

Josh

Hello everybody this is clearly not Luke's voice. This is my voice. Josh Schmidt alongside our buddy Stevens Tversky. Luke is out of town on I believe it's drill. I don't know he's doing something army related for a couple of weeks. So Steve's gonna hop on, hop on the show here with me for a couple weeks just to keep you guys up to date on everything savers. And you know, Steve, Steve knows his stuff. So we'll get into it in just a second

like I said, glad to have on old roommate, good friends, Steven Staversky, friend of the show, friend of a co host and another show. How you doing, buddy? It's been it's been a minute.

Steve

Doing good. I appreciate you having me on getting back to the bread and butter and talking about savers. So yeah, like old times my SI

Josh

is walking over each other like usual.

Steve

Yeah, exactly. And minus the man with the enormous schnoz. Yeah, right in the controls.

Josh

Yeah, Mr. Lucas Sealy. But no, so yeah, me and Steve, I think we've mentioned it before on the show, we do another show called the frozen for podcast. We've been doing it for about three years now with it's me, Steve, Luke, and then our other buddy stack. But so yeah, Steve's not new to the whole podcast game. He's also not new to the whole die by the blade. Team. As Steve has written a few. I think their game recaps that you do Steve or tell. Tell a little bit about what you do for the day by the plate.

Steve

Yeah, so I jumped on. I think like December ish. I think my first one was right after my first CPA exam. So I would have had to be a December been doing previews and recaps done like, I don't know, half a dozen at this point. Ironically, I did the recap for the first wild game and the preview for the second wild game, both of them Dubs, so I want to say I'm good luck. But you can imply it.

Josh

Remember, man, I'm superstitious. I'm not just vicious, I'm superstitious. So just give me a little Statius keep writing as much as possible, because maybe we'll win more. But, so podcasting and hockey, writing is not all that Steve knows about hockey. He actually played a fair bit of hockey. That's a little bit. It's kind of how me and Steve Matt a little bit. Tell him a little bit about your illustrious hockey career. Stephen?

Steve

Yeah, so just like a lot of people play travel growing up. And then we had a connection with the Syracuse Junior stars through my brother who really impressed the at the time the Jr, a coach there who was his son was the same age as my brother so wanted to give him a look and be a backup at as a peewee to Andy Ailes, who played in four years at one of the ivy League's afraid of his Harvard or brown or whatever, I think he played all of all, but 10 minutes. So those four years so very good goaltender and so we didn't end up pulling the trigger that however, he played juniors out there as my brother and then I played five years of junior out and Syracuse, they're not like the Utica Junior comments or something. Lately, change like three, four times in my five years, one from the Empire and EJ to the USP show, is in the US still play hockey league. And, yeah, play five years the juniors four years of club hockey for Donia. That's when we met. It played played a lot of games. I was a defenseman. No, I was not a skilled defenseman. Yeah.

Josh

When we played a

Steve

few barely, barely games together. What you didn't like my Jimmy VC impression?

Josh

Yeah, Steve had two back to back. breakaways, one of which was supplied with a past by myself. And Steve fell on both attempts and did not score on either. So yes, skilled is he was a very defensive defenseman. Sorry, I gotta rip on you a little bit coming up.

Steve

I mean, my last year playing juniors, our coach at the beginning of the year during training camp asked us to compare us ourselves to an NHL player. So I mean, he was new so you want to get a feel for how to utilize players I said breeding Coburn

Josh

that's that's pretty good. Yeah. Very good. And

Steve

that was before was really bad. In my defense,

Josh

yeah. Very, very good in your own zone, but not great anywhere else. I mean, that's kind of Braden Coburn's game. Is it not? I feel like

Steve

I yeah, I'd more pegged myself as well. Well, Morgan at this point, is I can't I can move the puck it's not that instinct. My instinct. This Oh see somebody hit somebody. Yay.

Josh

All right, well, let's I just want to you know, Luke usually does the How you been what you've been doing. So Steve, how you been what you've been up to?

Steve

It's tax season so I've been doing a lot of tax.

Josh

Oh, yeah, that's right. Yeah, Steve's Big Boy job as an accountant. So our tax guy

Steve

here accountants,

Josh

but other than that I've been I've been just kind of chillin did a few weeks of fill in at work and then the normal basketball games, a couple Sabres games here and there went to a savers game. We'll get to that in a little bit. It was a bismal It was not fun. Well, okay, it was fun. But anyway, um, so let's dive right into it. Steve, we got a few games lined up here to go over so since it's been a little bit since me and Steve are me and Luke, excuse me recorded first one was a surprising five one win over Toronto. I mean, this was an all around amazing game. This was the last game of a five, five game road trip. The Sabres were on a six game losing streak, or seven game losing streak, and they go into Toronto and they look like it's it looks like it's 2007 again, and we're on our way to the President's Trophy. And I mean, they just outplayed the Maple Leafs they were physical they were shooting well Anderson played really well. All the lines were clicking. And you know, it makes me wonder like how well this heritage classic games is actually going to be. I mean, it's not going to be as bad as Toronto was jerseys for the Heritage Classic Game, but it's it's gonna be something. So what's your what's your I know it's a little while ago, but what's your takeaway on that Toronto game, Steve?

