

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Sat. | **Nov. 9, 2024** | 6:05 PM | Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza | AHL Game 169 | 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 surging Rochester Americans (7-3-0-0) conclude their three-game week tonight as they make their lone trip of the season to Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza to face the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (7-3-0-0) for a 6:05 p.m. matchup. All the action will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

Rochester, which has 10 wins in its last 11 road games dating back to the 2023-24 campaign, is seeking its seventh straight win and eighth overall. The last time the Amerks won more than six straight games was Jan. 17-April Feb. 1 of 2014 when the team posted seven consecutive victories.

Despite Wilkes-Barre/Scranton seeing its four-game win streak halted last night, the Penguins have won seven of its last nine contests.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST THE PENGUINS

After being swept in the two-game season-series in 2017-18 against Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Rochester has gone a near-perfect 9-1-0-1 in the 11 meetings since.

Rochester's regulation loss against the Penguins back on Dec. 16, 2023 between the two teams was the first since Jan. 13, 2017.

The Amerks have scored 12 power-play goals in their last 11 games against the Penguins dating back to the start of the 2017-18 season, going 12-for-49 (24.2%) with the man-advantage over that span. \

Conversely, Rochester's penalty kill unit has successfully cleared 33 of the 35 shorthanded situations (94.3%) against Wiles-Barre/Scranton in that same time frame.

During the 2023-24 campaign both teams had at least 20 wins and five regulation losses when leading after the first period (ROC- 20-5-3-1, WBS- 22-5-3-1).

LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks used a two-goal run in the first period and scored three unanswered in the second on their way to a 6-3 victory over the Hartford Wolf Pack Friday at The Blue Cross Arena.

In addition, Rochester has won six straight while outscoring its opponents 32-13, including nine power-play tallies dating back to Oct. 23. Overall, the Amerks have found the back of the opposition's net 42 times, which is the most in the league this season.

With Friday's victory, the Amerks became just the second team in the 89-year history of the AHL to reach 2,500 regular-season wins. Rochester also became the eighth team in pro hockey history to reach the mark, joining each of the NHL's Original Six franchises along with the Hershey Bears.

Isak Rosén (1+2) and **Zach Metsa** (0+3) both led the Amerks with a three-point outing while **Lukas Rousek** and **Graham Slaggert** each notched a pair of assists. **Brett Murray**, **Jiri Kulich**, **Josh Dunne**, **Viktor Neuchev**, and **Konsta Helenius** all scored one goal each. **Ryan Johnson**, **Brendan Warren**, and **Anton Wahlberg** closed out the scoring with one assist.

Felix Sandström (3-2-0) and **Michael Houser** (4-1-0) split the goaltending duties, combining to make 25 saves. Sandström earned the victory after drawing his second straight start before Houser finished the contest stopping 11 of the 13 shots he faced in 24 minutes. Sandström has won five of his last seven appearances dating back to last season with Lehigh Valley.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	10	4	9	13	4	2
Zach Metsa	10	1	9	10	1	4
Viktor Neuchev	10	2	7	9	3	2
Brett Murray	10	3	5	8	5	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Michael Houser	6	4-1-0	141	.916	2.36
Felix Sandström	5	3-2-0	99	.900	2.42

2024-25 PENGUINS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Ville Koivunen	10	3	6	9	-3	8
Emil Bemström	10	2	7	9	1	4
Sam Poulin	10	3	5	8	1	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Tristan Jarry	5	4-0-1	132	.926	2.16
Filip Larsson	3	1-2-1	146	.918	2.74

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton	Rochester Americans
7-3-0-0	Record7-3-0-0
4-1-0-0	Home Record 2-2-0-0
3-2-0-0	Road Record 5-1-0-0
7-3-0-0	Last 10 Games7-3-0-0
1-0	Overtime Record 0-0
1-0	Shootout Record 2-0
7-0-0-0	Record When Scoring First5-3-0-0
15.9% (16th)	Power-Play 19.1% (11th)
84.8% (13th)	Penalty Kill84.1% (14th)
Nov. 8 @ LV (5-3 L)	Last Game Nov. 8 @ HFD (6-3 W)
Kirk McDonald (1st)	Head Coach Michael Leone (1st)

2023-24 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. WILKES-BARRE

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 16	L	2-1	24-31	1-4	5-5
Feb. 16	W	5-3	28-44	0-5	2-2



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KULICH, PARTY OF FIVE

Rochester's offense received a significant boost on Tuesday with the addition of forward **Jiri Kulich**, who was reassigned from the Buffalo Sabres. In his first two games since making his Amerks season debut, he has scored a pair of power-play goals Wednesday and Friday night, respectively.

