



BUFFALO SABRES Media Guide 

Miscellaneous



Radio & Television

In 2011-12, all Buffalo Sabres regular season games will be both televised and simulcast on WGR Sports Radio 550 AM. All 82 of the team's televised regular season games will be broadcast in High Definition. MSG will be the home to 70 broadcasts this season and will be available in HD in the Buffalo/Rochester/Syracuse markets. Buffalo will also appear in 12 nationally televised broadcasts, 10 times on VERSUS and twice on NBC.



This is the fifth year of the 10-year extension to telecast Sabres games, in which MSG will own the exclusive local rights to telecast the team's games. The deal runs through the 2016-17 season. MSG Networks, an industry leader in production and technology, is the nation's longest-running regional sports network. The first regional sports network to produce games in HDTV and winner of 95 New York Emmy Awards, MSG Networks is part of Madison Square Garden L.P. In addition to being home of the Sabres, MSG Network's award-winning programming line-up also boasts the New York Knicks, New York Rangers, New York Islanders, New Jersey Devils, New York Liberty and over 400 live college football and basketball games.

Calling the action for the majority of Sabres' games on MSG telecasts and on WGR 550 AM will be the venerable Rick Jeanneret and Harry Neale. Kevin Sylvester and Sabres legend Danny Gare will fill in as the broadcast team for 23 games throughout the season.

Sylvester and Gare are both familiar faces for Sabres fans. Sylvester has been a member of the Sabres' broadcast team for six seasons, hosting the team's broadcasts since the 2005-06 season. He has filled in for Jeanneret several times since 2008 and will continue to handle play-by-play duties for the upcoming season.

Gare will join Sylvester in the booth as a color analyst. Gare returns to the Sabres' broadcast team after a seven-season absence. In his previous role with the Sabres, Gare worked as the team's rinkside reporter from 1997-98 through 2002-03 before joining the Columbus Blue Jackets as a color analyst. Gare has since filled in for Mike Robitaille as a studio analyst for the Sabres.

Rob Ray, who has been part of the broadcast team since the 2003-04 season, will join Jeanneret and Neale as a second color analyst during their games.

Preceding all game telecasts on MSG there will be a new 30-minute pregame show, sponsored by Tops. The show - hosted by Sylvester and newcomer Brian Duff - will contain player features, a preview of that night's contest and will feature other Sabres broadcast talent, including Ray and analyst Mike Robitaille.

Once again this season, The Lexus Postgame Show, hosted by Sylvester and Duff, will feature highlights and exclusive interviews and can be seen immediately following games on MSG. The Lexus Shootout can be seen following every Sabres home telecast on MSG. Originating from Studio 200 at HSBC Arena, the hosts will be joined by all the Sabres analysts for complete postgame analysis, highlights and player interviews. The first intermission of each MSG telecast is sponsored by Verizon, and the second is sponsored by Northtown Automotive. Buffalo Sabres hockey on MSG is produced by Joe Pinter and directed by Matt Gould.

WGR's coverage will include a post-game show hosted by Brian Koziol featuring a complete game recap, player interviews and scores from around the league. Paul Hamilton will provide live updates from Sabres games, as he returns to serve as WGR's beat reporter for the Buffalo Sabres.



Kevin Sylvester
Studio Host &
Play-by-Play



Danny Gare
Commentator



Mike Robitaille
Analyst



Rob Ray
Analyst



Brian Duff
In-Game Host

Rick Jeanneret



Currently the longest-tenured broadcaster in hockey, the 2011-12 season marks Rick Jeanneret's 40th year with the Buffalo Sabres. He started with the team prior to the 1971-72 season, serving as the club's radio voice and held that post until 1995. Jeanneret then became the television play-by-play announcer, beginning with the 1995-96 campaign. He broadcast his first game during the 1971 preseason for the Cincinnati Swords (the Sabres' minor league team at the time). Jeanneret earned his start in 1963 while attending a Niagara Falls Flyers (Junior A) game in which he filled in for the regular announcer who had taken ill. He went on to become the color analyst for one season before moving to the play-by-play position in 1965. A native of St. Catharines, Ont., Jeanneret currently resides in Niagara Falls, Ontario, with his wife, Sandra. Rick has two sons, Mark and Chris. Mark is the play-by-play voice of the AHL's Portland Pirates.

Harry Neale



A longtime veteran of both hockey and broadcasting, Harry Neale joined the Sabres broadcast team for the 2007-08 season. He is well known for his work on Hockey Night in Canada which he joined in 1986 following eight years as an NHL coach and general manager. Neale also spent the past 21 seasons working as an analyst on regional coverage of Toronto Maple Leafs games. Before his broadcast career Neale was a former NHL head coach and general manager, Neale worked with the Vancouver Canucks from 1978-82 (head coach and GM), and with the Detroit Red Wings from 1985-86 (head coach). Neale began his career as a coach of the NCAA's Ohio State Buckeyes hockey team in 1966, and also served as coach of the New England whalers and Minnesota Fighting Saints of the World Hockey Association, and the Ontario Hockey Association's Toronto Marlboros. Neale resides in East Amherst, N.Y..

History of the Buffalo Sabres Established 1970

The NHL officially came to Buffalo on Dec. 2, 1969, when the league awarded Seymour and Northrup Knox the franchise that would soon be named "Sabres." The brothers wasted little time in hiring George "Punch" Imlach, formerly of the Toronto Maple Leafs, as the team's first Head Coach and General Manager. In June 1970, the Sabres were awarded the first pick in the NHL Entry Draft, and Imlach selected highly-touted center Gilbert Perreault from the Montreal Jr. Canadiens. Perreault lived up to the advance billing scoring 38 goals his rookie season en route to winning the Calder Trophy as the NHL's Rookie of the Year.

Another Junior Canadian, left winger Rick Martin, joined Perreault on the team's front line as the Sabres' top pick in 1971. That dominating duo turned into a trio when Rene Robert was acquired from the Pittsburgh Penguins near the end of the 1971-72 season. The line of Martin-Perreault-Robert would be dubbed "The French Connection" and would become one of the 1970's most dominating scoring lines.

