



# ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

*Friday, November 23, 2018*

*TONIGHT'S GAME: Utica @ Rochester*

Defenseman Lawrence Pilut hoping to help Sabres extend winning streak

*Buffalo News*

By: Lance Lysowski

Lawrence Pilut had just stepped off the ice at Bill Gray's Iceplex, the practice rink for the Rochester Americans, when he was pulled aside by his coach, Chris Taylor.

Pilut, a 22-year-old rookie defenseman, wasn't sure what to expect. Then, Taylor said that Pilut had been recalled by the Buffalo Sabres and he would need to be at KeyBank Center in time for Wednesday night's game against the Philadelphia Flyers.

Pilut participated in warmups and headed to the press box, where he watched as a sold-out crowd cheered on a 5-2 victory, the Sabres' first seven-game win streak since 2006-07. Now, he's hoping for a chance to play in front of those fans, sooner rather than later.

"Here is where I want to be," Pilut said after an informal skate Thanksgiving morning at KeyBank Center. "Here is where I want to play. I'm just happy right now to be up here. Now I just want to get into the action."

It's unclear when he will get the opportunity. Pilut was recalled when Patrik Berglund was placed on injured reserve with an upper body injury, leaving the Sabres with 13 forwards and eight defensemen. Marco Scandella was scratched Wednesday night and remains day-to-day with a lower body injury suffered Monday in Pittsburgh, though he was one of 10 Sabres to participate in an informal skate Thanksgiving morning.

Nathan Beaulieu took Scandella's place in the lineup, skating alongside Casey Nelson on Phil Housley's third defensive pairing. Those two received the least amount of ice time among the Sabres' six active defensemen against the Flyers. If Scandella is unable to play, Housley could choose to see how Pilut fares against NHL competition either Friday afternoon at home against Montreal or Saturday in Detroit.

Pilut's skill set is an ideal fit for Housley's system, where defensemen need to join the offensive rush. Pilut was tied for the AHL lead with 22 points, including 19 assists, with a plus-16 rating in 15 games. He played in almost every situation, paired with Zach Redmond.

Pilut signed a two-year entry-level contract with the Sabres in May after spending nearly five seasons with HV71 of the Swedish Hockey League, and he was named the league's top defenseman last season. He impressed the Sabres in training camp but was sent to Rochester to adapt to the North American game.

"I felt good," Pilut said of his time in the Sabres' camp. "I had a good feeling coming into the season. It feels like I've been playing good down in Rochester. Everybody's been so good to me down there. They've really been helping me a lot. . . . It's been a good feeling so far."

Housley wasn't available to the media Thanksgiving morning, so it's unclear when or if he plans to put Pilut into the lineup. Nelson and Beaulieu didn't play poorly against the Flyers. Perhaps Pilut was recalled as insurance in the event of another injury.

While adapting to the AHL, Pilut kept a close eye on the Sabres' resurgence. Buffalo, now 14-6-2 and tied for second in the Atlantic Division with 30 points, owns the NHL's longest win streak of the season despite playing six games in nine nights.

"They've been rolling pretty good up here," Pilot said. "It's a good feeling in the group, it feels like for these two days I've been here for so far. I want to try to be a part of it."

●●●

Defenseman Shea Weber, the Canadiens' captain, participated in the team's practice Thursday afternoon at KeyBank Center. Weber has yet to play this season as he recovers from ankle surgery, and he isn't expected to return until next month.

Canadiens coach Claude Julien told reporters that backup Antti Niemi will start in goal Friday against the Sabres. Niemi allowed four goals on 42 shots in a 4-2 loss to Buffalo last month.

●●●

Berglund was not present during the Sabres' skate. Beaulieu, Nelson, Rasmus Dahlin, Evan Rodrigues, Casey Mittelstadt, Jeff Skinner, Linus Ullmark and Remi Elie also participated.

Sabres recall rookie Lawrence Pilut from Amerks

*Buffalo Hockey Beat*

By: Bill Hoppe

The Sabres made their first recall of the season this afternoon, summoning high-scoring defense prospect Lawrence Pilut from the Rochester Americans.

Pilut, 22, has quickly become an AHL star, recording 19 assists and 22 points, both league highs, in his first 15 games. It only seemed to be a matter of time before the Sabres recalled him.

It's unclear if Pilut will play tonight against the Philadelphia Flyers tonight. Given the Swede wasn't at the morning skate, he likely won't make his NHL debut.

Update: Pilut is out.

Right now, the Sabres only have six healthy defensemen. Sabres coach Phil Housley said this morning defenseman Nathan Beaulieu would move in for Marco Scandella, who's day-to-day with a lower-body injury.

The Amerks don't play until Friday.

Sabres recall defenseman Pilut, place Berglund on injured reserve

*Buffalo News*

By: Lance Lysowski

The Buffalo Sabres acted quickly after Marco Scandella left the morning skate early Wednesday, recalling defenseman Lawrence Pilut from Rochester.

Pilut, a 22-year-old signed by the Sabres in May, was tied for the AHL lead with 22 points (three goals and 19 assists) and a plus-16 rating in 15 games for the Amerks. In a surprising corresponding move, Buffalo placed Patrik Berglund on injured reserve, leaving them with only 13 forwards to eight defensemen.

Berglund played Monday night in Pittsburgh, but he was evaluated Wednesday for an "upper-body injury," according to coach Phil Housley. Pilut practiced with Rochester on Wednesday morning, so it's unlikely he'll debut tonight against the Philadelphia Flyers.

Scandella suffered a "lower-body injury" Monday night in Pittsburgh when he was hit by an Evgeni Malkin slap shot. The defenseman was on the ice at the start of the morning skate Wednesday, but he left for the locker room after line rushes.

Nathan Beaulieu is expected to take Scandella's place in the lineup against the Flyers, though Pilut could potentially make his debut Friday against the Montreal Canadiens at KeyBank Center. Scandella has one goal and four assists in 21 games, while Berglund has two goals and two assists in 19 games.

Pilut signed a two-year entry-level contract with the Sabres after spending parts of five seasons with HV71 of the Swedish Hockey League. Last season, he was named the league's top defenseman after recording 38 points, including 30 assists, in 52 games.

## Sabres recall AHL leading-scorer Lawrence Pilut *WKBW*

By: Matthew Bove

Lawrence Pilut is officially a member of the Buffalo Sabres. On Wednesday the team announced Pilut has been recalled from the Rochester Americans [AHL].

Pilut, 22, is tied for a league-leading 22 points in 15 games with the Americans this season. The rookie defenseman has tallied at least one point in seven straight games and has the second-best plus/minus rating in the AHL with a plus-16 rating.

The Tingsryd, Sweden native signed with the Sabres in the offseason after he was named the 2017-2018 Swedish Hockey League defenseman of the year.