The third-year forward began the 2024-25 campaign in Buffalo, appearing in eight games and scoring his first NHL goal on Oct. 17 at Columbus.

Kulich was named to the AHL's Top Prospects Team for the second straight year in 2023-24 after scoring a career-high 27 goals – including seven power-play goals, a shorthanded tally, five game-winners and two hat tricks – and finished third on the team with 45 points in 57 games while leading the Amerks back to the postseason for the second straight year.

Kulich also finished the 2023-24 season with 11 multi-point efforts highlighted by a career-best four-point showing against Belleville on April 13.

He never went more than six games without a point and recorded at least one shot in all but one game last season, including a career-high 11 shots against Belleville on April 12.

Kulich, who represented Rochester at the 2024 AHL All-Star Classic, was the first Amerk to score 20 or more goals in back-to-back seasons since Cole Schneider and Justin Bailey both did so in 2015-16 and 2016-17 and also became the first Rochester player to lead the team in goals in consecutive seasons since AHL Hall of Famer Jody Gage in 1991-92 and 1992-93.

He made his NHL debut for Buffalo on Nov. 25 at New Jersey and went on to captain Czechia to a bronze medal at the 2024 IIHF World Junior Championship. Kulich finished tied for the tournament lead with 12 points (6+6) in seven games, including a pair of four-point outings and two game-winning goals to earn a selection to the tournament All-Star Team.

In 121 career AHL games, all with Rochester, Kulich, who was selected in the first round (28th overall) of the 2022 NHL by the Buffalo Sabres, has amassed 53 goals and 40 assists for 93 points. He has also tallied 13 points (7+6) in 17 Calder Cup Playoff games since making his debut during the 2022-23 campaign.

By returning to Rochester, he became the fifth first-round draft pick on the Amerks roster that was selected by the Sabres; **Konsta Helenius** (2024, 14th), **Noah Östlund** (2022, 16th) **Isak Rosén** (2021, 14th overall), and **Ryan**



NO METSA'IN AROUND

Second-year defenseman **Zachary Metsa** enters the weekend second on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester's blueliners with 10 points (1+9) through his first 10 games.

Metsa has points in five of his last six games and has strung together consecutive multi-point games for the first time in his career, logging five assists through two games on the week, including a three-assist effort in last night's win over Harford.

Metsa's 10 points tie him with Laval's Logan Mailloux for first in league scoring by a defenseman.

Last season, the Delafield, Wisconsin, native logged seven goals and 24 points and was named the team's co-Rookie of the Year with Viktor Neuchev.

Metsa, who captained Quinnipiac University to its first-ever NCAA National Championship in 2023, also leads all AHL defensemen with nine assists.

AMERKS JOIN EXCLUSIVE CLUB

The Amerks made history last night, becoming just the second team in the 89-year history of the American Hockey League to reach 2,500 franchise wins. The two-time defending Calder Cup champion Hershey Bears are the only other team to accomplish the feat, entering the weekend with 3,107 total regular-season victories.

Rochester also became just the eighth team in pro hockey history to reach the mark, joining each of the NHL's Original Six franchises as well.

Dating back to its inaugural campaign in 1956-57, Rochester boasts an all-time regular-season record of 2,500-2,090-401-115 in 5,178 games.

In 69 seasons, the Amerks, who have claimed six league championships and 14 Division titles during the regular season, have scored 17,933 goals while allowing 17,238.

The club has used 64 different captains, including 14 future Stanley Cup champions as well as 42 Calder Cup winners. Rochester has had a captain each season with the exception of the 2010-11 slate and used four different players that donned the C in the same season on one occasion (2013-14).



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