



Charlotte Checkers vs. Rochester Americans

Saturday, October 6, 2018 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 17

TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (0-1-0-0) look for redemption tonight as they host the Charlotte Checkers (1-0-0-0) in the second game of a back-to-back set to close out Opening Weekend 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.

LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks opened their 63rd American Hockey League season – and 37th as the primary affiliate of the Buffalo Sabres – last night, but it was the Checkers who earned a 6-2 victory in the first game of the 2018-19 campaign.
- Rookie forward **Lawrence Pilut** made an immediate impact in his North American and American Hockey League debut, leading Rochester with a goal and an assist for a two-point night. Second-year forward and reigning Rookie of the Year **C.J. Smith** netted the other goal during the second period. Goaltender **Scott Wedgewood**, who also made his Rochester debut, made 33 saves in the defeat.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks conclude their three-game homestand to open the season as they welcome the North Division rival and intrastate foe Syracuse Crunch back to The Blue Cross Arena on Wednesday, Oct. 10. The 7:05 p.m. matchup will be the first meeting between the two teams since Game 3 of the North Division Semifinals in April and can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

OPENING THE SEASON

- Coming off last night's 6-2 Opening Night loss to the Checkers, the Amerks fell to 38-19-6 all-time in Home Openers dating back to when the puck first dropped on Rochester's inaugural season in 1956. Rochester, however, has outscored the opposition 260-201 to begin a new season over that span. Additionally, last night's loss dropped the Amerks to 32-24-7 all-time in season-opening games, outscoring their opponents 237-217 over the past 63 years.
- Last night was 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 nine 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.

2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
6-2



1-0-0-0 (2 points)

0-1-0-0 (0 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Lawrence Pilut	1	1	1	2	0	-1
C.J. Smith	1	1	0	1	0	2
Kyle Criscuolo	1	0	1	1	0	-2

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	1	0-1-0	59:43	6	.846	6.03

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
Oct. 5	Charlotte	L 6-2	24-39	1-3	1-3

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS
HOME 0-1-0-0	2	6	0
AWAY 0-0-0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS 0-1-0-0	2	6	0

CHECKERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Janne Kuokkanen	1	2	2	4	2	2
Nicolas Roy	1	2	1	3	2	2
Andrew Poturalski	1	1	2	3	2	1

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Alex Nedeljkovic	1	1-0-0	60:0	2	.917	2.00



YEAR TWO FOR TAYLOR

- **Chris Taylor**, who became the 32nd head coach and just the 12th former Amerk in the 63-year history of the franchise to be named to the position, led the Amerks to a 91-point finish in the regular season and their first postseason appearance in four years 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 made their North American debuts last night after playing professionally overseas last season.
- Pilut, who recorded a multi-point (1+1) effort in his AHL debut last night, led all Swedish Hockey League defensemen last season with 38 points and was named the 2017-18 SHL Defenseman of the Year. Olofsson, who too added his first point as an Amerk with the primary on Pilut's first tally last night, scored a team-high 27 goals for Frölunda HC, a year after leading the team to an SHL championship in 2016.

SCOUTING THE CHECKERS

- Andrew Poturalski returns for his third season with the Checkers 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.
- Charlotte also returns 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 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Lawrence Pilut	1	1	1	2	0	-1
C.J. Smith	1	1	0	1	0	2
Kyle Criscuolo	1	0	1	1	0	-2

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	1	0-1-0	59:43	6	.846	6.03

CHARLOTTE

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Janne Kuokkanen	1	2	2	4	2	2
Nicolas Roy	1	2	1	3	2	2
Andrew Poturalski	1	1	2	3	2	1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Alex Nedeljkovic	1	1-0-0	60:0	2	.917	2.00

2018-19 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 5	L	6-2	24-39	1-3	1-3
Oct. 6					
Mar. 15					
Mar. 16					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. CHARLOTTE: 2-3-0

SERIES NOTABLES

- Tonight is just the sixth all-time meeting between the Amerks and Checkers. Neither club has won back-to-back games throughout the all-time head-to-head series, but the Amerks have earned one point in three of the last four contests, including a pair of 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.