In a corresponding move, Patrick Berglund has been placed on injured reserve with an upper-body injury.

**Bove's Take:**

It was only a matter of time.

Pilut has lit up the AHL as a rookie and has fans clamoring for him to join the Sabres lineup. Injuries to Marco Scandella and Patrik Berglund made this move possible with the team needing to add a seventh defender.

Sabres prospect Lawrence Pilut emerging as 'new age defenseman'

*Buffalo News*

By: Bill Hoppe

In American Hockey League history, few first-year players have established themselves as stars as quickly as high-scoring Sabres defense prospect Lawrence Pilut.

Just 15 games into his career, Pilut is tied with Chicago Wolves forward Daniel Carr for the AHL scoring lead with 22 points. Pilut also has a league-best 19 assists. The slick Swede's plus-16 rating trails only Carr's plus-18.

At his current pace, Pilut would compile a staggering 94 assists and 109 points over a full season with the Rochester Americans. Those gaudy numbers would shatter the AHL record of 74 assists and 96 points St. John's Maple Leafs defenseman Chris Snell established in 1993-94.

"He's that new age defenseman that people are looking for," Amerks defenseman Zach Redmond said.

What does that mean? Pilut, 22, is an undersized (5-11, 181 pounds), speedy defender who breaks the puck out of his own end well.

"You don't necessarily have to be big and strong back there," said Redmond, who anchors a point on the power play beside Pilut and is also enjoying an MVP-caliber season. "You can be agile and be just as effective or maybe even more so. That's kind of the package that he brings, he's just quick and he sees the ice well. It's very deceptive."

Pilut's days in the AHL could be limited. Chances are he won't last a full season in the minors. At some point, injuries will probably force the Sabres to recall a defenseman. Pilut is the likeliest candidate.

"I'm sure he'll be up in Buffalo in only a matter of time," Redmond said.

Not surprisingly, the NHL has long been Pilut's goal.

"My thoughts were here, I wanted to come over," said Pilut, whose American father, Larry, played professionally in Sweden. "It (felt) like if I kept developing and doing my thing out there, hopefully that chance would come someday."

His opportunity materialized because he enjoyed a breakout season in 2017-18 that attracted NHL teams. After leading the Swedish Hockey League with 30 assists and 38 points in 52 games, he earned top defenseman honors.

"How it went for me as a player and how I grew throughout the season came more and more interest (in) coming over," Pilut said. "My dream, of course, has always been to come over and play. Basically, last year was a chance for it and I took it."

Undrafted but undaunted

While Pilut went undrafted, he was a well-known youngster, according to Sabres assistant general manager Steve Greeley, who recruited and ultimately landed him.

Greeley said teams had kept tabs on Pilut, a regular for Sweden at international events, for years.

"You kind of wait for a sign maybe they're popping and that they're becoming worthy of an NHL contract and potentially being an NHL player," Greeley said. "He's a guy that had been tracked for quite some time just because of his success on the international stage in Sweden."

In Pilut's draft year, Greeley said he showcased a style "very similar to what we're seeing now."

"He's a puck-moving defenseman that I think has elite deception and very high-end hockey sense," Greeley said.

But Pilut did not possess the physical maturity to draw interest from NHL teams then.

"Still kind of an undersized defenseman," Greeley said. "But he's become much stronger, and with that, his skating has improved, his ability to defend has improved."

Pilut said: "It wasn't the whole world for me that I didn't get drafted, I just kept on going and had fun playing hockey." Then last season, after playing around 10 or 14 minutes for years, Pilut started skating around 22 minutes a night.

"That was a little bit of an indicator that this kid's body is maturing, he's really turning into an NHL prospect," Greeley said.

Right away, Greeley said Pilut and the Sabres had a mutual interest. After their first meeting, Pilut started following the Sabres closely. He liked the development aspect of the organization and the brand of hockey played at the NHL and AHL levels.

On May 15, the Sabres signed Pilut to a two-year, entry-level contract.

"It's a great group here, it felt like a lot of fresh, young faces," Pilut said. "It feels like this organization is really professional and very high striving, so that's a really big thing. I had a really good conversation with Steve Greeley about it. It sounded very good."

Adjustments continue

Pilut recorded a goal and two points in his Amerks debut Oct. 5 and hasn't slowed down yet. So far, he has only two pointless outings.

Amerks coach Chris Taylor said Pilut has been improving every game, reading plays better on the smaller North American ice surface.

Pilut has been lethal quarterbacking the power play, compiling two of his three goals and nearly half his points.

"We're thrilled with the start," Greeley said. "The points speak for themselves. I think what we've been really pleased with is just seeing how quickly he's adapting to North American hockey."

In Sunday's 4-3 come-from-behind road win, he extended his point streak to eight games by scoring the first of the Amerks' three third-period goals. He also assisted on Redmond's winner against the Hartford Wolf Pack.

"You can just tell he takes the game seriously, he wants to be there, he does all the little stuff off the ice, away from the rink to make sure that he can succeed," Redmond said. "He's always positive, he's always got a good energy about him."

The biggest knock on Pilut is usually his ultra-aggressive style. While his speed might help him recover in Europe or the AHL, it will be tough to play like that in the NHL.

"He has recovered," Taylor said. "But in the NHL, you have to be a little bit more patient on those, and he's going to learn that and he's going to learn that here, because there's some really good players here that could be playing in the NHL.

"He's going to find out quick, that, hey, sometimes you have to just relax, take it all in and sit back and trust the other guys to do their job instead of always moving up and getting in the guys' faces, so he's learning that process."

Pilut said he likes "to be involved in everything I can."

"It feels like I'm on the right path right now to tone it down in some bits," Pilut said, "and just listen to . . . the way I see the ice, just try to back off from it and play it smart."

If Pilut embraces that new mindset, he could earn a recall from the Sabres.

#TwitterlessReds on a record-setting pace for Rochester Americans

*13 Wham*

By: Toby Motyka

Zach Redmond doesn't have social media. He says when you get off of it, you realize you don't need it.

Perhaps his focus deserves partial credit for the enormous success he and the Amerks are having early on this season.

Redmond's 12 goals are just three shy of a career high he set last season during his first year in Rochester, and six fewer than the Amerks franchise record for goals by a defenseman in a single season (Rick Pagnutti scored 18 goals in 1972-'73).

He's done this all in the first 17 games of the year.

Another game-winner for Amerks' Redmond  
*Buffalo News*  
By: Staff Report

Zach Redmond's 12th goal of the season in the third period finally settled things for the Rochester Americans on Sunday in their 4-3 victory over the Hartford Wolf Pack at XL Center in Hartford, Conn.

