

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Saturday | **January 18, 2025** | 7:05 PM | PPL Center | AHL Game 573 | 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

After suffering a 3-2 shootout defeat Friday night at The Blue Cross Arena, the Rochester Americans (22-10-3-1) look for redemption by splitting the two-game set with the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (19-14-5-1) as the series shifts to PPL Center. The matchup, which is the final meeting between the two clubs this season, is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

The Amerks, who will close out the three-and-three weekend on the road, enter the weekend with the most road wins (15) across the AHL and are one point behind Laval for first place in the AHL's North Division standings with 48 points.

Rochester has scored a division-leading 123 goals, which are fourth-most in the AHL. Additionally, the club has 31 points on the road this season and are one of three teams in the North Division with 20 or more wins.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST LEHIGH VALLEY

Dating back to the 2019-20 season, Amerks forward **Brett Murray** has recorded six points (4+2) in six career games against Lehigh Valley. He enters tonight on a five-game point streak versus the Phantoms.

Home ice has played a significant factor in the season series for both teams over the last seven years as the Amerks boast a 5-1-1-1 record against Lehigh Valley in Rochester dating back to the 2016-17 campaign. Conversely, the Amerks are 1-4-0-1 in Allentown in that same time frame, including each of the last two, where they have been outscored 10-5.

In each of the 17 contests between the two clubs dating back to Dec. 9, 2016, the winning team has scored at least three goals. Each team has logged one home shutout during that time, including a 6-0 win for the Amerks back on Jan. 17, 2024.

Rochester's last visit in Allentown came against current netminder **Felix Sandström** back on Nov. 25, 2023. Eleven of the 18 Rochester skaters logged at least one point in the 5-4 regulation defeat. Current Amerk **Lukas Rousek** scored a first-period power-play goal while **Nikita Novikov**, **Viktor Neuchev**, and captain **Mason Jobst** each recorded an assist. Rochester was outshot 49-15 during the contest, which included a regular-season, season-high 19 in the first period of play and 49 overall.

### LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks erased a pair of one-goal deficits during the third period to force overtime, but were unable to secure the extra point as the Phantoms stole a 3-2 decision in the fourth round of the shootout Friday at The Blue Cross Arena.

Forward **Josh Dunne** pushed his point streak to a season-best five-games as he scored his sixth goal of the season before **Brett Murray** tied the contest in the final frame with his team-leading 17th. Dunne's point streak is one shy from matching his AHL best and longest since he posted a five-game streak from Feb. 25 to Mar. 16, 2023 as a member of the Cleveland Monsters.

**Noah Östlund** and **Riley Fiddler-Schultz** both had an assist on Dunne's goal while **Lukas Rousek** and **Jack Rathbone** had the helpers on Murray's.

Goaltender **Devon Levi** (12-3-2) suffered the defeat while making his 16th appearance in the last 23 games for Rochester. The Quebec native has guided the Amerks to standings points in 33 of his 43 games with the club dating back to his debut with the team in December 2023.

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

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	33	14	14	28	2	4
Brett Murray	36	17	11	28	6	12
Lukas Rousek	36	6	20	26	10	32

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	16	12-3-2	418	.913	2.33
Felix Sandström	11	6-4-1	254	.894	2.96
Michael Houser	10	4-3-1	212	.898	2.68

### 2024-25 LEHIGH VALLEY OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Samu Tuomaala	35	8	17	25	-17	28
Jacob Gaucher	39	14	10	24	-2	39
Olle Lycksell*	25	9	15	24	4	8

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Parker Gahagen	9	5-1-1	211	.902	2.77
Eetu Makiniemi	5	3-0-1	124	.899	3.03
Cal Petersen	24	10-11-3	546	.881	3.30

\*=Currently with Philadelphia (NHL)

