

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Saturday | **Nov. 16, 2024** | 5:05 PM | The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Game 188 | AHLTV on FloHockey, The Fan Rochester

ROCHESTER AMERICANS GAME NOTES

Blue Cross Arena at the Rochester War Memorial | War Memorial Square | Rochester, NY, 14614 | www.amerks.com/Media | 516.438.8191



TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (7-4-1-0) close out their back-to-back set with a rematch against the Laval Rocket (11-2-0-0) on Hockey Fights Cancer Night tonight. Game time is slated for a 5:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

Tonight's matchup features two of the top four teams in the North Division, both of which have scored a division-most 44 goals this season while allowing less than 32. Seven points separate the teams in the standings.

Rochester remains at home having won six of its last eight, including back-to-back home wins over that stretch, while Laval has won 10 of its last 11 dating back to Oct. 18. Boasting a 11-2-0-0 overall record through the first 13 games of the campaign, Laval's 11 wins are tied for the second-most in the league and top amongst all North Division teams. The Rocket are one of only two teams (Toronto) to remain unbeaten on home ice this season.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST THE ROCKET

Dating back to his rookie season, Amerks forward **Jiri Kulich** has recorded eight goals, including four through the first seven games of the 2023-24 season series, as well as seven assists in 17 career contests against the Rocket.

Rochester has picked up at least one point in 16 of its first 22 road games in Laval, going 14-6-2-0 over that span. Conversely, since the start of the 2017-18 campaign, the Amerks have posted a near-perfect 14-3-1-0 mark at The Blue Cross Arena versus Laval, including all four meetings last season.

Rochester has never had a losing season versus the Rocket and have gone 4-3-1-0 in back-to-back seasons. The Amerks boasted a 6-2-0-0 mark through eight games during the 2023-24 campaign.

Captain **Mason Jobst** led all players during the 2023-24 slate with 10 points on five goals and five points whereas **Kale Clague** (1+7) tallied the most points amongst all defensemen in eight games. Rochester used five different goaltenders, which allowed 28 goals combined compared to Laval using three netminders, giving up 33 tallies.

LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks scored midway through the third period to force overtime but were unable to secure the extra point as they came out on the wrong side of a 3-2 score against the first-place Laval Rocket Wednesday at The Blue Cross Arena.

Despite the defeat in the extra frame, Rochester has won six of its last eight games dating back to Oct. 23. Since the start of the 2017-18 campaign, the Amerks have posted a near-perfect 14-3-1-0 mark at The Blue Cross Arena versus Laval, including all four meetings last season.

Forwards **Graham Slaggert** and **Anton Wahlberg** both scored in the second and third periods, respectively, while **Brendan Warren**, **Jiri Kulich**, and **Brett Murray** all registered an assist. Kulich posted a game-high seven shots and recalled to Buffalo on Saturday morning.

Goaltender **Michael Houser** (4-2-1) made his eighth appearance of the campaign. The Youngstown, Ohio, native, who carried a shutout into the third period, has helped the club earn at least one point in two of his three home games this season and four of his last six dating back to the 2023-24 season.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	12	4	9	13	3	2
Zach Metsa	12	1	9	10	2	4
Brett Murray	12	3	6	9	0	2
Viktor Neuchev	12	2	7	9	3	4

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Michael Houser	8	4-2-1	186	.899	2.77
Felix Sandström	5	3-2-0	99	.900	2.42

2024-25 ROCKET OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Joshua Roy	13	7	6	13	2	0
Alex Barré-Boulet	9	4	9	13	4	2
Logan Mailloux	8	4	8	12	6	13

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Connor Hughes	6	5-1-0	162	.931	1.99
Jakub Dobeš	7	6-1-0	175	.911	2.39

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Laval Rocket vs. Rochester Americans

11-2-0-0	Record	7-4-1-0
6-0-0-0	Home Record	2-2-1-0
5-2-0-0	Road Record	5-2-0-0
9-1-0-0	Last 10 Games	6-3-1-0
1-0	Overtime Record	0-1
2-0	Shootout Record	2-0
7-5-2-0	Record When Scoring First	5-3-1-0
20.0% (T-10th)	Power-Play	17.0% (T-17th)
85.7% (8th)	Penalty Kill	80.0% (T-21st)
Nov. 15 @ SYR (4-3 SOW)	Last Game..	Nov. 13 vs LAV (3-2 OTL)
Pascal Vincent (1st)	Head Coach	Michael Leone (1st)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. LAVAL

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Nov. 13	OTL	3-2	31-25	0-4	2-4



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KULICH REJOINS SABRES

Rochester's offense suffered a loss this morning with the subtraction of forward **Jiri Kulich**, who was recalled to the Buffalo Sabres. In his first four games since making his Amerks season debut, he's scored a pair of power-play goals while also adding an assist.

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 123 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 41 assists for 94 points. He has also tallied 13 points (7+6) in 17 Calder Cup Playoff games since making his AHL debut during the 2022-23 campaign.

Prior to his recall, he was one of five 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 Johnson** (2019, 31st overall).



NO METSA'IN AROUND

Second-year defenseman **Zachary Metsa** begins the week second on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester's blueliners with 10 points (1+9) through his first 12 games.

Metsa has points in five of his last eight games, which included stringing together consecutive multi-point games for the first time in his career, logging five assists through two games last week, including a three-assist effort in last Friday night's win over Hartford.

Metsa's 10 points tie him for seventh-most 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 is tied for tops amongst all AHL defensemen with nine assists, four of which have come on the power-play.

ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

The Amerks made history back on Nov. 8, 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 2,500-2,091-402-115 in 5,180 games.

In 69 seasons, the Amerks, who have claimed six league championships and 14 Division titles during the regular season, have scored 17,935 goals while allowing 17,246.

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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