

NHL

Ray Emery next target for Sabres

by MATT KRUEGER
Reporter

Just like a fencer, the Buffalo Sabres will have to take careful aim on their attacks when they thrust at Ottawa goalie Ray Emery in the Eastern Conference Finals this week.

And, hopefully, Emery won't have the right parry.

Beginning with Game One Thursday night at HSBC Arena, the Sabres will look to make Emery the next victim of their high-powered, slashing offense, adding him to the scrap heap of Wade Dubielewicz, Rick DiPietro and Henrik Lundqvist.

"He's the guy that is playing extremely well for them," Buffalo winger Jason Pominville said after practice Tuesday. "He's been hot. He's a big guy. We know we've got to throw pucks at the net. It doesn't really change from goalie to goalie. We have to get traffic and get pucks high and try to create those rebounds in front of the net."

Through the first two rounds of the Stanley Cup playoffs, Emery has been as strong as any goalie could be. In the quarterfinals, he improved with each game against the young, fast Pittsburgh Penguins. Emery allowed three goals in a 6-3 victory in Game One and gave up four in a 4-3 loss in Game Two, but in Games Three, Four and Five, he allowed two, one and zero scores, respectively.

In Ottawa's semifinal against the favored New Jersey Devils, Emery posted another shutout in Game Three, 2-0, and just two goals in



Maxim Afinogenov is carried down the ice by Dainius Zubrus and Tim Connolly after he scored the winning goal in overtime Friday night against the New

York Rangers. Joining the celebration are Derek Roy, Paul Gaustad, Daniel Briere and Brian Campbell.

Photo by David F. Sherman

each of the last two games.

Emery's goals-against average of 2.04 was the best of all Eastern Conference goalies in the playoffs, just edging out Buffalo's Ryan Miller (2.07). However, his save percentage of .919 doesn't rank him in the top 10 for playoff

goalies.

"I think we can take advantage of him," Buffalo winger Ales Kotalik said. "I think Ryan is a better goalie than him, and we've been facing better goalies than him. We will see. He's got a big body, but we know he can give up pretty

easy goals."

Having just come off a series in which they had to deal with Lundqvist (.924 save percentage), the Sabres know how important it is to have bodies standing in front of the crease, blocking the view and looking to bang home a re-

bound.

"Obviously, Lundqvist was kind of a different situation," Pominville said of the Rangers goalie, who gave Buffalo's offense fits in the semifinals. "He's a goalie that plays a little more deep. I think Emery is like other goalies, standing mid-range. We just have to get pucks to the net, get traffic and create that havoc in front of the net. If we do that, we should have success."

Emery had a .918 save percentage in the regular season, while DiPietro (.919) and Lundqvist (.917) were alright with him.

"It's been three great goalies," Pominville said. "We all know how good DiPietro is. And then it was Lundqvist. And Emery had a tremendous year this year, so he's definitely a great up-and-coming goalie. It's going to be two young goalies going at each other. And they should make it a really exciting series."

On the other side of the ice, Buffalo has all the confidence in the world with their backstop. Miller was easily the best player on the ice in four of the six games against the Rangers and improved his save percentage from .911 in the regular season to .928 in the playoffs.

"You have to draw confidence from your goaltender," Buffalo coach Lindy Ruff said. "If you don't have great goaltending in the playoffs, you don't win. We need key plays and big saves at big times and Ryan has been there for us."

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 9

Baseball: Amherst at South, 4:30 p.m.; Lancaster at Sweet Home, 4:45 p.m.; East at John F. Kennedy, 4:30 p.m.; North at Orchard Park, 4:45 p.m.

Boys Lacrosse: Hamburg at Amherst, 7 p.m.; Sweet Home at Iroquois, 5 p.m.; North at Orchard Park, 5 p.m.; South at Clarence, 5 p.m.

Girls Lacrosse: Amherst at Nichols, 4:30 p.m.; Sweet Home at W.S. East, 4:30 p.m.; Nardin at Sacred Heart, 4:30 p.m. (Kadimah School of Buffalo)

Softball: W.S. East at Amherst, 5 p.m.; Lancaster at Sweet Home, 4:45 p.m.; South at East, 4:30 p.m. (Transit Middle School); North at Orchard Park, 4:45 p.m.

Boys Tennis: Maryvale at Amherst, 4 p.m.; Iroquois at Sweet Home, 4 p.m.; Lake Shore at East, 4 p.m.; South at W.S. East, 4 p.m.

Girls Tennis: O'Hara at Sacred Heart, 4 p.m. (Clearfield)

Thursday, May 10

Baseball: Sweet Home at Jamestown, 4:30 p.m.; Orchard Park at North, 4:45 p.m.; Lake Shore at South, 4:30 p.m.

Girls Lacrosse: Amherst at Eden, 4:30 p.m.; East Aurora at East, 4:30 p.m.; South at Iroquois, 4:30 p.m.

Softball: Frontier at Sweet Home, 4:30 p.m.; East at Lake Shore, 5 p.m.; Lake Shore at South, 4 p.m.; Sacred Heart at Nichols, 4:15 p.m.

Boys Tennis: East at Iroquois, 4 p.m.; North at Clarence, 4:45 p.m.; Lake Shore at South, 4 p.m.

Girls Outdoor Track: Sacred Heart vs. Mount St. Mary's, 4 p.m. (Donahue Field)

Friday, May 11

Baseball: Iroquois at Amherst, 4:30 p.m.; Frontier at Sweet Home, 4:30 p.m.; South at East, 4:30 p.m.; North at Lancaster, 4:45 p.m.