Steve

Well, that's actually the game I saw the least because I I skate on Wednesday nights, my beer league. But it was such an exhilarating experience to be on the ice. No thinking, Oh, I put some money on the Sabres I'm definitely going to come back in the locker room and be sad. And we we we lost that night. My Wednesday team is not the best. So I come back in the locker room. Look at the phone and oh my goodness, it's 41. So I as much as I caught they just were out playing toronto, toronto clearly walked in there and thinking, Oh, well, Buffalo is a beaten dog. We can just walk all over. Right? Yeah, um, yeah. The nice part about rivalries. it equalizes a lot of the deficiencies on the weaker team, because you'll always be up for those games. And if you're not the strongest, you will bring your A game and then it's hockey. So weird things happen.

Josh

Right? Yeah, exactly. You got to take your chances when you get them and that's exactly what the Sabres did. I mean, Toronto has been having terrible goaltending. I mean, Jack Campbell has looked like Carter Hutton. And I mean Peter Mrazek hasn't been that steady but in the

games he has been in. He's been like okay, like mediocre. I mean the Sabres that game had 31 shots on goal with 20 scoring chances. So they really maximize their chances they took advantage of a weak goaltending tandem, and just shot the puck not only just as much as they could but in high danger chances as well because Sure, if you shoot the puck a bunch of the night you get 50 shots, but how many of them are from the half wall that go right into the goalie stomach or how many of them are from the point that go off into the corner off someone's skate These shots were right in the middle of the slot in the in the two circles below the hashmarks two on one chances stuff like that, like they were high danger chances and you made the goalie make a seat like you didn't just waffle it at his at his chest or just shoot it off into the corner. So the Sabres really took advantage here. I mean, goals were scored by some of the likely faces and some of the unlikely faces Jacob Bryson gets his first of the year. Victor Olofsson finally getting back to scoring a little bit teach Thompson staying hot as usual Jeff Skinner? I mean, looks like he might get 30 goals this year, maybe? Maybe close to 40 but 40 is pushing it. And Kyle Okposo I mean, Dylan cousins has revived Kyle like poses career. It's been insane how well those two have worked together on that second

Steve

line. Yeah, I'd actually almost pushed back on cousins reviving a Pozos career. I don't know say that a healthier Poso is the jumping off point of Dylan cousins success. So you could see it when a postal was out cousins was kind of It wasn't bad, but there were a lot of games where he just made no impact on the game. Like you'd see him for a flash but then you get the puck stripped from them or in his own zone or something I think. I think Chad Dayton Medicis tweeted out like cousins, it is not bad in his these own, but he's not good at turning the puck over as in causing turnovers to move the puck up ice he's really good. transitioning from defense to offense, but someone's got to get them that puck. And oppo also is that guy in the D zone who can separate their players from the puck give it a cousin's. And then he's up there, the neutral zone.

Josh

One of the unfortunate things to see is, since that assist on our puzzles goal in the in the Toronto game, he has not recorded a point. So that's not the greatest thing to see. But the whole the whole team has been playing good since that Toronto game. Well, aside from Minnesota game we'll get we'll get there in a minute. But yeah, I mean, cousins got 29 points this year. He's right behind Okposo as 33 Those two have been an inseparable pair, which is a little nerve racking, you know, given the fact that I posted will probably be gone next year, if not a couple years after that. So you got to kind of wonder like, okay, so well, but thinking I mean, his contract is up next year, let's put it that way, but I don't know how much more gas he's got in the tank. I mean, he's what 36 right now? I think no, 3333? Sorry. Yeah. 33. Okay. 30. That's a little. That's a little high. Yeah, that's a lot that's different than so he's got he'll be 30 for next year. And I just wonder, like, who's going to replace him? When, when he leaves like, what what who's cousins new, like go to guy gonna be? And hopefully by then he'll have like, some chemistry built with somebody new. But it just, it's a little it's a little interesting kind of thing to think about because, like I said, he's not going to be here forever. It'd be different if he was 2425. You know, like, it'd be different if he was having this success with Alex talk.

Steve

Yeah, and in my opinion, like I love I love Thompson. And the fact that you called him being a senator by sheer dumb luck. Yeah. As in the NHL games kept telling you he was a senator, because they didn't know what to do with him. Right? Yeah.

Josh

No, literally, I based my my whole hypothesis off of him being a good NHL center, because NHL 18 told me so. And look at him now. I mean, maybe Don Granado plays a lot of video games, but I don't know how he figured that shit out in the last week of training camp. But wow, has he hit the nail on the head? This guy's got 43 points. I think 40 Snap Points.

Steve

Some maybe? Yeah, around there. That sounds about right. But uh, yeah, I think it's good as Thompson is I think they Skinner talk. Chemistry was instant. And it's been lasting. So you got to keep those two together. If Thompson works is the trio, then fine. And then second line, you're looking cousins and you would hope to Turco or Quinn, either next year, the year after would take over and slide apostle to the third line with either middle stat or crabs, whoever decides Hey, I don't want to play wing the rest of my life because they're both kind of trending that way.

