BUFFALO SABRES @ MONTREAL CANADIENS

Saturday, Oct 17, 2026 · 7:00 PM EDT · Bell Centre, Montreal, QC · TV: NHL Net, MSGB

NHL REGULAR SEASON · LINEUPS PROJECTED

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GAME PREVIEW

Montreal (3-3-1, 7 points, 2-2-0 at home) hosts Buffalo (4-3-1, 9 points, 1-1-1 on the road) in the second meeting of the season, after Montreal won 4-3 in a shootout on Oct 13. Montreal is 2-3 in its last five, with a 5-4 loss at Washington on Oct 14 the most recent defeat, while Buffalo beat Toronto 5-4 in overtime on Oct 15. Montreal is without Mike Matheson and Florian Xhekaj, and Buffalo is without Rasmus Dahlin, who misses his third straight game. The goaltending matchup is central, with Jacob Fowler (2-1-0, 1.91 GAA) expected to start for Montreal and Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen (3-2-1, 3.52 GAA) projected for Buffalo. Montreal's power play is 13.6% and its penalty kill 80.0%, against Buffalo's 10.3% and 61.5%.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

BUF	**Jack Quinn**	Eight points (4 G, 4 A) in eight games.
BUF	**Owen Power**	Eight points (2 G, 6 A) in eight games.
BUF	**Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen**	3-2-1 with a 3.52 GAA and .854 save percentage in six games.
MTL	**Nick Suzuki**	Nine points (4 G, 5 A) in seven games.
MTL	**Lane Hutson**	Eight points (2 G, 6 A) in seven games.
MTL	**Jacob Fowler**	2-1-0 with a 1.91 GAA and .906 save percentage in three games.

STORYLINES

- Oliver Kapanen makes his season debut for Montreal after a lower-body absence, per NHL.com.
- Josh Norris returns for Buffalo after concussion protocol and Jiri Kulich rejoins after an illness, per NHL.com.
- Nick Suzuki leads Montreal with 9 points (4 G, 5 A) in seven games.
- Jack Quinn has 8 points (4 G, 4 A) in eight games for Buffalo.

BUFFALO SABRES

(4-3-1 · 5th in Atlantic Division)

FORWARDS

LINE	#	PLAYER	POS	CTRY	AGE	GP	G	A	P	+/-
L1	19	Peyton Krebs	C	CAN	25	8	0	4	4	-2
	72	Tage Thompson	C	USA	28	8	4	4	8	+5
	91	Josh Doan	RW	USA	24	8	1	0	1	+1
L2	6	Zach Benson	LW	CAN	21	8	0	5	5	+3
	86	Noah Ostlund	C	SWE	22	8	2	4	6	+5
	22	Jack Quinn	RW	CAN	25	8	4	4	8	+3
L3	71	Ryan McLeod	C	CAN	27	8	1	1	2	-5
	20	Jiri Kulich	C	CZE	22	6	1	1	2	+2
	94	Konsta Helenius	C	FIN	20	7	1	0	1	-4
L4	29	Beck Malenstyn	LW	CAN	28	8	0	2	2	-2
	9	Josh Norris	C	USA	27	8	1	1	2	-3
	15	Justin Danforth	RW	CAN	33	5	0	0	0	+1

Projected lines per NHL.com, Oct 17. Stats are season to date (see notes).

DEFENCE

PAIR	#	PLAYER	POS	CTRY	AGE	GP	G	A	P	+/-
D1	8	Olen Zellweger	D	CAN	23	7	2	1	3	0
	23	Mattias Samuelsson	D	USA	26	8	2	4	6	-1
D2	25	Owen Power	D	CAN	23	8	2	6	8	+4
	73	Zach Metsa	D	USA	27	8	0	2	2	-1
D3	44	Dennis Gilbert	D	USA	29	2	1	1	2	+3
	46	Louis Crevier	D	CAN	25	8	0	1	1	-1

Projected pairs per NHL.com, Oct 17.

GOALIES

#	GOALIE	CTRY	AGE	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SV%
1	Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen*	FIN	27	6	3-2-1	3.52	.850
92	Colten Ellis	CAN	26	3	1-1-0	3.19	.860

** Projected starter per NHL.com (listed first); no team confirmation found.*

POWER PLAY 1

TEAM	UNIT
BUF	Jack Quinn, Zach Benson, Noah Ostlund, Tage Thompson, Owen Power
MTL	Chris Kreider, Nick Suzuki, Juraj Slafkovsky, Cole Caufield, Lane Hutson

Projected units per Insidetherink, Oct 17; not confirmed.

