



Syracuse Crunch vs. Rochester Americans

Friday, October 6, 2017 @ The Blue Cross Arena, AHL Regular Season Game #4

TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans open their 62nd American Hockey League season – and 36th as the primary affiliate of the Buffalo Sabres – tonight at 7:05 p.m. against the Syracuse Crunch in the front-end of a home-and-home series Friday at The Blue Cross Arena. Tonight's matchup will be carried live on the Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

LAST YEAR'S RECAP VERSUS THE CRUNCH

- The Amerks stumbled last season against the Crunch, going just 2-8-0-0 after owning a 7-3-0-0 record during the 2015-16 season. The two victories versus Syracuse came within the friendly confines of The Blue Cross Arena; a 5-1 outcome followed by a 4-3 shootout win on Jan 6.
- Second-year forwards **Alex Nylander** (3+1) and **Daniel Muzito-Bagenda** (2+2) each paced the Amerks with four points throughout the season series against the Crunch.

OPENING THE SEASON

- The Amerks enter the new campaign with a 37-18-6 all-time home-opening record and have outscored their opponents 255-194 dating back to when the puck first dropped on Rochester's inaugural season in 1956. Additionally, Rochester enters with a 31-23-7 all-time record in season-opening games, outscoring its opponents 232-210 over the past 61 years.
- Tonight's Home Opener is the sixth straight year the Amerks have opened the season on home ice. The Amerks have scored six or more goals in six of their last seven home-opening wins dating back to an 8-5 victory over the Toronto Marlies to begin the 2005-06 season.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks close out the opening weekend of the season with a 7:00 p.m. rematch against the Crunch on Saturday, Oct. 6 as the home-and-home series shifts to War Memorial Arena in Syracuse. All of the action will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

NEW BENCH BOSS BEGINS NEW ERA

- Chris Taylor** was named head coach of the Amerks on June 30, becoming the 32nd coach and the 12th former Amerk in the 62-year history of the franchise to be appointed to the position. Taylor, who previously spent a total of 14 seasons in Rochester as a player and coach, returns to the organization after serving as an assistant coach with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins last season.

2016-17 FINAL REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS



TOTAL GOALS

232-205

38-24-7-7 (90 points)



32-41-0-3 (67 points)

2016-17 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Cole Schneider	71	24	39	63	45	9
Cal O'Reilly	47	9	33	42	6	1
Nick Baptiste	59	25	16	41	34	3

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	55	26-27-2	3,201	1,525	.909	2.87
John Muse	14	3-8-0	740:40	369	.907	3.08

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Oct. 7	@ Syracuse	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 13	vs. Utica	7:05 p.m.
Oct. 20	vs. Charlotte	7:05 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
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2016-17 YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	19-16-0-3	116	112	41
AWAY	13-25-0-0	89	128	26
TOTALS	32-41-0-3	205	240	67

2016-17 CRUNCH OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Cory Conacher	56	17	43	60	113	10
Matt Taormina	70	15	45	60	22	9
Yanni Gourde	56	22	26	48	54	11

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Kristers Gudlevskis	37	15-10-7	1,947	751	.897	2.65
Adam Wilcox	34	18-9-4	1,842	840	.895	2.87



//// SYRACUSE CRUNCH ////
GAME NOTES
 //// ROCHESTER AMERKS ////



- Taylor first joined the Amerks staff as development coach prior to the 2011-12 season following a successful 19-year professional career as a player that saw him become one of the all-time Amerk greats to ever don the red, white and blue.

- After spending parts of nine seasons with the Amerks between 1999 and 2011, Taylor finished his playing career ranked among the franchise's all-time leaders in assists (3rd, 339), games played (4th, 519), points (5th, 481) and goals (10th, 142). He also served as team captain during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons. Taylor received perhaps the highest honor of his career during the 2014-15 season when he was unanimously inducted into the Amerks Hall of Fame on Jan. 10, 2015 in his first year of eligibility, becoming the 56th member of the prestigious club.

LET'S GET REACQUAINTED

- As the Amerks and Crunch are set to begin their respective seasons, there are several former players on each club that played for the opposition. Michael Leighton (2005-06), Cory Conacher (2010-11), Jason Akeson (2015-16), and Mat Bodie (2016-17) all played for the Amerks while head coach Benoit Groulx manned the Rochester bench from 2008 until 2010.

- Rochester goaltender **Adam Wilcox** spent parts of the last three seasons with the Crunch, including a career-high 34 games last year. **Dalton Smith** (2013-15) and **Nathan Paetsch** (2010-11) also skated with Syracuse.

THE CAPTAINS

- After signing a two-year, two-way NHL contract with the Buffalo Sabres as a free agent on July 1, veteran forward **Kevin Porter** is back in Rochester, where he appeared in 98 games with the Amerks from 2012 until 2014. Porter was tabbed team captain for a third time with the Amerks by head Chris Taylor while veteran defensemen **Nathan Paetsch** and **Taylor Fedun** will serve as his assistants.

SCOUTING THE CRUNCH

- The Crunch come into the matchup as the reigning Eastern Conference champions after earning their second trip to the Calder Cup Finals this past spring. Syracuse fell 4-2 in six games to Nathan Paetsch and the Grand Rapids Griffins. That same Griffins team also had the likes of **Kyle Crisculo** and **Conor Allen**, both of whom are now with the Amerks.

- Syracuse returns only a handful of players from its 2016-17 squad, including top point-getter Cory Conacher, who paced all Crunch skaters a year ago with 60 points in just 56 games. The 27-year-old forward notched a career-high 43 assists while scoring 17 goals. He also added four points (1+3) in 11 games for the Tampa Bay Lightning.

AMERKS-CRUNCH 2016-17 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Cole Schneider	9	3	4	7	7	-5
Evan Rodrigues	7	2	3	5	4	1
Tim Kennedy	5	0	5	5	8	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC.	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	7	2-5-0	418:26	23	.905 3.30
Jason Kasdorf	2	0-2-0	118:12	13	.780 6.60

SYRACUSE

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Erik Condra	9	7	6	13	4	9
Matt Taormina	10	1	12	13	2	7
Yanni Gourde	10	6	6	12	6	3

GOALTENDER

GP	REC.	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Kristers Gudlevskis	5	4-0-1	303:04	12	.888 2.38
Adam Wilcox	5	4-1-0	300:42	13	.902 2.60

2016-17 FINAL SERIES GAME-BY-GAME VS. SYRACUSE

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 15	L	4-1	21-44	0-4	3-4
Oct. 16	L	6-3	21-30	0-7	4-6
Nov. 4	L	3-2	18-32	0-3	3-3
Nov. 12	L	7-2	31-29	0-3	2-3
Dec. 3	L	4-0	25-38	0-4	4-5
Dec. 26	W	5-1	26-26	1-5	5-5
Jan. 6	SOW	4-3	19-39	1-4	3-4
Feb. 11	L	5-2	27-30	0-7	4-7
Feb. 24	L	5-4	23-33	1-3	2-4
Feb. 25	L	4-3	30-35	1-5	4-5

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. CRUNCH: 126-105-17

SERIES NOTABLES

- Dating back to the last five seasons, the Amerks own a record of 24-21-0-1 in the head-to-head series with the Crunch while Syracuse is 22-18-3-3.
- Tonight is the first of the 10 meetings between the Amerks and Crunch during the 2017-18 slate.
- Tonight's game marks the fourth time in the last 11 years the two teams will face one another to open the season. The Amerks are 2-1-0-0 over that span dating back to their 6-4 win over Syracuse to begin the 2007-08 campaign.