



# ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

*Wednesday, December 5, 2018*

*TONIGHT'S GAME: Utica @ Rochester*

Rochester Amerks come up empty-handed in Binghamton

*Pickin' Splinters*

By: Staff Report/Amerks.com

A night after earning their second shutout victory of the season at home on Friday night, the first-place Rochester Americans (13-6-2-0) had the tables turned as they were blanked 3-0 at the hands of the Binghamton Devils (10-10-3-0) 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 hold 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 last night, 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.

The Devils were led by forwards Blake Pietila (1+1), Nick Lappin (1+1) and Kevin Rooney (0+2), all of whom posted multi-point efforts in the win. Eric Tangradi, who returned to the lineup after sitting out all of November due to an injury, completed the scoring with his third of the season on the power-play. Netminder Mackenzie Blackwood made 22 saves to record his first shutout of the season and the third of his career against the Amerks.

As it appeared the contest was headed into the first intermission scoreless, the Devils broke the deadlock in the final two minutes of the opening frame. Binghamton used a 3-on-2 odd-man rush into the offensive and used a series of quick passes before Lappin hit Pietila by the left face-off dot inside the Rochester zone. Wristing the puck moments after receiving it, the forward fired it just over the left arm of Wedgewood with 1:56 to play in the stanza.

The goal from Lappin and Rooney was Pietila's sixth in the last 10 games and 10<sup>th</sup> point dating back to Nov. 9.

Rochester went into the break trailing 1-0 and was outshot 18-8 during the opening 20 minutes of play.

During the second stanza, the Amerks had their best chances of the night to try to solve Blackwood, but the netminder would not yield as he stood tall on both opportunities.

The first came when Amerks forward Sean Malone banked the puck off the boards and out of the Rochester zone, sending Justin Bailey and Alexander Nylander on a 2-on-1 rush towards the Binghamton zone. Blackwood, though, stopped both of Bailey's shots with just over 13 minutes to play in the middle frame.

Nearly six minutes later while on the man-advantage, the Amerks kept the Devils in the offensive zone for the first half of a holding infraction, and despite a Binghamton player breaking his stick, Blackwood made multiple saves to preserve the shutout.

As the game went into the third period, Binghamton doubled its lead at the 10:43 mark as they got some home ice puck luck while on its own power-play. With the puck below the goal-line, Tangradi attempted to center a pass, but it glanced off a sliding Amerks skate and caromed over the shoulder of an unsuspecting Wedgewood.

The Amerks pulled their netminder with just over two minutes left in regulation to try to cut into the Binghamton lead and possibly spoil Blackwood's shutout, but Lappin sealed the 3-0 win as he flipped the puck into the empty net at the opposite end for his team-leading 10<sup>th</sup> tally of the season.

Rochester had entered the matchup with points in nine of the last 11 games against Binghamton dating back to the start of the 2017-18 slate.

The Amerks return home on Wednesday, Dec. 5 when they take on the intrastate rival Utica Comets at The Blue Cross Arena. Game time 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.

Olofsson scores, Wedgewood shines as Rochester Amerks win  
*Pickin' Splinters*  
By: Kevin Oklobzija

He had taken the American Hockey League by storm, unleashing an NHL-worthy wrist shot with deadly accuracy night after night.

Through his first six games with the Rochester Americans, Victor Olofsson had scored five goals. He also set up seven goals in that span and, when October ended, his six goals, 10 assists and 16 points earned him AHL Player of the Month honors.

The 23-year-old Swedish left winger was often the trigger man on power plays, with the Amerks looking to take advantage of his shot.

But there are no secrets in hockey. You can't hide a dynamic skill-set. Opponents suddenly began giving Olofsson less time and space. They made sure he rarely had a clear shooting lanes on power plays.

Between Oct. 19 and Nov. 24, he scored just one goal in 10 games (and missed three other games due to injury). The rest of the league learned quickly what Olofsson could do.

"Video shows everything," said Amerks coach Chris Taylor, whose team continues to lead the North Division (13-5-2, 28 points). On Friday, the first-year forward finally found the net again — and unlike his first half-dozen goals, this time the puck may not have even traveled a foot from his stick to the goal line.

Olofsson circled behind the net to swat home with the backhand his own rebound, and that one-goal cushion was all goalie Scott Wedgewood needed to carry the Amerks to the 1-0 victory over the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins at Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial.

"He's great around the net," Wedgewood said of Olofsson. "He showed tonight he's tenacious and he'll find it." The goal came 3:59 into the second period, ending a string of five games without a goal. But while pucks hadn't been finding the net, coach and player are both happy with his game.