Josh

Right? So you'd almost say that that tuck Skinner? combo is tucked everlasting

Steve

I thought I was the one with the puns here.

Josh

You blew your chance I made I'm putting that on a t shirt. Anyway. Oh, trademarking it now. Um, but yeah,

Steve

so skins is Tuck Everlasting.

Josh

Anyway, so like I said, that'll make the Heritage Classic Game so much better. I think. I mean, Toronto is gonna come in pissed off. buffaloes. I hope buffalo doesn't come in cocky, but I don't think they will just because of, you know, them playing so well in this last game, but that'll be a fun game that's coming up on the 13th What are your thoughts on that given what we just saw in between these two teams?

Steve

So I think I speak for a large portion of the fan base. When I say we can forgive a lot if you beat the ever loving piss out of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Josh

Yeah, so percent or the Boston Bruins whichever it may be

Steve

more of a personal vendetta against the Bruins but that goes back to Milan years ago. Yeah, I won't go into it bad memories bad memories. But anyways, so if they come out like they did last Wednesday and completely pump them and embarrass them in their home turf because it's technically Canada. Even though a lot of people say buffaloes technically Canada well. Nearly states and all America city not American, all America. I really are living not words and bothers me.

Josh

I did words for a living for a little while and I still don't understand the all of my Erricka city like, I just it doesn't look right, but apparently it's grammatically correct. Anyway

Steve

that blows my mind. I feel like cite your sources. I'm sorry, I asked this news on you ask the sign

Josh

people of New York State do t not me.

Steve

Oh Lord, your source in the government. Anyway anyways, I just hope they bring the same intensity that they did, because they don't have a lot to prove this year. But if they can prove that they can at least make the buffalo Toronto games fun. We can forgive a lot.

Josh

Yeah, 100%. And last point on this game. What was really great about it, the cherry on top. This was the first game in Toronto that had full capacity at their Arena in 81 days. And by the end of the game, it looked like a Buffalo Sabres home game. And in the sense of there was no one in the crowd, not in the sense that there were Sabres fans, and the fans booed the leafs off the ice. So that was just great. It was great way to end the game. And moving on coming home that Friday, last Friday, the fourth of March because we're in March now Holy shit. Five Four win over Minnesota great comeback. The team didn't give up the physicality was there and it was. It's been amazing. Personally, I think so. And I think one of the things that sparked this whole game was Fitzgerald's fight in the third period. And I mean, the Sabres came back from, I think, two goals down that game and won it five to four. So it was a great, great effort by the team back in front of home fans the first time in a couple of weeks.

Steve

Yeah, absolutely. And they said it in the postgame interviews, that that fight by Fitzgerald absolutely sparked the team. And I'm not the biggest guy to say you know, we need that rough and tumble grinded out style stuff in the game. I think you know, goals win games, it but it does

have its place. That was a prime example of where you need somebody say, alright, eff it. I'm gonna go try and spark my team by beating the ever loving daylights out of somebody.

Josh

Yeah, I mean, I for one personally think the Sabres need that kind of enforcer type again. I'm not like like you, Steve. I'm not condoning for some some goon to just go out there and beat the crap out of somebody every night. But you see the best teams in the league have guys like that. Pat Maroon in Tampa Bay. Ryan Reeves was great. And in Las Vegas hasn't had as much of an effect in New York in my opinion, but still good enforcer, Austin Watson and Eric in Arizona, Ontario. Oh wow, I am Ottawa. Wow, am I gonna get my cities correct today. Austin Watson in the Ottawa Senators organization has been that for a little while. It's just you see, these good teams have guys that can just go out there and bang heads when they need to. And Fitzgerald and Samuelson look like they're those kind of guys coming in. I mean, I like I kind of want to call that pairing the bash bros because those guys go out and get physical. I mean, they will beat you into the boards and not give up till the whistle. And that's not always great to see but it's good to see it would have been nice to see that in some instances in the past, where we haven't seen that sort of thing, where we saw Jeff Skinner going into a scrum instead of Rasmus Ristolainen or somebody like that.

Steve

I I've loved Samuelson's game, I'll be the first one to admit I was completely wrong about him when he got drafted. He's your guy, mostly because of the guys who are available. Right? Oh, yeah, I believe Nick Robertson was still on the board even though he hasn't done great things yet. For Toronto. I still think he has a lot of upside. But first pick in the second round, and I believe 2018 I'm pulling. Samuelsson left hand his left hand is shot. All I saw was oh, so they went with the skilled defenseman and then they went for the big guy. Now, the good thing is, they were right, all those coaches who said this guy is gonna play 1015 years in the league, he's gonna be a stud. Now all our evidence of him he looked okay in college, when he played in the world, juniors, he got walked around a lot because his feet weren't there. Well, his improvement in his skating is been miraculous. So he's gotten to a point where it's not a liability, he said gets beat on dumpings. And you'll notice that and that's how kind of his pair gets pinned down there they aid in behind them. And that's how they get turnovers behind the net. Yeah. But it's not as frequent as I thought it would be. And he brings a physical element that you need from a defenseman that size. I forget if I said in our chat or or only thought it, but Samuelson is what Nikita is the door off wishes he could be or what the door off thinks of himself in his mind when he looks in the mirror and says, Man, what a god.

