

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Wednesday | **December 11, 2024** | 7:00 PM | Place Bell | AHL Game 348 | 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 (12-8-3-0) take their season-long five-game road swing north border tonight for another go-around against the first-place Laval Rocket (15-6-1-1) at Place Bell. Game time is slated for a 7:00 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.

Rochester has earned at least one point in 14 of its last 19 games dating back to Oct. 23 and is 7-2-1-0 over its last 10 road contests. The Amerks sit in fourth-place in the AHL's North Division standings, two points behind the Toronto Marlies, who have three games in hand entering the week.

The Rocket are one of only three teams (Toronto and Cleveland) in the AHL to have one or fewer home regulation losses this season. Laval has earned the at least one point in nine of its 10 home games, boasting a 7-1-1-1 mark.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST THE ROCKET

Dating back to his rookie season, Amerks forward **Jiri Kulich**, who's currently on recall with the parent Buffalo Sabres, 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 17 of its first 23 road games in Laval, going 15-6-2-0 over that span. Conversely, since the start of the 2017-18 campaign, the Amerks have posted a near-perfect 14-4-1-0 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 posted a 6-2-0-0 mark through eight games during the 2023-24 campaign.

Captain **Mason Jobst** and **Kale Clague**, who last season led all Amerks skaters and defensemen with 10 and seven points, respectively, both have been held without a point through the first three games this year.

Goaltender and Quebec native **Devon Levi** has made two career appearances against Laval, earning the win in both contests. After allowing one goal and making 32 saves in a 3-1 win victory on Feb. 3, the second-year netminder turned aside 26 of 27 in a 2-1 overtime victory on Nov. 20.

Both teams have near-perfect records when leading after the second period: Rochester is 9-1-1-0 while Laval is 9-3-0-0 in that regard.

LAST TIME OUT

After coming up empty-handed in a 6-0 loss in the first game of a back-to-back set, the Amerks returned the favor by blanking the Charlotte Checkers by a 3-0 score Saturday to close out the weekend at Bojangles Coliseum.

Graham Slaggert opened the scoring in the first period before earning the secondary helper on **Brendan Warren's** empty net marker in the final frame. Along with Slaggert recording two points, second-year defenseman **Nikita Novikov** had a multi-point effort with a goal and an assist.

Goaltender **Devon Levi** logged his second shutout in eight days for Rochester as he stopped all 30 shots he faced. The netminder, who has made seven appearances for the Amerks this season, is 5-1-1.

It was the first shutout win by an Amerks goaltender against Charlotte since Malcolm Subban earned a 4-0 win on Dec. 17, 2022. Winners in four of its last five games, Rochester has scored first in each of its last four wins dating back to a 3-0 shutout against Syracuse on Nov. 29.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	20	7	10	17	-3	2
Brett Murray	23	7	8	15	-4	6
Zachary Metsa	23	1	12	13	0	8

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	7	5-1-1	154	.917	1.96
Michael Houser	10	4-3-1	212	.898	2.68
Felix Sandström	8	3-4-1	166	.878	3.23

2024-25 ROCKET OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Owen Beck	23	7	13	20	9	15
Joshua Roy	20	10	9	19	4	0
Alex Barré-Boulet	16	6	13	19	8	6

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Connor Hughes	11	7-3-1	266	.914	2.34
Jakub Dobeš	13	8-3-1	301	.904	2.55

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Laval Rocket	Rochester Americans
15-6-1-1	Record 12-8-3-0
4-4-1-1	Last 10 Games 5-3-2-0
7-1-1-1	Home Record 4-5-2-0
8-5-0-0	Road Record 8-3-1-0
2-1	Overtime Record 1-3
2-1	Shootout Record 3-0
8-5-1-0	Record When Scoring First 8-5-1-0
19.3% (13th)	Power-Play 13.9% (29th)
81.4% (18th)	Penalty Kill 83.1% (T-13th)
Dec. 7 vs TOR (5-4 W)	Last Game Dec. 7 @ CLT (3-0 W)
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
Nov. 16	L	4-1	26-18	0-3	2-2
Nov. 20	OTW	2-1	39-27	1-4	5-5



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LEANING ON LEVI

Devon Levi, who has started seven of the last nine games for Rochester, boasts a 5-1-1 record this season with a 1.96 goals-against-average and a .917 save percentage. Those numbers rank fifth and 10th across the AHL, respectively.

On the heels of his second shutout in eight days, the 22-year-old Levi has guided the Amerks to standings points in 26 of his 33 games with Rochester, dating back to his debut with the team last December. The Montreal, Quebec, native is 2-0-0 against the Canadiens' AHL affiliate, with both wins coming in his home province.

Saturday's win over the Checkers marked the first time Levi faced 30 shots this season. The Sabres' prospect faced fewer than 30 shots in his previous six starts this season, while seeing less than 30 pucks just seven times in 2023-24.

Levi, who could make his eighth start of the season tonight, carries a four-game win streak into the week. He hasn't allowed more than two goals in each game and has stopped 84 of the 88 shots he's faced over that span good for a 0.98 goals-against average and a .955 save percentage.

Levi enters the week as one of only six AHL goaltenders with multiple shutouts this season. Only San Jose's Yaroslav Askarov and Calgary's Devin Cooley, a former teammate of Levi's last season in Rochester, have more shutouts.



KOZAK'S BACK

Forward **Tyson Kozak** has been reassigned to Rochester after making his NHL debut last week for the Buffalo Sabres.

The seventh-round draft pick from 2021 made his debut last Thursday against Winnipeg before scoring his first NHL goal two days later against Utah in what also turned out to be the first goal in Sabres franchise history against the NHL's newest club.

Kozak was the fourth different Amerk to earn a recall to the Sabres this season, joining forwards **Isak Rosen** and **Jiri Kulich** along with defenseman **Ryan Johnson**.

In 14 games with the Amerks, Kozak has already tied his career-high in goals with five, doing so in 27 fewer games than last season.

The Souris, Manitoba, native is in his third season playing for the red, white, and blue. In 110 games as an Amerk, Kozak has 15 goals and 28 points to go with 78 penalty minutes.



NO METSA'IN AROUND

Second-year defenseman **Zachary Metsa** enters the contest third on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester's blueliners with 13 points (1+12) through his first 22 games.

Metsa has points in eight of his last 19 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 13 points tie him for 15th-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 seventh amongst all AHL defensemen with 12 assists, five of which have come on the power-play.

MURRAY SPECIAL AND MR. 300

Six of **Brett Murray**'s seven goals this season have come on the power-play, including two which ended up being the game-winner.

The 26-year-old is tied with Checkers forward and former Amerk Kyle Criscuolo for the AHL lead in power-play goals and is also second on the Amerks in points with 15 (7+8) through 23 games.

Prior to scoring his first even strength goal of the season last Wednesday against Utica, Murray was the only AHL player with at least six goals this season to have scored all his goals on the power-play.

With the exception of his rookie season, the veteran forward has recorded at least six power-play goals in five of his first six professional seasons, which includes a career-high eight during the 2022-23 campaign.

Coming into tonight having played 282 games as an Amerk, Murray is 18 games away from becoming just the 24th forward in franchise history to appear in at least 300 games with the club and first since Phil Varone did so during the 2015-16 campaign. He's also 66 games away from tying Don McSween for 20th on the franchise's all-time games played list (348).



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