



Utica Comets vs. Rochester Americans

Friday, October 26, 2018 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 112

TONIGHT'S GAME

The Rochester Americans (5-2-1-0) close out the month of October with a pair of home divisional games beginning tonight against the intrastate rival Utica Comets (4-5-0-0) at The Blue Cross Arena. The 7:05 p.m. contest will be the second of 10 meetings between the two teams this season and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks' bid for a sixth straight victory came up short as Chase Balisy of the Belleville Senators scored his second goal of the night just 14 seconds into overtime to give the hosts a 5-4 victory last Saturday night at the CAA Arena.
- Despite the overtime loss, the Amerks earned a point for the sixth consecutive contest to maintain their lead atop the American Hockey League's North Division standings coming into this weekend.
- Wayne Simpson** led the Amerks with a multi-point night (1+1) while Rochester's remaining offense was provided by defensemen, most notably from rookies **Brandon Hickey** and **Will Borgen**, who each scored their first professional goals in the first and third periods, respectively. Fellow blueliner **Brendan Guhle** rounded out the team's scoring with his second goal in as many nights. Netminder **Adam Wilcox** was handed his first overtime loss of the season after starting 2-0-0 in his first two appearances in the blue paint. Wilcox shows a record of 4-0-2 in his last six games dating back to the end of the 2017-18 campaign.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

The Amerks close out the first month of the 2018-19 campaign on Saturday, Oct. 27 at The Blue Cross Arena against the Laval Rocket. The 7:05 p.m. contest will be the final game of a six-game stretch against North Division opponents. The contest can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester and on AHLTV.

IRON MAN SIMPSON

Rochester forward **Wayne Simpson**, who scored the shootout-clinching goal last Friday night against Toronto, is the AHL's current leader in consecutive games played with 195. The Boxborough, Mass., native appeared in all 76 regular-season games with the Hershey Bears and Providence Bruins over each of the last two seasons prior to joining the Amerks. Through his first eight games with Rochester, Simpson has tallied a pair of goals and one assist.

SPECIAL TEAMS SHOWDOWN

With 12 power-play goals in its first eight games, which is most in the AHL, Rochester boasts the top ranked power-play unit in the AHL with a 35.3% conversion rate. Utica enters tonight with a 28.2% conversion rate, which is second-best in the Eastern Conference.

2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
30-32



4-5-0-0 (8 points)

5-2-1-0 (11 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	8	5	9	14	0	-1
Zach Redmond	8	4	8	12	8	-1
Lawrence Pilut	6	2	8	10	2	7

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Adam Wilcox	3	2-0-1	181:22	10	.875 3.31
Scott Wedgewood	5	3-2-0	300:44	18	.888 3.59

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Oct. 27	vs. Laval	7:05 p.m.
Nov. 2	vs. Hershey	7:05 p.m.
Nov. 3	@ Hershey	7:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 20	Belleville	OTL 5-4	36-30	1-3	2-6
Oct. 19	Toronto	SOW 5-4	41-42	0-4	2-4
Oct. 14	Utica	W 6-1	32-17	4-5	2-3

YEARLY RECORD

	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	2-2-0-0	15	17	4
AWAY	3-0-1-0	17	11	7
TOTALS	5-2-1-0	32	28	11

COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	8	9	3	12	4	-2
Zack MacEwen	9	3	6	9	13	-4
Tanner Kero	9	1	7	8	4	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Ivan Kulbakov	5	3-2-0	294:05	17	.896 3.47
Richard Bachman	4	1-3-0	237:49	17	.870 4.29



UTICA COMETS GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERKS



ROC-STAR STATUS

- Amerks forward **Victor Olofsson** leads the AHL in scoring and comes into the weekend currently riding a six-game point streak that includes four multi-point efforts. The 23-year-old forward has recorded 13 points (5+8) during his last six outings and has been held scoreless just once through his first eight games of the campaign. Olofsson, who was named the AHL's Player of the Week for period ending Oct. 14, currently paces all AHL skaters with 14 points (5+9) and is tied for fifth with five goals. Additionally, he leads the AHL with seven power-play assists while his 27 shots are tied for ninth-most among league leaders. With points in six straight games, he also owns the third-longest active point streak in the league.
- After enjoying a career-setting year in 2017-18, defenseman **Zach Redmond** has picked up where he left off this season as he shows 12 points (4+8) through his first eight games to lead the league in scoring amongst defensemen. Redmond also currently sits atop the league in power-play scoring with eight points (4+4) and is third among defensemen with 25 shots on goal. With points in seven straight games, he owns the second-longest active point streak in the league and the longest amongst blueliners.
- Despite missing the last two games due to injury, **Lawrence Pilut** is off to a hot start in his North American debut, ranking third behind only Redmond and former Amerk T.J. Brennan in points by a defenseman with 10 points (2+8) in six games. Pilut, last year's SHL Defenseman of the Year, has recorded all but three of his 10 points on the power-play this season, including his two goals, which are tied for third-most among all AHL blueliners. He, too, enters the weekend riding a four-game point streak (1+7), which began with a three-point effort (1+2) against the Syracuse Crunch on Oct. 10.

OFFENSIVE M INDED

- After outscoring the opposition 24-13 over their recent five-game win streak, the Amerks are currently tied for the league lead in goals scored with 32, including a league-best 12 on the power-play, and are one of only six AHL team to surpass the 30-goal mark so far this season. Rochester also owns the sixth-best offense in the AHL, averaging exactly 4.00 goals-per-game.

SCOUTING THE COMETS

- After beginning the campaign 3-1-0-0, Utica embarks on a three-game road swing tonight having lost three of its last four contests. The Comets, however, remain unbeaten on the road this season.
- Utica returns a total of 17 players from last year's squad, including top point-getter Reid Boucher, who paces the AHL in goals (9) and is tied for second in overall scoring with 12 points (9+3) in five games. The 2018 AHL All-Star hasn't gone a game without recording at least one point yet, extending his point streak to an AHL-best eight straight games with an assist in Wednesday's 4-3 win at Syracuse. The seventh-year pro is also tied for the league-lead with four power-play goals while his 32 shots are tied for second-most in the league.

AMERKS-COMETS 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	1	2	2	4	0	2
Lawrence Pilut	1	0	3	3	0	2
Zach Redmond	1	2	0	2	4	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	1	1-0-0	58:18	1	.960	1.01

UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Olli Juolevi	1	1	0	1	0	0
Reid Boucher	1	0	1	1	0	0
Tanner Kero	1	0	1	1	0	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Richard Bachman	1	0-1-0	60:00	6	.800	6.00

2018-19 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 17	W	6-1	32-17	4-5	2-3
Oct. 26					
Nov. 23					
Dec. 5					
Dec. 29					
Jan. 25					
Feb. 9					
Feb. 22					
Feb. 27					
Mar. 13					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 20-22-5

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester has collected at least one point in each of the last nine games against Utica dating back to the start of the 2017-18 campaign, going 4-0-2-3 over that span.
- Seven of the last nine games between the two teams have been decided after regulation.
- In the previous get-together with the Comets back on Oct. 17, the Amerks went 4-for-5 while on the man-advantage on their way to a decisive 6-1 win. The four power-play goals were the most while on the road since the Amerks went 4-for-6 at Syracuse on Mar. 12, 2016.