

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Sat. | **Feb. 22, 2025** | 5:05 PM | The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Game 786 | 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 first-place Rochester Americans (32-14-3-1) seek their third straight win at home tonight as they welcome the Toronto Marlies (27-14-2-5) to The Blue Cross Arena for the first time in over four months. The 5:05 p.m. matchup 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 having won nine of their last 11 games and sit just one point ahead of Laval and three of Hershey for first place in the AHL's standings with 68 points through 50 games.

Rochester, which is also leads the AHL with 177 goals, became just the third team this season to reach the 30-win mark, joining Laval and Hershey. After last Saturday's win at Utica, the Amerks have successfully reached the 30-win mark in each of the last nine seasons dating back to 2015-16.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST TORONTO

Tonight is the fourth meeting between the North Division rivals this season and the first in Rochester since Oct. 18. The Amerks earned a point in five of the six meetings last season overall, showing a 4-1-0-1 record.

The Amerks boast a 4-6-0-2 record against Toronto over the last six seasons in Rochester, which included earning five out of a possible six points on home ice last season. Overall, Rochester owns a 10-10-1-2 mark in the head-to-head series since the 2020-21 campaign.

Three of the last five games between the two clubs dating back to last season have featured a one-goal game while the other two have been a two-goal difference. The Amerks have scored in the first period in three of those five matchups while the Marlies have done the same in the middle frame.

Since the start of last season, there has been three games decided in overtime, including the most recent get-together between the two teams on Nov. 17, while a fourth has gone to a shootout. Rochester holds a 4-3-1-1 mark in the last nine games versus Toronto.

In 29 of the last 45 meetings between the two teams dating back to the 2016-17 season, the team that scored first has come away with the victory.

LAST TIME OUT

On the strength of five power-play goals from five different goal-scorers, the Amerks doubled up the Belleville Senators by a 6-3 score Friday night at The Blue Cross Arena.

For the second time in as many games, **Isak Rosén** (0+3) and **Noah Östlund** (0+2) both produced a multi-point outing for Rochester while **Konsta Helenius** (1+2) and **Kale Clague** (0+2) added their sixth and ninth, respectively. Helenius' three-point effort was career-high through his first 44 games of his AHL career.

Zachary Metsa, **Mason Jobst**, **Brett Murray**, **Josh Dunne**, and **Ryan Johnson** all found the back of the Belleville's net. Johnson's third-period tally was his first professional goal and the only one of the night not scored on the power-play for Rochester. Murray, meanwhile, matched a personal-best with his 23rd of the season and league-leading 12th on the power-play.

Lukas Rousek and **Nikita Novikov** closed out the scoring with one assist each while goaltender **Michael Houser** (5-4-1) made his first home start since Nov. 23, 2024. The veteran netminder finished with 28 saves to pick up his first AHL victory since Oct. 23, 2024.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	47	25	23	48	9	8
Brett Murray	50	23	16	39	12	20
Lukas Rousek	50	6	28	34	8	36

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	25	17-6-2	599	.915	2.26
Felix Sandström	15	10-4-1	370	.900	2.90
Michael Houser	13	5-4-1	276	.893	2.91

2024-25 MARLIES OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Alex Steeves*	40	29	17	49	9	28
Alexander Nylander	42	17	16	33	-11	10
Logan Shaw	45	7	21	28	-4	12

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Matt Murray	15	8-4-2	323	.934	1.68
Artur Akhtyamov	19	10-4-3	445	.904	2.66
Dennis Hildeby	16	9-5-2	385	.895	2.85

*=Currently on recall with Toronto (NHL)

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Toronto Marlies vs Rochester Americans

27-14-2-..... Record	32-14-3-1
14-6-0-3..... Home Record	12-8-2-1
13-8-2-2..... Road Record	20-6-1-0
5-3-0-2..... Last 10 Games	8-2-0-0
6-2..... Overtime Record	4-3
2-5..... Shootout Record	3-1
15-2-0-1..... Record When Scoring First	19-6-1-0
20.9% (6th)..... Power-Play	19.6% (9th)
84.0% (T-7th)..... Penalty Kill	84.9% (4th)
Feb. 21 @ SYR (5-0 L)..... Last Game	Feb. 21 vs BEL (6-3 W)
John Gruden (2nd)..... Head Coach	Michael Leone (1st)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. TORONTO

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 18	L	4-2	28-21	0-4	5-5
Oct. 19	L	3-2	37-23	0-7	4-4
Nov. 17	OTL	2-1	31-29	0-7	3-3



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ROSEN TO THE OCCASION

With nine goals and 17 points in his last 11 outings, **Isak Rosén** enters the weekend with the second-most goals (25) in the AHL, just four back of Toronto's Alex Steeves. The third-year pro has already surpassed last year's mark of 20 in an astonishing 23 fewer games and is on pace to become the first Amerk to reach 30-goal mark since fellow Swede Victor Olofsson in 2018-19.

The Stockholm, Sweden, native is also second in the AHL in scoring with 48 points in 47 games, just two points back of his 50-point (20+30) campaign from 2023-24 that saw him tie **Mason Jobst** for the team lead.

Named the AHL Player of the Week for period ending Feb. 2, Rosén leads all Amerks in goals (25), points (48), unassisted tallies (5), power-play assists (12) and is tied the lead in shots (123). The two-time AHL All-Star selection has also logged at least one point in 27 of his 47 contests this season and has been held without a point just seven times since Christmas.

A first-round choice (14th overall) by Buffalo in the 2021 NHL Draft, Rosén has totaled nine appearances and nine shots with the Sabres to date, including two this season.



MURRAY MAKING HIS MARK

Brett Murray, who has spent his entire professional career with the Buffalo Sabres organization, has scored half of his 23 goals this season on the power-play, including five which ended up being the game-winner.

Murray currently leads the AHL with 12 power-play goals and ranks second on the Amerks with 39 points (23+16) through 50 games. 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.

He comes into the weekend with points in 16 of his last 25 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. Murray, who represented the North Division alongside teammates **Isak Rosén** and **Devon Levi** at the 2025 AHL All-Star Classic, needs just four more goals and four more points to reach 100 and 200, respectively, for his AHL career.

Murray, who is just the 27th forward in franchise history to appear in at least 309 games with the club, is one goal away from tying Amerks Hall of Famer Steve Langdon for 20th all-time in franchise history. He's also 39 games away from tying Don McSween's mark of 348 games played.



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 a career-best 34 points (5+29) while being the only defenseman to appear in all 50 games.

Metsa has points in nearly half of his 50 contests, which included stringing together an assist in five straight games for the first time in his career. He's totaled 20 points (4+16) since Dec. 22, and has game-winning goals in back-to-back games for the first time in his professional career.

The second-year blueliner's 34 points are sixth-most amongst all AHL defenseman, six back of Syracuse's Derrick Pouliot and within one of former teammate and current Belleville Senator Jeremy Davies.

Metsa, who captained Quinnipiac University to its first-ever NCAA National Championship in 2023, is tied for seventh amongst all players with 29 assists.

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



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