-butt**

Associated Press

November 3, 2011

NEW YORK (AP)—[Buffalo Sabres](#) forward [Patrick Kaleta](#) was suspended four games by the NHL for a head-butt, the NHL announced Thursday.

League disciplinarian [Brendan Shanahan](#) ruled Kaleta's hit to be illegal after holding a hearing with the player and reviewing the hit, which occurred five minutes into a 3-2 loss to the [Philadelphia Flyers](#) on Wednesday night. Kaleta was battling for the puck along the boards in the Sabres zone, when he lunged head-first into a crowd of players with the crown of his helmet striking Philadelphia's [Jakub Voracek](#) in the chest and face.

Shanahan, who has taken a hard stance against head hits in his first year on the job, noted in a video announcing the suspension on NHL.com that this is the third such incident involving Kaleta in less than two years.

Kaleta will lose \$19,621.64 in salary while serving the suspension, which starts with Buffalo's home game against Calgary on Friday.

To fill Kaleta's spot, the Sabres promoted forward [Corey Tropp](#) from their American Hockey League affiliate in Rochester. Tropp has never played an NHL game and has four goals and three assists in 10 games for Rochester this season.

## **Kaleta suspended 4 games for head-butt**

Bill Hoppe

Niagara Gazette

November 4, 2011

BUFFALO — The NHL has suspended winger Patrick Kaleta four games without pay for head-butting Philadelphia's Jakub Voracek on Wednesday.

At the 4:58 mark of the Sabres' 3-2 loss, Kaleta, in a scrum along the boards, separated from the pack, "driving his head upward and into his opponent's face," NHL discipline czar Brendan Shanahan said in a video posted on NHL.com Thursday announcing his decision.

To replace Kaleta, the Sabres recalled 22-year-old winger Corey Tropp from Rochester. The second-year pro has four goals and seven points in 10 AHL games.

Kaleta's history factored greatly in the decision, Shanahan said. He used two examples to illustrate his point. Last October, Kaleta head-butted New Jersey's Travis Zajac, earning a fine. In February, he rammed Atlanta's Tobias Enstrom in a similar fashion.

"This recent history of ramming his head into the faces of opponents, regardless of whether he is trying to free the puck, leads us to believe this act is intentional," Shanahan said.

The latest head-butt wasn't penalized, however.

Sabres coach Lindy Ruff believes the 25-year-old Kaleta, one of the league's top agitators and hitters, had no intent to harm Voracek.

"He didn't look at him, he was trying to bully his way into the pileup," Ruff said shortly before Kaleta's hearing began Thursday afternoon. "I didn't think there was anything deliberate about it. There is head contact."

Kaleta can return Nov. 12 in Boston.

## **Myers embraces defense-first philosophy**

Bill Hoppe

Niagara Gazette

November 4, 2011

BUFFALO — The focus, at least for the first month, was to embrace a “shutdown mentality,” Tyler Myers said. That meant the star Sabres defenseman, one of the NHL’s top puck-rushers, took a defense-first approach beside new partner Robyn Regehr. The offense could wait.

Last season, fresh off a terrific rookie campaign, Myers endured a brutal start. A year ago today he had three goals, yet was a stunning minus-12, arguably the league’s worst defenseman.

Now, a year later, he has zero tallies and is plus-2 heading into tonight’s tilt against the Calgary Flames at the First Niagara Center.

“I didn’t want the start I had last year,” Myers said Thursday after practice. “I think I did the right thing this year coming in with the mindset of playing really solid defense. I think that’s exactly what I needed to do this year, especially with the start I had last year. Coming in, making sure I’m taking care of my own end first was a huge part.

“At the same time, I think now that I’ve started to find my rhythm defensively, I can try to start taking a little bit more risks offensively.”

That was evident in Wednesday’s 3-2 loss to Philadelphia, when Myers, back beside Andrej Sekera, his partner much of last season, showcased some dynamic offensive skills again. He shook off a rough few minutes and began moving the puck supremely, creating scoring chances while skating a season-high 26:36.

With the defensive part of Myers’ game strong, Ruff wanted to jumpstart the offensive side. The 21-year-old compiled a gaudy 21 goals and 85 points in his first two seasons. But he has just three assists through 11 games.

