

BOSTON BRUINS vs. BUFFALO SABRES

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

HSBC Arena; Buffalo NY

Game Time: 7:00 p.m. ET

VERSUS and WBZ Radio

Tonight's Game

The Bruins visit the Sabres tonight in the first of six games between these teams this season and the first of three games of this season's series at HSBC Arena. The Bruins are 2-1-2 overall this season and are 2-1-1 thus far on the road. The Sabres are 4-0-1 overall this season with a 2-0-0 record on home ice. The Bruins are 1-0-1 this season vs. Northeast Division opponents and are 1-0-2 this season vs. Eastern Conference foes. The Sabres are 1-0-0 vs. Northeast Division opponents and post a 3-0-1 record vs. Eastern Conference teams.

Lifetime Series

The Bruins are 108-98-29-4 lifetime vs. Buffalo with the Sabres holding a 782-778 scoring edge in those 239 games. The Bruins are 43-59-15-3 lifetime vs. the Sabres in Buffalo with the Sabres having a 430-348 scoring edge in those 120 contests. The Bruins are winless in their last two games vs. the Sabres at 0-1-0-1 and went 2-2-2 vs. Buffalo in last season's series. The Bruins are 2-0-0-2 in their last four games in Buffalo with their last regulation loss in Buffalo a 4-2 loss on April 5, 2007.

Fun Facts vs. Buffalo: The Bruins and Sabres have never made a trade between the two organizations ... Four of the eight games between these teams last season were settled in overtime or shootout with each team winning two of those contests ... Shane Hnidy (seventh pick, 173rd overall, in the 1994 NHL Entry Draft) and Dennis Wideman (ninth pick, 241st overall, in the 2002 NHL Entry Draft) were both drafted by Buffalo but neither played for the Sabres ... Matt Hunwick (Nov. 10, 2007), David Krejci (Jan. 30, 2007) and Petteri Nokelainen (Oct. 5, 2005) all played their first NHL games vs. Buffalo ... Phil Kessel scored his first NHL goal vs. the Sabres on Oct. 21, 2006 ... Shawn Thornton recorded his first NHL point with an assist vs. Buffalo on Oct. 13, 2002.

Recent Bruins Games

The Bruins completed their season-opening four-game road trip at 2-1-1 with a 5-4 win in Colorado on Oct. 9, a 4-3 loss in Minnesota on Oct. 11, a 4-3 shootout loss in Montreal on Oct. 15 and a 4-2 victory in Ottawa on Oct. 18. They returned to Boston for their home opener on Oct. 20 with a 2-1 shootout loss to Pittsburgh.

Recent Sabres Games

The Sabres have taken points out of each of their games this season at 4-0-1 with a 2-1 shootout win over Montreal on Oct. 10, a 7-1 victory at NY Islanders on Oct. 13, a 3-1 win at NY Rangers on Oct. 15, a 5-2 victory vs. Vancouver on Oct. 17 and a 3-2 shootout loss in Atlanta on Oct. 18.

Upcoming Bruins Games

All games are televised on NESN and broadcast on WBZ Radio unless otherwise noted. All start times are Eastern.

The Bruins next return to Boston to host Toronto on Oct. 23 (7:00 p.m.) and Atlanta on Oct. 25 (7:00 p.m.). They will then face another three road games, traveling to Edmonton on Oct. 27 (9:00 p.m.), Vancouver on Oct. 28 (10:00 p.m.) and Calgary on Oct. 30 (9:00 p.m.).

Upcoming Sabres Games

The Sabres next face a two-game road trip to Minnesota on Oct. 23 and Colorado on Oct. 25. They will then return home for a three-game home stand, hosting Ottawa, Tampa Bay and Washington.

Bruins Injuries

Chuck Kobasew: Fractured right leg suffered Oct. 9 in Colorado; out indefinitely.

Bruins Recent Transactions (Last 30 Days)

Sept. 22: Jamie Arniel (Sarnia), Denis Reul (Lewiston) and Michael Hutchinson (Barrie) returned to their junior teams; Yuri Cheremetiev, Arthur Fritch and Doug Krantz (ATOs) released from training camp; Scott Fletcher (ATO) released from Boston training camp and invited to Providence/AHL training camp; Jeff LoVecchio, Levi Nelson and Wacey Rabbit assigned to Providence/AHL.

Sept. 24: Maxime Sauve (Val d'Or) returned to his junior team.