Twice the Amerks came back to tie the game before Redmond, veteran defenseman who is on a goal-scoring tear, scored with 3:50 left in regulation time.

Lawrence Pilut and Justin Bailey assisted. It was Redmond's sixth game-winning goal this season for Rochester (11-4-2), the first-place team in the American Hockey League North Division.

Rasmus Asplund scored at 1:45 of the second period to tie it at 1-1, but the Wolf Pack moved in front on goals by Gabriel Fontaine and former Amerk Cole Schneider, the St. Joe's graduate. Pilut tallied at 5:28 of the third and Danny O'Regan tied it with 4:24 to play. Peter Holland had the first period goal for Hartford.

Pilut's goal was his third of the season, which along with his league-leading 19 assists has him in a tie with Daniel Carr of Chicago for the AHL scoring lead with 22 points. Redmond has 12 goals and nine assists for 21 points, putting him in a tie for third with Brooks Macek of Chicago. Next in the scoring among the Amerks is winger Alexander Nylander with five goals and nine assists for 14 points. Nylander had an assist as did Redmond on Pilut's goal.

Adam Wilcox made 35 saves in goal for Rochester and improved his record to 6-1. Marek Mazanec had 24 saves for the Wolf Pack.

Holland, Wilcox and Asplund, who has an assist in addition to his goal, were selected as the game's three stars in that order.

Amerks fall on Donato's goal in overtime

*Buffalo News*

By: Staff Report

Ryan Donato scored at 1:09 of overtime Saturday night to give the Providence Bruins a 3-2 victory over the Rochester Americans in their American Hockey League game at Dunkin' Donuts Center.

The former Harvard star's fourth goal of the season capped a comeback victory for the Bruins, who trailed 2-0 after two second-period goals by Justin Bailey of the Amerks. One assist on the second Amerks goal went to Sean Malone, who was a teammate of Donato at Harvard. Donato's father, Ted, is the Harvard coach.

Bailey's goals were his fourth and fifth of the season, all in the last four games.

The Williamsville native scored at 5:20 and 12:09 of the second. C.J. Smith and Brendan Guhle each picked up his seventh assist of the season on the goal.

Lawrence Pilut got his 18th assist and Malone his third on the second goal.

Providence struck on a power-play goal by Jordan Szwarc at 14:32 of the second, Donato and Olivier Galipeau had the assists.

Sabres prospect Sean Malone back in Amerks' lineup, adjusting his game

*Buffalo News*

By: Bill Hoppe

Sabres prospect Sean Malone quickly learned last season that he had to transform his style. In pro hockey, the skills that helped him morph from an unheralded sixth-round pick into an NHL prospect would only take him so far.

So Malone, a high-scoring center at Harvard, adapted as an AHL rookie in 2017-18, embracing his new role as the Amerks' third-line center.

"Pro hockey will do that to you," Malone said of changing his style. "The reason you get here is you're a guy who's relied upon to score goals. There's a lot of skilled players in this league. I have to focus on things that are going to make me stand out and carve out a role at the next level instead of beating myself up over offense."

The West Seneca native said he wants to be "a responsible two-way forward."

"Often I think defense first when I really want to start thinking offense a little more," Malone said.

Malone, 23, performed so well last season that he quietly developed into one of the organization's top forward prospects. If he hadn't suffered a knee injury in the Sabres' exhibition opener Sept. 17, he might've competed for an NHL roster spot this season.

After missing seven weeks and the Amerks' first 12 games, Malone returned Nov. 7, registering two assists in a 5-2 win against the Cleveland Monsters at KeyBank Center.

Sitting out so long, of course, was difficult. The Amerks have roared out of the gate, starting 10-3-1. They've won three of the last four contests entering Friday's road game against the Springfield Falcons.

"I was really chomping at the bit," Malone said following his season debut. "It's tough watching your team from the stands ... Finally, I'm able to play and get the monkey off the back and have some fun out there. So it was really exciting for me, I put a lot of work in to get out there."

Injuries have dogged Malone over the years. An undisclosed problem cost him all of training camp as a rookie. He also underwent surgery on both hips during college.

"Mentally, obviously it's hard, but I've been through it before, and injuries happen," said Malone, who played one game for the Sabres late in 2016-17. "Guys get injured all the time. It's just how you respond, we preach it all the time in here."

Malone responded last season by compiling 12 goals and 23 points in 73 contests and earning Amerks coach Chris Taylor's trust.

At Malone is at his best, Taylor said he wins faceoffs, showcases grittiness and kills penalties. Offense, however, is still part of his repertoire.

"He adds a great spark to our team and he can create a lot of offense, which is the way he plays," Taylor said. "We want him to create as much offense as he can, but we also want him to be that type of player that we can rely on in those last three minutes of a game, last two minutes, last 30 seconds for a faceoff or to be the low guy in our zone to help defend it."

Taylor said Malone reminds him of Paul Gaustad, one of his former Amerks teammates. Gaustad progressed from a seventh-round pick into a versatile forward who spent seven years with the Sabres.

"I'd love to see if he could do that and play that role and be that player," Taylor said. "Paul did a great job, he got power-play time in front of the net, he won some big faceoffs, he used to shut down other teams' top lines."

#### Asplund making progress

At first glance, the first six weeks of center Rasmus Asplund's rookie season look underwhelming. Through 14 games, the Swede has recorded just one assist for one of the AHL's highest-scoring teams.

Still, Asplund, 20, has impressed Taylor, who said the former second-round pick's "hockey sense is off the charts."

"Good hockey people know . . . the way he's playing," Taylor said. "He's playing great hockey and he's penalty killing, too, doing the little things that no one notices."

Taylor wants Asplund to shoot more. So far, he has only managed 19 shots on goal.

"He loves to pass the puck, but he's got a great shot himself," Taylor said. "His point production on the score sheet doesn't match the way he's really playing, and we know that."

#### Upcoming

The Amerks also play road games Saturday against the Providence Bruins and Sunday afternoon versus the Hartford Wolf Pack. It's the first of five sets of three games in three days on the Amerks' schedule.

Amerks rally for comeback win  
*C&C WorldWide*  
By: Staff Report

As the Rochester Americans (11-4-2-0) entered the final period of Sunday's matinee against the Hartford Wolf Pack (7-9-1-2), they faced a two-goal deficit in the final game of their first three-in-three of the season. However, when the final horn sounded, it was the Amerks who came away with a 4-3 come-from-behind win at the XL Center thanks to three third-period goals.

With the victory, the Amerks have earned 24 out of a possible 28 points in the last 14 contests and have won six of their last nine games overall to build a five-point lead over the Cleveland Monsters for the top spot in the AHL's North Division.