By 1974-75, the young team was maturing and finished the season with a 49-16-15 record - still the best-ever season numbers in franchise history. Buffalo defeated Chicago in the first round of the playoffs and followed that with a second-round victory over Montreal to earn its first-ever berth in the Stanley Cup Finals vs. Philadelphia. While the Flyers defeated the Sabres in six games, the loss did not blemish the accomplishment of a team which had only been in the league for five years.

One of the most memorable moments in the franchise's first decade occurred Jan. 4, 1976, when the Sabres played the powerful Soviet Wings in an exhibition game at The Aud. With Cold War tensions still running high, the game had an intensity level far beyond the average regular-season game. Buffalo put on a dominating performance, defeating the Wings 12-6 in what ranked at the time as the worst-ever loss by a Soviet team in international competition.

The Sabres had an opportunity to hire one of the game's all-time coaching greats, Scotty Bowman, and did so in 1979. In his first season as head coach, Bowman led the Sabres to the Wales Conference Finals before they lost 4-2 to the eventual Stanley Cup Champion New York Islanders. Bowman finished with an impressive 210-134-60 mark.

Bowman spent the next few seasons revamping the Sabres' lineup, adding players such as Mike Ramsey, Phil Housley, Mike Foligno, Dave Andreychuk and Tom Barrasso. Those players formed the core of successful teams, and helped continue the tradition of winning hockey.

Through the good times and the bad times, there was always Perreault. Robert and Martin had both been traded by the early 1980s, but the original Sabre remained and continued to flourish. On March 9, 1986, Perreault and an Aud full of fans celebrated together as the franchise's favorite son scored his 500th career goal, making him the 12th player in history (at the time) to reach that milestone. Four years later, in 1990, Perreault was immortalized with induction into Hockey's Hall of Fame. This would be an omen of better things to come for the franchise.

Five-time Stanley Cup Champion John Muckler was chosen in 1991 to be the team's Director of Hockey Operations and soon assumed the title of head coach. He was instrumental in acquiring Pat LaFontaine from the Islanders in October 1991. LaFontaine teamed with Russian Alexander Mogilny to form a dynamic duo that combined to score 129 goals in 1992-93, including a franchise-record 76 goals by Mogilny. Buffalo capped that season by sweeping the Bruins in the first round of the playoffs to post its first playoff series win in 10 years.

That playoff excitement was just a precursor to Game Six of the 1994 Eastern Conference Quarterfinals vs. the New Jersey Devils. Buffalo won that game 1-0 in four overtimes on a goal by Dave Hannan. Dominik Hasek posted an incredible 70 saves in the victory, playing the entire 125:43 without allowing a goal. Following that season, Hasek would win the first of two consecutive Vezina Trophies as the NHL's top goaltender. But that would only set the stage for the 1996-97 season.

Before it even started, the 1996-97 campaign was already one of the most memorable in team history. On a sad note, the season would represent the first without founder Seymour H. Knox, III, who passed away in the spring of 1996. It would also represent the first time in the team's history that it would have new uniforms (red and black replaced blue and gold) as well as a new state-of-the-art arena (HSBC Arena replaced Memorial Auditorium).

The Sabres shocked many of the so-called experts by winning the Northeast Division; the team's first such title since winning the Adams Division championship in 1981. Buffalo's performance seemed a fitting tribute to the memory of Seymour Knox.

The end of the season also brought many notable achievements off the ice. The Sabres were the stars of the NHL's postseason awards banquet. Hasek won the Hart Trophy as league MVP, the first time a goalie had achieved such a feat since 1962. For good measure, Hasek also took home his third Vezina in four years, an equally stunning feat. Michael Peca, a 23-year-old center in just his second full season, joined Craig Ramsay as the only Sabres to win the Selke Trophy, symbolic of the league's best defensive forward. Ted Nolan won the Jack Adams Award as the Coach of the Year.

Lindy Ruff was named the Sabres' head coach at the start of the next season, and led Buffalo to the Eastern Conference Finals. The Sabres eventually fell to the Capitals in six games, but their performance marked the team's best playoff finish since 1980. Hasek once again shone brightly, taking home his fourth Vezina Trophy and becoming the first goaltender ever to win two consecutive Hart Trophies. Earlier in the year, Hasek had also been instrumental in leading the underdog Czech Republic to a Gold Medal at the Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan.

The year ended on a sad note when team co-founder Northrup Knox passed away in July 1998. The Knox brothers' persistence in acquiring a franchise and their determination to keep it in Buffalo will forever resonate with hockey fans in Western New York. Shortly before his death, Knox orchestrated the sale of the team to John, Tim, Michael, and James Rigas of Adelphia Cable Communications.

Buffalo returned to the ECF the following year, this time facing its geographical rival, the Toronto Maple Leafs. In what would be known as the cross-border series, the Sabres defeated Toronto 4-1 to reach the Stanley Cup Finals for just the second time in team history. The Dallas Stars would be the Sabres' opponent and the two teams proved to be evenly matched in the lowest-scoring Stanley Cup in history. With Buffalo trailing 3 games to 2 in Game Six,



History of the Buffalo Sabres Established 1970

Brett Hull slid the puck past Hasek in the third overtime to clinch the Cup for the Stars. Replays would later show that Hull's skate was in the crease, but officials let the goal stand to the dismay of Sabres fans.

Buffalo celebrated its 30th anniversary season in the NHL in 1999-2000 with the impressive rookie debuts of Martin Biron and Maxim Afinogenov. The development of Biron and Afinogenov combined with the late-season additions of veterans Doug Gilmour and Chris Gratton enabled the Sabres to continue their winning ways as they began their fourth decade of play in the NHL.

The 2000-01 campaign will be remembered as one of the most successful seasons in recent memory as the Sabres won the fourth-most games in team history (46). Once again, Miroslav Satan led the team in goals scored and total points in the regular season and had a stellar postseason with three goals, a team-high 10 assists and 13 total points. The season also turned out to be a breakout year for several members who had career offensive years. J.P. Dumont proved to be a valuable addition, producing career offensive numbers in his first year with the team. Alexei Zhitnik returned to the offensive production of earlier in his career and Rhett Warrener and Jay McKee worked as the team's top defensive tandem. As a whole, the Sabres were the league's top defense, allowing the fewest goals and boasting the best penalty-killing unit. Andreychuk proved that you can go home, returning to the Sabres to score 20 goals, eight on the power play, and add some veteran leadership to a young, yet maturing, hockey club. Another former Sabre returned as Donald Audette, who was acquired at the trade deadline along with Steve Heinze, added another element to the Sabres as the team headed into the postseason. And as he was in past seasons, Hasek proved why he was one of the best goalies in the NHL, posting a 34-24-4 record with 2.11 goals against and 11 shutouts en route to his sixth Vezina Trophy.

