

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Friday | **January 3, 2025** | 7:05 PM | MassMutual Center | AHL Game 476 | 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 (19-9-3-0) usher in the New Year tonight when they head to MassMutual Center for a 7:05 p.m. contest with the Springfield Thunderbirds (13-14-2-1). 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.

The Amerks enter the month with most road wins (13) across the AHL and are two points ahead of Cleveland and Toronto for first place in the AHL's North Division standings. With the exception of the Monsters, every team in the division has at least a game in hand over Rochester, which has 27 points on the road this season and remain the only team from the division with double digits in wins (13) on away ice.

Rochester has earned at least one point in 21 of its last 27 games dating back to Oct. 23 and has won 11 of its last 13 games.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST SPRINGFIELD

The two teams have split the season-series in each of the last five seasons with each team posting one win as well as a loss. The Amerks suffered their first lost on home ice against Springfield during the 2023-24 season and show a 6-1-0-0 mark at home compared to a 2-1-1-1 mark on the road.

Since the start of the 2016-17 season, there have been seven one-goal games, four two-goal contests and three seven-plus goal outings over the previous 16 contests between Springfield and Rochester.

By way of a 4-3 shootout loss back on Dec. 13, 2023 and a 7-1 win on Feb. 25, 2024, the Amerks have earned points in back-to-back road games in Massachusetts for the first time since the 2019-20 campaign.

While goaltender **Devon Levi** has yet to face Springfield in his career, **Felix Sandström** shows a 2-2-1 mark in five career appearances. The Sweden native has logged both of his wins on the road versus the Thunderbirds.

LAST TIME OUT

On the strength of his first two-goal outing since last October, captain **Mason Jobst** (2+0) gave the Amerks a 3-2 victory in the first minute of overtime to complete a two-game sweep of the Utica Comets this past Saturday at Adirondack Bank Center.

Rochester has won 11 of its last 13 games – including its sixth straight on the road – and has earned at least one point in 21 of its last 27 contests dating back to Oct. 23. Additionally, the Amerks, who improved to 6-1-0-0 in the season series against Utica, closed out the 2024 calendar year in first place in the AHL's North Division standings.

Along with Jobst's two-point outing, **Kale Clague** (1+1) and **Lukas Rousek** also recorded two points in the victory, Rochester's league-leading 13th road win of the season and 14th of the last 15 games on the road against the Comets dating back to last season.

Riley Fiddler-Schultz, who sparked last Friday's win over Utica with the first two-goal game of his AHL career, tallied an assist for his sixth point (4+2) over his last six contests. **Vsevolod Komarov** closed out the scoring as he earned his seventh helper on Clague's second-period goal.

Goaltender **Felix Sandström** pushed his record to 5-4-1 with Rochester as he made 23 saves in his 10th appearance of the season and first since Dec. 14. The netminder, who boasts a 2-1-0 mark against the Comets on the slate, has won his last two contests while allowing a pair of goals in each game.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	28	13	13	26	1	4
Brett Murray	31	14	9	23	2	10
Lukas Rousek	31	3	17	20	5	20

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	10	5-4-1	218	.890	2.96

*=Currently with Jacksonville (ECHL)

2024-25 T-BIRDS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Matt Luff	23	11	12	23	-3	10
Aleksanteri Kaskimaki	29	9	6	15	-4	22
Dalibor Dvorsky*	27	11	10	21	0	2

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Colten Ellis*	15	8-5-2	458	.916	2.80
Vadim Zherenko	14	5-8-1	371	.885	3.48

*=Currently with St. Louis (NHL)

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Springfield Thunderbirds vs Rochester Americans

13-14-2-1.....	Record	19-9-3-0
10-8-0-0.....	Home Record	6-6-2-0
3-6-2-1.....	Road Record	13-3-1-0
3-5-1-1.....	Last 10 Games	8-2-0-0
3-2.....	Overtime Record	2-3
0-1.....	Shootout Record	3-0
8-6-0-0.....	Record When Scoring First	12-5-1-0
16.8% (19th).....	Power-Play	14.8% (26th)
77.4% (28th).....	Penalty Kill	84.0% (13th)
Dec. 31 vs HFD (7-0 L).....	Last Game Dec. 28 @ UTC (3-2 OTW)	
Steve Konowalchuk (1st).....	Head Coach	Michael Leone (1st)

2023-24 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. SPRINGFIELD

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 13	SOL	4-3	20-42	0-2	1-1
Jan. 20	W	7-3	41-17	0-2	2-3



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LEANING ON LEVI

Devon Levi, who has started 13 of the last 17 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 new year 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.



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 20 points (2+18) while being one of only two Amerks defensemen to appear in all 31 games.

Metsa has points in 13 of his last 27 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 20 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 18 assists, five of which have come on the power-play.

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 later this weekend 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 three games of the 2025 tournament, Wahlberg has three goals and three assists while Helenius has three points (0+3).

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 with 23 points (14+9) through 31 games. He comes into the weekend with points in six of his last seven 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 in December 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 290 games as an Amerk, Murray is 10 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 58 games away from tying Don McSween for 20th on the franchise's all-time games played list (348).



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