

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Fri. | **Jan. 31, 2025** | 7:05 PM | Blue Cross Arena | AHL Game 654 | 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 (25-12-3-1) continue their stretch of 11 straight games against North Division opponents tonight when they host the Syracuse Crunch (18-14-5-4) in the first half of a home-and-home series at The Blue Cross Arena. The matchup will be the sixth of 12 meetings between the two teams this season and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

The Amerks come into the matchup with the most road wins (17) across the AHL and sit just one point behind Laval for first place in the North Division standings with 54 points through 41 games season.

Rochester has scored a division-leading 143 goals, which are second-most in the AHL. Additionally, the Amerks have an AHL-best 35 points on the road this season and have a 4-0-0-1 mark in the last five contests at home.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST SYRACUSE

Rochester is ahead 3-2-0-0 in the season series after sweeping the Crunch in a home-and-home to close out the month of November before spitting a two-game set before Christmas.

Prior to the 5-2 defeat back on Dec. 18, the Amerks had won four straight meetings against the Crunch dating back to last season and blanked Syracuse twice over that span, including **Devon Levi's** first pro shutout in a 3-0 win back on Nov. 29.

Rochester owns a 3-29-5-2 record against the Crunch dating back to the start of 2016-17 regular season when they score two or fewer goals. On the other hand, when the Amerks score three or more goals over that same span, the club shows a 38-11-5-0 mark.

**Isak Rosén** (6+8) leads all Amerks in scoring against the Crunch dating back to last season as he and **Nikita Novikov** are the only two skaters to appear in all 17 contests. Goaltender **Devon Levi** is 5-4-2 with 250 saves in nine contests against Syracuse.

### LAST TIME OUT

Thirteen different Amerks recorded at least one point and six produced multi-point efforts in a 7-4 throttling of the Utica Comets Wednesday at Blue Cross Arena.

With the win, the Amerks, who have an 8-1-0-0 mark against the Comets through the first nine games of the season series, have won 17 of their last 23 contests while earning at least one point in 28 of their last 37 games dating back to Oct. 23. Rochester has outscored Utica 40-21 on the campaign, while also going 4-0-0-1 in its last five home games overall.

**Isak Rosén** (2+0), who is tied for fourth in the AHL in goals (20), scored twice to reach the 20-goal mark for the second consecutive year while becoming the first Amerk to do so in 2024-25. **Riley Fiddler-Schultz**, **Nikita Novikov**, and **Nicolas Aubé-Kubel**, who made his Amerks debut, each chipped in a goal and assist. **Zachary Metsa** and **Josh Dunne** tallied a pair of helpers while **Jack Rathbone**, **Lukas Rousek**, **Ryan Johnson**, **Mason Jobst**, and **Kale Clague** all posted an assist **Viktor Neuchev** and **Anton Wahlberg** rounded out the scoring with their seventh goals of the season.

Goaltender **Devon Levi** improved to 13-4-2 through his first 19 appearances with Rochester this season. The netminder, who has helped the Amerks to at least one standings point in 35 of his 45 games since making his debut in December of 2023, finished with 22 saves.

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

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	38	20	16	36	1	6
Brett Murray	41	18	15	33	8	16
Lukas Rousek	41	3	27	30	10	10

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	19	13-4-2	466	.910	2.40
Felix Sandström	13	8-4-1	305	.897	2.89
Michael Houser	11	4-4-1	237	.891	2.92

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

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Derrick Pouliot	40	5	28	33	13	20
Conor Sheary	29	9	15	24	7	12
Jesse Ylönen	41	8	14	22	3	16

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Brandon Halverson	24	12-6-6	602	.925	2.02
Matt Tomkins*	17	6-8-3	443	.900	2.87

\*=Currently with Tampa Bay (NHL)

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

Syracuse Crunch vs Rochester Americans

18-14-5-4.....**Record**.....25-12-3-1

8-6-3-4.....**Home Record**.....8-6-2-1

10-8-2-0.....**Road Record**.....17-6-1-0

7-3-0-0.....**Last 10 Games**.....6-3-0-1

2-5.....**Overtime Record**.....2-3

2-4.....**Shootout Record**.....3-1

12-1-2-2.....**Record When Scoring First**.....15-6-1-0

14.4% (30th).....**Power-Play**.....17.8% (19th)

82.1% (18th).....**Penalty Kill**.....82.6% (T-14th)

Jan. 25 vs CLE (4-3 W).....**Last Game**.....Jan. 29 vs UTC (7-4 W)