Despite not making the playoffs in 2001-02, the Sabres were one of the better teams in the NHL over the second half of the 2002-03 season. Strong offensive years from Satan, Stu Barnes and Tim Connolly as well as the emergence of Taylor Pyatt late in the year were just a few of the bright spots of the season. Plus, the emergence of Biron as one of the league's top goaltenders gave fans much to look forward to.

Ruff became the team's all-time winningest head coach with a 5-2 win over Philadelphia on Feb. 18, 2003. Ales Kotalik broke onto the scene by scoring 21 goals, the second most by a rookie in 2002-03 while Satan once again led the Sabres in goals, assists and points. B. Thomas Golisano became the Sabres' owner in March and brought a new enthusiasm level to the franchise.

The 2003-04 Sabres once again were one of the League's top teams in the second half of the season. Daniel Briere, who came to the club near the end of the 2002-03 season, continued his outstanding play and led the Sabres in assists and points. Dumont and Chris Drury were threats to score while Satan recorded a team-best 29 goals, including four against Atlanta on Feb. 16, 2004. Satan became the first player to ever lead the Sabres in goal scoring for three consecutive seasons. Satan and Maxim Afinogenov each had a hat trick against Washington, Dec. 31, 2003. Rookies Derek Roy, Milan Bartovic and Andrew Peters each had long stints with the Sabres, who played in front of 12 sold-out home crowds.

Following a lockout that forced the league to cancel the entire 2004-2005 season, NHL hockey returned in 2005-06 featuring new rules intended to create a more exciting style of play. Despite low expectations set by many hockey observers, the Sabres turned in a historic season. Led by Lindy Ruff, who would win the Adams Award as Coach of the Year, Buffalo set a franchise record for wins in a season with 52. Rookie goaltender Ryan Miller won 30 games on the season, despite missing 18 games with a broken thumb early in the season. The Sabres featured a tremendously balanced scoring attack, with six 20-goal scorers and 12 players with at least 30 points. Afinogenov led the team with 73 points (22+51), while Chris Drury led all goal-scorers with 30. Seven different players reached career highs in either goals, assists, or points. Perhaps the most impressive offensive player on the season was Briere, who, despite being plagued by injuries for much of the season, recorded 58 points (25+33) in 48 games.

It was also a breakout year for several rookies. In addition to the strong freshman campaign turned in by Miller, Thomas Vanek burst on the scene with 25 goals and 23 assists. Jason Pominville, who appeared in 57 games after being called up from Rochester, showed a terrific scoring touch, collecting 18 goals, while center Paul Gaustad recorded 24 points and added an element of toughness to the lineup.

Buffalo made the playoffs for the first time since the 2000-01 season, and began by knocking off the Philadelphia Flyers in six games. That set up what turned out to be a wild series with conference-rival Ottawa. With Buffalo leading three games to one, Pominville became the first player in NHL history to score a series-clinching, short-handed, overtime goal when he eluded two Ottawa defenders and slipped the puck past goalie Ray Emery. That set up a showdown with the Carolina Hurricanes in the Eastern Conference Finals, where the Sabres eventually lost in seven games.

The 2006-07 season was unlike any other in Sabres history, as the team captured the Presidents' Trophy by putting together the league's best regular season record. The team started out by tying an NHL record with 10 straight wins, before losing in a shootout to Atlanta on Oct. 28. The Sabres went on to post 53 wins, the most in franchise history – one more than in 2005-06. The season was also a success at the turnstiles as they sold out HSBC Arena for all 41 regular season games and nine playoff games. This has not occurred in Buffalo since the days of the legendary Aud in 1979-80.

A contributing factor to the team's success was having four players with more than 30 goals. Daniel Briere led the team with 95 points (32+63), while Thomas Vanek was a close second with 84 points, including a team-high 43 goals. Chris Drury finished with 69 points (43+41) and Jason Pominville capped a terrific sophomore season with 34 goals. Vanek also finished first in the league with a plus-minus rating of plus-47. Adding to the Sabres' depth on offense, the team had 10 players with over 30 points. Rookie Drew Stafford posted strong numbers after being called up from Rochester in mid-season. Stafford played in 41 games and finished with 13 goals and 14 assists. Goaltender Ryan Miller also set a club record with 40 victories after being voted in as a starter for the NHL All-Star game.

Buffalo made it to the playoffs for a second consecutive season. The Sabres eliminated the N.Y. Islanders in five games, and then defeated the N.Y. Rangers 4-2 in the Semifinals. Buffalo advanced to the Conference Finals for the second consecutive year (and fourth time since 1997), before losing in five games to Ottawa.

The 2007-08 season was a drastic change for the Sabres as they failed to make the playoffs after finishing atop the NHL in the regular season standings in 2006-07. The Sabres did see two young stars emerge as Derek Roy and Jason Pominville led the team with 81 and 80 points, respectively. Roy eclipsed the 30-goal mark for the first time in his career as he finished the year with 32 goals. Pominville coupled 27 goals with 53 assists to set a new career high in points. Thomas Vanek continued to show his offensive prowess as he tallied 36 goals and 28 assists on the season. Vanek finished

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the year with a career high four hat tricks, three of which were natural or uninterrupted. Ryan Miller continued to set team records as he played in an unprecedented 76 games in the regular season, compiling a record of 36-27-10.

Buffalo continued their impressive string of sell-outs as they saw HSBC Arena full for 39 of their 41 home games. The Sabres made history yet again as they hosted the 2008 AMP Winter Classic at Ralph Wilson Stadium in Orchard Park, NY. The Sabres faced the Pittsburgh Penguins in front of 71,217 fans as snow lightly fell on New Years Day. The game was the first outdoor game to be played in the United States and set the record for attendance at an NHL game. Buffalo would lose the historic game 2-1 in a shootout.

