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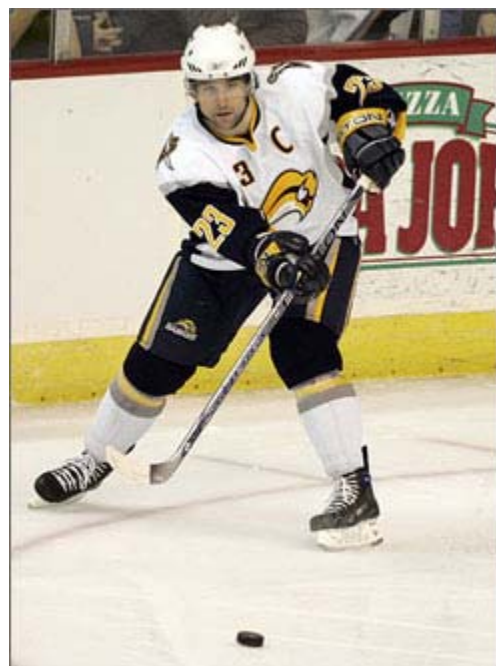

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Buffalo's Drury thrives under bright lights

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Enlarge By James Lang, US Presswire

Sabres center Chris Drury works during a regular-season game. In the postseason, the clutch scorer is getting ready to meet the Senators in the Eastern finals of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

By **A.J. Perez**, USA TODAY

Buffalo Sabres center **Chris Drury** has 11 game-winning goals in the regular season and the playoffs. And that's not counting his tying goal with 7.7 seconds left in regulation last Friday, which allowed the Sabres to seize the momentum against the New York Rangers.

A psychology professor says he has an explanation for Drury's knack for the dramatic.

"What sets him apart from other players isn't that he's just a gifted player physically," said Mark Seery, an assistant professor at the University at Buffalo. "It's his ability to perform in the clutch. I expect that **Chris Drury** looks at (a pressure situation) as a challenge rather than a threat."

Seery co-wrote a 2004 study while he was a student at the University of California-Santa Barbara that explored the challenge vs. threat theory. The research, published in the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, examined how softball and baseball players responded to stressful game situations.

There are likely to be some more of those in the Eastern Conference finals against the Ottawa Senators, starting tonight in Buffalo. The regular-season series was heated, with Drury suffering a concussion on an open-ice check in one game.

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Before getting to the NHL, Drury won a Little League championship from his hometown in Connecticut, and a national title and the Hobey Baker Award at Boston University.

"He has the experience of performing successfully in those type

SABRES VS. SENATORS

Playoff stats: Sabres | Senators

Game 1: Thursday, Ottawa at Buffalo, 7 p.m. ET

Game 2: Saturday, Ottawa at Buffalo, 8 p.m. ET

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Game 3: Monday, Buffalo at Ottawa, 7 p.m. ET

Game 4: Wednesday, May 16, Buffalo at Ottawa, 7 p.m. ET

Game 5: Saturday, May 19, Ottawa at Buffalo, 2 p.m. ET, if necessary

Game 6: Monday, May 21, Buffalo at Ottawa, 7 p.m., if necessary

Game 7: Wednesday, May 23, Ottawa at Buffalo, 7 p.m. ET, if necessary

of situations," said Seery, who never met Drury and is making observations from afar. "There's evidence out there that shows that kind of personal experience helps develop and toughen a person."

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Lo

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