

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Sunday | **Dec. 22, 2024** | 3:00 PM | Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse | AHL Game 423 | 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



TODAY'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (16-9-3-0) play their final game prior to the annual Christmas break this afternoon as they travel to Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse for a 3:00 p.m. matinee with the Cleveland Monsters (17-7-1-2). The North Division matchup will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

The Amerks enter the weekend tied with Hershey for the most road wins (11) and are two points back of Cleveland for first place in the AHL's North Division standings. The Monsters have a game in hand over Rochester, who have 23 points on the road this season and the only team from the division with double digits in wins (11) outside the Flower City.

Rochester has earned at least one point in 18 of its last 24 games dating back to Oct. 23 and boast an 8-2-0-0 record over its previous 10 outings.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST CLEVELAND

Rochester boasts a 44-22-8-4 record against Cleveland over the last 11 years dating back to the start of the 2011-12 campaign and has earned at least one point in 35 of the last 52 games overall.

The Amerks have scored at least one power-play goal in 17 of the 33 games (21-for-113) against Cleveland since the 2020-21 season. Despite the club killing off 103-of-134 penalties during that same span, they have successfully cleared 17 of the last 18 shorthanded situations over the last four games.

Amerks third-year forward **Isak Rosén** has totaled 16 points (5+11) in 19 career games against Cleveland dating back to the start of the 2022-23 season. His best outing over that span came back on Nov. 18 of last season when he finished with four points (2+2) along with a plus-four rating in a 7-5 Amerks win.

Rochester enters today having outshot Cleveland 183-117 this season. The Amerks have 40 or more shots in each game against the Monsters, a feat they have not done against an opponent in at least 10-plus years.

LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks scored once in each period and relied on a near-perfect 22-save performance from goaltender Devon Levi to secure a 3-1 bounce-back win in Friday's rematch against the intrastate rival Syracuse Crunch (11-9-4-3) at The Blue Cross Arena.

With the win, which came after dropping the first of the two-game set Wednesday, Rochester has earned at least one point in 18 of its last 24 games dating back to Oct. 23. Additionally, the Amerks have posted a 5-1-0-0 record in their last six regular-season games against the Crunch, which includes a 3-1-0-0 mark through the first four matchups of 2024-25.

Forward **Viktor Neuchev** earned an assist on defenseman **Nikita Novikov's** first-period goal before he sealed the victory with his fifth of the season in the final two minutes of regulation. Novikov notched his third of the campaign while **Graham Slaggert** added his sixth in the middle frame which came while Rochester was shorthanded. Forwards **Mason Jobst**, **Josh Dunne**, **Brett Murray**, and **Konsta Helenius** all registered an assist to cap the scoring.

Levi improved to 8-2-1 with Rochester as he stopped all but one of the 23 shots he faced while earning the win. The netminder, who boasts a 5-3-2 record against the Crunch, is 7-1-0 in his last eight appearances dating back Nov. 29.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	25	12	12	24	1	4
Brett Murray	28	12	9	21	1	10
Konsta Helenius	27	6	11	17	1	16

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	11	8-2-1	251	.913	2.15
Michael Houser	10	4-3-1	212	.898	2.68
Felix Sandström	9	4-4-1	195	.886	3.08

2024-25 MONSTERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Trey Fix-Wolansky	27	14	17	31	6	23
Luca Del Bel Belluz	27	16	14	30	9	4
Rocco Grimaldi	23	7	20	27	5	4

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Zach Sawchenko	12	7-3-1	263	.889	2.95
Jet Greaves	15	8-4-2	413	.902	3.21

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Cleveland Monsters

Rochester Americans

17-7-1-2.....	Record	16-9-3-0
9-2-1-2.....	Home Record	5-6-2-0
8-5-0-0.....	Road Record	11-3-1-0
5-3-1-1.....	Last 10 Games	8-2-0-0
5-1.....	Overtime Record	1-3
1-2.....	Shootout Record	3-0
11-2-0-1.....	Record When Scoring First	11-5-1-0
20.4% (8th).....	Power-Play	15.7% (24th)
83.9% (T-10th).....	Penalty Kill	83.7% (12th)
Dec. 19 vs UTC (6-1 W).....	Last Game	Dec. 20 vs SYR (3-1 W)
Trent Vogelhuber (3rd).....	Head Coach	Michael Leone (1st)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. CLEVELAND

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 23	W	6-1	49-26	0-3	5-5
Oct. 26	SOW	5-4	45-42	1-3	2-3
Nov. 6	W	4-2	48-24	1-3	2-3
Nov. 27	L	5-4	41-25	0-6	4-4



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LEANING ON LEVI

Devon Levi, who has started 11 of the last 14 games for Rochester, boasts an 8-2-1 record this season with a 2.15 goals-against-average that ranks eighth-best amongst all AHL goaltender, along with a .913 save percentage.

On the heels of his second shutout in eight days, the 22-year-old Levi has guided the Amerks to standings points in 29 of his 37 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.

The win over the Charlotte Checkers back on Dec. 7 was the first time Levi faced 30 shots this season. The Sabres' prospect faced fewer than 30 shots in 10 of his last 11 starts this season, while seeing less than 30 pucks just seven times in 2023-24.

Levi, who returned following a brief one-game appearance with the Buffalo Sabres last Sunday, saw his six-game win streak snapped on Wednesday, which matched a career-high. He hasn't allowed more than two goals in five of his last seven games and stopped 159 of the 172 shots he's faced over that span, good for a 1.84 goals-against average and a .924 save percentage.

Levi enters the weekend as one of only 10 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 FINDING CONSISTENCY

Forward **Tyson Kozak** is back with the Amerks after making his long-awaited NHL debut for the Buffalo Sabres earlier this month.

The seventh-round draft pick from 2021 made his debut on Dec. 5 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 fifth different Amerk to earn a recall to the Sabres this season, joining forwards **Isak Rosen** and **Jiri Kulich** along with defenseman **Ryan Johnson** and goaltender **Devon Levi**.

In 19 games with the Amerks, Kozak has already established a new career-high in goals with six, doing so in 23 fewer games than last season.

The Souris, Manitoba, native is in his third season playing for the red, white, and blue. In 115 games as an Amerk, Kozak has 16 goals and 32 points to go with 80 penalty minutes.



NO METSA'IN AROUND

Second-year defenseman **Zachary Metsa** enters the contest sixth on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester blueliners with 16 points (1+15) through his first 28 games.

Metsa has points in 10 of his last 24 games, which included stringing together consecutive multi-point games for the first time in his career. He totaled five assists in that span, punctuated by a three-assist effort in the win over Hartford on Nov. 8.

The second-year blueliner's 16 points are currently seventh-most in league scoring by a defenseman, just two back of former teammate Jeremy Davies.

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 15 assists, five of which have come on the power-play.

MURRAY SPECIAL AND MR. 300

Eight of **Brett Murray's** team-leading 12 goals this season have come on the power-play, including three which ended up being the game-winner.

The veteran forward currently leads the AHL in power-play goals and also ranks second on the Amerks in points with 21 (12+9) through 28 games. He comes into the weekend with points in four straight games, including multi-goal efforts in back-to-back outings and goals in three consecutive for the first time in his professional career. Murray has reached the 20-point mark in all six seasons with the Amerks since joining Rochester ahead of the 2019-20 campaign.

Prior to scoring his first even strength goal of the season earlier this month 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 today having played 287 games as an Amerk, Murray is 13 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 63 games away from tying Don McSween for 20th on the franchise's all-time games played list (348).



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