



COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS vs. BUFFALO SABRES

Friday, February 23, 2024 | 7:00 P.M. | Nationwide Arena | Broadcast: MSG



BUFFALO SABRES

25-27-4 | 54 PTS
6th place in the Atlantic Division
Last Game: 3-2 W at MTL

Top Scorers

Casey Mittelstadt: 56 GP, 13 G, 31 A, 44 PTS
Rasmus Dahlin: 55 GP, 14 G, 29 A, 43 PTS
Alex Tuch: 49 GP, 16 G, 22 A, 38 PTS

Season Series:

Dec. 19 at BUF | 9-4 L
Dec. 30 at BUF | 3-2 W (OT)
Feb. 23 at CBJ | 7:00 P.M.

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

18-27-10 | 46 PTS
8th place in the Metropolitan Division
Last Game: 7-4 W at ANA

Top Scorers

Johnny Gaudreau: 55 GP, 8 G, 32 A, 40 PTS
Zach Werenski: 43 GP, 4 G, 29 A, 33 PTS
Kirill Marchenko: 53 GP, 16 G, 12 A, 28 PTS

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Buffalo has earned a win in each of its last two road games in Columbus, outscoring the Blue Jackets 14-6 in those games.

A win in tonight's game would give the Sabres three straight road wins against the Blue Jackets for the first time.

Henri Jokiharju has posted at least one point in three consecutive games (1+3) and he is riding a three-game assist streak. A point in tonight's game would give **Jokiharju** the longest point streak of his career.

Rasmus Dahlin has skated 29 or minutes in each of Buffalo's last four games. If he skates 29 or more minutes in tonight's game, it will mark the longest streak by a Sabres skater since the NHL began tracking time on ice (1997-98).

Dahlin is currently tied with Jerry Korab (216) for fifth all-time among all Sabres defensemen in assists and he needs one assist to gain sole possession of fifth place on Buffalo's all-time list.

COLUMBUS DAY

Buffalo has recorded 24 total goals in its last five games against Columbus. In their last 11 games against the Blue Jackets, the Sabres are 10-for-24 (41.7%) on the power play.

Tagge Thompson has recorded 16 points (11+5) during his current nine-game point streak against the Blue Jackets. His nine-game point streak is the longest ever by a Sabres skater against Columbus.

Among all NHL skaters all-time, **Thompson** ranks second in goals per game (1.10) and third in points per game (1.60) against Columbus (Min. 5 GP).

Alex Tuch has registered eight points (3+5) in his last six games against Columbus, including at least one point in each of his last three road games against the Blue Jackets.

In eight games against the Blue Jackets in his career, **Dylan Cozens** has notched 10 points (3+7), including at least one point in three consecutive contests against Columbus.

Rasmus Dahlin has tallied 14 points (3+11) in his last 11 games against Columbus. Among all NHL defensemen, **Dahlin** ranks fifth all-time in points per game (1.17) against Columbus (Min. 5 games played).

Casey Mittelstadt has notched five points (2+3) in his last three games against Columbus.

BUFFALO INJURY REPORT

Victor Olofsson (illness), **Owen Power** (upper body, IR); **Jack Quinn** (lower body, IR); **Mattias Samuelsson** (upper body, IR)

ON THIS DATE

The Sabres are 17-7-0 all-time on February 23.

February 23, 2003: Buffalo gets goals from four different scorers and Martin Biron makes 30 saves on 31 shots as the Sabres win 4-1 in Tampa.

February 23, 2011: The Sabres defeat the Atlanta Thrashers 4-1 in the team's first game under the ownership of the Pegulas, a day after Terry and Kim Pegula announced their purchase of the team. All three members of the French Connection surprise Terry on the ice in a pre-game ceremony.

PLAYERS TO WATCH



Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen is 9-6-0 in his last 15 games dating back to Dec. 30 and he has registered a save percentage of .933 and a goals-against average of 1.82 in that span. **Luukkonen** leads the league with three shutouts and ranks second in goals-against average and fourth in save percentage among all NHL goaltenders who have played at least five games in that span.



Blue Jackets forward **Boone Jenner** enters tonight's game riding a five-game point streak (5+3) and is coming off a career-high three-point effort in his last game on Wednesday. The Dorchester, Ontario native has recorded at least one point in each of his last six games against the Sabres, registering nine points (3+6) and a plus-5 rating during the current stretch.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Buffalo Sabres		Columbus Blue Jackets
25-27-4	Record	18-27-10
12-16-1	Home Record	9-14-4
13-11-3	Road Record	9-13-6
5-5-0	Last 10 Games	4-5-1
2.93 (T-21st)	Goals For Per Game	2.96 (20th)
3.05 (T-14th)	Goals Against Per Game	3.73 (31st)
14.9% (27th)	Power Play	13.9% (29th)
80.2% (15th)	Penalty Kill	75.8% (26th)
46.5% (30th)	Team FO%	47.2% (26th)
51.1% (12th)	Team SAT% (5-on-5)	48.2% (22nd)



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