"I like his play away from the puck, he's getting in on the forecheck, he's not being a perimeter player," Taylor said. "It doesn't come easy for him, he has to work hard to score goals, and that's helping him get better."

One thing that has enabled Olofsson to maintain confidence: he knows he can score. He led the Swedish League in goals last season, finding the net 27 times in 50 games. That was the highest goal total for the league in four years.

"I feel like my overall game has been pretty good," he said. "Even though I'm not scoring, I think that's the most important part."

The most important piece of the Amerks game on Friday was Wedgewood. He stopped 35 shots for his second shutout. It's also the first time the Penguins had been blanked since March 3 (42 games ago).

"He was definitely dominant," Taylor said. "He got us two points."

The veteran goaltender really frustrated Jean-Sebastien Dea, who launched nine shots, and Ryan Haggerty, who fired five. The one time Haggerty did beat Wedgewood, the puck clanked off the cross bar with 4:56 to play during a Pens power play.

Within 10 seconds, Haggerty was blasting two more one-timers on goal by Wedgewood stopped both, one with the chest and one with the glove. That's called having a guy's number. Or not. Wedgewood was well prepared for the Penguins set-up of Haggerty's one-timer.

"I've seen him before," Wedgewood said. "He's got a good shot and it's just kind of knowing who you're going against.

"I was being aggressive on him. (When you do that), you trust guys to tie up and help out with rebounds."

Amerks fall to Binghamton

*Buffalo News*

By: Staff

Rochester's two-game winning streak was snapped Saturday night as the Americans were blanked by Binghamton, 3-0, at the Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena in Binghamton.

The Amerks (13-6-2-0) were outshot by the Devils 37-22, and were unable to solve the goaltending of MacKenzie Blackwood, who is currently the fourth-ranked goalie in the American Hockey League, allowing just 2.17 goals per game.

Brendan Guhle led Rochester with four shots on net, while C.J. Smith and Justin Bailey recorded three shots each.

The Amerks also did not capitalize on two power-play opportunities. They currently rank fourth in power play percentage in the AHL's North Division at 19.8 percent.

Eric Tangradi, Nick Lappin and Blake Pietila each scored for the Devils. Former Canisius Golden Griffin Ryan Schmelzer did not register on the stat sheet for Binghamton, although he did score in their tilt with Utica on Nov. 28.

Olofsson scores as Amerks post 1-0 shutout

*Buffalo News*

By: Staff

Victor Olofsson netted the only goal Friday night as the Amerks beat Wilkes-Barre/Scranton 1-0 at Blue Cross Arena.

Danny O'Regan and Rasmus Asplund were credited with the assists on Olofsson's goal in the second period.

Olofsson's seventh goal of the season came after he was stymied on his first attempt and the rebound bounced beyond the right post. He corralled the puck and scored on his second attempt.

"I received a good pass from Danny and just tried to get a stick on the shot," Olofsson said. "The puck somehow went through their goalie, so I raced around the net and poked in the rebound."

Scott Wedgewood completed his second shutout of the season with 35 saves.

"I thought our commitment in the defensive zone was huge tonight," said Wedgewood. "Blocking shots and communication on the ice has improved over the last month or so and those two things help me track rebounds and keeps everyone aware on what's happening in the game."

The Amerks improved to 13-5-2, securing their spot atop the North Division. The Amerks have collected 28 of a possible 36 points in their last 18 games and have a three-point lead in the division.

The Penguins dropped to 9-9-3-1, leaving them in sixth place in the Atlantic.

"I don't think we played our best hockey game, but good teams find a way to win," Amerks coach Chris Taylor said. "Scott got us two points tonight and sometimes you need that from a goaltender."

Tonight at 7:05, the Americans will play at division rival Binghamton, which they defeated 4-3 last Saturday in the teams' first matchup of the season.

Following that, Rochester will return to Blue Cross Arena for a two-game homestand. They will take on the Utica Comets for the fourth time this year on Wednesday at 7:05 p.m. and the Providence Bruins for the second time this season on Friday, also at 7:05 p.m.

The Amerks are 2-1 against the Comets and lost in overtime in the only matchup against the Bruins this year.

Amerks are shutout by Binghamton

*C&C World Wide*

By: Staff Report

A night after earning their second shutout victory of the season at home on Friday night, the first-place Rochester Americans (13-6-2-0) had the tables turned as they were blanked 3-0 at the hands of the Binghamton Devils (10-10-3-0) 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 hold a two-point lead atop the AHL's North Division standings to open the month of December.