Defensemen Lawrence Pilut and Zach Redmond, who scored his sixth game-winning goal of the season, each posted a two-point performance (1+1) while rookie forward Rasmus Asplund turned in his first-career multi-point outing with a goal and an assist. Danny O'Regan also found the back of the net to complete the scoring for Rochester while goaltender Adam Wilcox improved to 5-1-1 on the season as he stopped 35 of 38 shots he faced.

The Wolf Pack, who came into the contest with points in six of their last seven games, were led by forwards Cole Schneider, Peter Holland, and Gabriel Fontaine as they all scored in the loss for Hartford. Netminder Marek Mazanec finished the game with 24 saves but was handed his fifth loss of the season as he now has a record of 4-5-2 in 11 appearances this season for Hartford.

With the score of 3-2 in favor of the Wolf Pack, Schneider slipped behind the Amerks defensemen and was sprung all alone towards Wilcox for the second time of the game with 6:26 left in regulation. Much like the Amerks goaltender did prior to the end of the middle period, he stonewalled the former Amerk to keep the home squad off the board, thus giving Rochester a chance of a comeback.

Just 2:01 after the timely save from Wilcox, O'Regan knotted the score at 3-3 as he buried Asplund's rebound past the blocker of Mazanec at the 15:36 mark. The game-tying goal was O'Regan's sixth marker of the season with the assists going to Asplund and Will Borgen.

The Amerks kept testing Mazanec during the third period to avoid overtime and were awarded for their work when Redmond fired the puck behind the netminder as he was stationed along the left corner of the offensive zone.

Redmond's tally with 4:24 left in regulation was his team-leading 12th of the season and held up as his league-leading sixth game-winning goal.

Pilut, who extended his point streak to eight games with his two-point effort, and Justin Bailey were awarded the assists on Redmond's goal. Pilut is tied for the league-lead with 22 points (3+19) in his first 15 games while his 19 helpers are most in the AHL.

Hartford made one final effort to force the extra frame as they were awarded a penalty late in the contest when the Amerks were whistled for a delay of game infraction and pulled Mazanec, but Rochester hung on to preserve the come-from-behind win.

Despite the two clubs combining for 23 shots on goal in the first 20 minutes of play, Holland gave the Wolf Pack a 1-0 lead as he finished a 2-on-1 odd-man rush 9:50 into the contest.

Rochester emerged from the intermission break down a goal, but Asplund netted his first-career American Hockey League goal just 1:45 into the second stanza as he fired a shot past the glove-hand of the netminder. Victor Olofsson, who had missed the previous three games due to injury, forced a turnover inside the Amerks zone before sending his fellow Swedish countryman in all alone on Mazanec.

Later in the frame after the Amerks had evened the score at 1-1, the Wolf Pack responded with a pair of tallies six minutes apart to take a two-goal lead into the second intermission before Rochester countered with three straight unanswered third-period goals.

The third-period comeback began with Alexander Nylander collecting his own rebound along the right half-wall less than six minutes into the final frame. Nylander spotted Redmond parked at the top of the point, and after dusting off the pass, Redmond set-up Pilot for a one-time feed, which snuck through traffic and into the back of the net at the 5:28 mark.

Rochester returns from the Thanksgiving break with back-to-back games, beginning on Friday, Nov. 23 as the Utica Comets make their first trip of the season to the Blue Cross Arena. Game time is slated for a 7:05 pm start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/ 95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Bailey scores twice but Amerks fall in OT

*C&C WorldWide*

By: Staff Report

Justin Bailey scored twice in less than seven minutes to give the Rochester Americans (10-4-2-0) a 2-0 lead at the halfway point, but the Providence Bruins (6-8-2-0) responded with three straight unanswered goals, including the game-winner from Ryan Donato just 1:09 into overtime, to come away with a 3-2 win Saturday at Dunkin' Donuts Center. The setback keeps the Amerks winless through the first two games of their weekend trek through the Atlantic Division which wraps tomorrow afternoon in Hartford against the Wolf Pack.

Despite seeing their second loss of the weekend, the Amerks remain atop the AHL's North Division standings with 22 points through 16 games this season.

Bailey (2+0) scored both goals for Rochester, his fourth and fifth of the season, marking his second 2-goal outing in the last 4 games. Bailey, who had just 3 points through his first 11 games of the season, now shows 5 goals in his last 4 appearances. Brendan Guhle (0+1), C.J. Smith (0+1), Sean Malone (0+1), and Lawrence Pilut (0+1) all notched assists. Pilut's helper nudged him past fellow blueliner Zach Redmond for the team's overall scoring lead while also making him the AHL's top scoring defenseman with 20 points (2+18) through 14 games this season. He also leads the AHL with 18 assists. Scott Wedgewood made 27 saves on the night in what was his ninth start in the last 11 games.

In addition to providing the game-winner, Donato also notched an assist for a two-point night (1+1), while Jordan Szwarcz (1+0) and Cameron Hughes (1+0) rounded out scoring for the Bruins. Zane McIntyre made 27 stops between the pipes for Providence, which has claimed five of its six wins this season on home ice.

Following a scoreless first period, the Amerks drew first blood 5:20 into the second period, when Smith brought the puck down the ice on the left wing side and made a drop-pass to Bailey. Streaking down the middle of the ice, Bailey fired it in, marking the fourth straight game that the Amerks scored first.

Later in the sandwich stanza, Malone carried the puck from behind the net, and brought it to the right wing, where he fired to off to Pilut. From the blueline, Pilut shot the puck through traffic, and a net-front Bailey tipped it in for his fifth goal in the last four games.

Less than a minute after the Amerks second goal, Brendan Guhle went to the penalty box, followed shortly after by the Bruins' Joel Messner and Rochester's Jack Dougherty, who returned from a 10-game injury absence, giving Providence a 4-3 man-advantage. Donato came down the right wing and passed to Szwarcz, who took Wedgewood down with him as he snuck the puck into the back of the net with 5:28 remaining in the second to cut the Amerks lead in half.

Just under two and a half minutes into the final period, Peter Cehlarik brought the puck down the ice, alongside Karson Kuhlman and Hughes. Cehlarik lunged to the net, but passed the puck to Hughes, who notched his sixth goal of the season which tied the game at two apiece.

The score remained knotted at two through the end of regulation and into overtime. Just over one minute into the extra period, Donato took the puck up the left-wing side, looking as if he was going to skate it behind the net. Donato, however, pulled it back towards himself and tucked it under the crossbar, giving the Bruins the 3-2 victory.

Rochester puts the finishing touches on its first three-in-three of the season Sunday afternoon at XL Center against the Hartford Wolf Pack in the final stop of a three-game trek through the Atlantic Division. The 3:00 p.m. matinee will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/ 95.7 FM ESPN Rochester and can be viewed on AHLTV.