Sept. 27: Jordan Knackstedt released from Boston training camp and invited to Providence/AHL training camp; Byron Bitz, Andrew Bodnarchuk, Zach Hamill, Martins Karsums, Mikko Lehtonen, Brad Marchand, Matt Marquardt, Adam McQuaid and Kevin Regan assigned to Providence/AHL.

Sept. 29: Mike Egener and Ryan Stokes assigned to Providence/AHL.

Oct. 1: Johnny Boychuk assigned to Providence/AHL.

Oct. 2: Matt Lashoff, Jeff Penner and Tuukka Rask assigned to Providence/AHL.

Oct. 4: Martin St. Pierre assigned to Providence/AHL.

Oct. 7: Matt Hunwick assigned to Providence/AHL; Carl Soderberg assigned to Malmo/Sweden; Mike Egener announced retirement.

Oct. 8: Peter Schaefer, Vladimir Sobotka and Jeremy Reich assigned to Providence/AHL; Nate Thompson claimed off waivers by NY Islanders.

Oct. 13: Ned Lukacevic and conditional 2009 draft pick acquired from Philadelphia for Andrew Alberts.

Oct. 14: Vladimir Sobotka and Matt Hunwick recalled from Providence/AHL.

Oct. 17: Jordan Knackstedt signed to an entry-level contract.

2008-09 Shootouts (0-1):

Oct. 15: Boston 3 at Montreal 4 ... Boston Goal: Tim Thomas ... Montreal Goal: Carey Price

Boston Shooters: Phil Kessel (No), Patrice Bergeron (No), Michael Ryder (No)

Montreal Shooters: Andrei Markov (No), Alex Tanguay (Yes)

Oct. 20: Pittsburgh 2 at Boston 1 ... Boston Goal: Tim Thomas ... Pittsburgh Goal: Dany Sabourin

Boston Shooters: Phil Kessel (Yes), Patrice Bergeron (No), Michael Ryder (No), David Krejci (No), Marc Savard (No)

Pittsburgh Shooters: Kris Letang (No), Petr Sykora (Yes), Sidney Crosby (No), Miroslav Satan (No), Evgeni Malkin (Yes)

Bruins Fun Facts

October Birthdays: Phil Kessel turned 21 on Oct. 2.

Of the 23 players on the current Bruins roster, eight were acquired by the team via trade, eight were drafted by the team and seven were signed by the Bruins as free agents.

P. J. Axelsson is the longest-tenured Bruin as he enters his 11th season with the team since playing his first NHL game with Boston on Oct. 2, 1997.

Phil Kessel carries the team's longest current iron-man streak into tonight's game at 130 games, dating back to Jan. 9, 2007 at Buffalo. His last game missed was Jan. 6, 2007, the final game of 11 he missed following a testicular cancer diagnosis and surgery.

Manny Fernandez' next game will be the 300th of his NHL career.

P. J. Axelsson is three goals short of his 100th NHL/Bruins goal milestone.

Andrew Ference is three assists shy of his 100th NHL assist milestone.

Patrice Bergeron is seven points short of his 200th NHL/Bruins point milestone.

The Bruins have 16 sets of back-to-back games this season - six each home-road and road-road, three road-home and one home-home. They are 0-0-1 in the first game of these sets thus far and are completing their first such series tonight in Buffalo.

The Bruins have completed one of their 29 season series ...They are 1-0-0 vs. Colorado.

The Players

6—Dennis Wideman—D

Recorded his first point of the season with an assist Oct. 15 in Montreal.

11—P. J. Axelsson—LW

Is three goals shy of his 100th NHL/Bruins goal milestone.

Has missed the last two games with muscle spasms.

Has points in two of his three games played thus far at 0-3=3 with an assist Oct. 9 in Colorado and two assists Oct. 11 in Minnesota.

Has missed two games to injury (1-muscle spasms, Oct. 18-20).

12—Chuck Kobasew—RW

Is out indefinitely with a fractured right leg suffered Oct. 9 in Colorado.

Has one multiple-point game, a two-assist effort Oct. 9 in Colorado.

Has missed four games to injury (4-Leg, Oct. 11-20).

16—Marco Sturm—LW

Has 1-2=3 totals in two of his last four games with an assist Oct. 11 in Minnesota and a 1-1=2 effort Oct. 18 in Ottawa which included an assist on the game-winning goal.

