



UTICA COMETS GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERKS



Utica Comets vs. Rochester Americans

Friday, October 13, 2017 @ The Blue Cross Arena, AHL Regular Season Game #31

TONIGHT'S GAME

• The Rochester Americans (2-0-0-0) renew their rivalry with the Utica Comets (0-2-0-0) in a North Division showdown tonight at The Blue Cross Arena. The 7:05 p.m. faceoff will be the first of 10 meetings this season between the cross-state foes and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

LAST TIME OUT

• The Amerks closed out the opening weekend of the 2017-18 season with a thrilling 3-2 overtime victory against the Syracuse Crunch at the War Memorial Arena Saturday night. The victory was the second straight win against the Crunch after the Amerks earned a 3-1 win Friday night to open the campaign.

• Rookie **C.J. Smith** notched his first-career professional multi-point effort with a goal and an assist to pace the Amerks to the win while second-year forward **Kyle Criscuolo** and team captain **Kevin Porter**, who appeared in his 100th career game as an Amerk, each bagged their first markers of the slate for Rochester. Goaltender **Adam Wilcox**, who made his Amerks debut, earned his first victory of the season as he stopped 24 of the 26 shots he faced on the night against his former team.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

• The Amerks return to action on Friday, Oct. 20 when they welcome the Charlotte Checkers to The Blue Cross Arena for the first time in franchise history. Following the 7:05 p.m. faceoff, the Amerks welcome the Comets back to The Blue Cross Arena Saturday night for the second time in eight days. All the action will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

• The Amerks are tied for first in the North Division and first in the AHL after opening the 2017-18 season with back-to-back wins over the Syracuse Crunch last weekend. Rochester will look for its third win to begin the season tonight, and should the Amerks come away victorious, it would mark the first time since the 2006-07 campaign when they began the year with a perfect 7-0-0-0 record.

• **Justin Bailey** enters the weekend tied for seventh in the AHL in goals after scoring twice in Rochester's season-opening win last Friday night. Bailey scored the first goal of the season for the Amerks late in the first period and added another in the third, giving the third-year pro five goals in his last seven games dating back to last season. With his two-goal performance, Bailey became the third straight Amerk to open a new season by scoring two or more goals on opening night after **Cole Schneider's** two goals last season and **Matt Ellis'** hat trick in 2015.

2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
4-6



0-2-0-0 (0 points)

2-0-0-0 (4 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	2	1	2	2	0	1
Justin Bailey	2	2	0	2	2	2
Kyle Criscuolo	2	1	1	2	0	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	1	1-0-0	60:00	28	.966	1.00
Adam Wilcox	1	1-0-0	60:00	24	.923	1.99

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Oct. 20	vs. Charlotte	7:05 p.m.
Oct. 21	vs. Utica	7:05 p.m.
Oct. 25	@ Laval	7:30 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 6	Syracuse	W 3-1	20-29	1-5	6-6
Oct. 6 @	Syracuse	OTW 3-2	18-26	1-6	4-4

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	1-0-0-0	3	1	2
AWAY	1-0-0-0	3	2	2
TOTALS	2-0-0-0	6	3	4

COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	2	0	3	3	0	-2
Carter Bancks	2	1	1	2	2	0
Nikolay Goldobin	2	1	1	2	0	-1

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Thatcher Demko	1	0-1-0	58:39	24	.923	2.05
Richard Bachman	1	0-1-0	59:27	30	.882	4.04



- Smith enters the lone game of the weekend tied for fourth in scoring among AHL rookies with three points (1+2) through his first two games with the Amerks.
- After being acquired from the Buffalo Sabres late last week, defenseman **Zach Redmond** concluded his first weekend in Rochester by recording an assists in each of his first two games. The 29-year old blueliner is tied for second among defensemen heading into tonight's contest with two points.
- With the Amerks earning the win on Friday night, it also marked the first career victory for **Chris Taylor** as Rochester's head coach. 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, returned to the organization after serving as an assistant with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins a season ago.

SCOUTING THE COMETS

- Utica (0-2-0-0) comes into tonight's contest in search of its first win of the young season after dropping both ends of a two-game set against the Toronto Marlies last weekend. The Comets fell last Friday night 3-1 before dropping a 4-3 decision Saturday.
- In each of the first two games, the Comets opened the scoring less than seven minutes into the game but allowed the lead to slip away during the second period. In addition to scoring first, Utica drew four penalties while taking seven infractions.
- With the Comets in search of their first win of the 2017-18 slate, so too is first-year head coach Trent Cull. The 44-year-old Cull is in his first season as an AHL bench boss having previously served as an assistant coach with Syracuse for eight seasons from 2006 to 2010 and again from 2013 to 2017, culminating with a pair of Eastern Conference championships and two trips to the Calder Cup Finals.
- Utica comes into tonight's contest in the midst of a season-long seven game road swing before returning to the Adirondack Bank Center for seven of the next eight games to close out the month of November.
- The Comets return their season top point-getter from a season ago in five-year pro Darren Archibald. During the 2016-17 slate, Archibald, who appeared in all 76 games with Utica, established career-highs in goals (23), assists (24), points and shots (184).
- Defenseman Jordan Subban also returns for his third season on the Utica blueline. He finished 2016-17 with career-highs in all offensive categories and tied for 17th in scoring among blueliners.
- The elite goaltending duo of Thatcher Demko and Richard Bachman also return to the Utica roster for the 2017-18 slate. During his rookie season, Demko showed a record of 22-17-4 in 45 games played while eight-year netminder Bachman brings a career record of 114-78-11 along with 16 shutouts into tonight's contest.

AMERKS-COMETS 2016-17 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Cole Schneider	6	5	4	9	0	7
Nick Baptiste	7	5	1	6	2	2
Tim Kennedy	5	0	5	4	4	2

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	6	4-2-0	356:40	14	.935 2.36
John Muse	1	1-0-0	59:40	0	1.000 0.00

UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Darren Archibald	8	3	3	6	6	-3
Jake Virtanen	8	2	2	4	6	-1
Joseph LaBate	6	1	3	4	4	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Richard Bachman	2	1-0-1	113:27	4	.905 2.12
Thatcher Demko	6	2-3-0	291:31	16	.869 3.29

2016-17 FINAL SERIES GAME-BY-GAME

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Nov. 19	L	2-1	20-27	1-3	3-3
Nov. 25	L	5-2	32-32	1-3	2-3
Nov. 30	W	2-1	21-35	0-4	6-7
Dec. 31	W	6-3	23-29	1-5	8-10
Feb. 22	OTW	3-2	39-26	0-5	4-4
Mar. 31	W	5-2	22-53	1-3	4-4
Apr. 1	L	5-3	23-27	0-2	4-6
Apr. 8	W	5-0	26-33	2-8	6-6

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 16-18-2

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester enters tonight's contest having won four of its last five games against the Comets dating back to last season.
- In the eight games last season's head-to-head series, Rochester's Amerks penalty kill unit has gone 37-for-43 (86.0%), which includes 20 straight kills in the last four games with the Utica.
- Amerks goaltender and reigning team MVP **Linus Ullmark** owns a 6-5-0 record against Utica in his career as well as a 2.29 goals-against average. He went 4-2-0 in six games against the Comets last season.