

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Fri. | March 21, 2025 | 7:05 PM | Blue Cross Arena | AHL Game 954 | 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



vs



TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (35-17-3-3) embark on their first of back-to-back three-game weekends tonight as they close out their season series with the Charlotte Checkers (33-19-3-3) in final go-around at The Blue Cross Arena. The 7:00 p.m. matchup will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester, and on AHLTV on FloHockey.

The Amerks come into the matchup having earned at least one point in 14 of their last 19 games dating back to Jan. 25 and sit seven points behind Laval for first place in the North Division with 76 points. Rochester is also fourth overall in the AHL entering the weekend.

Rochester has scored the fifth-most goals in the AHL (199), trailing only Wilkes-Barre/Scranton amongst all Eastern Conference teams, and continue to lead the league AHL in road wins (20).

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST THE CHECKERS

Tonight is the fourth and final encounter between the Amerks and Checkers this season with Rochester looking to even the season series. This is also the second meeting in nine days between the two sides, as Charlotte skated out of the Flower City with a 4-3 win back on March 12.

Since the start of the 2022-23 season, **Brett Murray** (2+7), **Lukas Rousek** (1+6), and **Isak Rosén** (2+2) have combined for five goals and 20 points against the Checkers. Murray and Rousek have appeared in all 11 games versus Charlotte while Rosén has skated in all but two contests.

Netminder **Devon Levi** blanked the Checkers back on Dec. 7, marking his his second shutout in eight days. He and Charlotte's Ken Appleby have alternated shutouts against each other earlier this season and currently share the league lead with five perfect shutout performances overall.

Goaltenders **Michael Houser** (6-3-2) and **Felix Sandström** (5-6-0) have each posted a four-win season against Charlotte in their respective careers and together show an 11-10-2 combined record. Houser's (4-0-1) came in 2014-15 with San Antonio while Sandström (4-1-0) was nearly perfect opposite the Checkers during the 2023-24 campaign with Lehigh Valley.

Charlotte's current roster boasts four former Amerks in forwards Rasmus Asplund, Kyle Criscuolo, Zac Dalpe and 2018 AHL All-Star Challenge MVP C.J. Smith. Checkers assistant coach Bobby Sanguinetti also spent the 2015-16 season with Rochester, recording 15 points (7+8) in 40 games.

LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks rallied back from two different deficits to force overtime, eventually completing the rally in shootout fashion by way of a 4-3 win over the Providence Bruins last Friday night at Blue Cross Arena.

The win snapped a season-long five-game winless skid for the Amerks, who improved to 36-17-3-3 on the season. Rochester remains within three points of Laval for first place in the North Division with 76 points.

Newcomer **Erik Brännström** scored his third goal in two games as an Amerk, while **Mason Jobst** and **Isak Rosén** each scored game-tying third-period goals to help the Amerks get back in the win column. **Jack Rathbone**, **Lukas Rousek**, **Ryan Johnson**, and **Noah Östlund** all added assists.

After making 23 stops in regulation, **Devon Levi** (20-9-3) was especially stellar in overtime, denying several Grade-A, point-blank chances before stonewalling all three Providence shooters in the shootout to pick up his 20th win of the season.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	52	27	24	51	10	10
Brett Murray*	55	23	17	40	11	25
Lukas Rousek	58	6	31	37	9	42

GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	32	20-9-3	790	.915	2.29
Felix Sandström	15	10-4-1	370	.900	2.90
Michael Houser	14	5-4-2	292	.893	2.83

*=Currently with Buffalo (NHL)

2024-25 CHARLOTTE OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
John Leonard	58	28	19	47	17	16
Trevor Carrick	54	11	33	44	-4	42
Rasmus Asplund	55	17	21	38	-2	14

GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Cooper Black	14	9-3-1	254	.914	1.83
Ken Appleby	22	13-8-1	427	.905	2.04
Kaapo Kähkönen	27	7-18-1	623	.889	3.15

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Charlotte Checkers vs **Rochester Americans**

33-19-3-3.....	Record	35-17-3-3
17-11-2-0.....	Home Record	15-9-2-1
16-8-1-3.....	Road Record	20-7-1-2
5-4-0-1.....	Last 10 Games	5-3-0-2
4-3.....	Overtime Record	4-3
2-3.....	Shootout Record	5-3
25-5-1-2.....	Record When Scoring First	20-9-1-1
22.5% (3rd).....	Power-Play	19.0% (13th)
87.1% (1st).....	Penalty Kill	84.8% (T-5th)
Mar. 19 @ UTC (4-3 L).....	Last Game Mar. 14 vs PRO (4-3 SOW)	
Geordie Kinnear (5th).....	Head Coach	Michael Leone (1st)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. CHARLOTTE

