



Utica Comets vs. Rochester Americans

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 345

TONIGHT'S GAME

- The first-place Rochester Americans (13-6-2-0) set out on a busy stretch of three games in four nights tonight as they take on the intrastate rival Utica Comets (10-12-1-1) in a North Division matchup at The Blue Cross Arena. Opening face-off is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/ 95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

LAST TIME OUT

- A night after earning their second shutout victory of the season at home on Friday night, the Amerks had the tables turned as they were blanked 3-0 at the hands of the Binghamton Devils Saturday at Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena.
- Despite the loss, however, the Amerks have managed to collect 28 out of a possible 38 points in the last 19 games, and maintain a two-point lead atop the AHL's North Division standings to open the month of December.
- Amerks goaltender **Scott Wedgewood**, who has got the nod between the pipes in 11 of the last 14 games, turned in his second straight 35-save performance, but unlike the night before, was dealt with the loss. The former Devils netminder shows a record of 8-4-1 on the season. **Brendan Guhle** recorded a team-high four shots in the loss for the Amerks.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks remain at home on Friday Dec. 7 as they host the Providence Bruins for their lone trip to the Flower City at 7:05 p.m. at The Blue Cross Arena. After the home matchup, Rochester makes its first trip back to Syracuse since the Opening Round of the 2018 Calder Cup for a clash with the Crunch on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7:00 p.m. Both games will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/ 95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

REDMOND CHASING HISTORY

- With 13 goals in 21 games, **Zach Redmond** is on a record-setting pace to etch his name in team history. Earlier this season, Redmond became the fastest Amerks defenseman to score 10 goals in the fewest amount of games to begin the season since Amerks Hall of Famer **Don McSween** reached the mark in his first 21 games during the 1989-90 campaign. McSween would later go on to become the top scoring defenseman in franchise history. Redmond, who last season was the first Rochester blueliner in seven years to lead the team in scoring, is two goals away from matching his career-high of 15 from last season and needs just five more to tie the single-season franchise record for the most goals by a defenseman of 18, set by Hall of Famer **Rick Pagnutti** during the 1972-73 campaign. The AHL record for goals scored by a defenseman is held by John Slaney, who netted 30 for the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins in 1999-00.

2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
70-72



10-12-1-1 (22 points)

13-6-2-0 (28 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Zach Redmond	21	13	9	22	16	3
Lawrence Pilut*	16	3	19	22	10	19
Victor Olofsson	18	7	12	19	2	1

*Currently on NHL recall with Buffalo

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	14	8-4-1	763:10	362	.907	2.91
Adam Wilcox	9	5-2-1	495:32	211	.890	3.15

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Dec. 7	vs. Providence	7:05 p.m.
Dec. 8	@ Syracuse	7:00 p.m.
Dec. 12	vs. Binghamton	7:05 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 1	Binghamton	L 3-0	22-38	0-2	1-2
Nov. 30	W-B/Scranton	W 1-0	30-35	0-2	4-4
Nov. 24	Binghamton	W 4-3	37-30	0-1	4-5

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS
HOME 7-4-0-0	37	32	14
AWAY 6-2-2-0	35	33	14
TOTALS 13-6-2-0	72	65	28

COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Tanner Kero	24	8	11	19	12	-10
Reid Boucher	14	10	8	18	4	-8
Zack MacEwen	24	10	8	18	29	-10

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Ivan Kulbakov	12	5-5-2	635:43	307	.892	3.49
Richard Bachman	7	3-4-0	635:43	206	.877	4.17
Thatcher Demko	4	2-2-0	238:13	97	.907	2.52
Connor LaCouvee	3	0-1-0	146:24	50	.877	2.87



UTICA COMETS GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERKS



PILUT TAKES FLIGHT

• Prior to earning his second NHL recall in six days from the Buffalo Sabres and making his NHL debut on Nov. 30, **Lawrence Pilut** saw his career-long seven-game point streak end. It was just the third time all season that the former SHL Defenseman of the Year had been held without a point. Pilut has recorded nearly half of his 22 points on the power-play this season, including two of his three goals, which are tied for ninth among all AHL blueliners. He has recorded points in 12 of his last 14 games and is one off the AHL lead with 19 assists while his team-best plus-19 on-ice rating is also the best mark in the league in that category. His 22 points, meanwhile, lead all defensemen and are tied for 10th overall in the league.

RED HOT 'REDS'

• Redmond has scored a team-high 13 goals this season, including six that have held up as game-winning goals, a new career-high, while six have also been scored on the man-advantage, good enough for third in the league in that category. Redmond, who had an AHL-best nine-game point streak to end the month of October, is tied for third in the league in goals (13) and is tied for 10th in points (22), while his six game-winning goals are tops in the AHL.

IRON MAN SIMPSON

• Rochester forward **Wayne Simpson** is the AHL's current leader in consecutive games played with 208. Prior to joining the Amerks, 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, in addition to 35 straight appearances for the Portland Pirates dating back to the 2015-16 campaign. Simpson has tallied 10 points on six goals and four assists through 21 games with the Amerks this season.

BUSY BETWEEN THE PIPES

• **Scott Wedgewood** has got the nod between the pipes in 11 of the last 14 games. After dropping his first two games of the season, the sixth-year netminder won five straight to close out the month of October, matching the career-best mark he set while backstopping the Albany Devils during the 2015-16 season. He enters the first week of December tied for third among all AHL goaltenders in shutouts (2) and tied for fourth in wins (8).

SCOUTING THE COMETS

- With its 5-4 win Saturday night in Laval, Utica posted its fourth win over the last six games as the Comets show a 4-2-0-0 record dating back to Nov. 21 against the Rocket.
- In his first season with the Comets, Tanner Kero leads all Utica skaters with 19 points (8+11) while his six power-play goals are also tops on the club. Over his last nine games, Kero has tallied eight points (5+3) and has at least one point in four of his last five games.
- The goaltending duo of Thatcher Demko and Richard Bachman have combined to show a 5-6-0 record in 11 appearances this season.

AMERKS-COMETS 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Lawrence Pilut	2	0	6	6	0	5
Victor Olofsson	3	2	3	5	0	1
Alexander Nylander	3	2	2	4	2	4

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	2	2-0-0	119:18	1	.978	0.50
Adam Wilcox	1	0-1-0	57:30	5	.783	5.22

UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Cam Darcy	3	1	1	2	2	0
Jesse Graham	2	0	2	2	0	-1
Lukas Jasek	3	0	2	2	0	-1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Richard Bachman	3	1-2-0	179:51	14	.861	4.67

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	W	4-0	24-20	1-4	0-5
Nov. 23	L	5-4	47-23	1-6	3-5
Dec. 5					
Dec. 29					
Jan. 25					
Feb. 9					
Feb. 22					
Feb. 27					
Mar. 13					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 21-23-5

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester has collected at least one point in 10 of the last 11 games against Utica dating back to the start of the 2017-18 campaign, going 5-1-2-3 over that span.
- Eight of the last 11 games between the two teams have been decided after regulation.
- In the previous three get-togethers with the Comets this season, the Amerks have gone 6-for-15 on the man-advantage, which included 4-for-5 in the first meeting back on Oct. 17. 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.