

**Detroit** - The Buffalo Sabres dropped two points Wednesday night in a 7-3 loss to the Detroit Red Wings in Little Caesars Arena. The Sabres puck management and penalty issues made it a tough night and allowed the Red Wings to snap their six game losing streak.

Tage Thompson started the Sabres scoring just after Detroit forward Alex DeBrincat got his goal called off due to goalie interference from Michael Rasmussen. Thompson scored his thirty fourth goal of the season seven minutes into the first period with a shot past Petr Mrazek which put the Sabres up 1-0 and put Thompson alone at fourth for NHL goals this season.

With JJ Peterka out of the lineup, Sabres 19 year old forward Zach Benson moved up to the first line with Tage Thompson and Josh Norris. Benson recorded a two point night tallying a power play goal with 1:48 left in the second period to close the Sabres within one goal at 4-3. Benson also assisted Josh Norris, who scored his first goal as a Buffalo Sabre in his third game, in the first period with 35 seconds left to make it 3-2 Detroit.

“Made some good plays down low and some good plays going through the neutral zone,” said Sabres head coach Lindy Ruff on Benson’s performance. “Thought the best would be to put Benson up there, and I thought he gave us a heck of a game.”

Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen, who faced 29 shots, saw seven go by him. But the shorthanded opportunities and turnovers in the defensive zone made the chances difficult for Luukkonen to anticipate and stop.

“We can’t leave Upie (Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen) out to dry like that” said Josh Norris. “He’s played really good and I feel bad for him. It’s not on Upie.”

The Sabres recorded 14 penalties in a fiery matchup against the Red Wings. By the end of the night the Sabres had recorded a total 83 penalty minutes which is their most in game since 2002. The Sabres benched thinned massively in the third period after Zach Benson, Tage Thompson, Bowen Byram, Mattias Samuelsson, and Joshua Norris all got game misconducts with three minutes left.

Out of the 14 penalties recorded from the Sabres, six of them led to man up advantages for the Red Wings, who entered the night with the third best power play percentage in the NHL with 28%. The Red Wings scored three goals on the power play with Patrick Kane putting two past Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen and Moritz Seider getting the third.

“Dangerous group, and I think they’re very opportunistic,” said Tage Thompson. “They don’t need a whole lot to put it in the back of the net, and I think that’s what happened. I think we had

a couple breakdowns defensively where they had some pretty clean looks, and they capitalized on them. That happens on top of the power-play goals – that’s a tough hill to climb.”

The Sabres series this season vs division rival Detroit Red Wings ends with a record of 1-2-1. The Sabres now have 56 points with 18 games left to play and return home to play the Las Vegas Golden Knights at KeyBank Center for a St. Patrick's Day Celebration. The puck is set to drop at 12:30 EST and can be viewed on ESPN+.