The 2008-09 season started with high expectations after the Sabres failed to make the post-season a year before. The team got off to a hot start posting a 6-2-2 record in the month of October. However injuries to leading goal-scorer Thomas Vanek and starting goaltender Ryan Miller late in the year were too much to overcome. Despite a resilient effort in the final two months, Buffalo failed to make the playoffs for a second consecutive season.

Thomas Vanek completed his second career 40-goal season, while leading the league in power-play goals (20). Vanek was also named to his first NHL All-Star game. Derek Roy had another impressive season; he led the team with 70 points (28+42) and was sixth in the league with nine game-winning-goals. Tim Connolly returned to play in 48 games leading the Sabres in plus/minus with +12, and finished the year with 47 points (18+29). Jason Pominville led the team in assists for a second consecutive year with 46. He finished the season, playing in all 82 regular season games for the third consecutive year. Pominville currently holds the Sabres current consecutive games played streak with 334.

The 2009-2010 campaign saw the emergence of one future star and the continuing evolution of another. Sabres defenseman Tyler Myers, the teams' first-round selection (13th overall) in the 2008 Entry Draft, burst onto the NHL stage with an impressive rookie season. Myers led all NHL rookies in ice time (23:44) and assists (37) to help earn the Calder Trophy as the league's top first year player. Ryan Miller also continued to raise his status as one of the league's top netminders. Miller was in the top five all season in every goaltending category, including goals-against average (2.22) and save percentage (.929). Miller's strong season was capped off by winning the Vezina Trophy. Miller also set the franchise record for wins with 41. Overall, the team cracked the 100-point plateau for the ninth time in franchise history and won their sixth division title before falling to the Boston Bruins in the first round of the playoffs.

Following their return to the playoffs, the Sabres entered the 2010-11 season poised to take another step forward. However, after a 3-9-2 start began their descent to the league basement, it looked like the team would instead be taking a step back. When top point scorer Derek Roy (35 points in 35 games) suffered a season-ending injury in late December, the prospects for the Sabres – still eight points out of the final playoff spot in the East – didn't look good.

But the Sabres continued to fight and put together an 8-3-1 record in January to close the gap. On Feb. 22, Terry Pegula announced his purchase of the team at a press conference at HSBC Arena. Pegula's arrival invigorated both the fans and the team, who welcomed their new owner with a seven-game unbeaten streak and finished the season on a 16-4-4 run to snatch the final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Thomas Vanek led the Sabres in goal scoring for the fifth straight year, and also led the team in points for the first time in his career with 73 (32+41). Vanek is the only player in Sabres history to lead the team in goals for more than three consecutive seasons. Tyler Ennis had a strong debut season, ranking fourth among all NHL rookies with 49 points (20+29) – the most by a Buffalo rookie since Derek Plante had 56 in 1993-94. The Sabres were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs after a Game 7 loss to Philadelphia.

History of the Sabres Uniform 1970-2011

Equipped with one of the National Hockey League's two new teams, the Knox Brothers sought a name for the club that would accompany the Vancouver Canucks into the 1970-71 season. A contest brought about the name "Sabres," which just needed a logo to become the trademark of hockey on the Niagara Frontier. The Sabres crest would remain identical over the first 26 years. The first major change to the team's look came in 1996-97, which accompanied a new home for the Buffalo Sabres (the team moved from Memorial Auditorium into its new address of HSBC Arena).

The crest in which would adorn the blue, white and gold jerseys of Buffalo Sabres players from October 1970 until April 1996 reflected the team's name. Along with the Buffalo appeared two crossed sabres "renowned as a clean, sharp, decisive and penetrating weapon on offense, as well as a strong parrying weapon on defense," according to team Public Relations Director Chuck Burr's 1970 press release.

A few minor changes were seen in the Buffalo sweaters over the first 26 years, mostly simple accessory changes. After adding players' last names to the back of the sweaters a few years earlier, 1978-79 marked the first season the team's jerseys did not have drawstrings at the neckline and the debut of the team's crest on the shoulders. While the next season was Buffalo's 10th anniversary campaign, a patch honoring that winter's Olympic games in Lake Placid, N.Y., was the notable change on the uniforms. The 1980 Winter Olympics is where the legendary "Miracle on Ice" would take place, and where the Sabres held their 1980 training camp. It was probably fitting that 10 years later, a Buffalo Sabres' 20th anniversary logo patch was embroidered on the front right shoulder of the players' uniforms for 1989-90. Two years later, the Sabres joined the other NHL teams in wearing a commemorative patch for the league's 75th anniversary, and fans even had the opportunity to see it on both the home and road jerseys as Buffalo joined 15 other teams in the season-long celebration. For the second half of that season, the Sabres wore their road jerseys at home and donned the home jerseys for away games, to complement the "original six" teams who wore "throwback jerseys." A Stanley Cup centennial patch appeared on the 1992-93 uniforms. Buffalo would again recognize a significant anniversary with a special 25th anniversary logo, which was designed for the team's 1994-95 campaign. Players wore the fifth patch in seven years on the team's sweaters in 1995-96 (bearing jersey number one), remembering former NHL goalie Roger Crozier, who played six of his 14 seasons in the league in Buffalo.



The 1996-97 season began a new era in Buffalo Sabres hockey with a new home, new colors and a new logo. The Sabres' new colors would be black, white, red, gray and silver, featuring a white buffalo head as the new team logo. A secondary logo of a "B" with the familiar sabre piercing through it would also be featured on the shoulder of the new jerseys. In their first season in the new uniforms, the Sabres honored the memory of co-founder Seymour H. Knox III with a circular patch bearing the initials SHK III.

On Nov. 22, 2000, the Sabres unveiled the team's third jersey against the Philadelphia Flyers. The third jersey was a tribute to the original sweater, while incorporating colors and elements from the current design, unveiled in 1996. The organization chose from over 50 different concepts and developed a blend of the 1970s blue and gold crest, featuring the traditional circle and crossed Sabres logo, adorned on a red-based jersey, trimmed in the team's black and silver of the 1990s. The word "BUFFALO" appeared on the lower trim to signify the team's proud attachment to its hometown. The third jersey also featured the current Sabres white buffalo-head logo appearing on the shoulders. The Sabres also wore their original blue and yellow colors with the former logo and design for the season finale, April 4, 2003, against New Jersey.

