

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Sat. | **November 23, 2024** | 5:05 PM | Blue Cross Arena | AHL Game 248 | 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 (8-5-3-0) continue their four-game homestand tonight as they welcome the intrastate rival Utica Comets (1-10-1-2) to The Blue Cross Arena at 5:05 p.m. The North Division showdown will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

Rochester has gone to overtime in three straight and four of its last five games dating back to Nov. 13. The Amerks have played in six contests overall decided beyond regulation.

Following tonight's, the Amerks and Comets, who now under the direction of interim head coach Ryan Parent, will meet eight more times during the 2024-25 regular season. The North Division foes will continue their rivalry with three more contests next month, which includes a home-and-home set to close out the 2024 calendar year.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST THE COMETS

Rochester is 3-0-0-0 on the season and has outscored the Comets 15-4 through the first three games of the season series, all of which have been in Utica.

The Amerks have won 13 of the last 14 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 15-8-1-1 record in Utica over the past five seasons while also showing a 13-9-1-0 mark in the Flower City.

Rochester has scored at least one power-play goal in 25 of the 49 games (34-for-158) against Utica dating back to the start of the 2020-21 season.

Isak Rosén (2+3) and **Viktor Neuchev** (1+4) have totaled five points in the first three games of the season series with Utica. Along with Rosén, **Konsta Helenius** and **Anton Wahlberg** all have a pair of goals.

Goaltenders **Michael Houser** and **Felix Sandström** have combined to allow just four goals versus the Comets, each earning at least one victory. Houser shows a 1.44 goals-against-average while Sandström has a 1.00.

LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks took a one-goal lead into the final minute of regulation only to see the back-to-back defending champion Hershey Bears score with eight seconds remaining before prevailing in overtime in a heartbreaking 4-3 loss Friday at The Blue Cross Arena.

Despite the overtime defeat, Rochester has earned at least one point in 10 of its last 12 games dating back to Oct. 23.

Kale Clague (2+0), who appeared in his 200th AHL game, notched his first-two goal outing since Feb. 19, 2019, while **Konsta Helenius** (0+2) recorded the first multi-point effort of his AHL career. **Brett Murray** (1+0), **Mason Jobst** (0+1), **Viktor Neuchev** (0+1) and **Vsevolod Komarov** (0+1) all chipped in one point each.

Goaltender **Devon Levi** (1-0-1) stopped 24 of the 28 shots he faced but suffered the overtime defeat. The second-year netminder has held the opposition to three or fewer goals in all but five of his 28 appearances with Rochester dating back to the 2023-24 season while boasting a 17-2-5 record in those games.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén*	14	4	9	13	-2	2
Brett Murray	16	5	6	11	-1	2
Zachary Metsa	16	1	10	11	0	6

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	2	1-0-1	50	.909	2.37
Felix Sandström	6	3-2-1	126	.906	2.35
Michael Houser	9	4-3-1	200	.897	2.69

*=Currently with Buffalo (NHL)

2024-25 COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Seamus Casey	10	1	10	11	-1	6
Nolan Foote*	12	4	5	9	-7	6
Adam Beckman	9	3	5	8	-2	2

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Isaac Poulter	6	1-2-2	118	.861	3.67
Nico Daws	10	0-8-1	229	.874	3.71

*=Currently with New Jersey (NHL)

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Utica Comets vs Rochester Americans

1-10-1-2	Record	8-5-3-0
1-6-1-2	Last 10 Games	5-2-3-0
0-6-0-2	Home Record	2-3-1-0
1-4-1-0	Road Record	6-2-1-0
0-1	Overtime Record	1-3
0-2	Shootout Record	2-0
1-3-2-1	Record When Scoring First	5-4-1-0
20.0% (T-9th)	Power-Play	15.5% (T-22nd)
68.9% (32nd)	Penalty Kill	81.0% (T-19th)
Nov. 22 @ SYR (4-3 W)	Last Game	Nov. 22 vs HER (4-3 OTL)
Ryan Parent (1st, Interim)	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
Nov. 1	W	8-1	26-19	4-9	4-5
Nov. 2	W	3-2	27-30	0-1	4-5



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LEVI LOANED TO ROCHESTER

Goaltender **Devon Levi** was reassigned by the Sabres earlier this week after starting the season in Buffalo before making his Amerks debut Wednesday.

The 22-year old netminder split his first full rookie season between Buffalo and Rochester in 2023-24 by combining to post a 26-14-6 mark in 49 appearances. The Quebec native also showed a 2-3 record in five Calder Cup Playoffs with the Amerks.

In Game 3 of the North Division Semifinals against Syracuse, Levi turned aside 60 of 62 shots he faced in the double-overtime victory. Levi was the first Amerks goaltender to make 21 or more saves in a single period during a Calder Cup Playoff game since **Tyler Plante** stopped all 23 shots he faced on April 21, 2010 against Abbotsford.

Levi, who showed a 16-6-4 record in 26 appearances with the Amerks, held the opposition to three or fewer goals in each game over a six-game win streak between March and April 6. He totaled 188 saves on 201 shots while boasting an impressive 2.17 goals-against average and a .935 save percentage over that span.

Levi earned the start in 24 of the last 34 games with Rochester since being reassigned on Jan. 20, including five straight to open February. He won nine of his last 11 starts and 11 of 13 dating back to the start of March.

His career-high 52-save performance in the Amerks overtime win at Toronto on Feb. 19 were the most by an Amerks goaltender since **Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen** had 54 in a 2-1 win at Syracuse on Feb. 25, 2022.

Levi, who finished the season tied for fourth among all rookie netminders with a .927 save percentage, has held the opposition to three or fewer goals in all but four of his 27 appearances. He boasts a record 17-2-4 in those games.

Levi won the Mike Richter Award, given annually to the top goaltender in men's college hockey, for the second straight year following the 2022-23 season. Levi is the only two-time winner in the award's history.

He led the nation again with a .933 save percentage, one year after he set the second-best mark in NCAA history with a .952 save percentage. He tied for third in the nation in both shutouts (6) and saves (1,183). Levi's 16-career shutouts are a Northeastern University school record.

In his two seasons at Northeastern, Levi finished with a 38-22-6 record. His resume includes a Beanpot title, a Hockey East regular-season championship and an NCAA tournament appearance. Levi was also named Hockey East Player of the Year for the second consecutive season in 2022-23 and was one of 10 finalists for the Hobey Baker Award.



NO METSA'IN AROUND

Second-year defenseman **Zachary Metsa** enters the weekend tied second on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester's blueliners with 11 points (1+10) through his first 16 games.

Metsa has points in six of his last 12 games, which included stringing together consecutive multi-point games for the first time in his career, logging five assists in that span and punctuated by a three-assist effort in the win over Hartford on Nov. 8.

The second-year blueliner's 11 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, is also tied for second amongst all AHL defensemen with 10 assists, five of which have come on the power-play.

COMET KILLER

Goaltender **Michael Houser** has found success over the years against Utica and again this season, stopping 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.

Houser has won each of his last four starts against Utica dating back to last season, allowing two goals or less in three appearances over that span.

Over Houser's last 10 appearances in Utica, he boasts an astounding 7-2-0 record with one shutout, a .925 save percentage, and a 1.85 GAA.

Houser has stopped eight of the 10 shooters he has faced in the shootout this season, and since joining the organization ahead of the 2020-21 campaign, Houser has denied 18-of-22 in the skills competition.

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Houser has compiled a 54-45-9 record and four shutouts over 125 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.



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