“We wanted to get him with our offensive lines and get involved in the offense,” Ruff said, “and I think you saw (Wednesday) how he had two prime scoring chances himself, Andrej scored. We’d really like (Myers) to have that (offensive) makeup, that’s the makeup that got him to rookie of the year. It’s the most dangerous makeup for him.

“I thought (Wednesday), if you throw out the first five minutes, he made some good progress in that game.”

Myers added: “If I focus and continue to play like I did over the last 50 minutes, I think I’ll be

just fine and the points will come.”

The points rarely materialized in 10 games beside Regehr, a tough, stay-at-home defender. The No. 1 tandem played well, although Myers lost much of his aggressiveness.

Ruff recently said Myers had some “indecision” in his game, “looked tired” and wasn’t getting to places he had before.

“It definitely affected my mindset,” Myers explained. “Taking out last game against Philly, I think the games before that, I think whenever Robyn and I went out there our mindset was to shut the other teams down, as opposed to going on the offensive and trying to score goals.”

The Myers and Sekera tandem is definitely offensive. In fact, some believe the duo’s too slick. Sekera’s also a first-rate puck-handler and isn’t afraid to pinch. There’s little balance, no Regehr-type to anchor things.

But Myers snapped out of last season’s funk with Sekera, and the two performed well together for several months.

“I feel very comfortable with Andrej,” Myers said. “We talk a lot off the ice. I think last year there was a hesitation trying to put us together because we’re both always trying to jump. But I think (Wednesday) we were very good defensively. I think we’re starting to figure out how to play with each other, how to back each other up.”

That will only help Myers’ development. Ruff has said a Norris Trophy could be in his future. To become the league’s best defenseman, Myers will have to be elite defensively and offensively.

“There’s no such thing as being just an offensive defenseman because if you can’t defend, you have a tough time playing,” Ruff said. “You watched his penalty killing, he did an excellent job killing (Wednesday) against the big boys, and doing that at a man disadvantage. So he can defend.

“And there will be a time he will probably be equal on both sides of the puck. But his focus, short-term here, is we want him involved more on the offensive side.”

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A day after allowing three goals on 11 shots in just 6:23 of action, Sabres goalie Ryan Miller was out on the ice early for practice.

“I’m just trying to get rid of last night,” Miller said. “Not really focusing on anything, just go out and have a moment to myself before practice and reset.”

While Miller remained patient with the media, he was clearly growing perturbed at the questioning, at one point saying, “You’re going to start critiquing my practices now?”

Ruff, who acknowledged “you’re always concerned” about the goalie’s play, wouldn’t reveal if Miller or backup Jhonas Enroth would start tonight.

“That’s in a secret compartment in my office,” he joked

Ruff wants to start Enroth every third or fourth game. The rookie won his second nod two games and eight days ago. The Sabres also play Saturday in Ottawa.

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Regehr, a Flames regular for 11 seasons, will face his former teammates for the first time since waiving his no-trade clause in June.

“Probably a little bit of nervous excitement,” Regehr said. “It’ll probably be a little awkward in warm-up, to go out there, to see that uniform with all those guys, most of them I played with.”

## REGEHR AVOIDS FANNING THE FLAMES

Kevin Snow

Sabres.com

November 3, 2011

If any of the Calgary Flames are looking for bulletin board material from former teammate [Robyn Regehr](#), they are out of luck. After playing in Western Canada for the first 11 years of his NHL career, Regehr played it safe when asked if it would be extra special to beat his former team tomorrow night at First Niagara Center.

The 31-year-old Regehr joined the Sabres on June 25 along with Ales Kotalik and a 2012 second-round draft pick in a trade that saw Paul Byron and Chris Butler go west. Originally drafted 19th overall by Colorado in 1998, Regehr had 163 points (29+164) in 826 games with the Flames from 1999-2011.

“I’d love to beat any team. But especially when you’re playing a team that you’ve played with for a long time, the first time you play them you’ll want to beat them. Anytime we go out there, it doesn’t matter against who - we want to win the game. That’s the ultimate goal.”