The Sabres new uniform scheme, unveiled on September 16, 2006, took its inspiration from the original Sabres uniform (1971-96) and second uniform (1996-2005). The design was a collaborative effort between the Sabres and Reebok International. The new "blue and gold" colors were altered to a deeper navy blue and richer gold that had a greater visual impact both in person and on television broadcasts. Silver accents and a revised "B-Sabre" logo were carried over from the team's second uniform. Unique in the NHL, the new uniforms had player numbers on the front of the jersey. Buffalo also debuted a new alternate uniform that was the original blue uniform from 1970 with the player number on the front like on the newly designed uniforms. The alternate jersey was only worn for the 2006-07 season.

For the Winter Classic game on January 1, 2008, the Sabres wore a modified version of the team's original white jerseys. This was the only time the jersey was worn that season.

The Sabres introduced a new third jersey in 2008-09 that incorporated design elements from the original uniforms while linking elements from the current jerseys. The team's original road uniform (1971-96) was updated to incorporate the darker navy blue and rich gold featured in the current uniforms along with silver accents on the stripes to give dimension to the original design. The player numbers appear on the front of the uniform and a neck tie will be incorporated similar to what was worn by the team the first seven years Buffalo was in the league. The original crossed Sabres logo also features silver accents to give a beveled look to the team's original logo. The jersey was designed to incorporate the design elements of the Reebok EDGE uniform system.

During the 2010-11 season the Sabres returned to their roots, adopting a uniform at home and on the road that recalled elements of the first uniform in franchise history. At home, the Sabres utilized the team's previous third jersey. On the road, they donned a white jersey that incorporates the same accent elements of the updated home jersey. The team also unveiled an all new 40th anniversary uniform. This classically-designed uniform is a tribute to not only the history of Buffalo hockey, but early NHL jersey designs of the past. The 40th anniversary alternate jersey was worn 12 times at HSBC Arena during the 2010-11 season and continues to serve as the team's alternate jersey in 2011-12.

Arena Information

Address: One Seymour H. Knox III Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14203

Location: At the foot of Main St. and South Park Ave. on the Buffalo waterfront

Ceremonial Groundbreaking: Nov. 4, 1994 Gala Grand Opening Event: Sept. 27, 1996, an evening of entertainment featuring appearances by: Doc Severinsen and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, figure skater Brian Boitano, aerialists, singer Ani DiFranco, and members of the Sabres and Bandits.

First Hockey Game: Sept. 21, 1996, preseason game vs. Toronto Maple Leafs (3-1 Buffalo win; first goal by the Sabres' Brian Holzinger at 5:24 of the first period on Toronto goalie Don Beaupre).

First Regular-Season Hockey Game: Oct. 12, 1996, vs. Detroit Red Wings (6-1 win by Detroit; first regular-season goal in HSBC was by the Wings' Vyacheslav Kozlov at 15:41 of the first period on Buffalo's Dominik Hasek; first Buffalo regular-season goal in HSBC by Michael Peca at 5:24 of third period on Detroit goaltender Mike Vernon).

Seating Capacity: 18,690 for hockey, lacrosse, and football; 19,100 for basketball; 21,500 for concerts (building size - 700,000 square feet)

Cost: \$127.5 million (\$72 million from private sources and \$55 million from the combined resources of New York State, Erie County, and the City of Buffalo)

Project Architects: Ellerbe Becket, Bergmann, Espacio/Hamilton Houston Lownie, Flynn Battaglia Architects, Buffalo Office Interiors/Hovey-Nardini Architects, Gordon Architects/Planners

Features: 1,100 space attached parking garage.

Four seating levels, including club level seats located one level below the suites. These seats have direct access to the weather-protected parking garage as well as concierge and in-seat food & beverage service.

80 mid-level suites, featuring all of the club-seat amenities plus private restrooms. Suites seat 12 but can hold up to 18.

The Party Suite - Located on First Niagara Center's suite level, is primarily used for Buffalo Sabres games. It can accommodate 36 people and is available on a game to game basis.

The Harbour Club possesses extensive banquet facilities while offering views of both the arena floor and the Buffalo waterfront. It is located on both the 100 and 200 levels, with formal and casual dining at the two locations, respectively.

The Pour Man's Aud Club - a nostalgic "time-warp" for long-time Buffalo Sabres fans featuring refurbished artifacts taken from the Memorial Auditorium.

Food courts

Sabres team store - at 5,000 square feet, it is one of the largest in-arena merchandise stores in the NHL.

Sabretooth's HouseHouse - Includes several interactive exhibits and large open spaces for Sabretooth and his friends to play in before the action starts on the ice.

Blue Zone Bar - Includes displays and other features telling the history of amateur and professional sports in Buffalo.

Pavilion - The 330' long by 65' high glass-enclosed structure serves as the main entrance/exit in the arena.

The Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame Display - located in the Pavilion, just outside the Sabres Store.

In addition to the Sabres, the Buffalo Bandits (National Lacrosse League) play their home games at First Niagara Center. The arena also hosts college basketball games featuring the four WNY NCAA Division I teams: Canisius College, Niagara University, University at Buffalo and St. Bonaventure University.

First Niagara Center has also played host to the first and second rounds of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship, the NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Frozen Four, and the IIHF World U20 Championship.



Media Information

Requests for information should be directed to the Sabres' Public Relations Department, Buffalo Sabres, First Niagara Center, One Seymour H. Knox, III Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14203. The main office phone number is (716) 855-4100.

Season credentials are available only to those media members who cover the team on a regular basis. Those who need media credentials for an individual game should contact Ian Ott via email (ian.Ott@sabres.com) or phone (716/855-4484) by 5 p.m. the day before a game, and by 5 p.m. on Friday before a Sunday game. All requests for individual game seating should be submitted by the publication editor using a professional email account.

Furthermore, freelance photographers will be admitted on an assignment-only basis, which must come from the photo editor. Press box seats are filled on a space-available basis.

The media entrance to First Niagara Center is located at the plaza area on the east (Illinois Street) side of the building, aligned with the middle of the parking ramp.

