

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

SIX-TIME CALDER CUP CHAMPIONS 1965 | 1966 | 1968 | 1983 | 1987 | 1996

Sat. | **Oct. 12, 2024** | 7:00 PM | Adirondack Bank Center | AHL Game 21 | AHLTV on FloHockey, The Fan Rochester

ROCHESTER AMERICANS GAME NOTES

Blue Cross Arena at the Rochester War Memorial | 1 War Memorial Square | Rochester, NY, 14614 | Amerks.com/Media | @AmerksPR



TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (0-1-0-0) look to split the opening weekend of the season tonight as they make their way east for an intrasate showdown with the Utica Comets (0-1-0-0) at Adirondack Bank Center.

Following tonight's p.m. contest, the Amerks and Comets, who enter their fourth season under the direction of Kevin Dineen, will meet a total of 12 times during the 2024-25 regular season. The clubs will resume its rivalry as Rochester returns to the Adirondack Bank Center for a back-to-back set in November when they meet for a pair of 7:00 p.m. contests.

After the weekend matchups in November, the teams meet three times in December, including a pair of matchups to close out the 2024 calendar year.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST UTICA

Rochester has won 10 of the previous 11 games on the road against the Comets, the only exception being a 6-0 loss back on Nov. 11, 2023. The Amerks boasted an 8-3-1-0 record through the 12-game of the season-series and had four Sunday matinees during the season between the two clubs.

The Amerks boast a 13-10-1-1 record in Utica over the past five seasons while also showing an almost identical 15-11-1-1 mark in the Flower City.

The Amerks scored at least one power-play goal in 24 of the 45 games (34-for-148) against Utica while under the direction of current Buffalo Sabres assistant coach and former Amerk bench boss **Seth Appert**.

Rochester returns its top three point-getters against Utica from a season ago as **Brett Murray** (4+3), **Mason Jobst** (3+4), and **Lukas Rousek** (2+5) all each posted seven points each during the season-series in 2023-24. Goaltender **Michael Houser** went 2-0-0 in his two appearances against the Comets last season.

OPENING THE SEASON

Last night's season-opener with Belleville marked the first time in franchise history that the Amerks opened an AHL regular season against an Ottawa Senators' affiliate.

Rochester's first nine games of the season will come against North Division opponents.

The Amerks hold a 34-28-7 all-time record in season-opening games and have outscored the opposition 253-237 dating back to when the puck first dropped on Rochester's inaugural season in 1956.

Rochester also shows a 41-22-6 all-time in home openers over the previous 69 years and have outscored their opponents 279-218 over that span

The Amerks are 2-3-1-0 in their last six home openers dating back to a 3-2 overtime win over Syracuse to begin the 2019-20 campaign.

Friday marked the third straight year and 12th time in the last 13 years in which the Amerks opened the regular season on home ice.

The Amerks have scored five or more goals in six of their last nine home-opening victories dating back to a 6-5 shootout win over Syracuse to open the 2012-13 season.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Josh Dunne	1	1	0	1	1	2
Tyson Kozak	1	1	0	1	1	0
Ryan Johnson	1	0	1	1	0	0
Zach Metsa	1	0	1	1	1	0
Viktor Neuchev	1	0	1	1	1	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Felix Sandström	26	16-6-4	803	.927	2.42

2024-25 COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
GOALTENDER						
Isaac Poulter	1	0-0-0	9	.900	1.88	
Nico Daws	1	0-1-0	12	.750	8.64	

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Utica Comets	Rochester Americans
0-1-0-0	Record 0-1-0-0
0-1-0-0	Home Record 0-1-0-0
0-0-0-0	Away Record 0-0-0-0
0-1-0-0	Last 10 Games 0-1-0-0
0-0	Overtime Record 0-0
0-0	Shootout Record 4-3
0-0-0-0	Record When Scoring First 0-1-0-0
% ()	Power-Play % ()
% ()	Penalty Kill % ()

2023-24 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. UTICA

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 28	W	5-4	28-18	1-3	0-1
Nov. 3	OTL	4-3	32-20	0-4	1-1
Nov. 10	W	4-3	34-34	0-2	4-4
Nov. 11	L	6-0	23-40	0-2	4-5
Dec. 30	SOW	3-2	33-30	0-4	5-6
Jan. 19	W	2-1	29-25	1-2	2-2
Jan. 26	L	4-0	32-28	0-3	1-1
Feb. 14	W	6-2	25-39	2-5	2-2
Feb. 18	L	7-3	33-33	0-3	3-4
Mar. 10	W	3-2	23-35	1-1	2-2
Mar. 24	W	4-1	24-20	2-4	2-3
Apr. 21	W	3-2	26-33	0-3	1-2



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ERA OF LEO

Rochester's 69th season in the American Hockey League coincides with the first under incoming head coach **Michae Leone**. At age 36, Leone is the second-youngest active head coach in the AHL this season behind Cleveland's Trent Vogelhuber.

