



Charlotte Checkers vs. Rochester Americans

Friday, October 5, 2018 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 6

TONIGHT'S GAME

• The Rochester Americans open their historic 63rd season in the American Hockey League – and 37th as the primary affiliate of the Buffalo Sabres – tonight in the first of a back-to-back set against the Charlotte Checkers at The Blue Cross Arena. Game time is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

AMERKS PRESEASON WRAP-UP

- The Amerks begin the 2018-19 regular season after closing out their preseason schedule with a 4-1 win over the Syracuse Crunch this past Sunday night at the Gene Polisseni Center on the campus of R.I.T. Rochester posted a 2-1-0-0 record during the preseason, which included a two-game split with the defending Calder Cup champion Toronto Marlies.
- Rookie newcomer **Andrew Oglevie** led all Amerk skaters as he tallied a pair of multi-point (1+1) efforts in two games while **Eric Cornel** and last season's Amerks Rookie of the Year **C.J. Smith** each registered three points (2+1) during the exhibition contests.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

• The Amerks continue their three-game homestand to begin the season on Saturday, Oct. 6 with a rematch against the Checkers at The Blue Cross Arena before welcoming the North Division rival and intrastate foe Syracuse Crunch back to Rochester on Wednesday, Oct. 10. Both games start at 7:05 p.m and can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

OPENING THE SEASON

- The Amerks enter the new campaign with a 38-18-6 all-time home-opening record and have outscored their opponents 258-195 dating back to when the puck first dropped on Rochester's inaugural season in 1956. Additionally, Rochester enters with a 32-23-7 all-time record in season-opening games, outscoring its opponents 235-211 over the past 62 years.
- Tonight's Home Opener is the seventh straight year the Amerks have opened the season on home ice. The Amerks have scored six or more goals in six of their last eight home-opening wins dating back to an 8-5 victory over Toronto to begin the 2005-06 season.

THE CAPTAINS

- Veteran forward **Kevin Porter** was tabbed team captain for a second straight season and third time in his 11-year career.
- The Amerks will also rotate through forward **Kyle Criscuolo** and defensemen **Taylor Fedun**, **Andrew MacWilliam**, **Zach Remond** and **Nathan Paetsch** as alternate captains over the course of the season.

2017-18 FINAL REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
262-234



46-26-1-3 (96 points)

37-22-11-6 (91 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Zach Redmond	66	15	32	47	38	7
Colin Blackwell	61	17	28	45	23	15
C.J. Smith	57	17	27	44	16	4

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA	
Linus Ullmark	44	21-12-10	2,579	1,242	.922	2.44
Adam Wilcox	29	12-7-7	1,655	719	.903	2.79
Jonas Johansson	7	4-3-0	355:06	143	.861	3.89

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Oct. 6	Charlotte	7:05 p.m.
Oct. 10	Syracuse	7:05 p.m.
Oct. 13	@ Bridgeport	1:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
------	----------	-------	-------	----	----

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	18-14-3-3	118	92	51
AWAY	19-8-8-3	116	112	49
TOTALS	37-22-11-6	234	221	91

CHECKERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Lucas Wallmark	45	17	38	55	16	15
Valentin Zykov	63	33	21	54	45	-13
Andrew Miller	55	15	37	52	20	-3

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA	
Alex Nedeljkovic	49	31-12-3	2,726	1,075	.903	2.55
Jeremy Smith	30	13-13-1	1,618	673	.895	2.79



YEAR TWO FOR TAYLOR

- **Chris Taylor**, who became the 32nd head coach and just the 12th former Amerk in the 62-year history of the franchise to be appointed to the position, guided the Amerks to their first postseason appearance in four seasons in 2017-18.
- After earning his first-career coaching victory behind the Amerks bench in a 3-1 Opening Night win on Oct. 6, 2017, Taylor helped Rochester to a 37-22-11-6 record during the 2017-18 campaign.