SEASON SERIES

DATE	RESULT	SCORE
Oct 13	MTL won in a shootout	BUF 3 @ MTL 4

Tonight (Oct 17) is the second meeting of the season.

STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	OTL	PTS
Boston	6	2	0	12
Tampa Bay	6	2	0	12
Ottawa	6	2	0	12
Florida	4	2	2	10
Buffalo (BUF)	4	3	1	9
Toronto	3	3	2	8
Montreal (MTL)	3	3	1	7
Detroit	2	3	2	6

Standings group as supplied in GAME; BUF and MTL rows marked.

MONTREAL CANADIENS

(3-3-1 · 7th in Atlantic Division)

FORWARDS

LINE	#	PLAYER	POS	CTRY	AGE	GP	G	A	P	+/-
L1	13	Cole Caufield	RW	USA	25	7	3	1	4	-1
	14	Nick Suzuki	C	CAN	27	7	4	5	9	+2
	20	Juraj Slafkovsky	LW	SVK	22	7	1	2	3	-2
L2	22	Chris Kreider	LW	USA	35	7	1	3	4	+1
	15	Alex Newhook	C	CAN	25	7	1	3	4	-2
	17	Josh Anderson	RW	CAN	32	7	4	2	6	+4
L3	76	Zack Bolduc	RW	CAN	23	7	3	2	5	+2
	24	Phillip Danault	C	CAN	33	7	0	1	1	+1
	85	Alexandre Texier	LW	FRA	27	7	0	2	2	-2
L4	77	Kirby Dach	C	CAN	25	7	0	1	1	-4
	71	Jake Evans	C	CAN	30	7	0	0	0	-4
	91	Oliver Kapanen	C	SWE	23	—	—	—	—	—

Projected lines per NHL.com, Oct 17. Kapanen's season debut. Stats are season to date (see notes).

DEFENCE

PAIR	#	PLAYER	POS	CTRY	AGE	GP	G	A	P	+/-
D1	48	Lane Hutson	D	USA	22	7	2	6	8	+1
	53	Noah Dobson	D	CAN	26	7	0	2	2	-2
D2	21	Kaiden Guhle	D	CAN	24	3	0	0	0	-2
	45	Alexandre Carrier	D	CAN	30	7	1	1	2	+1
D3	72	Arber Xhekaj	D	CAN	25	7	0	0	0	-1
	64	David Reinbacher	D	AUT	21	—	—	—	—	—

Projected pairs per NHL.com, Oct 17. Reinbacher's season debut. Engstrom and Beck scratched per NHL.com.

GOALIES

#	GOALIE	CTRY	AGE	GP	W-L-OT	GAA	SV%
32	Jacob Fowler*	USA	21	3	2-1-0	1.91	.910
75	Jakub Dobes	CZE	25	4	1-2-1	4.63	.840

** Probable starter per GAME; Yardbarker reports Fowler will start. No team confirmation found.*

OUT

TEAM	PLAYER	STATUS
MTL	Mike Matheson (D)	Out, lower body (see notes)
	Florian Xhekaj (LW)	IR, lower body
	Sam Montembeault (G)	IR, lower body
	Ivan Demidov (RW)	IR, lower body
	Bryce Pickford (D)	IR, undisclosed
BUF	Rasmus Dahlin (D)	Out, upper body
	Alex Lyon (G)	IR, upper body
	Matt Grzelcyk (D)	IR, lower body (type conflicts)
	Jason Zucker (LW)	IR, abdomen surgery
	Conor Timmins (D)	IR, lower body

Statuses per GAME, with NHL.com status report for Dahlin; conflicts in notes.

SPECIAL TEAMS

TEAM	PP%	PK%	GF/GP	GA/GP
BUF	10.3%	61.5%	—	—
MTL	13.6%	80.0%	3.00	3.86

PP% and PK% per Hockey News game notes; MTL GF/GP and GA/GP through Oct 14 (Statmuse); BUF per-game figures not found.