Josh

Yeah, um, I think you're right, because it's, he's, he's that defensive defenseman that you can count on. He, like you said, he's still got things to work out in his game. But he's definitely improved to skating. That was one of the issues when it first came up. But that has greatly improved. I think his speed is improved. I think his awareness has gotten better. Just to go back to your draft point. Just looking at the second round, and even the third and the fourth really quickly. There haven't I mean, there's a couple good names, but there really wasn't much that

I'm seeing available. It was 2018 Draft. He was the 32nd overall pick. First ones that jumped out to me, I mean, Alexander Romanov for Montreal, a good player, nothing crazy. Benoit Olivier rule for the Anaheim Ducks. He's, he's gonna be really good in a couple years, but right now, he's not doing much,

Steve

Caitlin. Just a really, really long name.

Josh

Yeah. Caitlin Addison, ended up getting traded from Pittsburgh to Minnesota in the Jason Zucker deal, but he's filling in nicely there for them. Sean jersey, is now he was on Toronto. Now he's en la making some sort of an impact. Other than that, not really that much that I'm seeing. I was really the what's the word? Confused first? Yeah. There's a Ryan O'Reilly that was drafted in the fourth round this of this 2018 draft by the Detroit Red Wings.

Steve

Forgot about that. That was really, really threw

Josh

me for a loop for a second. I was very confused. I was worried it was looking at the wrong draft class. But wait, he re entered the draft. Yeah, right. Screw this. Screw this St. Louis. Shit. I'm going back in the draft. I'm getting drafted by Detroit.

Steve

I've done what I came here to do. I got the con smite after the trade. Yeah, my work is done here. So anyway, so I said no, that was that was the year before nevermind, but that that's a good point. I mean, there's always revisionist history. But the fact that samisen actually looks like to be a solid pick. They're in a era of Jason bottle drafts that were lackluster to say the least. You know my feelings on GM JB skipping over

Josh

Braden point to draft enter.

Steve

Nano, Marie. Oh, okay. I thought that was Braden point was 2014 Besides Reinhardt because you were not breaking Braden point sec. No wrong so we can we can throw that one out. They had five picks. Before Braden point got picked up like either the one directly in front of him or three in front of him. I remember three in front okay. And it was Jonas Johansen.

Josh

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Steve

There's a lot of pain there. Yeah,

Josh

I mean, Jonas, you're handsome. He he's actually still in the NHL, which is good for him. But

Steve

yeah, more than you can say for two of the second round picks Eric Cornell and this something karabacek I didn't even learn his first name. He sucked. So I think it was like Vladislav or something like that. It's it started with the Wii and it was a lot of letters.

Josh

So the Sabres drafted Bryce and Martin five picks before Braden point,

Steve

right? Yeah, yo Hansen was like one ahead of Johansen wasn't.

Josh

Yo Hansen was the first first round for the first pick in the third round. And vana check was, I think we had the pick that took Banacek we did. We had the pick that took Banacek and then we traded it in and then it got traded again to Washington. I don't remember it was Yeah,

Steve

I think it was part of some random trade.

Josh

I think I remember looking it up I think it was part of a trade with Nashville. For some reason I don't know Yeah, I don't know. Anyway, so moving on from Sabres draft blunders because we don't want to get ourselves to down Yeah.

Steve

Well off the rails. They're a little Yeah, I'm using the Soulja game. Yeah, it was quite the wild third period. Ha

Josh

ha ha ha ha Yeah. Six goals in the third period, combined between Both teams. Let me just I know most of you have seen this game by now, but let me just run down the scoring here. So Kevin Fiala Kirill kaprizov started off in the third period for the wild, making it three to Minnesota at about 15 minutes left in the third. Jeff Skinner's comes back ties it, Jeff Skinner again, scores the game leading goal. Victor Olofsson scores and empty netter and then Korea kaprizov scores with like 30 seconds to go to give all the Sabres fans heart attacks. So quite the wild finish right Steven?

Steve

Yeah, I mean, that was not what I was expecting after though blew the lead early in the third that that was a series of meetings you hope

Josh

that the oh they were leading start

Steve

right third. Yeah, it was trying to glue it right. And then they got that crazy bounce. I think it went off this No. Raf that's what happened. Yeah. When RAF Skinner finds it. buries it attempts. But after two attempts, I thought it was a whiff on it. Who was the goalie that night for them? Uh, it wasn't Tabios Koskinen cut Kokkonen cocking it not cocking what cons in Edmonton is any? Yes, yes, he is. Very bad feels he's very bad. He bows as everyone knows now for without a doubt. Words are not my strong suit. Numbers are your strong suit. Numbers are my strong suit names. I call everybody buddy. The other buddy it's either buddy or fucker. It depends if you piss me off or not.

