



AMALIE Arena Media Clips
Friday, October 13, 2023

1. Lightning call up Alex Barre-Boulet to fortify forward depth – Eduardo Encina (Tampa Bay Times)

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TAMPA — One game into the regular season, it appears the Lightning's depth already is being tested.

No formal announcement had been made by Thursday about the status of forward Tyler Motte, who left Tuesday's season-opening win over the Predators with an apparent hand injury. But it appears the veteran wing will miss some time.

The Lightning on Thursday recalled forward Alex Barre-Boulet from AHL Syracuse, one day after he cleared waivers and was assigned to the Crunch. Barre-Boulet's quick return is a clear indication Motte will not be able to play Saturday in Detroit.

Motte was hit in the arm by a shot while on the penalty kill during the second period. He tried to return but did not play a shift in the third. Coach Jon Cooper didn't have an update after the game. Assistant Jeff Blashill said Motte was day to day after he didn't participate in Wednesday's practice in Brandon.

Motte, who signed late in the offseason after free-agent addition Josh Archibald decided he wouldn't play this season, quickly has become a valuable asset as a speedy forechecker, penalty killer and shot blocker.

With their roster at the maximum 23 players, the Lightning would have had to make space to add Barre-Boulet. Presumably, that would mean transferring Motte to injured reserve, which would keep him sidelined for at least seven days.

After spending the preseason in a bottom-six role, it was a surprise to see Motte on the second line Tuesday alongside Brandon Hagel and Anthony Cirelli. Though new to playing with each other, the three showed the makings of a lockdown line, holding the Predators to two shot attempts and no shots on goal in 4:43 together.

Motte had two hits and a blocked shot in 7:55 before leaving the game.

Tampa Bay's upcoming trip consists of three games against Atlantic Division opponents: Detroit on Saturday, Ottawa on Sunday and Buffalo on Tuesday.

Barre-Boulet, 26, was on the third line and second power play throughout the preseason before being placed on waivers Tuesday. He will be the team's 13th forward.