Amerks blitzed by Springfield  
*C&C WorldWide*  
By: Staff Report

The Springfield Thunderbirds (8-4-0-2) scored seven goals in the second period and added a goal in each of the first and final frame to hand the Rochester Americans (10-4-1-0) their first regulation loss of the season Friday night. The 9-4 defeat from the MassMutual Center was the first-leg of Rochester's three-in-three stretch through the Atlantic Division.

Despite the loss, the Amerks maintain their four-point lead atop the AHL's North Division standings over the Cleveland Monsters and have won five of their last seven contests.

Amerks captain Kevin Porter recorded a season-high three-point (2+1) performance while Lawrence Pilut (0+2) and C.J. Smith (1+1) each registered a multi-point night for Rochester, which entered the game having collected 21 out of a possible 24 points in its last 12 contests. Zach Redmond tallied his seventh goal in the last seven contests and 11th overall of the season while Alexander Nylander added his fifth goal of the slate. Goaltender Scott Wedgewood, who has gotten the nod between the pipes in eight of the last 10 games, had eight saves in 23 minutes before being replaced by Adam Wilcox in the second period. Wilcox made 18 saves in just over 37 minutes of relief work but was dealt with the loss. Wilcox had entered the weekend having a record of 4-0-1 in his second season with the Amerks.

Dryden Hunt notched a career-best four-point night as he tallied his second AHL hat trick to go along with an assist for Springfield, which snapped a four-game losing skid. Jacob MacDonald, a 2018 AHL All-Star, posted two goals and an assist while Paul Thompson added a pair of goals. Jake Horton, Jonathan Ang, Thomas Schemitsch and Riley Stillman all chipped in two helpers while Bobby Farnham and Julian Melchiori rounded out the scoring on the night. Second-year netminder Samuel Montembeault stopped 33 of the 37 shots he faced to improve to 6-1-0 on the season.

After the two clubs emerged from the dressing rooms tied at 1-1, Springfield scored on four of its first six shots in the second period to grab a commanding 5-1 lead just 3:34 into the frame. The Thunderbirds made it 6-1 by the 5:29 mark.

The Thunderbirds added three more tallies, including a pair from Hunt, which completed his three-goal game, before the Amerks stopped the onslaught with 5:31 left in the period.

With the puck hemmed in the offensive zone, Rochester defenseman Brendan Guhle fired a shot towards the Springfield netminder from the left point. Tracking the shot as he was skating through the circles, Smith redirected the shot and it made its way behind Montembeault.

Less than three minutes later, Redmond connected on the power-play with a one-timer from the point that zipped past the Springfield netminder and into the upper right corner for his team-leading 11th goal of the season to cap a nine-goal period between the two teams. The Amerks and Thunderbirds combined for nine goals, 16 assists and 29 shots but the Amerks trailed 8-3.

During the final period of regulation, Rochester was able to capitalize on a pair of power-plays to make it four-goal game, but Springfield's MacDonald sealed the 9-4 win as he netted his fifth of the campaign and second of the game at the 13:19 mark.

With their two strikes on man-advantage, the Amerks ended a stretch of five games without a marker on the power-play and an 0-for-35 skid.

Rochester opened the scoring when Porter scored his fourth of the year moments after Pilut served an interference penalty, but Hunt evened the game with his first of three tallies on the night before the end the first period.

Rochester continues its three-game swing through the Atlantic Division on Saturday, Nov. 17 with a matchup against the Providence Bruins at 7:05 pm, before closing out the trip on Sunday afternoon at 3 pm in Hartford against the Wolf Pack. All of the action from both of the weekend's games will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/ 95.7 FM ESPN Rochester and can be viewed on AHLTV.

## Rochester Amerks rally in the third to beat Hartford

### *Pickin' Splinters*

By: Staff Report

As the Rochester Americans (11-4-2-0) entered the final period of Sunday's matinee against the Hartford Wolf Pack (7-9-1-2), they faced a two-goal deficit in the final game of their first three-in-three of the season. However, when the final horn sounded, it was the Amerks who came away with a 4-3 come-from-behind win at the XL Center thanks to three third-period goals.

With the victory, the Amerks have earned 24 out of a possible 28 points in the last 14 contests and have won six of their last nine games overall to build a five-point lead over the Cleveland Monsters for the top spot in the AHL's North Division.

Defensemen Lawrence Pilut and Zach Redmond, who scored his sixth game-winning goal of the season, each posted a two-point performance (1+1) while rookie forward Rasmus Asplund turned in his first-career multi-point outing with a goal and an assist. Danny O'Regan also found the back of the net to complete the scoring for Rochester while goaltender Adam Wilcox improved to 5-1-1 on the season as he stopped 35 of 38 shots he faced.

The Wolf Pack, who came into the contest with points in six of their last seven games, were led by forwards Cole Schneider, Peter Holland, and Gabriel Fontaine as they all scored in the loss for Hartford. Netminder Marek Mazanec finished the game with 24 saves but was handed his fifth loss of the season as he now has a record of 4-5-2 in 11 appearances this season for Hartford.

With the score of 3-2 in favor of the Wolf Pack, Schneider slipped behind the Amerks defensemen and was sprung all alone towards Wilcox for the second time of the game with 6:26 left in regulation. Much like the Amerks goaltender did prior to the end of the middle period, he stonewalled the former Amerk to keep the home squad off the board, thus giving Rochester a chance of a comeback.

Just 2:01 after the timely save from Wilcox, O'Regan knotted the score at 3-3 as he buried Asplund's rebound past the blocker of Mazanec at the 15:36 mark. The game-tying goal was O'Regan's sixth marker of the season with the assists going to Asplund and Will Borgen.

The Amerks kept testing Mazanec during the third period to avoid overtime and were awarded for their work when Redmond fired the puck behind the netminder as he was stationed along the left corner of the offensive zone.

Redmond's tally with 4:24 left in regulation was his team-leading 12th of the season and held up as his league-leading sixth game-winning goal.

Pilut, who extended his point streak to eight games with his two-point effort, and Justin Bailey were awarded the assists on Redmond's goal. Pilut is tied for the league-lead with 22 points (3+19) in his first 15 games while his 19 helpers are most in the AHL.

Hartford made one final effort to force the extra frame as they were awarded a penalty late in the contest when the Amerks were whistled for a delay of game infraction and pulled Mazanec, but Rochester hung on to preserve the come-from-behind win.

Despite the two clubs combining for 23 shots on goal in the first 20 minutes of play, Holland gave the Wolf Pack a 1-0 lead as he finished a 2-on-1 odd-man rush 9:50 into the contest.

