

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Saturday | **Dec. 28, 2024** | 7:00 PM | Adirondack Bank Center | AHL Game 451 | 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 play their final game of the 2024 calendar year and bring the the month of December to a close tonight as the home-and-home series shifts to Utica for a rematch against the Comets (6-15-1-2) at Adirondack Bank Center. The North Division matchup will be carried live on 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

The Amerks enter the weekend with most road wins (12) across the AHL and are one point ahead of Laval for first place in the AHL's North Division standings. Every team in the division has at least a game in hand over Rochester, which has 25 points on the road this season and remain the only team from the division with double digits in wins (12) on away ice.

Rochester has earned at least one point in 20 of its last 26 games dating back to Oct. 23 and have won 10 of its last 12 games.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST UTICA

Rochester is 5-1-0-0 on the season and has outscored the Comets 25-14 through the first six games of the season series, four of which came prior to the start of December.

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 season series during the 2023-24 campaign.

The Amerks show a 15-8-1-1 record in Utica over the past five seasons while showing a 16-9-1-0 mark in the Flower City.

Rochester has scored at least one power-play goal in 25 of the 52 games (34-for-165) against Utica dating back to the start of the 2020-21 season.

**Isak Rosén** (3+4), **Brett Murray** (3+3), **Riley Fiddler-Schultz** (3+1), and **Konsta Helenius** (3+1) all have scored three goals against Utica this season while **Anton Wahlberg** (2+1) and **Brendan Warren** (2+0) both have a pair of goals.

Goaltenders **Michael Houser**, **Felix Sandström**, and **Devon Levi** have combined to allow 14 goals versus the Comets, each earning at least one victory. Houser shows a 1.61 goals-against-average while Levi and Sandström have a mark of 2.51 and 3.14, respectively.

### LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks erased a pair of two-goal deficits and erupted for five straight unanswered goals, including four in the third period, on their way to a decisive 6-3 win over the intrastate rival Utica Comets in the first leg of a home-and-home series Friday at The Blue Cross Arena.

Rochester has now won 10 of its last 12 games and has earned at least one point in 20 of its last 26 dating back to Oct. 23 to move into sole possession of first place in the AHL's North Division standings.

**Riley Fiddler-Schultz** (2+0), **Isak Rosén** (1+1), **Ty Tullio** (0+2) and **Ethan Prow** (0+2) all produced a multi-point effort for Rochester, which has outscored Utica 13-4 in the final 20 minutes this season. **Graham Slaggert**, **Viktor Neuchev**, and **Brett Murray** all scored one goal each while **Lukas Rousek**, **Zachary Metsa** and **Tyson Kozak** all notched an assist.

Goaltender **Devon Levi** made 23 saves on his 23rd birthday to improve to 10-2-1 with Rochester this season. The netminder, who boasts a 2-0-0 mark against the Comets this season, is 9-1-0 in his last 10 appearances overall.

### 2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	27	13	13	26	2	4
Brett Murray	30	14	9	23	3	10
Viktor Neuchev	30	6	13	19	-2	6

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	13	10-2-1	297	.911	2.21
Michael Houser	10	4-3-1	212	.898	2.68
Felix Sandström	9	4-4-1	195	.886	3.08

### 2024-25 UTICA OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Adam Beckman	19	6	11	17	-3	6
Brian Halonen	24	9	6	15	-4	22
Nolan Foote	20	5	10	15	-7	10

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Isaac Poulter	10	3-4-2	210	.879	3.18
Nico Daws	16	3-11-1	406	.892	3.30

### 2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Utica Comets	Rochester Americans
6-15-1-2.....	<b>Record</b> ..... 18-9-3-0
1-7-0-2.....	<b>Home Record</b> ..... 6-6-2-0
5-8-1-0.....	<b>Road Record</b> ..... 12-3-1-0
5-5-0-0.....	<b>Last 10 Games</b> ..... 8-2-0-0
0-1.....	<b>Overtime Record</b> ..... 1-3
0-2.....	<b>Shootout Record</b> ..... 3-0
3-3-1-0.....	<b>Record When Scoring First</b> ..... 12-5-1-0
21.3% (4th).....	<b>Power-Play</b> ..... 14.8% (25th)
76.0% (30th).....	<b>Penalty Kill</b> .....84.0% (13th)
Dec. 27 @ ROC (6-3 L).....	<b>Last Game</b> ..... Dec. 27 vs UTC (6-3 W)
Ryan Parent (1st, Interim).....	<b>Head Coach</b> ..... 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
Nov. 23	L	5-1	36-28	0-1	2-4
Dec. 4	W	3-2	23-23	0-2	2-2
Dec. 27	W	6-3	37-26	0-2	4-4



## MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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## LEANING ON LEVI

**Devon Levi**, who has started 13 of the last 16 games for Rochester, boasts a 10-2-1 record this season with a 2.21 goals-against-average that ranks eighth-best amongst all AHL goaltender. He's also tied for fifth in wins (10).

On the heels of his second shutout in eight days, the 23-year-old Levi has guided the Amerks to standings points in 30 of his 38 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 12 of his last 13 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 Dec. 15, saw his six-game win streak snapped on Dec. 18, which matched a career-high. He hasn't allowed more than two goals in seven of his last 10 games and has stopped 205 of the 223 shots he's faced over that span, good for a 1.89 goals-against average and a .923 save percentage.

Levi enters the weekend as one of only 12 AHL goaltenders with multiple shutouts this season and one of just four netminders with multiple assists, trailing only former Buffalo Sabres draft pick and Lehigh Valley netminder Cal Petersen, who leads all AHL goaltenders with three points this season.



## HELENIUS, WAHLBERG COMPETING AT WORLDS

Prior to the holiday break, the Buffalo Sabres reassigned forwards **Konsta Helenius** (Finland) and **Anton Wahlberg** (Sweden) to their respective national junior teams ahead of the 2025 IIHF World Junior Championship. The 10-day annual international event began Thursday and will end with the gold medal game on Sunday, Jan. 5 in Ottawa, Ontario.

The 2025 tournament is the second straight appearance and fifth international event overall for Helenius, who was Buffalo's first-round selection in last year's NHL Draft. He finished the 2024 event with a goal and an assist in seven games while leading Finland to a fourth-place finish.

He also notched one assist in four games while competing for Finland at the 2024 World Championship as the youngest player in the tournament. In 2017, he helped the Finns win a bronze medal at the U-17 Hockey Challenge after finishing with a team-high 11 points (2+9) in seven games.

Wahlberg, too, is making his second straight appearance at the annual event and fourth overall with Sweden. Wahlberg has medaled in every international event in which he's represented Sweden, including winning a silver medal at last year's tournament after recording three points (1+2) in seven games.

Through the first two games of the 2025 tournament, Wahlberg has a pair of goals and two assists while Helenius has one point (0+1).



## NO METSA'IN AROUND

Defenseman **Zachary Metsa** enters the contest tied for third on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester blueliners with 19 points (2+17) while being one of only two Amerks defensemen to appear in all 30 games.

Metsa has points in 12 of his last 26 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 19 points are currently sixth-most in league scoring by a defenseman with 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 third amongst all AHL defensemen with 17 assists, five of which have come on the power-play.

## MURRAY SPECIAL AND MR. 300

Eight of **Brett Murray's** team-leading 14 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 23 (14+9) through 30 games. He comes into the weekend with points in six straight games, including multi-goal efforts in back-to-back outings and goals in three straight games 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 tonight having played 289 games as an Amerk, Murray is 11 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 59 games away from tying Don McSween for 20th on the franchise's all-time games played list (348).



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