Boys Lacrosse: W.S. East at Sweet Home, 5 p.m.; Frontier at East, 5 p.m.; North at South, 7:30 p.m.

Girls Lacrosse: W.S. West at Sweet Home, 5 p.m.; North Tonawanda at North, 4:30 p.m.; Mount Mercy at Sacred Heart, 4:30 p.m. (Kadimah School of Buffalo)

Softball: Hamburg at Amherst, 4:30 p.m.; East at Iroquois, 5 p.m.; North at Lancaster, 4:45 p.m.; Sacred Heart at O'Hara, 4:15 p.m.

Boys Tennis: Amherst at Cheektowaga, 4 p.m.; Sweet Home at Lake Shore, 4 p.m.; East at Hamburg, 4 p.m.; Clarence at North, 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, May 12

Baseball: East at Charlotte Valley, noon, East at Oneonta, 3 p.m.; South at Hilton Tourn. TBA

Girls Lacrosse: South at North, 11 a.m.

Boys Outdoor Track: Amherst, Sweet Home, East at Starpoint Team Challenge, 10 a.m. (Starpoint High School)

Girls Outdoor Track: Amherst, Sweet Home, at Starpoint Team Challenge, 10 a.m. (Starpoint High School)

Monday, May 14

Baseball: Amherst at Depew, 4:30 p.m. (Dawson Field); Sweet Home at South, 4:30 p.m.; Jamestown at North, 5:15 p.m.

Boys Lacrosse: Sweet Home at Orchard Park, 5 p.m.; South at W.S. West, 7 p.m.

Girls Lacrosse: Mount St. Mary's at Amherst, 7 p.m.; Sweet Home at Grand Island, 4:30 p.m.; North at Frontier, 4:45 p.m.

Softball: Sweet Home at W.S. East, 4:30 p.m.; Frontier at East, 4:30 p.m. (Transit Middle School); South at Hamburg, 4:30 p.m.

Boys Tennis: W.S. East at Sweet Home, 5 p.m.; South at East, 4 p.m.

Girls Tennis: Nardin at Sacred Heart, 4 p.m. (Clearfield)

Tuesday, May 15

Baseball: Amherst at Tonawanda, 4:30 p.m.; Sweet Home at Hamburg, 4:30 p.m.; North at Canisius, 4:45 p.m.

Boys Lacrosse: Amherst at Lake Shore, 5 p.m.; South at Sweet Home, 5 p.m.; East at Iroquois, 5 p.m.; North at Frontier, 5 p.m.

Girls Lacrosse: North at East, 4:30 p.m.

Softball: Lake Shore at Amherst, 4:30 p.m.; Jamestown at North, 5:15 p.m.

Boys Outdoor Track: East at Amherst, 4:30 p.m.; Sweet Home at Lake Shore, 4:30 p.m.; South at Pioneer, 4:30 p.m.

Girls Outdoor Track: East at Amherst, 4:30 p.m.; Sweet Home at Lake Shore, 4:30 p.m.; South at Pioneer, 4:30 p.m.

Lou Gehrig 'AAA' Orioles double up A's, 10-5

It was opening day at the Lou Gehrig Complex and the "AAA" Orioles and A's put on quite a battle, with six different pitchers from each team getting their first experience of throwing from the mound. The Orioles won 10-5.

For the Orioles, Mike Shanahan struck out the side to record three of the team's 12 strikeouts. Andrew Spitznogle and Mike Paolini each had two strikeouts. Steve Bunce and Alex Dimitroff had strong outings for the Athletics.

Brandon Quagliana led the Orioles' offense attack, hitting 4 for 4 with two RBIs and a run scored. Ben Wald had two hits and scored four runs.

Nic Pilon of the A's smashed an RBI double down the third baseline in the second inning and Ryan Forczak (hit, run) was on base all three times for the A's.

'AA' Baseball Mets 13, White Sox 5

Kyle Spoth led the Mets, hitting 4 for 4 and driving one hard ball to the fence in the fifth inning for a timely double. Steven Metzger also provided plenty of pop, also hitting 4 for 4.

Other offensive standouts were Jacob Zurat, Sam Barillari, and Alex Wanat, who each collected three hits.

Defensively, the Mets played a solid game as Jacob Zurat, Sam Barillari, Alex Wanat, Brady Homberger, Carter Wild and Kyle Spoth were involved in several impressive plays.

Major 'A' baseball Yankees 10, Brewers 6

The Yankees came out swinging early and established the early lead with Jake Honsberger's leadoff double and later on a two-out bases loaded triple. Zack Thomas started the game on the mound, pitching two shutout innings and adding a towering home run in the fourth inning.

Andrew Weinberg chipped in with three hits while Trevor Morcelle, Kyle Fabian and Tyler Trubish all scored two runs.

The Yankees managed to hold off a late inning Brewer comeback to finish up on top 10-6. Ryan Winkler held the Yankees scoreless in the last two innings allowing the Brewers their window of opportunity. Tyler Penberthy and Adam Russell both had two hits for the Brewers.

Minor Softball Mets 7, Phillies 4

The Mets scored five runs early as Shannon Kelley, Sarah Richmond, Alyssa Whittaker, Sydney Siembida and Shannon Gestwick crossed the plate.

Later runs were added by Alaina Wheeler, Emma Wager and Kelly Mclean. Defensive fielding gems were added by Maria Fallavollita, Emily Piosenka and Erin Shea.

Red Sox 8, Mets 4

The Red Sox batted around in the second inning, securing the victory as the Mets came up short in their comeback attempt. Sunday's loss left the Mets at 1-1.