

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Friday | **Nov. 1, 2024** | 7:00 PM | Adirondack Bank Center | AHL Game 120 | 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 (3-3-0-0) turn the page to November tonight as they continue their four-game road swing with the first of back-to-back meetings against the intrastate rival Utica Comets (0-7-0-0) at Adirondack Bank Center.

Rochester is searching for its third straight win and fourth overall while Utica is looking for its first of the 2024-25 campaign.

Following this weekend's set, the Amerks and Comets, who enter their fourth season under the direction of Kevin Dineen, will meet nine more times during the 2024-25 regular season. The North Division foes will resume their rivalry with a pair of meetings next month in Rochester to close out the 2024 calendar year.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST UTICA

The Amerks jumped out to a 2-0 lead before earning a 4-1 victory in Utica back on Oct. 12 to kick off the 2024-25 season series. Rochester held a 16-2 shot-advantage after the first period before finishing with a 40-20 edge in the win, which also served as **Michael Leone's** first pro win as head coach.

Rochester has won 11 of the last 12 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.

The Amerks show a 13-8-1-1 record in Utica over the past five seasons while also showing an almost identical 13-9-1-0 mark in the Flower City.

Rochester has scored at least one power-play goal in 24 of the 47 games (34-for-157) against Utica dating back to the start of the 2020-21 season.

Isak Rosén and **Viktor Neuchev** each recorded their first multi-point efforts of the season as they both scored a goal and added an assist in the win.

Defensemen **Kale Clague** and **Nikita Novikov** capped the win as they both netted their initial goals of the season.

Lukas Rousek and rookie blueliner **Vsevolod Komarov** chipped in an assist, with Komarov's serving as his first professional point. **Ty Tullio** made his Amerk debut and registered one shot.

LAST TIME OUT

In the sixth round of the shootout, Sabres prospect **Konsta Helenius** netted the game-winning-goal to lift the Amerks to a 5-4 win over the Cleveland Monsters Saturday night at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse.

With the win, the Amerks jumped to .500 on the season for the first time, having topped Cleveland in both of their encounters on the week, including a 6-1 win against the Monsters at home on Oct 23. Rochester has scored the first goal in each of its six games to begin the 2024-25 campaign and eight of the last nine games dating back to the previous season.

Brett Murray, **Tyson Kozak**, and **Mason Jobst** each recorded goals and an assist, while **Isak Rosén** joined their multi-point efforts with two assists. **Lukas Rousek** scored his first goal of the season, while defensemen **Jack Rathbone** and **Zach Metsa** each contributed to the win with assists.

Veteran goaltender **Michael Houser** (3-1-0) picked up his second win in a row on the season, making 38 saves along with stopping five of six shootout attempts.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	6	2	4	6	1	2
Tyson Kozak	6	4	1	5	5	6
Viktor Neuchev	6	1	4	5	2	2
Mason Jobst	6	2	2	4	1	9

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Michael Houser	4	3-1-0	102	.919	2.23
Felix Sandström	2	0-2-0	45	.865	3.60

2024-25 COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Nolan Foote	6	2	4	6	-3	0
Seamus Casey	3	0	5	5	-1	2
Brian Halonen	7	3	1	4	-4	7

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Nico Daws	6	0-5-0	127	.882	3.52
Isaac Poulter	3	0-2-0	41	.804	4.89

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Utica Comets	Rochester Americans
0-7-0-0	Record 3-3-0-0
0-3-0-0	Home Record 1-2-0-0
0-4-0-0	Road Record 2-1-0-0
0-7-0-0	Last 10 Games 3-3-0-0
0-0	Overtime Record 0-0
0-0	Shootout Record 0-0
0-1-0-0	Record When Scoring First 3-3-0-0
24.0% (5th)	Power-Play 3.7% (32nd)
78.9% (26th)	Penalty Kill 88.0% (7th)
Oct. 30 @ LAV (3-2 L)	Last Game Oct. 24 @ CLE (5-4 SOW)
Kevin Dineen (4th)	Head Coach Michael Leone (1st)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS UTICA

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 12	W	4-1	40-20	0-5	2-2



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HOUSECAT ON THE PROWL

Goaltender Michael Houser stopped 19 of the 20 shots he faced in his near-perfect season debut to earn the win in Rochester's season series opener over the Comets back on Oct. 12.

Over Houser's last nine appearances in Utica, he boasts an astounding 7-1-0 record with one shutout, a .924 save percentage, and a 1.86 goals-against average.

During last Saturday's 5-4 shootout win against Cleveland, Houser, who is in his fifth season with the organization, earned his 200th professional win while making a season-high in saves (38).

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Houser has compiled a 53-43-8 record and four shutouts over 120 career games with Rochester, Tucson, Cleveland, Ontario and San Antonio. Houser also has made six appearances at the NHL level, all with Buffalo, posting a 4-2-0 record and owns a 143-76-25 as well as 13 shutouts in the ECHL between Jacksonville, Cincinnati, Fort Wayne and Manchester since the start of the 2012-13 campaign.

He won a pair of games for Buffalo on May 3 and 4, 2021 over the New York Islanders to become the first Sabres goaltender to win his first two NHL starts since former Amerk Mika Noronen did so on Oct. 5 and 7, 2000.

Houser, who has made three straight starts for Rochester, enters the month tied for ninth amongst all AHL netminders with three wins.



KOZAK FINDING HIS SCORING TOUCH

Amerks forward **Tyson Kozak** emerged as one of Rochester's top point-getters through the first month of the season, leading the team with four goals and ranking second with five points through the first six games of the season. He enters the weekend with a goal in each of his last three games.

After finishing with five goals in each of his first two seasons, Kozak, who recently appeared in his 100th game with the Amerks, is one goal away from matching that feat. The Souris, Manitoba, native has logged at least one shot in each of the six games in 2024-25 and has not gone back-to-back games without one since the start of December 2023.

In 102 career AHL games, all with Rochester, Kozak, who was selected in the seventh round (193rd overall) of the 2021 NHL by the Buffalo Sabres, has amassed 14 goals and 13 assists for 27 points. He has also tallied five points (2+3) in 18 Calder Cup Playoff games since making his debut during the 2022-23 campaign.



HELENIUS HEADLINES FIRST-ROUNDERS

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 deal with the Sabres in July, made his pro North American debut against Toronto on opening night after playing the last two seasons for Jukurit in Finland's top professional league.

A week after making his AHL debut, Helenius would score his first AHL goal in the second period of Rochester's 4-2 loss to the Toronto Marlies. During last Saturday's 5-4 shootout win over Cleveland, the rookie forward scored the clinching goal for Rochester.

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.



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