All requests for pre-game live shots should be coordinated through a Chrisanne Bellas at 716-855-4476 to assure location and transmission.

The Sabres' press lounge opens two hours before game time, and also serves as the media work room. It can be reached by turning right upon entering the building at the media entrance (mentioned above).

Press credentials can be picked up before 4:30 p.m. at the arena's security office. From 4:30 p.m. on, the passes will be at the media entrance described above (please note that pick up times will be adjusted for afternoon games).

To reach the press box, return toward (and just past) the security office/media entrance and ride the freight elevator to the top/press level (indicated with a "P" in the elevator).

Credentials should be displayed at all times for admission to the press box, press lounge/work room and dressing room areas. YOUR COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED IN MAINTAINING A WORKING ATMOSPHERE IN THE LOCKER ROOM(S). ABSOLUTELY NO AUTOGRAPH REQUESTS. VIOLATORS WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE.

Please note that smoking is prohibited not only in both the press lounge/work room and the press box, but also in the whole arena (under NY State law).

There are electrical outlets and phone jacks at all seats in the press box, but phone lines are not active unless arrangements are made by calling Mike Queeno at (716) 855-4485. Please keep in mind that there are a minimum number of pool phones in the press box for use by visiting media. Wireless internet access is also available.

Practices that cannot be held at First Niagara Center will take place at the Northtown Center at Amherst. Practices are open to the media, and reporters should contact Chris Bandura to verify times at (716) 855-4515.

Directions to First Niagara Center

First Niagara Center is on Buffalo's waterfront at the end of Washington Street and is bordered by Main and Illinois Streets and South Park Avenue. There are several parking lots in that area. For directions see below or, for more detailed information, contact the Sabres at (716) 855-4100.

From N.Y. State Thruway (90): Take Interstate 90 to downtown Buffalo to 190 North (exit 53).

Recommended: Take exit 5 (Hamburg Street), turning right onto Hamburg Street. Turn right onto Perry Street (first light) or South Park Avenue (second light). First Niagara Center is two blocks ahead with parking past Michigan Avenue.

Alternate: From 190 South, take exit 5 (Louisiana Street). Stay to the right on exit ramp and exit onto Louisiana Street. Make a left onto Louisiana Street and take it to the first light. Turn right onto Perry Street. First Niagara Center is ahead with parking available on either side of Perry Street.

From Canada and North: Take the 190 South heading toward downtown Buffalo. Exit at Niagara Street and head toward downtown. Turn right on South Elmwood Avenue (before City Hall) and continue until you cross Church Street, at that point Elmwood becomes Lower Terrace (Adam's Mark Hotel on your right). Travel on Lower Terrace and turn right on Washington. First Niagara Center is at the end of Washington.

Directions to Northtown Center at Amherst

Coming from Buffalo Niagara International Airport: Exit the airport and follow signs to the Kensington Expressway (33 West). Take 90 East to 290 West. Exit 290 at Millersport North (Exit 5B). Take Maple Road ramp; turn right onto Maple Road. Turn left at Amherst Manor Drive.

Address: **1615 Amherst Manor Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221**

Phone: **(716) 631-7555**

NHL Critical Dates 2011-2012

September 2011

9	Opening Day of Rookie Camp
16	Opening Day of Training Camp
19	Pre-season schedule begins
20	NHL Board of Governors Meeting
21-24	USHL Fall Classic (Sioux City, IA)
26	Kraft Hockeyville – Winnipeg Jets vs. Ottawa Senators (Mile One Centre, St. John's, NL)

October 2011

1	Hockey Fights Cancer Awareness Month
5	Opening Day Playing Rosters set (3:00 p.m. ET)
6	Opening Night – 94th NHL Regular Season begins
6	Bruins Raise Stanley Cup Banner - <i>Philadelphia Flyers @ Boston Bruins</i>
6	NHL Face-Off (Winnipeg)
7	2011 Compuware NHL Premiere - <i>Anaheim Ducks @ Buffalo Sabres (Helsinki, FIN)</i>
7	2011 Compuware NHL Premiere - <i>New York Rangers @ Los Angeles Kings (Stockholm, SWE)</i>
8	2011 Compuware NHL Premiere - <i>New York Rangers @ Anaheim Ducks (Stockholm, SWE)</i>
8	2011 Compuware NHL Premiere - <i>Buffalo Sabres @ Los Angeles Kings (Berlin, GER)</i>
9	Winnipeg Jets host first 2011-12 regular season game at MTS Centre (vs. Montreal Canadiens)
26	A Celebration of Lester Patrick (St. Paul, MN) Recipients: Mark Johnson, Bob Pulford, Tony Rossi, and Jeff Sauer

November 2011

7-17	2011 Subway Super Series (CHL)
8-13	U20 Four Nations Cup
12	Hockey Hall of Fame Game (Ottawa Senators @ Toronto Maple Leafs)
13	Hockey Hall of Fame Legends Classic
14	Hockey Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (Toronto, ON)
	Inductees: Ed Belfour, Doug Gilmour, Mark Howe, Joe Nieuwendyk (Player Category)
25	First NBC Broadcast: Detroit Red Wings at Boston Bruins
26	NHL Founders Day (1917) – 11 games on schedule

December 2011

1	Signing deadline for Group 2 free agents (5:00 p.m. ET)
5-6	NHL Board of Governors Meeting (CA)
12	U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (Chicago, IL)
	Inductees: Chris Chelios, Mike Emrick, Ed Snider, Gary Suter, Keith Tkachuk
19-27	Holiday Roster Freeze in effect. For all players on an NHL active roster, injured reserve, or players with non-roster and injured non-roster status as of midnight, local time, December 19, a roster freeze shall apply through midnight local time December 27, with respect to waivers, trades and loans, subject to the exceptions provided for in CBA Article 16.10.
24-25	No scheduled practices - dressing rooms closed
26-Jan.5	IIHF World U20 Championship (Edmonton & Calgary, AB)