AMERKS RETURNEES

- Rochester returns three of its top five scorers from the 2017-18 season, which includes **Zach Redmond**, **Kevin Porter** and **C.J. Smith**.
- Redmond is coming off a career-year last season after leading the team with a career-high 32 assists and 47 points in 66 games for the Amerks. He was one of just three AHL blueliners to lead his respective team in scoring while also becoming the first Amerks defenseman in seven years to lead the team in points since Mike Kostka in 2010-11. He was also named to the AHL's Second All-Star Team.
- Porter, who returns for his fourth season in the Flower City and 11th overall, ranked fourth in points (42) and tied for second in goals (17) in 66 games last season.
- Smith led all Amerks rookies as he finished third on the team and 10th among all AHL rookies in scoring with 44 points (17+27) in 57 games. The Des Moines, Iowa native, who was tabbed the Amerks Rookie of the Year, was also named MVP of the 2018 AHL All-Star Challenge after scoring three goals with two assists, including the lone tally in the championship game that sealed a 1-0 win for Team North over Team Pacific.

EXPERIENCED ROOKIES

- Among the incoming wave of newcomers for the Amerks this season includes the Swedish trio of **Rasmus Asplund**, **Victor Olofsson** and **Lawrence Pilut**, all of whom are primed to make their North American debuts after playing professionally overseas last season.
- Pilut led all Swedish Hockey League defensemen last season with 38 points and was named the 2017-18 SHL Defenseman of the Year. Olofsson, meanwhile, scored a team-high 27 goals for Frölunda HC, a year after leading the team to an SHL championship in 2016.

SCOUTING THE CHECKERS

- Charlotte begins its season with a four-game North Division road swing. Overall to open the first month of the slate, the Checkers play seven of their first nine games away from Bojangles' Coliseum.
- Andrew Poturalski returns for his third season with Charlotte after piling up 49 points (22+27) during the 2017-18 campaign. The Williamsville, New York, native recorded a career-best 22 goals last season while being one of just two skaters to appear in all 76 games.
- The Checkers also return third-year goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic, who posted a career-best 31-12-3 record in 49 contests last year. Carolina's second-round pick in 2014 shared the top spot in the league with 31 victories and tied for third with five shutouts.

AMERKS-CHECKERS 2017-18 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER						
SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Colin Blackwell	2	2	2	4	0	3
Zach Redmond	4	2	2	4	0	2
Kevin Porter	4	2	1	3	0	-4
GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Adam Wilcox	2	1-0-0	85:07	2	.950	1.41
Jonas Johansson	1	1-0-0	59:58	3	.875	3.00
Linus Ullmark	2	0-1-1	95:55	9	.795	5.63
CHARLOTTE						
SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Warren Foegele	4	2	3	5	2	1
Valentin Zykov	3	2	3	5	2	0
Trevor Carrick	4	3	1	4	2	3
GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Alex Nedeljkovic	3	2-0-1	180:59	10	.877	3.32
Jeremy Smith	1	0-1-0	57:48	3	.875	3.11

2017-18 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 20	L	5-2	22-32	1-8	4-4
Jan. 20	W	4-1	25-24	0-0	1-2
Jan. 21	OTL	5-4	30-20	1-4	3-3
Mar. 30	OTW	4-3	29-21	1-3	1-2

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. CHARLOTTE: 2-1-1

SERIES NOTABLES

- Tonight is just the fifth all-time meeting between the Amerks and Checkers. Rochester went 2-1-1 last season against Charlotte and picked up a point in each of the last three contests, including two wins.
- The Amerks led the AHL with 29 games that were decided beyond regulation in 2017-18. Meanwhile, the Checkers had a league-low seven contests that went to the extra session.
- Both Rochester and Charlotte participated in the 2018 Calder Cup Playoffs last season and both were involved in a sweep during the first round. The Amerks were eliminated in three games in the opening round while the Checkers advanced to the second round after ousting the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins in three games. Charlotte fell 4-1 in the best-of-seven Atlantic Division Finals.