Josh

Anyway, um, so yeah, great, great. Minnesota game looked like we were going to build off of it. Two game winning streak, and then a three nothing loss to the LA Kings. On Sunday. It wasn't the score was not indicative of how this game went. There were two empty nesters in this game Sabres played a great game. I think back checking was fantastic, too to Karski played really well. The one goal he led in was really soft, I will say but other than that, I I don't think it was that bad of a game from the Sabres it just they couldn't. They were just getting unlucky bounces. Cal Peterson is actually an NHL goaltender now.

Steve

Yeah, they got completely stuffed by a team trying to imitate the early 2000s New Jersey Devils. They stack the 131 trap and buffalo had no answer for it. And I think part of the reason why you think it wasn't that bad of a game is because nothing really stands out. That happened. Yeah, because for long stretches of the game after the first period, which was a lot more wide open. The second and third, I just locked it down and played the most boring hockey I have seen in years. See I like oh my goodness.

Josh

I like the LA Kings. And if they turn into the New York Islanders, I'm going to be very upset. Like, I'm going to be so upset if that turned into the New York Islanders. I want them

Steve

I like them on paper because they have a lot of young talent. That's exciting like Byfield, Turcot Palia,

Josh

young American five two, which is cool there,

Steve

but their top two centers are COPPA ITAR and filter No. Filter no is 100% the shutdown center Cody he can wishes he can be and Ralph Kruger thinks he is

Josh

he's a new He's the new Sean couturier and

Steve

cope cope guitar. as he gets older, he's going to lose a little bit of it a little bit of his offensive pop. But he's not going to lose this defensive game. See how Bergeron is aged right. Yeah, it seems as done better offensively. But that has a lot to do with his line posture. Knock drives that line right and then Berger on just feeds him Berger on Yeah, Berger on control controls, it breaks up in the defensive

Josh

zone. Yeah. But Phillip to know I mean, I think in a year, maybe this year, but probably next year, it could be in a selkie conversation if he keeps us up. He's been a really good fit for for LA this year. I mean, he's been a centerpiece of that team on the defensive side of the puck, like you said, another guy that's really found his game, again is Andres anthem to see you. I mean, he's struggled this season, but that game he looked like the old Andres anthem to see you that we used to Oogle our eyes over and wonder if the Sabres could maybe somehow trade the farm for him. But it's been a tough year for him. He's got only seven goals. His sixth and seventh goal coming in that game. But like I said, he did look better in that game but a lot of people do when they're playing the Sabres.

Steve

Other hometown if you want to if you want to break a streak play the Sabres, it's usually alright tried and true. Look in Laughlin yay. And other half his career goals against the Sabres.

Josh

Another interesting tidbit about the LA Kings that I love is a hometown guy on there. Alex, I have follow from New York. Five minutes from my hometown, a couple of my buddies went to high school with him. It's just cool to see like a local kid, like doing that. Well. I mean, he's got 30 points this year, and 56 games to career high for him so good for him. Oh, not not a career. I actually had 43 A couple years ago, so maybe he'll crack it, but just a cool little tidbit. But I like Like he said, Steve, you might be right. It was it looked like a good game. But when you watch it more in depth again, it probably isn't that good. So

Steve

I never want to watch that hockey game again. Well, my girl was sitting sitting next to me. She was doing a puzzle most of the game which is what she does during most Sabres games, and I can't exactly blame her. Yeah, and even I looked over hers like don't even look up this is brutal.

Josh

Well, if thought that game was brutal. We're gonna cap off our recap with last night's game against Florida. Good God. I was at this game. I unfortunately spent money on tickets to this game. Not much only like 15 bucks, but still played the Florida Panthers at home Sam Reinhart and random on tour return to Buffalo and absolutely pummel the Buffalo Sabres six to one. It was five nothing. By the end of the second period. The only one Sabres goal coming from John Hayden on a tip from Erasmus aspirin shot. Unfortunately, our old pal Sam Reinhart did not record a point. But Brandon Montour scores the first goal of the game

Steve

Reinhardt godness assist you did oh, I know cuz I put Oh,

Josh

he did. Yeah. He got he had aid hitting the system declares goal. So

Steve

yeah, I I turned my phone off during the second after the first because I had to be somewhere so I turn it back on. And all I'm seeing is in the different chats that I have going during games it's you guys on the on her other show. You know, my buddy John, it's my family. All three chests like these guys suck?

Josh

Yeah, it was a bad game. Definitely when the Sabres want to forget it they just didn't look like anything that they look like against Minnesota or Toronto or even la like you said LA's game wasn't the greatest but I'm still okay. Like they just got shut down but the Panthers were just passing circles around the Buffalo Sabres mean Sabres out shot them in the first period, I think it was like 11 to three. Which I mean that also just shows you the goaltending issues, but it's just it's not what you want to see. It's just not a good, good effort.

Steve

Let last night was the difference between playing a playoff team in Toronto la Minnesota and playing a cup contending playoff team, right your Colorado's your Florida's your Tampa's, right, but they I mean, they believe in Carolina, like those teams are they know they're good, and they are chasing something, they've got it. It's a different gear. And they Florida did not take the night off.

Josh

The thing is those they played so well against Colorado a few weeks ago, and I just wonder like what happened to that team? You know, like, like you said the cup contending teams like Colorado, but like we saw that was a five three loss. And really it could have been a win if a penalty gets called on on the Darlene incident. But you just got to wonder like, you never know what team's going to show up. That's that's the problem.