At 6-foot-3 and 221 pounds Regehr was acquired to add some sandpaper to the Sabres blueline. He’s done that in spades so far, leading the Sabres in hits with 31 through 11 games. But he is also being counted on for his veteran presence, and that’s something the team could use right now as they try to rebound from a 1-3-0 start to their season-high five-game homestand that concludes Friday.

“We need to play a game a certain way, and we need to do it every single time we’re out there. If we do that, things will take care of themselves.”

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[Patrick Kaleta](#) received a four-game suspension from the NHL today for his head-butt on Philadelphia’s Jakub Voracek at 4:58 of the first period in Wednesday’s game. Kaleta will also forfeit \$19,621.64 in salary. He is eligible to return to the Sabres lineup on November 12 in Boston.

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The Flames are last in the Northwest Division – and 14th overall in the Western Conference – with a 4-5-1 record through 10 games. They open up a three-game road trip tonight in Detroit, and conclude Sunday in Denver against the Colorado Avalanche. Miikka Kiprusoff is 4-4-0 on the season with a 2.50 GAA and .913 save percentage. He played only two periods in his last start, surrendering five goals on 18 shots in a 5-1 loss to Vancouver. No Flames skater has reached double digits in points yet, with Alex Tanguay leading the way with nine points (2+7) in 10 games. Calgary captain Jarome Iginla has just four points (2+2) in 10 games.

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Friday’s game is one of the 10 times this season the Sabres will come off a rest day against a team playing its second game in a row.

## **BUFFALO SABRES RECALL COREY TROPP FROM ROCHESTER**

Sabres.com

November 3, 2011

Buffalo Sabres General Manager Darcy Regier announced today that forward [Corey Tropp](#) has been recalled from the Rochester Americans of the American Hockey League.

Tropp (6'0", 195 lbs., 7/25/89) will join the Sabres on his first career recall. He spent the 2010-11 season in Portland, posting 40 points (10+30) in his first professional season. In 10 games with Rochester this season, Tropp has seven points (4+3), tying for the Americans' lead in goals.

Tropp was selected by the Sabres in the third round (89th overall) of the 2007 NHL Entry Draft.



## **Sabres Miller trying to adjust mentally**

Paul Hamilton

WGR 550

November 3, 2011

Buffalo, NY (WGR 550) -- Ryan Miller went out for practice early and stayed late after being pulled early against Philadelphia. He gave up three goals on 11 shots with two goals he normally stops.

Miller of course is frustrated and still was after practice on Thursday. As far as his focus today Miller said, "I don't know, I was trying to get rid of last night, not trying to focus on anything. Just go out, have a moment to myself before practice and reset."

When asked if his current problems are mental he replied, "Yes, I would say more mental than anything."

When I asked him what he wanted to work on at practice he said, "I don't know guys, are you going to start critiquing my practices now? I'm just trying to reset and do my thing." When pressed he said, "I suppose I'm just trying to find a good place to be and help the team where I can. I don't really know where to go, but what I need to work on is a longer explanation than you guys are going to put on the air and I don't really care to share it because it's a process I do on my own and I'm obviously frustrated with certain elements and that's pretty obvious and I'm just trying to figure out a good space to be in. Trying to get rid of the last few games and move on. That's what I want to start doing after this interview."

When asked if it's working and if he feels more refreshed the answer was, "It's getting there."

As far as this team's bad habit of slow starts at home Miller said, "I'm still sorting through it. It's been an issue with our team for awhile. It's something before the first home game we talked about, what we need to do to avoid it and it seems like we've found every trap that we talked about. I think it comes down to just being smart and organized. We don't want to give teams opportunities, but if they get opportunities, I need to be better about covering those mistakes up because mistakes happen and it's not what we're dwelling on, we're dwelling on the elements we're trying to accomplish here to be a championship caliber team and you can't consistently do certain things night in and night out and call yourself a championship caliber team."

Miller got a mock cheer when he made an easy save after the second goal. Miller said, "I'm not talking about the fans. I addressed it last night, they buy a ticket if they want to boo or want to cheer they can do whatever they want, it doesn't really matter. They bought their ticket and can do whatever they want, I'll leave it at that."

