

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Sat. | **Oct. 19, 2024** | 3:00 PM | Coca-Cola Coliseum Arena | AHL Game 56 | 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

After dropping the first game of the weekend, the Rochester Americans (1-2-0-0) look to return the favor as the home-and-home series shifts north of the border for a rematch with the Toronto Marlies (3-0-0-0) at Coca-Cola Coliseum. The 3 p.m. North Division matchup will be carried live on The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

The Amerks and Marlies, who enter their second season under the direction of head coach John Gruden, will meet a total of six times during the 2024-25 regular season, with just one more in the calendar year.

Today's contest marks Rochester's first trip back to Coca-Cola Coliseum since the Amerks erased a pair of three-goal deficits on their way to a 5-4 overtime victory just over a year ago on Oct. 14, 2023.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST TORONTO

Today's is the second meeting between the North Division rivals since closing out the 2023-24 season series with the four contests over a span of 33 days. Rochester earned a point in five of the six meetings last season overall, showing a 4-1-0-1 record.

The Amerks boast a 4-5-0-2 record against Toronto over the last six seasons in Rochester, which included earning five out of a possible six points on home ice during the 2023-24 campaign. Overall, Rochester owns a 10-9-0-2 mark in the head-to-head series since the 2020-21 campaign.

Current Sabres netminder **Devon Levi** won all three of his starts against the Marlies last season, showing a 1.63 goals-against average and a .962 save percentage while also making a regular-season career-high 52 saves in the 2-1 overtime win north of the border on Feb. 19.

Amerks third-year forward **Isak Rosén** has recorded one point in 18 of his last 25 games dating back to last season, going only consecutive games without a point just once. He has three points (1+2) versus Toronto during that stretch.

In 28 of the last 43 meetings between the two teams dating back to the 2016-17 season, the team that scored first has come away with the victory.

LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks jumped out to a two-goal lead against the Marlies only to see their North Division rivals score four straight unanswered goals - including three in the second period - in a 4-2 loss Friday at The Blue Cross Arena.

The Amerks have scored the first goal of the game in each of their first three games this season and five of their last six dating back to the end of the 2023-24 campaign. Additionally, Rochester has outshot its opponents in five of its last six periods.

Rookie forwards **Anton Wahlberg** and **Konsta Helenius** both scored their first goals of the season in the first and second periods, respectively. Helenius' was his career in the AHL while Wahlberg's was his first shorthanded tally in the league.

Both first-year forwards led all Amerk skaters with four shots apiece **Viktor Neuchev** and **Ty Tullio** both earned an assist on Helenius' marker.

Neuchev has totaled two goals and four assists over his last six games while Tullio's point marked his first as an Amerk and first since April 19, 2024 as a member of the Bakersfield Condors (AHL).

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Viktor Neuchev	3	1	3	4	1	0
Isak Rosén	3	1	2	3	2	2
Zach Metsa	3	0	2	2	1	0
Kale Clague	3	1	0	1	-1	0

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Michael Houser	1	1-0-0	19	.950	1.00
Felix Sandström	2	0-2-0	45	.865	3.60

2024-25 MARLIES OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Logan Shaw	3	0	5	5	1	0
Alexander Nylander	3	3	1	4	-2	2
Roni Hirvonen	3	2	2	4	3	2

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Artur Akhtyamov	2	2-0-0	63	.955	1.50
Matt Murray	1	1-0-0	18	.857	3.00

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Toronto Marlies vs **Rochester Americans**

3-0-0-0	Record	1-2-0-0
2-0-0-0	Home Record	0-2-0-0
1-0-0-0	Road Record	1-0-0-0
3-0-0-0	Last 10 Games	1-2-0-0
0-0	Overtime Record	0-0
0-0	Shootout Record	0-0
0-0-0-0	Record When Scoring First	1-2-0-0
30.0% (1st)	Power-Play	0.0% (T-27th)
100% (T-1st)	Penalty Kill	84.6% (T-14th)
Oct. 18 @ ROC (4-2 W)	Last Game	Oct. 18 vs. TOR (4-2 L)
John Gruden (2nd)	Head Coach	Michael Leone (1st)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS TORONTO

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 18	L	4-2	28-21	0-4	5-5



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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 Vohlgren.

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 last 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 228 career American Hockey League games with Rochester, San Jose, Bridgeport and Binghamton.



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, FIRST OF MANY

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 last Friday night against Utica 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** last Friday. He finished with three shots and a minus-one on-ice rating. Last night, he scored his first-career AHL goal in the second period from **Viktor Neuchev** and **Ty Tullio**.

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 (21-6-1-2) and Toronto (21-3-4-0) come into the matchup sporting winning records when leading after the first period since the start of last season. The Marlies are 26-1-4-0 since last season when carrying a lead into the second period while the Amerks hold a near-perfect 21-0-0-1 in that regard.

After opening their home schedule against Belleville last Friday, last night's contest was just the second time since 2003-04 campaign the Amerks have welcomed two different Canadian based teams to Rochester to start their season. (2022-23 season - Toronto 4-1 win and Belleville 4-3 win, 2003-04 season - Manitoba 2-1 win and Toronto 1-0 win).

Toronto forward Alexander Nylander began his professional career in Rochester after being drafted eighth overall in the 2016 NHL Draft by the Buffalo Sabres. Nylander recorded 86 points (30+56) in 165 career games with Rochester from 2016-19.



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