Steve

They also had the benefit of it being a one o'clock start right with your team traveling that day. That's true. I don't think Florida played on Sunday because they play again tonight. So there's no way they did three and three. No. So they would have traveled. They're not a western conference team. So there's some familiarity. Yeah, and it floor I said it before the season Florida is the team to be if if they wrote the hot goaltender, which we'll see if the coach has the stones to go with night if night owl plays but brzowski I mean he is right let's talk about I was talking to my buddy earlier this week, and he said Thank goodness for that Bobrovsky contract. Because otherwise, that Florida team would be the next Tampa dynasty. And Tampa is not technically a dynasty until they get three out of four. They got two in a row so they're close. But having another one of those dominant teams in the division, just pain. And by the turtle, what happens I think Bill, Zito is their GM. That's what happens when you make smart, shrewd moves. And apparently went all in on 2014 draft class getting three in the top four picks.

Josh

Right? Well, and the other thing is, I wonder if what if the Panthers don't get Barofsky do the Sabres get Devin Levi to the Panthers get Sam Reinhart? You know, I mean, there's got to be like, I mean, Reinhardt probably still gets traded, but where does he get traded to? Because if the if the Panthers don't get dobrowski, they say okay, we have a really good prospect in Spencer Knight, we have an okay, prospect and Sam montembeault. Oh, look, we drafted Devin Levi, he is phenomenal. Let's hold on to all three of these guys and just wait, wait for our moment. And then go you know, or do they do something even more rash and irrational and trade Spencer Knight instead of Devin Levi for Sam, right?

Steve

Not a chance, a chance but 11th overall pick you're not? Yeah, you're right. I forgot about that. Levi was basically found money for them. And it lets them do that Reinhardt trade. Right without trading and Tom Wandel one no. Yeah, absolutely phenomenal. Yeah, I've heard the arguments that yes, he's playing on on a really good team. So he's not asked to do a lot. He's kind of skating by, but to this guy was unreal during his draft. And you're technically during his draft here because of the weird timing on the draft. He started lighting up whatever league he was in leading up to the draft overseas, and it just has skyrocketed, signs, like people thought he couldn't score. Well, he can score. And then he's doing it right. defensively.

Josh

That line has been Reinhardt lundahl and Mason marchment. A piece from a leaf steel. We can rip on our buddy stack for that one. That's the third line of the Florida Panthers right now. That is just and each of those guys has like 50 points. But anyway, okay. Speaking of young guys, speaking of prospects, we do have some prospects news. Um, Steve, you sent me earlier, a tweet from sabermetrics. Why don't we hop into that real quick?

Steve

Yeah, so I was scrolling through Twitter today during work trying to take my mind off of trying to track down to dollars that my tax return was off for that spent me took me two hours to find. But anyways, so this comes from sabermetrics, who's part of the the charging buffalo network over

there. He was talking about, like Timing on when the Sabres could possibly sign some of their NCAA prospects, notably Levi power and Johnson. So with how the March Madness tournament goes, if they miss the final, sweet 16 bracket, because that's as far as the frozen pork goes out. They could sign their players on March 21. So looking at two weeks from now, the trade deadline? Yes, exactly. Thank God, then if they lose in the first round, it goes out of week. So we're looking at the end of March, same with the second if it's a second round, because they play two games in the weekend. If they make it to the Frozen Four, you're looking at April 8, if they lose in the actual final national championship, it'll be the 10th. So

Josh

So at minimum, we'll see. Minimum we'll see them for like two weeks,

Steve

potentially. So essentially, yeah, so what the Savers have in front of them. It's been highly speculated slash rumored slash almost confirmed by Elliot Friedman, on multiple shows that Owen power is going to sign with buffalo as soon as this season is over. However, Michigan is a wagon, so we'll be going deep into that.

Josh

Let's not forget

Steve

the feeling. They're not going to win it though. Yeah, it's just my gut feeling they have too many young soon to be superstar NHL players. everyone's calling was calling them like a dream team, whatever. They didn't double that, but essentially, it's what they were calling them. I just feel like there's gonna be a team of seniors kind of like God. Who do we have on the Frozen Four Way back? His last name was de who? He played for Yale. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Like a Yale and RPI who come out of nowhere with a bunch of seniors who have grown together and just kind of knock them off. And that team might be Minnesota with Ryan Johnson being a junior they're there. They don't forget very well and another,

Josh

another savers prospect, a couple Sabres prospects on both those teams, Aaron Huglin on Minnesota, and Eric Portillo, Another standout goaltender on Minnesota, or Michigan, I'm sorry.

Steve

So does well, in my mind. He's a trained piece. I, if I have this up? Oh, yeah, I have a sneaking suspicion that he's going to pull a Cal Peterson and staying college, because I think he needs only one more year because I think they drafted him. He spent one year in the EU. Freshman year, he was a backup at Michigan. This is his first year as a starter. That's three years already. So if he returns,

Josh

he was drafted in 2019.