## Miller on Struggles

Adam Benigni

WGRZ

November 4, 2011

Sabres goaltender Ryan Miller spoke to the media on Thursday. He was pulled after giving up three quick goals Wednesday night against the Flyers.

2-On-Your-Side's Adam Benigni was among the reporters who spoke with Miller. Below is the text from the interview, and attached is video of the report that aired on Thursday's 11:00pm broadcast.

Lindy Ruff would not name his starting goaltender for Friday night's home game with Calgary. He did confirm he will stick to the schedule which involves Miller and Jhonas Enroth splitting the weekend games - Friday night against Calgary at home, and Saturday at Ottawa.

Here's the text from the Miller interview:

*Question: Is it more mental than technical Ryan?*

*Miller: "Yeah I'd say more mental than anything."*

*Question: How successful do you think you were at it?*

*Miller: "I don't know guys... Are we going to start critiquing my practices now? I'm just trying to reset and do my thing."*

*Question: It's not critiquing your practices Ryan. It's trying to figure out... To hear straight from you where things are at with your game and what specifically you're trying to fight through.*

*Miller: I suppose I'm trying to find a good place to be and just help the team where I can. I don't really know where to go... what I need to work on is a longer explanation that you guys can put on the air... I don't really care to share it because It's a process I do on my own. I'm frustrated with certain elements... That's obvious. I'm just trying to figure... It's not a good place to be in... I just want to get rid of the last few games and move on. It's what I want to start doing after this interview.*

*Question: Ryan do you have a message for the fans?*

*Miller: I'm not talking about the fans.*

*Question: Why?*

*Miller: Because I addressed it last night... They bought the ticket, they can do whatever they want... I'll leave it at that.*

## **Regehr jacked for tilt**

George Johnson

Calgary Herald

November 4, 2011

Robyn Regehr is nothing if not an equal-opportunity assassin.

Old friend. Current foe. Makes nary a whit of difference.

"No, there won't be any hesitation," assures the former Flames rearguard, who'll face his old team tonight in Buffalo (5: 30 p.m., Sportsnet, SN 960).

No quick peeks? No astonished double-takes? No imperceptible, perhaps even unconscious, let-up, if only for old times sake?

"None at all. If the opportunity arises . . . Hey, you know me. That's what I do.

I hit people."

Whether it be Jarome Iginla trolling down the wood (a Regehr-Iginla collision would certainly send a sizable chunk of recent Calgary Flames' history - nearly 2,000 games worth - flying willy-nilly, all over the place) or a wellthatched Olli Jokinen in full majestic swoop, there's simply no room for nostalgia.

Heads-up, fellas. "I'm looking forward to it," says Regehr of his date against the franchise he helped shape over the past 11 seasons, the Calgary Flames. "I have been for a while. I've played with and against a lot of guys growing up, in major junior, the Hockey Canada program.

You get used to that side of the game. You wind up playing against each other all the time. Sure you can have friendly relationships with guys when you're off the ice, but once you're on it, we're all trying to win.

"Everyone understands that."

He won't deny having daydreamed about training those clinical Carlos-the-Jackal sights on a moving target tonight, angling his prey off toward the board signage, into the Grey Area of Doom, before administering a noisy, painful coup de grace.

"Oh, yeah. Any preparation I do before a game, you run through the personnel of the team you're playing against. Tendencies, things like that. Having played with a lot of those guys a long time, I'm pretty familiar with them. Having said that, they know me, and the things I like to do, pretty well, too.

"No surprises either way, right?"

"So there could be some, uh . . . interesting matchups."

That's understating the matter ever-so-slightly. Four full months may have passed since Regehr waived his no-trade clause and Flames GM Jay Feaster shipped the franchise's second-ever longest-serving player to Buffalo. Enough time, surely, for people around here to recalibrate. Still, the sight of Robyn Regehr wearing No. 24 in Buffalo Sabres' togs this evening is going to be just plain . . . weird.

"I do think it'll be a little awkward during the warm-up," he concedes, "to look over and see a bunch of familiar faces, in that jersey, on the other side of the ice from me. But I'm hoping that once we start playing, get a few bumps in, everything will just sort of calm down. This is a little different sort of situation, I know, because my leaving didn't happen during the season, so there's been some separation time. That helps."