January 2012

2	2012 Bridgestone NHL Winter Classic – New York Rangers at Philadelphia Flyers (Philadelphia)
26-30	NHL All-Star Break (no games played)
26-29	No scheduled practices – dressing rooms closed
28	NHL Honda SuperSkills (Scotiabank Place, Ottawa, ON)
29	59th NHL All-Star Game (Scotiabank Place, Ottawa, ON)
29	AHL All-Star Skills Competition (Atlantic City, NJ)
30	AHL All-Star Classic (Atlantic City, NJ)
31	NHL Regular Season Schedule Resumes
31-Feb 1	Home Hardware CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game (Kelowna, BC)

February 2012

1	Hockey is for Everyone Month
11	CBC's Hockey Day in Canada (Host: PEI) Edmonton Oilers at Ottawa Senators; Montreal Canadiens at Toronto Maple Leafs; Vancouver Canucks at Calgary Flames
17-19	Hockey Weekend Across America (USA Hockey)
19	Hockey Day in America (NBC)
27	Trade deadline (3:00 p.m. ET)

March 2012

12-14	NHL General Managers Meeting (Boca Raton, FL)
23-25	NCAA Regionals

NHL Critical Dates 2011-2012

April 2012

9	Opening Day of Rookie Camp
16	Opening Day of Training Camp
19	Pre-season schedule begins
20	NHL Board of Governors Meeting
21-24	USHL Fall Classic (Sioux City, IA)
26	Kraft Hockeyville – Winnipeg Jets vs. Ottawa Senators (Mile One Centre, St. John's, NL)

May 2012

4-20	IIHF World Championship (Helsinki, FIN, Stockholm, SWE)
5-13	2012 RBC Cup (Elgar Petersen Arena, Humboldt, SK)
18-27	2011 CHL Memorial Cup (Centre Bionest, Shawinigan, QC)
28-June 2	2012 NHL Combine

June 2012

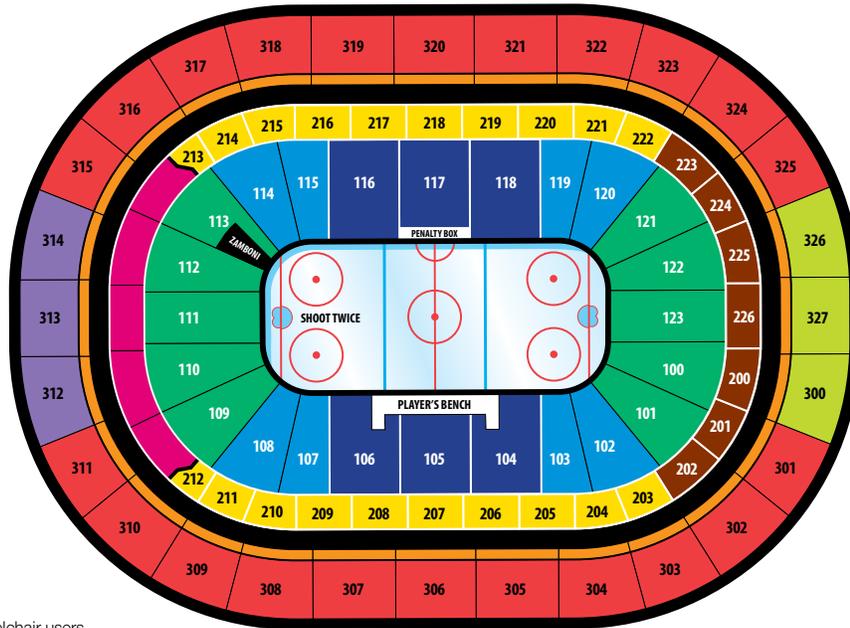
15	Last possible day for 2012 Stanley Cup Final
TBA	Deadline for first club-elected salary arbitration (later of June 15 or 48 hours after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final, 5:00 p.m. ET)
20	2012 NHL Awards
22-23	NHL Entry Draft

July 2012

1	Free Agency period begins
5	Deadline for player-elected salary arbitration notification (5:00 p.m. ET)
6	Deadline for club-elected salary arbitration notification (5:00 p.m. ET)
20 – Aug.4	Salary arbitration hearings held

August 2012

6	Deadline for salary arbitration decisions to be rendered
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Seating available for wheelchair users

Variable Ticket Pricing 2011-2012

Arena Seating	Season Ticket	Platinum		Gold		Silver		Bronze		Value	
		Mini-Pk	Window	Mini-Pk	Window	Mini-Pk	Window	Mini-Pk	Window	Mini-Pk	Window
200 Club Lvl	\$3,730 (\$92)	n/a	\$240	n/a	\$183	n/a	\$143	n/a	\$123	n/a	\$108
100 Lvl Pref	\$2,810 (\$69)	\$218	\$220	\$166	\$168	\$137	\$139	\$87	\$117	\$74	\$76
100 Lvl II	\$2,200 (\$54)	\$189	\$191	\$143	\$145	\$103	\$105	\$69	\$71	\$59	\$61
100 Lvl III	\$1,670 (\$41)	n/a	\$160	n/a	\$122	n/a	\$84	n/a	\$56	n/a	\$46
100 Lvl IV	\$1,470 (\$36)	n/a	\$141	n/a	\$107	n/a	\$63	n/a	\$42	n/a	\$34
300 Lvl I	\$1,670 (\$41)	n/a	\$119	n/a	\$92	n/a	\$82	n/a	\$58	n/a	\$48
300 Lvl II	\$1,220 (\$30)	\$99	\$101	\$74	\$76	\$61	\$63	\$40	\$42	\$34	\$34
300 Lvl III	\$940 (\$23)	n/a	\$80	n/a	\$62	n/a	\$50	n/a	\$35	n/a	\$24
300 Lvl IV	\$940 (\$23)	n/a	\$80	n/a	\$62	n/a	\$50	n/a	\$35	n/a	\$24

The Sabres will once again feature variable ticket pricing for tickets to all home games. The five pricing levels include Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Value. The classifications are determined by the opponent, time of the year, day of the week, rivalries, and games against all-star players. This season there is one (1) Platinum game, eleven (11) Gold games, eighteen (18) Silver games, five (5) Bronze games, and five (5) Value games.

Sabres Tickets are available in person at the First Niagara Center Box Office.
 Tickets may be purchased online at www.sabres.com or www.tickets.com.
 To charge tickets by phone, call **1.888.223.6000**.