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The Devils were led by forwards Blake Pietila (1+1), Nick Lappin (1+1) and Kevin Rooney (0+2), all of whom posted multi-point efforts in the win. Eric Tangradi, who returned to the lineup after sitting out all of November due to an injury, completed the scoring with his third of the season on the power-play. Netminder Mackenzie Blackwood made 22 saves to record his first shutout of the season and the third of his career against the Amerks.

As it appeared the contest was headed into the first intermission scoreless, the Devils broke the deadlock in the final two minutes of the opening frame. Binghamton used a 3-on-2 odd-man rush into the offensive and used a series of quick passes before Lappin hit Pietila by the left face-off dot inside the Rochester zone. Wristing the puck moments after receiving it, the forward fired it just over the left arm of Wedgewood with 1:56 to play in the stanza.

The goal from Lappin and Rooney was Pietila's sixth in the last 10 games and 10th point dating back to Nov. 9.

Rochester went into the break trailing 1-0 and was outshot 18-8 during the opening 20 minutes of play.

During the second stanza, the Amerks had their best chances of the night to try to solve Blackwood, but the netminder would not yield as he stood tall on both opportunities.

The first came when Amerks forward Sean Malone banked the puck off the boards and out of the Rochester zone, sending Justin Bailey and Alexander Nylander on a 2-on-1 rush towards the Binghamton zone. Blackwood, though, stopped both of Bailey's shots with just over 13 minutes to play in the middle frame.

Nearly six minutes later while on the man-advantage, the Amerks kept the Devils in the offensive zone for the first half of a holding infraction, and despite a Binghamton player breaking his stick, Blackwood made multiple saves to preserve the shutout.

As the game went into the third period, Binghamton doubled its lead at the 10:43 mark as they got some home ice puck luck while on its own power-play. With the puck below the goal-line, Tangradi attempted to center a pass, but it glanced off a sliding Amerks skate and caromed over the shoulder of an unsuspecting Wedgewood.

The Amerks pulled their netminder with just over two minutes left in regulation to try to cut into the Binghamton lead and possibly spoil Blackwood's shutout, but Lappin sealed the 3-0 win as he flipped the puck into the empty net at the opposite end for his team-leading 10th tally of the season.

Rochester had entered the matchup with points in nine of the last 11 games against Binghamton dating back to the start of the 2017-18 slate.

The Amerks return home on Wednesday, Dec. 5 when they take on the intrastate rival Utica Comets at the Blue Cross Arena. Game time 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.

Wedgewood leads the Amerks to shutout win  
*C&C WorldWide*  
By: Craig Potter

The Rochester Americans goalie Scott Wedgewood turned aside all 35 shots by the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins for his second shutout of the season Friday night before 4,695 fans at the Blue Cross Arena.

"I thought our commitment in the defensive zone was huge tonight," said Wedgewood. "Blocking shots and communication on the ice has improved over the last month or so and those two things help me track rebounds and keeps everyone aware on what's happening in the game."

Swedish rookie Victor Olofsson netted the lone goal as the Amerks posted the 1-0 victory.

Olofsson back-handed in his own rebound in the second period as WBS goalie John Muse stopped the initial shot, but the puck squirted off to his right and was lying in the crease where Olofsson easily knocked it into the open net.

"I received a good pass from Danny (O'Regan) and just tried to get a stick on the shot," said Olofsson. "The puck somehow went through their goalie, so I raced around the net and poked in the rebound."

O'Regan and Rasmus Asplund assisted on the play.

"He's great around the net," Wedgewood said of Olofsson. "He showed tonight he's tenacious and he'll find it."

"I like his play away from the puck, he's getting in on the forecheck, he's not being a perimeter player," Taylor added of the 22-year-old rookie. "It doesn't come easy for him, he has to work hard to score goals, and that's helping him get better."

Wedgewood had to come up with key saves, mainly off turnovers in the first period. However, the Penguins also had 4 power play advantages, including one late in the game.

"He was definitely dominant," said Amerks head coach and former Penguins assistant coach Chris Taylor.

"I don't think we played our best hockey game, but good teams find a way to win. Scott got us two points tonight and sometimes you need that from a goaltender."

The Amerks hit the road Saturday with a game in Binghamton against the Devils at 7:05 pm.