Steve

Yeah, so I think I'm right. Yeah. So he's gonna get tired is because I'm doing 2021 taxes. It weren't. So it is, but it has been three years. So he only needs to go back for one more year of college to get that UofA some quality loophole, but it's just what it is. Right. So I could see that happening. So in my mind, just use him as a package deal and roll with Levi who needs to get absolutely need to sign him. Right. Yeah, do not do not let him go back to college because there's no reason to. I mean, I just had what like 55 saves in a game the other night.

Josh

60 actually 55 or 55 was UPL.

Steve

Right? Okay, I get these stud goaltenders confused sometimes with the numbers.

Josh

Yeah. So Devin Levi has been phenomenal in that same weekend that he had 60 days he had 60 saves on 61 shots in one game. Northeastern one the next game. I don't remember exactly. I don't know the quick math but in two games he made 104 saves on 106 shots. Back to Back mind you because this is college they played Friday night and Saturday night and this guy put up 104 saves. That is phenomenal.

Steve

round pick a seven from pack. That's basically a throwaway round. Like you're just throwing you're throwing darts. Yeah, and he has absolutely surpassed all expectations. He looks like an absolute stud. Irrespective he has comparable numbers to Ryan Miller's Hobey Baker season.

Josh

Also the last goaltender to win the Hobey Baker, Ryan Miller, and you know, Buffalo loved Ryan Miller if you didn't know who we're talking about at this point.

Steve

Wouldn't be listening to us.

Josh

This year at Northeastern Levi has played 29 Games has a 1.5 1.4 goals against average in a 953 save percentage with 20 wins, eight losses and one tie the fact that he did not play a simple single Olympic game is mind blowing and also shows why what's his name? David Quinn is not an NHL coach anymore. That was the Quinn that was the coach of the Canada Olympic team because called Julian

Steve

quintessential failure

Josh
there you go. Steve is the pond guy everybody?

Steve
I'm back.

Josh
But yeah, I mean you

Steve
had me in the first of all, I'm not gonna lie.

Josh
Devin Levi's looking fantastic. Oh and powers probably gonna we're probably gonna see him in the Sabres Jersey not so far down the line. JOHNSON I don't think we will but who knows he's had a pretty good year in Minnesota. So if if Johnson if Johnson comes in next year, and is a dependable second or third pair defenseman, we have won the Ryan O'Reilly trade. I don't care about Patrick Berlin. I don't care about Vladimir Sobotka. Cage Thompson if he can continue this. And if Ryan Johnson can come in and be good. The Sabres win the Ryan O'Reilly trade. Hands down because O'Reilly has fallen back to regress to the mean as Steve would say this year. He has not looked like his con smite season. And I honestly wonder will he pull the I've lost My love for the game card again. That's just my take on it. I don't know, I don't want to jinx us because I'm very superstitious. But I'm hoping, Hey, everybody, editor, Josh here. We had a little bit of internet issues during Steve's answer to this question. But to sum it up, he basically put, you know, if you the only way to win the Ryan O'Reilly trade, is once you win the Stanley Cup, I mean, it's kind of plain and simple, just like that. But there's also you know, some college issues too, or if Ryan Johnson, for some reason doesn't say what the Sabres then you could say, oh, well, maybe you didn't win that trade, but we're gonna get more into that right here.

Steve
You don't usually see first round picks do the I'm gonna stay in college and go somewhere else. It's up. I think Kevin Hayes was like the last one to do that. He really, really wanted to play in New York.

Josh
Yeah, I mean, you know, Kevin Hayes is well, he was a really good player for a while, but he's kind of fallen off these past couple years, especially after that big contract with Philly.

Steve
And his defense, he was good for Philly and as the fence this year, he lost his brother. That is Yeah. And this season is a wash for him you can cut him some slack this this

Josh

Oh, yeah. I kind of forgot about that. Um, but no, you're right. I guess you don't really win that trade till you win a cup. But at the same time, it is nice to see that it might be paying off a little more than Sabres trades in the past or that what we thought it was going to be.

Steve

It is not the complete and utter fleecing that we originally thought it was because it originally looked super bad. The fact that Thompson is turned from a basically giving up on them into our number one center in reality probably a number two center. Yeah, really good team. Yep. Is an absolute shock.

Josh

Yeah, so anyway, real quick before we give our a little quick preview, and then wrap up. Isaac Rosen needs to come to America. Kids not getting any playing time, the SHL that whether that be because he's not good, or whether that be because his team just doesn't want to play him. I think he's just on a really good team and he can't crack the lineup. I would like to see him personally on Rochester. Just see what he can do. hasn't been able to play many games this year. He's also injured right now. So would it be nice to see him get over to America and get some playing time over here? What do you think?

Steve

I wish he was in the car. Well, yeah, clearly can't hack it. And the profession, the SHL you know, it's a really good professional league. And for whatever reason, either the coach not liking I'm not having enough of an impact, because you gotta remember it's not a development league. There. They are. They're professionals and they're coaching for their job. So if they thinks an older veteran is going to do better for them, they're going to play the older veteran, despite what the Sabres would like them to do. However, I would like to see him when he comes back from injury get some more games in the tier two league I'm not even attempt to pronounce what it's called. But the thing is, he all went on before he got her. I think this season just going to be a wash for him.

