



**AMALIE Arena Media Clips
Sunday, January 21, 2024**

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Nuts & Bolts: Lightning and Red Wings face-off in Detroit

Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)

Everything you need to know ahead of Tampa Bay's matchup against the Detroit Red Wings on Sunday.

When: Sunday, January 21 - 7:00 p.m. ET

Where: Little Caesars Arena - Detroit, Michigan

TV coverage: Bally Sports (check local listings)

Radio coverage: 102.5 MHz-FM, Lightning Radio 24/7

Where to stream it: BallySports.com

Lines from Saturday's Game (subject to change)

Steven Stamkos - Brayden Point - Nikita Kucherov

Brandon Hagel - Anthony Cirelli - Nick Paul

Mikey Eyssimont - Tyler Motte - Conor Sheary

Austin Watson - Luke Glendening - Waltteri Merela

Defensemen

Victor Hedman - Darren Raddysh

Calvin de Haan - Nick Perbix

Emile Lilleberg - Max Crozier

Goaltenders

Andrei Vasilevskiy

Jonas Johansson

Sunday's Matchup

The Lightning and Red Wings are playing the second of three matchups this season and the second of two meetings at Little Caesars Arena...The Bolts dropped the first contest between the two teams this season in a 6-4 loss Oct. 14 at DET...Victor Hedman (1-2—3) and Steven Stamkos (2-1—3) both posted three points Oct. 14 at DET, while Brandon Hagel (1-1—2), Nikita Kucherov (0-2—2) and Anthony Cirelli (0-1—1) were the other three Lightning skaters to find the scoresheet...Kucherov is riding a six-game point streak vs. DET (3-6—9) and has picked up points in 21 of the last 25 meetings (19-23—42)...Brayden Point has scored a goal in four of his last five games vs. DET (5-2—7) and has pointed in seven of the last nine meetings (7-4—11)...Stamkos has found the scoresheet in eight of his last 10 games vs. DET (7-8—15)...Hedman has picked up 13 points over his last eight contests vs. DET (1-12—13)...Austin Watson has scored a goal in four of his last six games vs. DET (5-1—6)...The Lightning have scored 20 goals over their last five games at Little Caesars Arena and have scored three or more goals in 11 of the last 14 meetings in Detroit...In 16 career games vs. DET, Andrei Vasilevskiy is 14-2-0 with a .929 save percentage, 2.08 goals against average and one shutout...In six career starts at DET, Vasilevskiy is 6-0-0 with a .912 SV%, 2.61 GAA and one shutout...The Bolts are 2-3-0 in the second game of a back-to-back set this season...Tampa Bay has allowed just three power-play goals against in their last 14 games at DET...The Lightning are 5-3-2 in their last 10 road games at DET and 6-4-0 in the last 10 meetings overall...The Lightning are 38-34-3 with two ties all-time vs. DET, including a road record of 15-20-2 with one tie...Kucherov (20-24—44) holds the Tampa Bay franchise record for career points vs. DET.

Injuries

Erik Cernak - Upper-body - Week-to-Week

Haydn Fleury - Upper-body - Week-to-Week

Mikhail Sergachev - Upper-body - Week-to-Week

Tanner Jeannot - Lower-body - Week-to-Week

The Road Ahead

Tuesday, January 23 at Philadelphia Flyers

Thursday, January 25 vs. Arizona Coyotes

Saturday, January 27 vs. New Jersey Devils

How Lightning clamped down in Buffalo to extend season-best win streak **Eduardo A. Encina (Tampa Bay Times)**

BUFFALO, N.Y. — There's been one constant from the Lightning through their season-long five-game winning streak:

They've done a better job of keeping the puck out of their own net.

With the Lightning's 3-1 matinee win over the Sabres on Saturday afternoon — the beginning of their three-game, four-day road trip — they continued to munch points and jumped to the front of a cluttered group of seven Eastern Conference teams all within four points of each other entering the day.

Going into the night games, the Lightning (24-17-5, 53 points) moved into the third-place playoff position in the Atlantic Division. They will have the opportunity to continue their climb Sunday night in Detroit against a Red Wings team that's two points behind them.

"Every game we go into now, the main goal is trying to get the two points," said center Anthony Cirelli, who set up the Lightning's opening goal by forcing a turnover in the offensive zone. "We did our job at home and now we have to come on the road here and win games. So it's a great start for us."

Over the course of their win streak, the Lightning have allowed an average of just two goals a game.

"I thought we defended great today," coach Jon Cooper said. "We didn't give them much in the first two periods. In the third period, they had the puck more than we did, but I never completely felt in duress."

The Lightning scored on their first two shots of the day, both created by Buffalo turnovers, including Tyler Motte's short-handed goal that gave them a 2-0 cushion 7:06 into the game.

Go shorty

Just 17 seconds after Nick Paul goal put the Lightning up 1-0, a cross-checking call on Darren Raddysh (a hit that was retaliation for Alex Tuch hitting Brayden Point into the boards) put the Lightning on the penalty kill.