Rochester emerged from the intermission break down a goal, but Asplund netted his first-career American Hockey League goal just 1:45 into the second stanza as he fired a shot past the glove-hand of the netminder. Victor Olofsson, who had missed the previous three games due to injury, forced a turnover inside the Amerks zone before sending his fellow Swedish countryman in all alone on Mazanec.

Later in the frame after the Amerks had evened the score at 1-1, the Wolf Pack responded with a pair of tallies six minutes apart to take a two-goal lead into the second intermission before Rochester countered with three straight unanswered third-period goals.

The third-period comeback began with Alexander Nylander collecting his own rebound along the right half-wall less than six minutes into the final frame. Nylander spotted Redmond parked at the top of the point, and after dusting off the pass, Redmond set-up Pilut for a one-time feed, which snuck through traffic and into the back of the net at the 5:28 mark.

Rochester returns from the Thanksgiving break with back-to-back games, beginning on Friday, Nov. 23 as the Utica Comets make their first trip of the season to the Blue Cross Arena. Game time is slated for a 7:05 pm start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/ 95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Bailey scores twice, but Amerks fall in overtime to Bruins  
*Pickin' Splinters*  
By: Staff Report

Justin Bailey scored twice in less than seven minutes to give the Rochester Americans (10-4-2-0) a 2-0 lead at the halfway point, but the Providence Bruins (6-8-2-0) responded with three straight unanswered goals, including the game-winner from Ryan Donato just 1:09 into overtime, to come away with a 3-2 win Saturday at Dunkin' Donuts Center. The setback keeps the Amerks winless through the first two games of their weekend trek through the Atlantic Division which wraps tomorrow afternoon in Hartford against the Wolf Pack.

Despite seeing their second loss of the weekend, the Amerks remain atop the AHL's North Division standings with 22 points through 16 games this season.

Bailey (2+0) scored both goals for Rochester, his fourth and fifth of the season, marking his second 2-goal outing in the last 4 games. Bailey, who had just 3 points through his first 11 games of the season, now shows 5 goals in his last 4 appearances. Brendan Guhle (0+1), C.J. Smith (0+1), Sean Malone (0+1), and Lawrence Pilut (0+1) all notched assists. Pilut's helper nudged him past fellow blueliner Zach Redmond for the team's overall scoring lead while also making him the AHL's top scoring defenseman with 20 points (2+18) through 14 games this season. He also leads the AHL with 18 assists. Scott Wedgewood made 27 saves on the night in what was his ninth start in the last 11 games.

In addition to providing the game-winner, Donato also notched an assist for a two-point night (1+1), while Jordan Szwarcz (1+0) and Cameron Hughes (1+0) rounded out scoring for the Bruins. Zane McIntyre made 27 stops between the pipes for Providence, which has claimed five of its six wins this season on home ice.

Following a scoreless first period, the Amerks drew first blood 5:20 into the second period, when Smith brought the puck down the ice on the left wing side and made a drop-pass to Bailey. Streaking down the middle of the ice, Bailey fired it in, marking the fourth straight game that the Amerks scored first.

Later in the sandwich stanza, Malone carried the puck from behind the net, and brought it to the right wing, where he fired to off to Pilut. From the blueline, Pilut shot the puck through traffic, and a net-front Bailey tipped it in for his fifth goal in the last four games.

Less than a minute after the Amerks second goal, Brendan Guhle went to the penalty box, followed shortly after by the Bruins' Joel Messner and Rochester's Jack Dougherty, who returned from a 10-game injury absence, giving Providence a 4-3 man-advantage. Donato came down the right wing and passed to Szwarcz, who took Wedgewood down with him as he snuck the puck into the back of the net with 5:28 remaining in the second to cut the Amerks lead in half.

Just under two and a half minutes into the final period, Peter Cehlarik brought the puck down the ice, alongside Karson Kuhlman and Hughes. Cehlarik lunged to the net, but passed the puck to Hughes, who notched his sixth goal of the season which tied the game at two apiece.

The score remained knotted at two through the end of regulation and into overtime. Just over one minute into the extra period, Donato took the puck up the left-wing side, looking as if he was going to skate it behind the net. Donato, however, pulled it back towards himself and tucked it under the crossbar, giving the Bruins the 3-2 victory.

Rochester puts the finishing touches on its first three-in-three of the season Sunday afternoon at XL Center against the Hartford Wolf Pack in the final stop of a three-game trek through the Atlantic Division. The 3:00 p.m. matinee will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/ 95.7 FM ESPN Rochester and can be viewed on AHLTV.

Amerks suffer first regulation loss on the road

*Pickin' Splinters*

By: Staff Report

The Springfield Thunderbirds (8-4-0-2) scored seven goals in the second period and added a goal in each of the first and final frame to hand the Rochester Americans (10-4-1-0) their first regulation loss of the season Friday night. The 9-4 defeat from the MassMutual Center was the first-leg of Rochester's three-in-three stretch through the Atlantic Division.

Despite the loss, the Amerks maintain their four-point lead atop the AHL's North Division standings over the Cleveland Monsters and have won five of their last seven contests.

Amerks captain Kevin Porter recorded a season-high three-point (2+1) performance while Lawrence Pilut (0+2) and C.J. Smith (1+1) each registered a multi-point night for Rochester, which entered the game having collected 21 out of a possible 24 points in its last 12 contests. Zach Redmond tallied his seventh goal in the last seven contests and 11th overall of the season while Alexander Nylander added his fifth goal of the slate. Goaltender Scott Wedgewood, who has gotten the nod between the pipes in eight of the last 10 games, had eight saves in 23 minutes before being replaced by Adam Wilcox in the second period. Wilcox made 18 saves in just over 37 minutes of relief work but was dealt with the loss. Wilcox had entered the weekend having a record of 4-0-1 in his second season with the Amerks.

Dryden Hunt notched a career-best four-point night as he tallied his second AHL hat trick to go along with an assist for Springfield, which snapped a four-game losing skid. Jacob MacDonald, a 2018 AHL All-Star, posted two goals and an assist while Paul Thompson added a pair of goals. Jake Horton, Jonathan Ang, Thomas Schemitsch and Riley Stillman all chipped in two helpers while Bobby Farnham and Julian Melchiori rounded out the scoring on the night. Second-year netminder Samuel Montembeault stopped 33 of the 37 shots he faced to improve to 6-1-0 on the season.

After the two clubs emerged from the dressing rooms tied at 1-1, Springfield scored on four of its first six shots in the second period to grab a commanding 5-1 lead just 3:34 into the frame. The Thunderbirds made it 6-1 by the 5:29 mark.

The Thunderbirds added three more tallies, including a pair from Hunt, which completed his three-goal game, before the Amerks stopped the onslaught with 5:31 left in the period.