Regehr tries to keep tabs on his old team, although he admits Northwest Division games are televised a trifle late to stay up and watch in upstate New York. And he's spoken on the phone to a few ex-teammates - Miikka Kiprusoff, Jay Bouwmeester, Cory Sarich - over the past month and a half, just to keep abreast of the news.

"I was kind of hoping to see some of the guys before our game, but then I saw they're playing in Detroit (Thursday), which is too bad, and we're flying out right after the game Friday because we play the next night in Ottawa. So I really won't get any chance to spend much time with them at all.

"Sure I miss Calgary. Both my wife and I enjoyed our time there. It felt like home. We made a lot of good friends, and that's always the hardest part of leaving someplace. But business is business. You don't forget, but you move on."

Right now, both the Sabres and Flames are desperately looking to move forward. Buffalo has lost two on the trot, and four of it past five. Regehr's old mates, meanwhile, will be endeavouring to follow up a rare win at Detroit to inch back up to .500 and open a three-game road trip.

"We had a pretty good start, going over to Europe was different, but I thought our first four or five games we played pretty well," reasons Regehr. "But after that . . . we've really struggled. We just haven't put together consistent efforts, and making mistakes at key points of games have cost us wins."

The Flames haven't won in Buffalo in their past eight tries, dating back to March 15, 1996 when Theo Fleury, German Titov and Gary Roberts provided the goals, with Rick Tabaracci stopping 32 shots to outduel Dominik Hasek, as Calgary prevailed 3-1.

"Really?" marvels Regehr. "I did not know that. That's three years before I even got there. Brother, that is a LONG time ago. I just hope we can keep that streak alive."

## **Iggy and Olli show powers Flames to win over Wings**

Vicki Hall

Calgary Herald

November 4, 2011

To some of the bewildered folks back home, Brent Sutter required a sobriety test Thursday for his pronouncements after the morning skate.

Olli Jokinen and Jarome Iginla on the same line? Again? Didn't some wise soul tell us a long time ago that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result?

No matter. Iginla and Jokinen indeed played together in Detroit, and the Flames defeated the faltering Red Wings 4-1 at Joe Louis Arena.

So is Sutter a clairvoyant of sorts? How else to explain a move that, from the outside, appeared nonsensical?

"Olli is a different player today than he was two years ago," Sutter said. "His role has changed. He is playing a different brand of hockey for us, and he's being (rewarded) for changing his game." With Jokinen as his centre and Curtis Glencross on the other wing, Iginla broke out of his funk and scored on two of his patented one-timers. The new line combination generated seven points, with Glencross and Jokinen under strict orders not to change in order to accommodate the captain.

Instead, Iginla was forced to adapt. The main challenge? To skate in top gear after spending much of October too stationary on a line with Brendan Morrison and Alex Tanguay.

"I was just trying to move tonight," said the man of the hour. "Olli and Glennie have really been going this year . . .

I was very fortunate to get some pretty nice passes tonight. I was just trying to shoot as hard as I could. Try to hit the net, and fortunately they went in tonight."

Lee Stempniak — on a line with Morrison and Tanguay — opened the scoring at 15:52 of the first period from a bizarre angle on Jimmy Howard.

Iginla went to work in the fourth minute of the second, with a wicked one-timer on the power play. The assists: Glencross and Jokinen.

"I think Glennie and I have been playing with chemistry for some time," Jokinen said. "The message from the coaching staff this morning was that we have to play the same way. We can't change our game, no matter who we play with."

That includes the face of the

franchise.

“He was skating well,” Jokinen said. “He was moving his feet. Once he does that, he’s a very effective player.

“It was a good win. We had 20 guys showing up tonight. It was embarrassing the way we played against Vancouver. We definitely wanted to bounce back and show people we’re a better team than the way we played the other night.”

With Scott Hannan in the box for a controversial hit on Jiri Hudler, Dan Cleary scored his first of the season — off his shoulder — at 8:11 of the second.

Iginla iced the win in the third period with another one-time blast on a feed from Curtis Glencross. Jokinen, on a feed from Iginla, scored an empty netter in the final minute.

