

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Friday | **December 13, 2024** | 7:00 PM | CAA Arena | AHL Game 353 | 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 (13-8-3-0) continue their season-long road swing as they head to CAA Arena for the first of back-to-back meetings with the surging Belleville Senators (12-4-0-4) beginning tonight at 7:00 p.m. 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 has earned points in 15 of its last 20 games dating back to Oct. 23 and its nine road wins are second-most in the league. The Amerks sit in a two-way tie for third place in the AHL's North Division standings with the Toronto Marlies, who have four games in hand entering the weekend.

Despite four regulation losses, which are second-fewest in the AHL, Belleville enters tonight with a 12-4-0-4 mark through 20 games. The Sens are currently riding a five-game win streak and 7-3-0-0 over their last 10.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST BELLEVILLE

Since Belleville entered the league ahead of the 2017-18 season, Rochester has an all-time record of 18-23-2 against the Senators. The Amerks have posted a .500 winning percentage or better in four of the first five seasons in the head-to-head series.

Last season, both teams outscored the opposition in the first period while being outscored in the second stanza. Rochester's 82 goals in the opening period were tied for most in the AHL compared to Belleville, which had the fourth-fewest (54).

The Senators roster includes a pair of familiar faces to Rochester with defenseman Jeremy Davies and veteran netminder Malcolm Subban.

Davies spent the last two seasons in an Amerks jersey, accumulating 58 points (23+35) over 132 games. He led all Rochester defensemen in scoring last season while finishing with career-highs in goals (12) and points (35). Subban, meanwhile, posted personal-bests in wins (20) and appearances (39) before helping the Amerks to the Eastern Conference Finals in 2023.

Tonight's matchup is the first between the two clubs in Belleville this season and just the second of eight overall. The Amerks opened and closed the scoring against the Senators, but were unable to close the gap as they saw their comeback fall short in a 3-2 season-opening loss back on Oct. 11 at The Blue Cross Arena. Forwards **Josh Dunne** and **Tyson Kozak** netted goals for the Amerks while goaltender **Felix Sandström** stopped 28 of 31 shots.

LAST TIME OUT

After allowing the Laval Rocket to score the first goal, the Amerks countered back with three straight unanswered goals in the second period to earn a 3-1 victory Wednesday at Place Bell.

Forward **Lukas Rousek**, who sealed the overtime win in the previous meeting with Laval back on Nov. 20, produced a pair of assists for this third multi-point effort of the slate. **Riley Fiddler-Schultz**, **Ethan Prow** and **Isak Rosén** all scored for the Amerks, who have scored three goals in each of their last five wins. **Jack Rathbone**, **Kale Clague**, **Ty Tullio**, and **Konsta Helenius** all registered an assist to close out the scoring.

Goaltender **Devon Levi** improved to 5-0-0 in his last five appearances as he stopped 25 of the 26 shots he faced in his eighth appearance with Rochester this season. The second-year goaltender has held the opposition to three or fewer goals in all but six of his 34 games with the club. He is 22-2-4 in those contests.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	21	8	10	18	-3	2
Brett Murray	24	7	8	15	-4	8
Lukas Rousek	24	2	11	13	-1	18

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	8	6-1-1	179	.923	1.84
Michael Houser	10	4-3-1	212	.898	2.68
Felix Sandström	8	3-4-1	166	.878	3.23

2024-25 SENATORS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Garrett Pilon	20	2	15	17	4	4
Cole Reinhardt	12	5	10	15	8	4
Jeremy Davies	20	3	12	15	3	10

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Mads Sogaard	2	0-0-1	40	.930	1.69
Leevi Merilainen	11	7-1-2	228	.912	2.11
Malcolm Subban	9	5-3-1	191	.884	3.08

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Belleville Senators vs **Rochester Americans**

12-4-0-4.....	Record	13-8-3-0
7-3-0-0.....	Last 10 Games	6-3-1-0
4-3-0-2.....	Home Record	4-5-2-0
8-1-0-2.....	Road Record	9-3-1-0
0-0.....	Overtime Record	1-3
3-4.....	Shootout Record	3-0
5-2-0-3.....	Record When Scoring First	8-5-1-0
17.6% (17th).....	Power-Play	14.3% (T-26th)
82.4% (T-15th).....	Penalty Kill	83.5% (T-10th)
Dec. 11 vs SYR (2-1 W).....	Last Game	Dec. 11 @ LAV (3-1 W)
David Bell (2nd).....	Head Coach	Michael Leone (1st)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. BELLEVILLE

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 11	L	3-2	24-31	0-5	4-6



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ROCHESTER AMERICANS | @AMERKSPR | @AMERKSHOCKEY | AMERKS.COM/MEDIA

Warren Kosel | Senior Director of Public & Media Relations
Ryan Harr | Manager of Community & Public Relations



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LEANING ON LEVI

Devon Levi, who has started eight of the last 10 games for Rochester, boasts a 6-1-1 record this season with a 1.84 goals-against-average and a .923 save percentage. Those numbers tie him for second and ninth across amongst all AHL goaltenders, respectively.

On the heels of his second shutout in eight days, the 22-year-old Levi has guided the Amerks to standings points in 27 of his 34 games with Rochester, dating back to his debut with the team last December. The Montreal, Quebec, native is also a perfect 3-0-0-0 in his career when playing in his home province of Quebec.

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

Levi, who could make his ninth start of the season tonight, carries a five-game win streak into the weekend. He hasn't allowed more than two goals in each game and has stopped 109 of the 114 shots he's faced over that span good for a 0.98 goals-against average and a .956 save percentage.

Levi enters the weekend 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.



NO METSA'IN AROUND

Second-year defenseman **Zachary Metsa** enters the contest tied for third on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester's blueliners with 13 points (1+12) through his first 23 games.

Metsa has points in eight of his last 20 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 16th-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 eighth 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 24 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 283 games as an Amerk, Murray is 17 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 65 games away from tying Don McSween for 20th on the franchise's all-time games played list (348).



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 day 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 15 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 111 games as an Amerk, Kozak has 15 goals and 28 points to go with 80 penalty minutes.



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