With the puck hemmed in the offensive zone, Rochester defenseman Brendan Guhle fired a shot towards the Springfield netminder from the left point. Tracking the shot as he was skating through the circles, Smith redirected the shot and it made its way behind Montembeault.

Less than three minutes later, Redmond connected on the power-play with a one-timer from the point that zipped past the Springfield netminder and into the upper right corner for his team-leading 11th goal of the season to cap a nine-goal period between the two teams. The Amerks and Thunderbirds combined for nine goals, 16 assists and 29 shots but the Amerks trailed 8-3.

During the final period of regulation, Rochester was able to capitalize on a pair of power-plays to make it four-goal game, but Springfield's MacDonald sealed the 9-4 win as he netted his fifth of the campaign and second of the game at the 13:19 mark.

With their two strikes on man-advantage, the Amerks ended a stretch of five games without a marker on the power-play and an 0-for-35 skid.

Rochester opened the scoring when Porter scored his fourth of the year moments after Pilut served an interference penalty, but Hunt evened the game with his first of three tallies on the night before the end the first period.

Rochester continues its three-game swing through the Atlantic Division on Saturday, Nov. 17 with a matchup against the Providence Bruins at 7:05 pm, before closing out the trip on Sunday afternoon at 3 pm in Hartford against the Wolf Pack. All of the action from both of the weekend's games will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/ 95.7 FM ESPN Rochester and can be viewed on AHLTV.

Amerks gain point, but fall in Providence 3-2 in overtime

*13 Wham*

By: Staff Report

For the first time since the season's opening weekend, the Rochester Americans are on a losing streak.

The Amerks lost in overtime 3-2 to the Providence Bruins on Saturday night, a day after getting blasted by Springfield 9-4.

Despite picking up just one of a possible four points on the weekend, the Amerks remain in first place in the North Division, three points ahead of the Cleveland Monsters. Cleveland has played one more game than the Amerks.

Justin Bailey was it for Rochester's offense, scoring a pair of second period goals to put the Amerks up 2-0.

But Providence would score the next three, the final tally coming from Ryan Donato a little over a minute into overtime.

Rochester will look to get back into the win column on Sunday in Hartford when they complete a three-road game in three day stretch. Their next home game is Friday, November 23 against the Utica Comets.

## 1st Place Amerks Ready for 3 Road Games in 3 Days

*Spectrum News Rochester*

By: Staff Report

The first place Amerks are getting set for their first three game weekend of the season.

The road trip includes stops in Springfield, Providence and Hartford. Sunday's afternoon game against the Wolfpack features a matinee with the puck drop at 3 p.m.

Although three games, in three days, in three different cities sounds like a challenging endeavor, Amerks players are confident about the matchups.

"It's just part of playing in the minors. Just something you have to deal with," said defenseman Andrew MacWilliam. "It's almost more mentally draining than physical. It's definitely a character builder for sure."

"You just have to find your way to get the energy going Sunday afternoon, that third game in three days. You're just trying to find your own energy that third day," said forward Rasmus Asplund.

"It's the last game before another week so you put everything out there," said head coach Chris Taylor. "It's fun, especially on the road. We've played well all year on the road here and I think the guys, our leaders have showed the way and how to play these games so I'm expecting another big weekend for us."

Amerks are 4-1 on the road so far this season and 10-3 overall — good for 21 points and a first place standing in the North Division. They also have one of the best goal differentials in the AHL with 53 goals for and only 39 against.

Rochester Americans 4, Hartford Wolf Pack 3

*Connecticut Plus*

By: Philip Oliver/Hartford Wolf Pack

The Rochester Americans scored three third-period goals to erase a 3-1 deficit Sunday at the XL Center, in a 4-3 win over the Hartford Wolf Pack.

Zach Redmond netted the game-winner with 3:50 left in the third, 34 seconds after Danny O'Regan had tied the score. A Lawrence Pilut goal started the comeback.

Peter Holland, Gabriel Fontaine and Cole Schneider scored for the Wolf Pack, and Rasmus Asplund added a goal and an assist for Rochester.

Holland opened the scoring at 8:12 of the first period, on a 2-on-1 with Bobby Butler. Butler's shot from the right side was stopped by American goaltender Adam Wilcox (35 saves), but the rebound came to Holland at the left side of the slot, and he easily buried the puck.

"It felt nice to get the monkey off the back," said Holland, who came into the game with a Wolf Pack team-leading 15 points, but only one goal. "Bobby made a nice shot and it landed right on my stick, and it was nice to see it finally go in."

Asplund brought Rochester even 1:45 into the second. He stole the puck from Brandon Crawley just inside the Amerk blue line and had a breakaway, beating Wolf Pack goaltender Marek Mazanec (24 saves) to the stick side.

Fontaine scored through a Schneider screen at 5:18 to put Hartford back in the lead, and then Schneider made it 3-1 at 11:53. Ryan Lindgren drove a shot from the left point that Schneider deflected up in the air. The puck went over Wilcox' shoulder, dropped behind him and went just over the goal line.

The Americans came out strongly in the third period, though, and Pilut cut it back to a one-goal margin at 5:28. He put the puck at the net from high in the slot, and it went through a screen and past Mazanec.

After several big saves by Wilcox kept Rochester in the game, O'Regan tied the score at three at 15:36. Mazanec stopped a shot by Asplund off the rush, but the rebound went right out into the slot and O'Regan fired it in.

Then, at 16:10, Redmond's winner came from a nearly impossible angle. Pilut worked the puck toward the right-wing corner and Redmond snapped it from below the faceoff dot. Mazanec appeared to have the goal post sealed to his left, but the puck somehow found an opening and flew into the net.

The Wolf Pack got a power play with 2:21 left, when Redmond cleared the puck out of play in his own zone and was called for delay-of-game, but were unable to capitalize, despite getting Mazanec to the bench for an extra attacker.

With the result, the Wolf Pack finished the first quarter of their season with a record of 7-9-1-2.

The Wolf Pack's next action is this Wednesday night, November 21 at the XL Center, a 7:00 PM meeting with the Providence

Bruins. That is another chance to take advantage of the Wolf Pack's "Click It or Ticket Family Value Pack", which includes two tickets, two hot dogs and two sodas, all for just \$40.

Tickets for all 2018-19 Wolf Pack home games are on sale now at the Agera Energy Ticket Office at the XL Center, on-line at [www.hartfordwolfpack.com](http://www.hartfordwolfpack.com) and by phone at (877) 522-8499. Tickets purchased in advance for kids 12 or younger start at just \$13 each, and all tickets will have a \$3 day-of-game increase.

Season ticket information for the Wolf Pack's 2018-19 AHL season can be found on-line at [www.hartfordwolfpack.com](http://www.hartfordwolfpack.com). To speak with a representative about all of the Wolf Pack's many attractive ticketing options, call (855) 762-6451, or [click here](#) to request more info.