It was a huge opportunity for the Sabres, and 30 seconds into their power play, Motte pressured Tuch at the blue line, forcing a turnover and creating a breakaway. Motte withstood Rasmus Dahlin's lunging backcheck and beat Sabres goaltender Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen short side.

"I guess it's not even a move," Motte said of the goal that gave Tampa Bay a 2-0 lead. "Just a quick shot that I've tried to get off in the past and I felt like it had a chance there and luckily it went in."

After going their first 42 games without a short-handed goal, the Lightning now have two in the past four games. Luke Glendening, Motte's forward-pair partner on the PK, scored Tampa Bay's first shorty in the Jan. 11 win over the Devils.

Johansson comes up huge

Lightning backup goaltender Jonas Johansson went from playing almost every game to open the season when Andrei Vasilevskiy was out to playing sporadically once Vasilevskiy returned. It's not an easy transition, and Saturday's game was Johansson's first in nearly three weeks. It might be his only start of January.

But for your backup goaltender to get the win on the front end of a back-to-back is huge, especially given the Lightning's need to pile up points.

Johansson caught a break early, when Buffalo forward J.J. Peterka's shot attempt beat him far side but clanked harmlessly off the post. After that, Johansson was sharp. He fought off a third-period surge by the Sabres, making 10 of his 26 saves in the final minutes, but none was bigger than the left pad stop he made on Tuch on a breakaway in the opening minute of the third.

"That's a game changer and that's when you need your goalie," Cooper said. "You don't know when that save is coming, but it's coming ... It was the difference in the game."

Puck possession wins the day

The Lightning had just 16 shots on goal. The big three of Nikita Kucherov, Brayden Point and Steven Stamkos had just three shots between them (Kucherov, who entered the day as the league's leading scorer had none). The Lightning power play was 0-for-3 and recorded just three shots on goal.

But the way the Lightning possessed the puck, especially throughout the first two periods, and didn't make mistakes, dictated the afternoon. They certainly allowed their share of scoring chances — the Sabres had 21, including 12 in the second period — but the Lightning forced most of Buffalo's looks to the outside. And they continued to limit their turnovers.

"We were on guys, on pucks, hounding them, in our structure, covering our lanes," Cirelli said. "So I think that good things always happen as long as we stay disciplined with the puck and manage our game. The main thing is keeping our feet moving."

Added Motte: "When we're consistent in our game, we obviously have a lot of trust and belief in ourselves, but when we consistently do it for as close to 60 minutes as we can, I feel like we like our chances most nights. I think throughout maybe the first half of the year, we weren't ask consistent as we'd like to be ... so I think that's a good focus of ours."

Tampa Bay Lightning take care of business to open important road trip

Erik Erlendsson (Lightning Insider)

Buffalo, NY – The Tampa Bay Lightning headed out on the road for a three-game road trip with four consecutive wins in their luggage.

As they headed to Buffalo to open the trip, the Lightning needed to carry some of their home success on to the road with them. The road has not been overly friendly to the Tampa Bay Lightning, which has allowed the third-most goals on the road this season.

At a time of the season when points are at a premium, the Lightning need to start playing better on the road or they will be left on the outside when it comes to the playoffs. With two big divisional games to start the trip, there is no better time than now to start that process.

While things weren't as tidy as they would like, the road formula of get the lead, build the lead, protect the lead worked in Tampa Bay's favor. And Jonas Johansson was a big part of that while making his first start since December 31 and just his fifth start since November 24.

FIRST PERIOD

Afternoon games can be tricky for teams that are not used to playing them. The Lightning don't play many of them, and certainly not on home ice. The early start times disrupt the flow of game days, which generally start with the morning skate followed by a pregame meal and then a nap before returning to the rink to play the game.

And, for the most part, the Lightning were not on top of their game for most of the first period. Buffalo had a majority of the possession and zone time. On a couple of occasions, the Lightning were hemmed in their own zone and under pressure. But they didn't break, with the exception of the J.J. Peterka shot that clanged off the crossbar in the opening minutes.

There were moments, however, in which Tampa Bay played strong on the puck and were opportunistic. And, efficient.

The scoring opened on a steal by Anthony Cirelli on Casey Mittlestadt along the left boards. Cirelli cleanly collected the pass, found Hagel in the middle slot where he was off balance just a tad, but was able to get the puck over to Nick Paul for the quick one-timer at 6:14. The goal was the 12th of the season for Paul, his first in 12 games dating back to December 21.

The goal came on the Lightning's first shot of the game.

Right after, Tampa Bay allowed an odd-man rush and promptly took a penalty. Although, Alex Tuch delivered a hit from behind on Brayden Point that wasn't called while Darren Raddysh was whistled for cross checking as he came in and gave a couple of knocks with his stick at 6:31.

In the world of poetic justice, however, it was Tuch that handed the Lightning the next goal. At the right point on the power play, Tuch mishandled the puck and Tyler Motte collected it and raced up ice for a shorthanded breakaway. With a defender coming off to his right, Motte delivered a shot to the short post for his fourth goal of the season and Tampa Bay's second shorthanded goal of the season at 7:06.