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 6	L	6-0	19-35	0-4	2-3
Dec. 7	W	3-0	19-30	0-4	2-2
Mar. 12	L	4-3	24-23	1-4	2-4



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ROSEN TO THE OCCASION

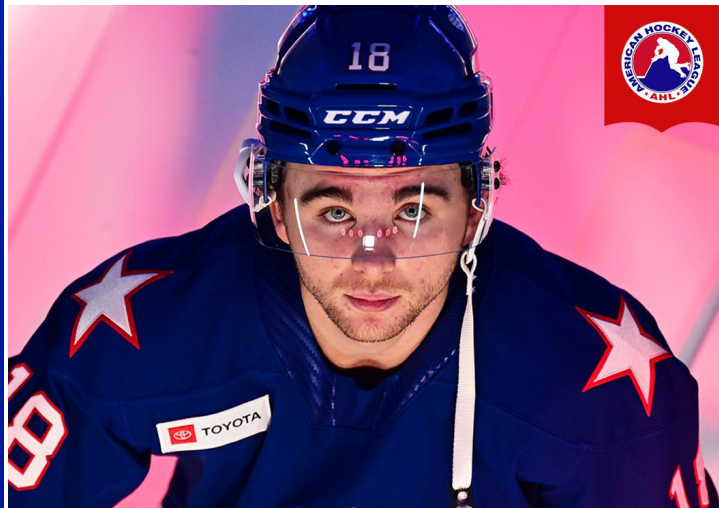
With 11 goals and 19 points in his last 16 outings, **Isak Rosén**, whose been recalled three times over the last three weeks, enters the weekend tied for fourth in the AHL in goals (27) and 10th in points (51) through 52 games this season.

The third-year pro has already surpassed last year's mark of 20 goals in an astonishing 19 fewer games and remains on pace to become the first Amerk to reach 30-goal mark since fellow Swede Victor Olofsson in 2018-19.

Coming off his one-goal, one-assist effort in the 5-2 win over Wilkes-Barre/Scranton back on Feb. 26, Rosen has recorded eight multi-point outings since the turn of the new year.

Named the AHL Player of the Week for period ending Feb. 2, Rosén leads all Amerks in goals (27), points (51), unassisted tallies (6), power-play assists (12) and ranks second in shots (143). The two-time AHL All-Star selection has been held without a point just 11 times since Christmas.

A first-round choice (14th overall) by Buffalo in the 2021 NHL Draft, Rosén has totaled 10 appearances and 10 shots with the Sabres to date, including three this season.



OSTI, OSTI, OSTI

Noah Östlund was among Rochester's top point-producers in the month of February. The rookie forward has tallied 11 goals and 24 points on the season, with 15 of his points (8+7) coming over the last five weeks. He's also found the back of the net in four of his last seven games.

The Stockholm, Sweden, native recorded five multi-point games in February, and on Feb. 15th in Utica, the Sabres' prospect scored his first career overtime-winner to lift the Amerks to a 4-3 win over the Comets.

Since Jan. 17, Östlund has amassed 22 points (10+12) over his last 23 games. The first-year pro's reliability in both the defensive and offensive zone shows, as Östlund leads all Rochester forwards in plus/minus (+14). His plus/minus is also the fifth-best mark across all AHL first-year forwards.

Östlund, who turned 21 on March 11, was taken in the first round of the 2022 NHL Draft when Buffalo selected him 16th overall. He was drafted 12 spots ahead of **Jiri Kulich** and a year after fellow Swede **Isak Rosén** was taken in the first round of the 2021 Draft.

BRÄNNSTRÖM BOOSTING AMERKS BLUELINE

The recent addition of defenseman **Erik Brännström** has proven to be a valuable one for Rochester's defensive corps.

The 25-year-old newccomer did not disappoint in his first week as an Amerk, scoring three goals while posting back-to-back multi-point efforts in his first two games since being acquired at the NHL trade deadline.

Despite Rochester dropping a 4-3 final to Charlotte back on March 12, the offensive defenseman stayed true to form, scoring twice for the red, white, and blue, including a goal in his first shift with the team. The multi-goal performance was Brännström's first in the AHL since his debut in the league with the Chicago Wolves back in October of 2018.

The Eksjö, Sweden, native then followed-up two days later with another two-point performance, this time by way of a goal and an assist, giving him four points through two games with Rochester. He carries a four-game point streak dating back to Feb. 16, totaling six points (3+3) over that span.

This season, Brännström has operated at over a point-per-game pace in the AHL, scoring six goals and 20 points in 16 games.

Over the course of his career, the seventh-year pro has logged 294 NHL games under his belt and was one of the first draft picks taken by the Vegas Golden Knights ahead of their inaugural season in 2017.



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