Americans rally in third, defeat Wolf Pack  
*Hartford Courant*  
By: Staff Report

The Rochester Americans scored three unanswered goals in the third period and defeated the Hartford Wolf Pack 4-3 on Sunday at the XL Center in Hartford.

Danny O'Regan tied the score with 4:24 remaining, and defenseman Zach Redmond collected his sixth game-winner of the season and team-leading 12th goal.

The Wolf Pack fall to 7-9-1-2 in the AHL Atlantic. First-place Rochester is 11-4-2-0 in the North.

Hartford's Peter Holland opened the scoring in the first period with a power-play goal at the 9:50 mark. The defenseman knocked home a rebound on a shot by Bobby Butler, and the period ended with the Wolf Pack up, 1-0.

Rochester's Rasmus Asplund scored his first career AHL goal just 1:45 into the second to tie the score. Hartford answered with a pair of goals to take a 3-1 advantage into the final period. First Gabriel Fontaine beat Americans goalie Adam Wilcox from the point to get the lead back. Ryan Lindgren then pushed it to 3-1. Hartford headed to the locker room for the second intermission holding a 25-15 shots advantage.

Rochester's Lawrence Pilut opened the scoring in the third, cutting the lead to 3-2 at 14:32 and setting the stage for the O'Regan and Redmond goals.

Wilcox stopped 35 of 28 shots in improving his record to 5-1-1. Marek Mazanec had 24 saves for Hartford.

Lettieri to Hartford

New York Rangers General Manager Jeff Gorton announced that the team has assigned Vinni Lettieri to the Wolf Pack.

Lettieri has skated in 14 games with the Rangers this season. He recorded 36 points (23 goals, 13 assists) in 55 AHL games with the Wolf Pack last season. Lettieri led Hartford in goals last season, and he was also tied for fifth among AHL rookies in goals in 2017-18

P-Bruins 3, Americans 2, OT: Donato's goal caps Providence comeback

*Hartford Courant*

By: Staff Report

Ryan Donato's goal 69 seconds into overtime lifted the Providence Bruins to a 3-2 come-from-behind victory over the Rochester Americans on Saturday night at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

After a scoreless first period, Justin Bailey opened the scoring 5:20 into the second period for the Amerks. CJ Smith entered the zone up the left side and fed Bailey in the high slot. He beat Zane McIntyre through the five-hole for his fourth goal of the season. Bailey struck again at 12:09 of the period. Lawrence Pilut fired a shot from the left point that Bailey got a stick on at the left hash for a 2-0 advantage for the Amerks.

The P-Bruins were quick to respond, taking advantage of a 4-on-3 power play, as Jordan Szwarc netted his second goal of the year at 14:32. Donato fought his way up the right boards to enter the zone and found Szwarc streaking toward the net alone. Szwarc got his stick down and tapped it past Amerks' goalie Scott Wedgewood to cut their deficit to 2-1.

A good defensive play by Peter Cehlarik helped the P-Bruins tie it 2:29 into the third period. He stole the puck at the opposing blue line and started a 2-on-1 break with Cam Hughes. Hughes eventually got the puck with space in the right slot, and he buried his sixth goal of the season to send the game to overtime.

Colby Cave set things in motion for the winning goal, finding Donato up the right side with room to operate. He deked, dragged and went top shelf for his fourth goal of the season to give Providence the win.

McIntyre stopped 27 while Wedgewood stopped 27.

The P-Bruins are off until Wednesday night when they take on the Wolf Pack at 7:05 in Hartford.

Dryden Hunt's hat trick caps off huge Springfield Thunderbirds' offensive performance in 9-4 win over Rochester

*Mass Live*

By: Staff Report

The Springfield Thunderbirds (8-4-0-2) set a franchise record for goals in a period and goals in a game as they trounced the Rochester Americans (10-4-1-0) for a 9-4 win on Friday night at the MassMutual Center.

The historic night did not start perfectly for the Thunderbirds, though. At 7:03 in the first period, Rochester got on the board first on a goal by Kevin Porter who beat Montembeault on the blocker side off a 2-on-1 rush. Lawrence Pilut was credited with the assist.

Almost ten minutes at 15:46, Henrik Borgstrom hit a streaking Dryden Hunt, who had just gotten out of the penalty box, in stride. Hunt continued down the ice in breakaway fashion and beat Rochester goaltender Scott Wedgewood on the glove side with a backhand to tie the score at 1-1 late in the first period.

The T-Birds came out with a fire in their hearts in the second period, scoring a team-record seven goals in the period alone, with the first five goals coming in the first 5:29 of the second period.

The first goal came at 1:10 off the stick of Jacob MacDonald who slapped a loose puck from the left point home and into the open side. Anthony Greco and Micheal Haley both picked up helpers on the play. MacDonald's rip put the Thunderbirds ahead for the first time, 2-1.

59 seconds later, Springfield added another goal to make it 3-1. Captain Paul Thompson registered the tally on the power play, who banged home a feed from Thomas Schemitsch from the goal line. MacDonald picked up a secondary assist on the play.

Just 52 more seconds later, Julian Melchiori cranked a one-time feed from Jonathan Ang over the shoulder of Wedgewood to make it 4-1 at 3:01.

After the Melchiori strike, Rochester replaced Wedgewood with Adam Wilcox. 33 seconds later, though, the T-Birds continued to pour on the goals. The lead grew to 5-1 when Bobby Farnham knocked a rebound into a yawning net for his first goal of the season. Blaine Byron and Jake Horton picked up the assists on the tally with great work around the net.

Hunt then took over, completing his second career hat trick in the process. First, Hunt got a step in behind the defense off a feed from Riley Stillman and beat Wilcox through the legs at 5:29 to make it 6-1.

Another 3:57 later, Hunt completed his marvelous night by redirecting a Stillman point shot over the glove of Wilcox to make it a 7-1 game.

Springfield was still not finished, though. At 12:47, Thompson scored his second goal of the game when he caught a pass from Hunt, gloved it down to the ice and wristed a breakaway shot past Wilcox, making it 8-1. It marked the end to the most prolific period of action in Thunderbirds history - seven goals on 16 second period shots.

Rochester would score three unanswered goals, off the sticks of C.J. Smith and Zach Redmond in the second, and off the blade of Alex Nylander in the third, but the goals would be in vain.

MacDonald rounded out the scoring for the T-Bird late in the third, wristing a power play shot through Wilcox at 13:19.

On the heels of their recording-breaking performance on Friday, the Thunderbirds look to get revenge against the Lehigh Valley Phantoms on Saturday for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop. The Phantoms have taken the last two games in the season series, including a 5-4 shootout win on Oct. 13 for Thunderbirds home opening night.