

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Sat. | **January 4, 2025** | 5:00 PM | Total Mortgage Arena | AHL Game 481 | 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 (20-9-3-0) look for their sixth straight win - and and eighth consecutive on the road - when they head to Total Mortgage Arena for a 5:00 p.m. contest with the Bridgeport Islanders (7-19-2-2). 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 weekend with most road wins (14) across the AHL and are three 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 29 points on the road this season and are just one of three teams in the AHL with 20 or more wins and the only Eastern Conference team to do so.

Rochester has earned at least one point in 22 of its last 28 games dating back to Oct. 23 and has won 12 of its last 14 games overall.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST BRIDGEPORT

Tonight is only the 23rd all-time meeting between the two teams and the third since opening night in Rochester last season.

The Amerks have earned points in 13 of the last 14 meetings against Bridgeport dating back to the 2017-18 campaign and boast a 7-0-3-0 mark in the previous 10 home contests at The Blue Cross Arena.

In 16 of the last 18 meetings, the winning team has scored three or more goals, which includes at least one power-play tally in 12 contests over that same span.

11 of the previous 18 games between the two clubs have been decided beyond regulation, which includes six straight and seven of the last eight.

### LAST TIME OUT

Multi-point performances from **Zachary Metsa** (0+3) and **Riley Fiddler-Schultz** (2+0) helped the Amerks storm out to a three-goal second-period lead before ultimately paving the way to a 5-2 victory over the Springfield Thunderbirds in the first game of the new year Friday at MassMutual Center.

Coming off last night's win, Rochester has won 12 of its last 14 games and has earned at least one point in 22 of its last 28 dating back to Oct. 23 while maintaining possession of first place in the AHL's North Division standings. Additionally, the Amerks have earned points in three straight road games in Massachusetts against the Thunderbirds dating back to the 2022-23 campaign and have won seven straight on the road while also becoming just the third team this season to reach the 20-win mark

Along with Metsa and Fiddler-Schultz leading the Amerks with a multi-point effort, **Brendan Warren** and **Brett Murray** scored in the first and second periods, respectively, before **Lukas Rousek** capped the win with his fourth.

**Isak Rosen**, **Graham Slaggert**, **Olivier Nadeau**, **Tyson Kozak**, **Josh Dunne**, and **Nikita Novikov** all notched an assist.

Goaltender **Devon Levi** (11-2-1) earned his fourth straight win and 10th of his last 11 outings with Rochester as he made 33 saves in his 14th appearance of the season. The netminder, who boasts a 15-2-2 record in 19 career road games with the Amerks, which includes a 7-0-0 mark this season, is tied for fourth in the AHL with 11 wins while his 2.19 goals-against-averages ranks eighth-best.

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

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	29	13	14	27	1	4
Brett Murray	32	15	9	24	2	10
Zachary Metsa	32	2	21	23	10	10

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	14	11-2-1	330	.914	2.19
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 ISLANDERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Brian Pinho	30	15	9	24	-7	8
Chris Terry	29	4	19	23	-6	12
Alex Jefferies	26	7	13	20	-6	6

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Marcus Hogberg*	11	2-5-3	299	.898	3.26
Jakub Skarek	15	4-9-1	372	.892	3.30

\*=Currently with New York Islanders (NHL)

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

**Bridgeport Islanders** vs **Rochester Americans**

7-19-2-2.....	<b>Record</b> .....	20-9-3-0
1-11-0-2.....	<b>Home Record</b> .....	6-6-2-0
6-8-2-0.....	<b>Road Record</b> .....	14-3-1-0
2-7-1-0.....	<b>Last 10 Games</b> .....	9-1-0-0
0-2.....	<b>Overtime Record</b> .....	2-3
0-2.....	<b>Shootout Record</b> .....	3-0
7-7-0-0.....	<b>Record When Scoring First</b> .....	13-5-1-0
14.7% (19th).....	<b>Power-Play</b> .....	15.4% (26th)
73.2% (28th).....	<b>Penalty Kill</b> .....	83.8% (13th)
Dec. 28 @ SPR (7-5 W).....	<b>Last Game</b> .....	Jan. 3 @ SPR (5-2 W)
Rick Kowalsky (2nd)....	<b>Head Coach</b> .....	Michael Leone (1st)

### 2023-24 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. BRIDGEPORT

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 13	OTL	4-3	27-42	0-2	1-2
Apr. 7	SOW	5-5	30-37	0-2	4-4



## MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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

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Ryan Harr | Manager of Community & Public Relations





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## LEANING ON LEVI

**Devon Levi**, who has started 14 of the last 19 games, boasts an 11-2-1 record this season with a 2.19 goals-against-average that ranks eighth-best amongst all AHL goaltender. He's also tied for fourth in wins (11).

On the heels of his second shutout in eight days, the 23-year-old Levi has guided the Amerks to standings points in 32 of his 40 games with Rochester, dating back to his debut with the team last December. He is 15-2-2 in 19 career road games with Rochester, which includes a perfect 7-0-0 mark this season.

Last night's win over Springfield was the just the second time Levi faced 30 or more shots this season. The Sabres' prospect faced fewer than 30 shots in 12 of his last 14 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 eight of his last 11 games and has stopped 238 of the 258 shots he's faced over that span, good for a 1.90 goals-against average and a .925 save percentage.

Levi enters the weekend as one of only 13 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 14 of his last 28 games, which included stringing together an assist in four straight games for the first time in his career. He's totaled seven points (1+6) since Dec. 22, punctuated by his second three-assist effort of the campaign in the win over Springfield last night.

The second-year blueliner's 23 points are currently tied for third-most in league scoring by a defenseman, just four back of Charlotte's Trevor Carrick.

Metsa, who captained Quinnipiac University to its first-ever NCAA National Championship in 2023, is also tied for second amongst all AHL defensemen with 21 assists, just two back of the league-lead amongst all positions.

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.

## 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.

Going into today's semifinals against one another, Wahlberg has four goals and three assists while Helenius has three points (0+3) in five games.

## MURRAY SPECIAL AND MR. 300

Nine of **Brett Murray's** team-leading 15 goals this season have come on the power-play, including four 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 24 points (15+9) through 32 games. He comes into the weekend with points in seven of his last eight 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 new career-high (9) through the first 31 games of this season.

Coming into tonight having played 291 games as an Amerk, Murray is nine 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 57 games away from tying Don McSween for 20th on the franchise's all-time games played list (348).



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