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

**Lehigh Valley Phantoms** vs **Rochester Americans**

19-14-5-1.....	<b>Record</b> .....	22-10-3-1
10-5-2-1.....	<b>Home Record</b> .....	7-6-2-1
9-9-3-0.....	<b>Road Record</b> .....	15-4-1-0
7-2-1-0.....	<b>Last 10 Games</b> .....	7-2-0-1
7-5.....	<b>Overtime Record</b> .....	2-3
2-1.....	<b>Shootout Record</b> .....	3-1
11-4-3-0.....	<b>Record When Scoring First</b> .....	13-5-1-0
17.5% (12th).....	<b>Power-Play</b> .....	15.3% (25th)
83.8% (16th).....	<b>Penalty Kill</b> .....	82.9% (T-20th)
Jan. 17 @ ROC (3-2 SOW)..	<b>Last Game</b> .....	Jan. 17 vs LV (3-2 SOL)
Ian Laperrière (4th).....	<b>Head Coach</b> .....	Michael Leone (1st)

### 2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. LEHIGH VALLEY

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Jan. 17	SOL	3-2	32-33	0-5	3-3



## MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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## LEANING ON THE ALL-STAR LEVI

**Devon Levi**, who has started 17 of the last 23 games, boasts a 12-3-2 record this season with a 2.33 goals-against-average that ranks eighth-best amongst all qualified AHL goaltenders. He's also tied for fifth in wins (12).

On the heels of his second shutout in eight days, the 23-year-old Levi has guided the Amerks to standings points in 34 of his 43 games with Rochester, dating back to his debut with the team last December. He is 15-3-2 in 19 career road games with Rochester, which includes a near-perfect 7-1-0 mark this season.

Last night's shootout loss was the just the fifth time Levi faced 30 or more shots this season. The Sabres' prospect has faced fewer than 30 shots in 12 of his last 17 starts this season, while seeing less than 30 pucks just seven times in 2023-24.

Levi, who was named to the 2025 AHL All-Star roster last week, saw his six-game win streak snapped on Dec. 18, which matched a career-high. He hasn't allowed more than two goals in 10 of his last 14 games and has stopped 326 of the 355 shots he's faced over that span, good for a 2.13 goals-against average and a .921 save percentage.

Levi enters the weekend as one of only 14 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.



## BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Goaltender **Felix Sandström** makes his first visit back to Allentown tonight and is expected to get the start against the team he played with for parts of the last six seasons prior to signing with Buffalo during the offseason.

Sandström, 28, was drafted by the Philadelphia Flyers in 2015 and spent his first six professional seasons in North America with the organization.

Through 88 games with Lehigh Valley, the veteran goaltender posted a 39-29-13 record with two shutouts. He also appeared in 30 NHL games with the Flyers, including five last season while boasting a 1-2-0 record.

Sandström enters the weekend having won his last three starts. In his first season with Rochester, the 10-year pro has posted a 6-4-1 record and will make his 100th AHL appearance in his next start.



## NO METSA'IN AROUND

Defenseman **Zachary Metsa** enters the contest fourth on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester blueliners with 24 points (2+22) while being Amerks defensemen to appear in all 35 games.

Metsa has points in 17 of his 35 contests, which included stringing together an assist in five straight games for the first time in his career. He's totaled eight points (1+7) since Dec. 22, punctuated by his second three-assist effort of the campaign in the win over Springfield back on Jan. 3.

The second-year blueliner's 24 points are fifth-most in league scoring by a defenseman, just six back of Charlotte's Trevor Carrick.

Metsa, who captained Quinnipiac University to its first-ever NCAA National Championship in 2023, is also fourth amongst all AHL defensemen with 22 assists.

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.

## MURRAY SPECIAL AND MR. 300

Nine of **Brett Murray's** team-leading 17 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 tied for first on the Amerks with 28 points (17+11) through 36 games. He comes into the weekend with points in 10 of his last 12 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 295 games as an Amerk, Murray is five 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 53 games away from tying Don McSween for 20th on the franchise's all-time games played list (348).



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