Joel Bouchard (2nd).....**Head Coach**.....Michael Leone (1st)

### 2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. SYRACUSE

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Nov. 29	W	3-0	15-20	2-6	6-6
Nov. 30	SOW	3-2	47-15	1-7	5-6
Dec. 18	L	5-2	33-28	0-3	2-2
Dec. 20	W	3-1	26-23	0-5	5-5
Jan. 20	L	6-2	30-35	0-0	3-6



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## AUBE-KUBEL ASSIGNED TO AMERKS

After clearing waivers Tuesday afternoon, the Buffalo Sabres loaned newcomer **Nicolas Aube-Kubel** to Rochester. The forward began the season in Buffalo, where he produced two points (1+1) in 19 games.

Aube-Kubel is a ninth-year pro and Stanley Cup champion, hoisting the cup with Colorado in 2022. Prior to recording two points (1+1) in his Amerks debut Wednesday, he last played in the AHL a season ago, skating in 11 games with the Hershey Bears, but has previously been a steadfast in the NHL since 2020.

The Slave Lake, Alberta, native did most of his damage in the AHL while playing for Lehigh Valley, with his best season being the 2017-18 campaign where Aube-Kubel amassed 18 goals and 46 points across a full season. In the NHL, his best year was with the Avalanche, tallying 11 goals and 22 points in 67 games. |

In 241 career AHL contests, Aube-Kubel has totaled 110 points (52+58).

Aube-Kubel, 28, was selected in the second round of the 2014 NHL Draft by Philadelphia, where he spent parts of his first six professional seasons.



## NO METSA'IN AROUND

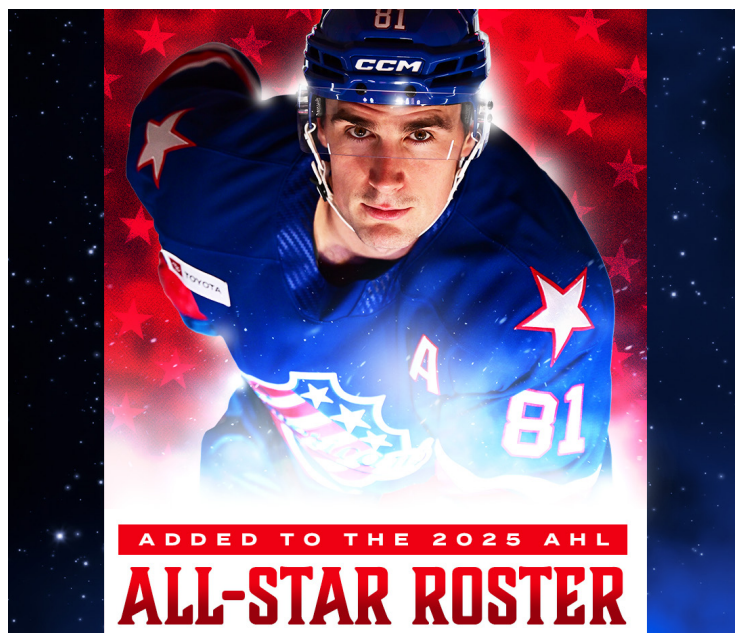
Defenseman **Zachary Metsa** enters the contest third on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester blueliners with a career-best 30 points (3+27) while being the only defenseman to appear in all 41 games.

Metsa has points in 21 of his 41 contests, which included stringing together an assist in five straight games for the first time in his career. He's totaled 14 points (2+12) 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 30 points are 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 tied for second amongst all AHL defensemen and tied for third overall with 27 assists.

Last season, the Delafield, Wisconsin, native logged seven goals and 24 points in 54 games, earning co-Rookie of the Year honors.



## MURRAY SPECIAL, MR. 300 AND ALL-STAR

Ten of **Brett Murray's** 18 goals this season have come on the power-play, including four which ended up being the game-winner.

Murray currently leads the AHL in power-play goals and ranks second on the Amerks with 33 points (18+15) through 41 games. He comes into the week with points in 11 of his last 17 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 and has scored at least 17 goals in each of the last three years.

The AHL announced Tuesday the addition of Murray to the 2025 AHL All-Star Rosters. Murray will represent the North Division alongside teammates **Isak Rosén** and **Devon Levi** for the upcoming 2025 AHL All-Star Classic

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.

On Wednesday against Utica, Murray became just the 28th forward in franchise history to appear in at least 300 games with the club and first since Phil Varone (306) did so during the 2015-16 campaign. He enters tonight 48 games away from tying Don McSween for 20th on the franchise's all-time games played list (348).



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