17–Milan Lucic–LW

Had an assist on the game-winning goal Oct. 9 in Colorado and scored his first goal of the season Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

18–Stephane Yelle–C

Played his first game as a Bruin Oct. 9 in Colorado.

21–Andrew Ference–D

Is three assists shy of his 100th NHL assists milestone.

Has three assists on the season, recorded Oct. 9 in Colorado, Oct. 18 in Ottawa and Oct. 20 vs. Pittsburgh.

22–Shawn Thornton–LW

Scoreless in five games thus far this season.

29–Petteri Nokelainen–C

Has played three of the last four games, not dressing Oct. 15 in Montreal.

Has not dressed for two games (coach's decision).

30–Tim Thomas–G

Has taken points out of each of his starts this season at 1-0-2 with a 5-4 victory Oct. 9 in Colorado, a 4-3 shootout loss in Montreal on Oct. 15 and a 2-1 shootout loss to Pittsburgh on Oct. 20.

2008-09 Shootouts: 0-2 (3 goals/7 shots).

Has dressed as backup for two games.

33–Zdeno Chara–D

Has power play assists in two of his five games, recorded Oct. 9 in Colorado and Oct. 15 in Montreal.

34–Shane Hnidy–D

Is looking for his first point of the season.

Did not dress Oct. 15 in Montreal (coach's decision).

35–Manny Fernandez–G

Is one game shy of his 300th NHL game milestone.

Earned his first win of the season with a 4-2 victory in Ottawa on Oct. 18.

Took the 4-3 loss in Minnesota on Oct. 11, playing his first regular season game since Oct. 22, 2007 in Buffalo (missed the remainder of the 2007-08 season following knee surgery).

Has dressed as backup for three games.

37–Patrice Bergeron–C

Is seven points shy of his 200th NHL/Bruins point milestone.

Has points in three of his five games this season with a two-assist effort Oct. 9 in Colorado and single assists each Oct. 11 in Minnesota and Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

Has one multiple-point game, a two-assist effort Oct. 9 in Colorado.

42–Blake Wheeler–LW

Scored his first NHL goal in his first NHL game Oct. 9 in Colorado ... Was the first Bruin to accomplish that feat since Andy Hilbert vs. Buffalo on Dec. 20, 2001.

44–Aaron Ward–D

Scoreless in five games thus far this season.

Played his 700th NHL game Oct. 15 in Montreal.

45–Mark Stuart–D

Scoreless in five games thus far this season.

46–David Krejci–C

Has 2-3=5 totals in three of his five games this season with 1-1=2 totals each Oct. 9 in Colorado and Oct. 15 in Montreal and an assist Oct. 20 vs. Pittsburgh.

Has two multiple-point games.

48–Matt Hunwick–D

Has not dressed for the last two games.

Played his first Boston game of the season Oct. 15 in Montreal.

Recalled Oct. 14 from Providence/AHL where he had two assists in two AHL Bruins games.

Has not dressed for two games (coach's decision).

60–Vladimir Sobotka–C

Has played the last three games since his Oct. 14 recall from Providence/AHL where he had 2-2=4 totals with 7 PIM in 2 AHL Bruins games ... Had a "Gordie Howe Hat Trick" with the overtime goal, an assist and a fight vs. Springfield on Oct. 12.

73–Michael Ryder–RW

Had his four-game point streak stopped Oct. 20 vs. Pittsburgh with 1-4=5 totals in that span ... Had a goal Oct. 9 in Colorado, two assists Oct. 11 in Minnesota and single assists each Oct. 15 in Montreal and Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

Has one multiple-point game.

Scored his first goal as a Bruin in his first game as a Bruin Oct. 9 in Colorado ... The goal was the 100th of his NHL career.

81–Phil Kessel–RW

Has points in four of his five games this season ... Scored the first goal of the game in each of Boston's first two games this season, Oct. 9 in Colorado and Oct. 11 in Minnesota; had 2-1=3 totals, including the game-winning goal, Oct. 18 in Ottawa; and scored Boston's lone goal Oct. 20 vs. Pittsburgh.

Has one multiple-point game, a 2-1=3 effort Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

91–Marc Savard–C

Had his four-game point streak stopped Oct. 20 vs. Pittsburgh with 5-4=9 totals in that span ... Had a 1-1=2 effort Oct. 9 in Colorado, two-goal efforts each Oct. 11 in Minnesota and Oct. 15 in Montreal, and three assists, including one on the game-winning goal, Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

Has four multiple-point games with his season-high a three-assist effort Oct. 18 in Ottawa.