The goal came just after a disgruntled Joe Louis denizen tossed an octopus on the ice in disgust as time ticked down on Detroit’s sixth loss in a row. (No, that’s not a misprint.)

“It was a good win,” said goalie Miikka Kiprusoff, who turned away 28 shots. “In this building, you know there’s going to be some traffic. A lot of traffic there. Usually, you get a couple saves where you don’t even know where they hit you.

“You just try to play big.”

He looked over at the vacant stall belonging to his backup, the six-foot-five Henrik Karlsson.

“I’m not like Karl,” he said. “I have to be on my toes.”

So does Iginla, who doubled his goal output for the year to four.

“Tonight, I was really just trying to focus on moving and feeling good,” Iginla said. “I was just trying to play. I think I’ve been thinking a little bit too much. You get thinking, and then you stop moving.

“I’ve done it before. You think too much and you don’t just play.”

After the game, the Flames were to embark for upstate New York. They have not won in Buffalo since 1996.

C-Notes: Hannan could receive a call from league disciplinarian Brendan Shanahan today for the hit on Hudler. Just before the pair reached the boards, Hannan gave the Detroit forward a slight shove. Hudler smashed his head on the dash and suffered a facial cut.

“I was protecting myself,” Hannan said.

“It looked like he caught an edge, and I just put him into the boards a little bit.”

## Flames down Wings in Detroit

Steve MacFarlane

Calgary Sun

November 4, 2011

DETROIT - An empty net and a lone defender were the only things keeping Jarome Iginla away from the hat-trick.

But the Calgary Flames captain dished the puck to Olli Jokinen and demanded his centre take the shot.

“I was yelling at Olli to shoot,” Iginla said with a laugh after a massive 4-1 victory Thursday night over the Detroit Red Wings at Joe Louis Arena.

“I could see — they’re a smart team — I don’t know if it was (Nicklas) Lidstrom or who it was, but he’s just waiting to jump up. He knows I have two goals, the D-man, I could see him leaning.

“I was happy to see (Jokinen) get that.”

But not as happy as Flames fans were to see Iginla double his goal total for the season with a pair on the night.

And considering all the fuss about Jokinen and Iginla playing together again, Flames head coach Brent Sutter couldn’t help but grin when talking about the line changes he made.

Maybe attempting the same thing over and over really can net different results after all.

Plenty considered Sutter crazy for reuniting the pair after many previous failed experiments over the last few years.

But Sutter said earlier in the day Jokinen is a different player and alluded that the combination — which included gritty speed winger Curtis Glencross on the left flank — might be just what Iginla needs to get going.

Point made.

The trio combined for seven points on the night.

“It feels good, for sure,” beamed Iginla, of both the win and the goals. “To see that first one go in on the powerplay — it’s been a little while.

“It’s just trying to get it going. I was trying tonight to just focus on moving and feeling good — just trying to play.

I think I've been thinking about it a little too much, and you get thinking and then you stop moving. It's a really quick game."

The fresh look worked out well, with Lee Stempniak (who played with Alex Tanguay and Brendan Morrison) opening the scoring and Iginla potting his pair to bookend the Red Wings' only goal of the game a fluky deflection off his shoulder.

It was a strong road effort by the Flames, who didn't quite fare as well as they'd hoped (3-2-1) during their six-game homestand and were blown out in a 5-1 loss to the Vancouver Canucks in the finale.

"It was embarrassing the way we played against Vancouver," said Jokinen. "We definitely wanted to bounce back and show people we're a better team than we played the other night."

Playing against a Wings team that lost five in a row, they figured it would be a battle.

Along with a solid effort throughout the lineup, the Flames needed Iginla to step up and adapt to his new linemates' style rather than the other two changing their game to suit the captain.

"We did what we wanted to do," said Glencross, who feathered a pair of perfect passes to Iginla for the one-timer goals.

"We talked to Brent before the game. When Iggy's a power forward, he's hard to stop.

"He did a great job tonight."

The entire team did, blocking 20 shots and making the most of their offensive opportunities.

Including the empty-netter.

"To be honest, I wanted to give it back to him," Jokinen said of the potential hat-trick goal for Iginla.

"But he was screaming pretty loud to shoot it."