*\*NOTES* — The Buffalo Sabres today announced the team has recalled defenseman Matt Tennyson from the Rochester Americans. Tennyson (28, 6-foot-2, 205 lbs.) returns to the Sabres after beginning the season with the team but has yet to appear in any NHL games this season. The Minneapolis, MN., native has recorded 1 assist in 7 games with the Americans this season. Tennyson appeared in 15 games with the Sabres in his first season with the team in 2017-18. In his career, he has totaled 20 points (3+17) in 120 NHL games with Buffalo, the Carolina Hurricanes and the San Jose Sharks. In a corresponding move, the Sabres placed defenseman Marco Scandella on injured reserve... Tonight's game was the only appearance for the WBS Penguins this season at the BCA as the teams face each other just twice in the regular season... Both Penguins goalies — Anthony Peters and John Muse — are former Amerks... Penguins defenseman Matt Abt played the last 4 seasons at RIT where he was a teammate of Myles Powell, who currently is in Cincinnati. Abt set career-highs in all goals and points and finished third

in scoring among Tiger blueliners in 2017-18... Swedish rookie defenseman Lawrence Pilut made his NHL debut with the Buffalo Sabres on Friday night, on his second recall from the Amerks, in the 3-2 overtime loss to the Florida Panthers.

Amerks blanked in Binghamton 3-0

*13WHAM*

By: Staff Report/Amerks.com

A night after earning their second shutout victory of the season at home on Friday night, the first-place Rochester Americans (13-6-2-0) had the tables turned as they were blanked 3-0 at the hands of the Binghamton Devils (10-10-3-0) Saturday at Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena.

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Amerks shut out Penguins to close out November

*13WHAM*

By: Tobias Motyka/Amerks.com

Scott Wedgewood made 35 saves for his second shutout with the Rochester Americans, and Victor Olofsson got back into the goal column with his sixth of the season, leading the Amerks to a nail-biting 1-0 win over the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Penguins on Friday.

With the win, the Amerks maintained a three point lead in the AHL North Division, now ahead of the Cleveland Monsters, who beat Syracuse 4-3 in overtime to move into sole possession of second place.

Rochester will be back on the ice, but on the road Saturday night in Binghamton.

## Mackenzie Blackwood & B-Devils Shutout Amerks 3-0

### *All About The Jersey*

By: Jeff Ulmer

It was a classic battle of former teammates in goal as Mackenzie Blackwood and Scott Wedgewood both kept the game close for most of the evening. But it was the Binghamton Devils who eventually emerged victorious with a 3-0 shutout over the visiting Rochester Americans on Saturday.

A good, full 60-minute effort on the night as the Devils (10-10-3-0) just shut down the North Division leading Amerks (13-6-2-0) in just about every facet for their second straight win. The one they couldn't solve was Wedgewood, as he kept it a one-goal contest until midway through the third period.

Blake Pietila scored his eighth of the season as a result of some crisp passing by Nick Lappin and Kevin Rooney as his wrist whipped by the glove of Wedgewood 18:04 in the opening period. That would be all the scoring in the tight-checking affair until the final 20 minutes.

BDevils' rookie forward Egor Sharangovich was robbed as Wedgewood got a late stick to the puck for the save as Egor looked to the heavens afterward shaking his head in what could have been a sure goal. But the Devils got a break they needed and went ahead by a score of 2-0 on a fluke play.

In his first game back from injury, Eric Tangradi's pass to the center from behind the cage deflected off the skate of Amerks' defenseman Andrew MacWilliam and then off the shoulder of Wedgewood into the top corner where the puck ended up. The play surprised everyone in the barn as it stood as an insurance goal on a Devils' power play.

Nick Lappin scored his team-leading tenth with an empty-netter with Wedgewood pulled with just under two minutes left. Behind Binghamton's 18-8 shot advantage in the first period, they would end up in front 38-22 for the night.

### Post Game Notes

- Michael McLeod was sent back by NJ but didn't dress, but should be ready on Sunday in Hershey. Tangradi returns after missing 12 games and Johnson called up from Adirondack as Lack suffered an injury during last Wednesday night's warm-ups.
- Tangradi had a big game as he is the type of veteran any team could use. He was sorely missed but gave the boys some confidence with his presence on as well as off the ice.
- Pietila now has 8 goals and 5th in his last 7 games as he has been on fire as of late with his line of Rooney at center and Lappin on the other wing.
- Blackwood with yet another strong performance in net as he wasn't all that tested with 22 saves, but did what was needed with most of the game being a one-goal Devils' advantage. He's playing with confidence and momentum is what's carrying him as his line improves to 5-4-1-1, 2.17 GAA, 0.929 SV% for the third year pro.
- Wedgewood stood on top of his head for the most part as he played in his second game in as many days with a 1-0 win over WB/Scranton on Friday. This was also his second straight game against Binghamton with his 4-3 win just last Saturday in Binghamton.
- Binghamton was disciplined and didn't let frustrations lead to ill-advised penalties.

- The line of *Quenneville - Sharangovich - Studenic* looked strong all night with Studenic's speed, Sharangovich's strength, and JQ's shot as the trio has found some chemistry on the top line.