The Lightning did what every road team wants to accomplish – take the crowd out of the game. Score early, then build on the lead by scoring against the home team's first power play chance. It's a good recipe.

Buffalo is not a good come-from-behind team. They entered with four wins in 25 games this season when allowing the first goal. The Sabres were 2-15-2 when trailing after the opening period.

The Sabres pushed to close out the period, but the Lightning held things to the outside for the most part and maintained the two-goal lead heading into intermission.

Numbers in the first period at even strength, courtesy of Natural Stat Trick:

Shot attempts: 12-10 Buffalo
Shots on goal: 5-4 Sabres
Scoring chances: 5-3 Sabres
High Danger chances: 1-0 Buffalo
Expected goals:
Tampa Bay: 0.40
Buffalo: 0.36

SECOND PERIOD

Not a clean period for Tampa Bay, even with a good few shifts to open play. While the possession in a lot of ways looked, and felt, even in the middle frame, it seemed that Buffalo did more with that possession than the Lightning did, as a whole.

The trailing team always makes a push and hockey can many times be a game of momentum. Tampa Bay did have it to start the third and had the opportunity to push that lead to three goals with a power play opportunity.

Ryan Johnson was called for holding at 7:28 and the red hot Lightning power play had the chance to go to work. Tampa Bay entered the afternoon with goals on six consecutive power play chances. The chance to sort of take over the game with a three-goal lead.

Instead of seizing momentum, the power play sapped it. Tampa Bay generated just one shot on goal and two shot attempts, both by the second unit.

Buffalo snagged the momentum and made their push. About four minutes after the Lightning power play expired, the Sabres cut the lead to a goal.

Tampa Bay is prone to playing a little loose defensively, specifically on the road. And that's how the Sabres got on the board. With the puck behind the Tampa Bay net, Peterka was coming around as he was chased by Max Crozier. As Peterka reached the other side of the net, Brayden Point left his spot at the post to chase Peterka. Once Point made a stride, Peterka fed a pass to Dylen Cozens – the man Point was covering – for a quick snap shot to the far post at 13:52.

The Lightning had another power play chance later in the period to try to steal some momentum back. Steven Stamkos was hooked by Alex Tuch in the offensive zone at 16:18. While this opportunity was better than the first – there were two shots on goal and three attempts – it wasn't the kind of momentum-building power play chance to get the ball rolling in the other direction.

Tampa Bay held that 2-1 lead through two periods.

Even strength numbers in the second period:
Shot attempts: 15-15
Shots on goal: 6-6
Scoring chances: 7-3 Tampa Bay

High Danger chances: 3-2 Buffalo

Expected goals:

Tampa Bay: 0.49

Buffalo: 0.40

THIRD PERIOD

The way Tampa Bay started the third period was not the recipe teams try to put together to hold on to a one-goal lead.

On the opening shift, Victor Hedman fell asleep in the neutral zone that allowed Tuch to slip in behind him and take a pass for a breakaway chance. But Jonas Johansson came up with the stop 65 seconds into the third period. Four seconds off the ensuing faceoff, Owen Power had a good look from the high-center slot that Johansson gloved down through traffic.

That set the tone for how the period was going to play out. The Sabres were generating, Johansson was stopping everything.

Buffalo had the first six shots on goal of the period before Tampa Bay registered its first shot at the 7:36. And as it turned out, the Lightning did not put a shot on goal at 5-on-5 play for the rest of game. The Lightning bent, but didn't break, in large part to Johansson.

The Sabres were held at bay, however, despite keeping most of the possession. Johansson was brilliant in the third and Tampa Bay tacked on the empty netter with 1:16 left when Calvin de Haan found the back of the net from the red line.

Third period numbers at even strength.

Shot Attempts: 19-7 Buffalo

Shots on Goal: 10-1 Buffalo

Scoring chances: 5-3 Buffalo

High Danger chances: 2-0 Buffalo

Expected Goals:

Tampa Bay 0.66

Buffalo 0.14

Overall numbers in all situations:

Shot Attempts: 55-42 Buffalo

Shots on Goal: 28-16 Buffalo

Scoring chances: 21-17 Tampa Bay

High Danger chances: 7-7

Expected goals:

Tampa Bay: 3.14

Buffalo: 1.81

NOTES

Tampa Bay scratched Alex Barre-Boulet, Phil Myers and Erik Cernak. ... LW Mikey Eyssimont appeared in his 100th career game. ... Tampa Bay's 49 first-period goals are third most in the league. ... The line of Brayden Point, Nikita Kucherov and Steven Stamkos combined for one shot on goal at 5-on-5 play.

MY THREE STARS

1. Lightning G Jonas Johansson – Stopped 27 shots, including all 15 in the third period
2. Lightning C Tyler Motte – Shorthanded goal served as the game winner
3. Lightning RW Nick Paul – Goal, assist, plus-2, five shot attempts, two hits, 57-percent on faceoffs