Buffalo Sabres Miscellaneous

Sabres Schedule Regular Season*

October 2011

Friday	Oct 7, 2011	vs. Ducks (Europe)	1:00 PM
Saturday	Oct 8, 2011	@ Kings (Europe)	2:00 PM
Friday	Oct 14, 2011	vs. Hurricanes	7:30 PM
Saturday	Oct 15, 2011	@ Penguins	7:00 PM
Tuesday	Oct 18, 2011	@ Canadiens	7:30 PM
Thursday	Oct 20, 2011	@ Panthers	7:30 PM
Saturday	Oct 22, 2011	@ Lightning	7:00 PM
Tuesday	Oct 25, 2011	vs. Lightning	7:30 PM
Thursday	Oct 27, 2011	vs. Blue Jackets	7:00 PM
Saturday	Oct 29, 2011	vs. Panthers	7:00 PM

November 2011

Wednesday	Nov 2, 2011	vs. Flyers	7:30 PM
Friday	Nov 4, 2011	vs. Flames	7:30 PM
Saturday	Nov 5, 2011	@ Senators	7:00 PM
Tuesday	Nov 8, 2011	vs. Jets	7:00 PM
Friday	Nov 11, 2011	vs. Senators	7:30 PM
Saturday	Nov 12, 2011	@ Bruins	7:00 PM
Monday	Nov 14, 2011	@ Canadiens	7:00 PM
Wednesday	Nov 16, 2011	vs. Devils	7:30 PM
Friday	Nov 18, 2011	@ Hurricanes	7:00 PM
Saturday	Nov 19, 2011	vs. Coyotes	7:00 PM
Wednesday	Nov 23, 2011	vs. Bruins	7:00 PM
Friday	Nov 25, 2011	@ Blue Jackets	7:00 PM
Saturday	Nov 26, 2011	vs. Capitals	7:00 PM
Tuesday	Nov 29, 2011	vs. Islanders	7:00 PM

December 2011

Friday	Dec 2, 2011	vs. Red Wings	7:30 PM
Saturday	Dec 3, 2011	@ Predators	8:00 PM
Wednesday	Dec 7, 2011	vs. Flyers	7:30 PM
Friday	Dec 9, 2011	vs. Panthers	7:30 PM
Saturday	Dec 10, 2011	vs. Rangers	7:00 PM
Tuesday	Dec 13, 2011	vs. Senators	7:00 PM
Friday	Dec 16, 2011	vs. Maple Leafs	7:30 PM
Saturday	Dec 17, 2011	@ Penguins	7:00 PM
Tuesday	Dec 20, 2011	@ Senators	7:30 PM
Thursday	Dec 22, 2011	@ Maple Leafs	7:00 PM
Monday	Dec 26, 2011	vs. Capitals	7:00 PM
Wednesday	Dec 28, 2011	@ Devils	7:00 PM
Friday	Dec 30, 2011	@ Capitals	7:00 PM
Saturday	Dec 31, 2011	vs. Senators	7:00 PM

January 2012

Tuesday	Jan 3, 2012	vs. Oilers	7:00 PM
Friday	Jan 6, 2012	@ Hurricanes	7:00 PM
Saturday	Jan 7, 2012	vs. Jets	7:00 PM

January 2012

Tuesday	Jan 10, 2012	@ Maple Leafs	7:00 PM
Friday	Jan 13, 2012	vs. Maple Leafs	7:30 PM
Saturday	Jan 14, 2012	@ Islanders	7:00 PM
Monday	Jan 16, 2012	@ Red Wings	7:30 PM
Wednesday	Jan 18, 2012	@ Blackhawks	7:30 PM
Thursday	Jan 19, 2012	@ Jets	8:30 PM
Saturday	Jan 21, 2012	@ Blues	8:00 PM
Tuesday	Jan 24, 2012	@ Devils	7:00 PM
Tuesday	Jan 31, 2012	@ Canadiens	7:30 PM

February 2012

Wednesday	Feb 1, 2012	vs. Rangers	7:30 PM
Saturday	Feb 4, 2012	@ Islanders	7:00 PM
Wednesday	Feb 8, 2012	vs. Bruins	7:30 PM
Friday	Feb 10, 2012	vs. Stars	7:30 PM
Saturday	Feb 11, 2012	vs. Lightning	7:00 PM
Tuesday	Feb 14, 2012	vs. Devils	7:00 PM
Thursday	Feb 16, 2012	@ Flyers	7:00 PM
Friday	Feb 17, 2012	vs. Canadiens	7:30 PM
Sunday	Feb 19, 2012	vs. Penguins	12:30 PM
Tuesday	Feb 21, 2012	vs. Islanders	7:00 PM
Friday	Feb 24, 2012	vs. Bruins	7:30 PM
Saturday	Feb 25, 2012	@ Rangers	7:00 PM
Wednesday	Feb 29, 2012	@ Ducks	10:00 PM

March 2012

Thu	Mar 1, 2012	@ Sharks	10:30 PM
Sat	Mar 3, 2012	@ Canucks	10:00 PM
Mon	Mar 5, 2012	@ Jets	8:00 PM
Wed	Mar 7, 2012	vs. Hurricanes	7:00 PM
Thu	Mar 8, 2012	@ Bruins	7:00 PM
Sat	Mar 10, 2012	@ Senators	7:00 PM
Mon	Mar 12, 2012	vs. Canadiens	7:00 PM
Wed	Mar 14, 2012	vs. Avalanche	7:30 PM
Sat	Mar 17, 2012	@ Panthers	7:30 PM
Mon	Mar 19, 2012	@ Lightning	7:30 PM
Wed	Mar 21, 2012	vs. Canadiens	7:00 PM
Fri	Mar 23, 2012	@ Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat	Mar 24, 2012	vs. Wild	7:00 PM
Tue	Mar 27, 2012	@ Capitals	7:00 PM
Fri	Mar 30, 2012	vs. Penguins	7:30 PM
Sat	Mar 31, 2012	@ Maple Leafs	7:00 PM

April 2012

Tue	Apr 3, 2012	vs. Maple Leafs	7:00 PM
Thu	Apr 5, 2012	@ Flyers	7:00 PM
Sat	Apr 7, 2012	@ Bruins	3:00 PM

*Home Games
Away Games