Named the 34th head coach in the 68-year history of the franchise, Leone embarks on his AHL head coaching career following two seasons as head coach and general manager of the Green Bay Gamblers (USHL).

Leone amassed a 66-41-10-7 record in his two seasons with Green Bay, leading the Gamblers to back-to-back 30-plus win seasons as well as consecutive playoff appearances for the first time in over a decade. Leone piloted Green Bay's resurgence through the 2022-23 campaign, helping the team finish with the most wins (32) and points (71) since 2016-17.

Before joining the Gamblers, Leone served as an assistant coach for USA Hockey's National Team Development Program from 2019-20 to 2021-22, alternating duties between the U.S National U18 and U17 Teams. While there, he helped implement a successful development model that produced an astounding 41 NHL Draft picks, including 13 future first-round selections.

He also spent time as an assistant coach for the Bowling Green State University men's ice hockey team (2018-19) and for the Quad City Mallards of the ECHL (2017-18).



CAPTAIN JOBST

The Amerks announced the team's leadership group earlier this week, consisting of team captain **Mason Jobst** while forwards **Brett Murray** and **Josh Dunne** along with defensemen **Ethan Prow** and **Zach Metsa** will serve as alternates.

The 64th captain in franchise history, Jobst returns for his fourth season in Rochester after signing a two-way contract with the Buffalo Sabres. The 30-year-old forward is coming off an MVP year in 2023-24 which saw him produce career-highs in all offensive categories while leading the team in goals (22) and tying for the overall scoring lead with 50 points in 64 games.

A native of Speedway, Indiana, Jobst has totaled 126 points (51+75) over 226 career American Hockey League games with Rochester, San Jose, Bridgeport and Binghamton. of the ECHL (2017-18).



LEADERSHIP

G R O U P

#81 BRETT MURRAY - ALTERNATE

#22 ZACH METSA - ALTERNATE

#7 ETHAN PROW - ALTERNATE

#55 JOSH DUNNE - ALTERNATE

#26 MASON JOBST - CAPTAIN

SAY HELLO TO HELENIUS

Rochester's 26-man opening night roster featured four different first-round selections, including highly touted forward **Konsta Helenius**, who the Buffalo Sabres took with their 14th overall pick this past summer.

Helenius, who signed a three-year, entry-level with the Sabres back in July, made his North American debut after playing the last two seasons with Jukurit in Finland's top professional league.

Helenius made his AHL debut playing alongside fellow first-round pick **Isak Rosen** and forward **Lukas Rousek**. He finished with three shots and a minus-one on-ice rating.

Helenius had 36 points (14+22) in 51 games last season, marking the fourth-highest single-season total by an under-18 player in Liiga history, behind current NHL forwards Aleksander Barkov, Mikael Granlund, and Kaapo Kakko.

Helenius' performance earned him a spot on Finland's team at the IIHF World Championship in May, which began the day before his 18th birthday. He recorded one assist and a plus-2 rating in four games as the youngest player in the tournament while playing against a number of NHL players.

SERIES NOTABLES

Both Rochester (20-5-1-2) and Utica (18-3-1-2) boasted winning records when leading after the first period in 2023-24. The Comets were 21-1-1-3 last season when carrying a lead into the second period while the Amerks had a near-perfect 25-0-1-1 in that regard.

Comets defenseman Nick DeSimone is in his first season with the New Jersey Devils organization. The East Amherst, New York, native spent the part of the 2020-21 campaign with Rochester, posting six points (0+6) in eight games.

In 12 career appearances against Utica as an Amerk, goaltender **Michael Houser** has a 7-4-0 record, a .909 save percentage to go with a 1.98 goals-against average. The Youngstown, Ohio, native also posted a shutout versus the Comets back on Mar. 25, 2023 as he stopped all 21 shots while also turning aside all four shots he saw in a 1-0 shootout victory.



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