Josh

I think it's called like hockey Allsvenskan I'm not 100% Sure, maybe if we have some Swedish speakers in our audience will be able to figure that one out.

Steve

That sounds like a specialty fried dough that you can only get in Sweden.

Josh

Anyway, so as I said, we're running low on time here. So we're gonna move on to the week ahead. The Vegas Golden Knights and Jack Eichel come to town on Thursday, November November. Wow. What is wrong with me today? March 10 is when Jack Eagle makes his triumphant return to Buffalo. I will be in attendance of the game. I'm hoping that they don't get pumped but I have a bad feeling. It's gonna be fun. I think they're they are going to have a Jack

Eichel tribute video which is a little surprising. Not gonna lie. I'm just kind of curious what's going to be in it. But it'll be a fun game. I think what what are your thoughts on that game?

Steve

Steve? I wouldn't be shocked if they all it was was a picture of him in the penalty box with The Marv from Home Alone hair, and Thanks for the memories playing in the background.

Josh

That would be that would be very, very good.

Steve

I think they'll just do one of those out. Thank thanks. Thanks for playing that they gave Sam Reinhart along with mentor and Jonas y'all Hanson last night which was there was something I mean, we the fans love Ryan Hart, clearly more than organization because they never gave him a real shot. They never let him play his natural position after he turned 19

Josh

So anyway, moving on from there, we have the Toronto Heritage Classic Game on the 13th of March which will be very fun. I'm looking forward to that. Our jerseys look sick. Serrano's look like garbage, just straight garbage. And then the Sabres go out west for three games of savers after dark Edmonton Calgary on the 17th and 18th for some St. Patrick's Day action, and then finish up that road trip in Vancouver on the 20th of March. So that's the Sabres week in advance. Let's move into some a little bit of a wrap up here. Steve, what's as Luke likes to do? What is one thing you're looking forward to? In the upcoming week hockey related or not?

Steve

Well, personal hockey related. I got a playoff game for my Wednesday night beer league tomorrow. So I've been preparing for that with a lot of not healthy food. As per usual. It's also snack day at work. And I baked cookies. So we'll see how well that goes. Oh, sure. A PTA mom. No, but honestly. Watch it there bud. Bangs I am is much as I didn't sound like it. I am looking forward to the Vegas savers game. I do want to see Michael do well, I is better have a divorce. And that's really the best way to describe it as it was. It's he still gave everything he had for the franchise. And they turned him in tomorrow from home alone with a broken neck. Yes. So I can't really say i i can never fault him for the effort. I know a lot of people like to rag on him. You know, he wasn't a good leader or whatever is like okay, well, you're only a good leader. If you have a good team in front of you. You hear a lot about you're gonna hear a lot of bad teams who have good leaders be considered bad leaders because their team's not good. It's the most circular logic ever. And it drives me absolutely up a wall. It's like saying that Brian Gionta or Jason Pominville were bad leaders in Buffalo because our teams were bad.

Josh

Yeah, I mean, those guys were two of the best captains that we've had in the recent years, I think.

Steve

Yeah, absolutely. I mean, Ajanta they really both those guys they really stiffed not giving them enough.

Josh

Right, the contract so

Steve

they were still quality players. But anyways, to wrap up, we're looking forward to the Vegas game and then sun Sunday, four o'clock, Toronto. That's we've gone from reunion week to revenge engine week, and we may have beaten the leafs at their barn, their last game, but every game against the leafs is a revenge game because they attacked for one year and that made the play almost 12 years and haven't gotten a whiff so I will hold it against them until buffalo can make the playoffs and probably win a playoff series before Austin Matthews does.

Josh

Here's the hoping for that. I mean, that would be the most Toronto thing I've ever seen. Like I said, I'm going to the Vegas game on Thursday. So I'm looking forward to that. Hopefully you guys be able to hear that game or hear this before that game. I should be able to my work schedules not too busy next couple days, so I should be able to edit everything. Yeah, other than that, really excited for the Heritage Classic games can be fun. It's gonna be cool to watch, but I think that'll do it here. Steve. Thanks so much for coming on. It's gonna be a fun couple weeks here While Luke is gone. Maybe. Maybe our fans will like you more than Luke.

Steve

anymore than Luke. So that's a good start. I guess. One

Josh

I wonder what he's gonna say. Yes, this that. Thanks

Steve

for having me on. Yeah, yeah, I don't know. I think he's far far enough away where I don't think his aim is that good, but I also don't want to.

Josh

But alright, so that's gonna wrap us here for another episode of diver the relay podcast. Thank you for listening. If you go into the game Thursday, I don't know. I don't know how many of you know what I'm looking what I look like, but look for me while you're there. You know what I look like? That's kind of weird saying that out loud. But if you are there,

Steve

imagine what red beard. Imagine what Red Beard the Redneck would look like and that's John.

Josh

G. Thanks. But if you're there maybe we shouldn't boo jack. So keep that in the back here. I don't know. Let's let's see how that goes. But anyway, enjoy some savor Saki in this next week and we'll talk to you soon.

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