



//// UTICA COMETS ////
GAME NOTES
 //// ROCHESTER AMERKANS ////



Rochester Americans @ Utica Comets

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 @ Adirondack Bank Center, AHL Regular Season Game #132

TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (4-4-0-0) open the month of November by making their first visit of the season tonight to Adirondack Bank Center for a North Division showdown with the Utica Comets (4-3-0-0). Tonight is the third meeting of the season and first of two trips to Mohawk Valley in a span of four days for the Amerks, who take on the Comets again on Saturday, Nov. 4. Game time is slated for a 7:00 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks led the Syracuse Crunch 2-1 entering the final period but a late goal with just 1:03 remaining in regulation proved to be the difference as the Amerks came out on the losing end of a 3-2 decision Saturday night at Blue Cross Arena. The win was Syracuse's first in the head-to-head series after dropping the first two contests to Rochester during opening weekend.
- Forward **Sahir Gill** tallied a goal to extend his point and goal streak to tie a career-long three games with four points (3+1) over that span while also recording five points (3+2) over his last five games overall. In addition, **Kyle Criscuolo** scored his third goal of the season and second in as many games. Former Crunch netminder **Adam Wilcox** started in the Amerks crease but left the game after 49 minutes. **Linus Ullmark** took over the goaltending duties but took the loss.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The oldest rivalry in the American Hockey League will be renewed on Friday, Nov. 3 in Rochester when the Amerks return home to host the Hershey Bears at The Blue Cross Arena for the only time this season. The puck drops on the 455th all-time meeting between the league's two oldest teams at 7:05 p.m. with all the action being carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

SHIFTING DEFENSEMEN

- Earlier this week, the Buffalo Sabres reassigned defenseman **Zach Redmond** to the Amerks and recalled fellow blueliner **Taylor Fedun** to the big club. In similar move, **Devante Stephens** was reassigned to the Cincinnati Cyclones (ECHL).
- Redmond returns to Rochester after appearing in a pair of contests with the Sabres. Prior to his recall, the 29-year-old played in four games with the Amerks, tallying three points (1+2). Fedun, meanwhile, earned his second recall of the season to Buffalo after posting one assist earlier in the campaign. He collected a pair of helpers in four games with the Amerks this season while Stephens, who began the season with Cincinnati, made his Amerks debut in Rochester's 5-2 win against the Laval Rocket on Oct. 25.

2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



4-3-0-0 (8 points)



4-4-0-0 (8 points)

**TOTAL GOALS
21-20**

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Kyle Criscuolo	8	3	3	6	8	2
C.J. Smith	8	2	4	6	2	1
Nick Baptiste	8	3	2	5	2	1

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	7	3-3-0	324:49	164	.916	2.77
Adam Wilcox	4	1-1-0	154:23	54	.871	3.11

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 3	vs. Hershey	7:05 p.m.
Nov. 4	@ Utica	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 10	@ Belleville	7:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 28	Syracuse	L 3-2	27-19	1-4	4-5
Oct. 27	Laval	OTW 4-3	48-36	1-6	4-4
Oct. 25	Laval	W 5-2	27-39	0-5	5-6

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	2-4-0-0	12	19	4
AWAY	2-0-0-0	8	4	4
TOTALS	4-4-0-0	20	23	8

COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Nikolay Goldobin	7	4	6	10	0	1
Reid Boucher	7	3	6	9	0	-2
Carter Bancks	7	1	5	6	19	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Thatcher Demko	5	4-1-0	298:34	152	.950	1.61
Richard Bachman	2	0-2-0	119:27	44	.830	4.52



TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Rochester enters the contest just four points behind the Toronto Marlies and Laval Rocket for the top spot in the AHL's North Division standings after earning four of a possible six points last week to close out the first month of the 2017-18 campaign.
- The Amerks bring a penalty kill success rate of 86.0%, which is fifth-best in the Eastern Conference, into tonight's matchup against the Comets. Rochester holds the third-best percentage in the conference while on the road this season after going 9-for-10 (90.0%) away from The Blue Cross Arena.
- Newcomer **C.J. Smith** enters the week tied for the team lead in scoring and ranks 11th among all AHL rookies with six points (2+4) through his first eight games of the season. He closed out the month of October with assists in back-to-back games and shows three points (1+2) in his last four contests.
- Gill comes into the week tied for the longest active goal-scoring streak in the AHL with goals in three straight games. He began the week with a shorthanded tally in Rochester's 5-2 win at Laval on Wednesday followed by an even strength goal in Friday's rematch against the Rocket. He then closed out the weekend with a power-play marker in Saturday's 3-2 loss to Syracuse. Gill has totaled five points (3+2) over his last five games to lead the Amerks in scoring over that span.

SCOUTING THE COMETS

- Utica opens its home portion of the 2017-18 season following a season-long seven-game road trip to open the campaign, which ended with a decisive 6-1 win over the Charlotte Checkers.
- Nikolay Goldobin leads all Comets skaters with 10 points in seven games. The Russian forward shows a team-high four goals and is tied with Reid Boucher for the team lead with six assists. Goldobin enters tonight's contest with seven points (2+5) over his last three games, including a three-point (1+2) effort Sunday versus Charlotte.
- The Comets return their season top point-getter from a season ago in five-year pro Darren Archibald. Despite recording just two points (1+1) in five games this season, Archibald, who appeared in all 76 games with Utica during the 2016-17 campaign, established career-highs in goals (23), assists (24), points and shots (184).
- 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.
- On the season, Demko has got the starting nod in four of the last five games and has won his last four contests allowing just six goals. The second-year netminder has turned aside 73 of the 74 shots he faced in the two previous meetings with the Amerks this seasons, including a 33-save shutout back on Oct. 13.

2017-18 SEASON SERIES SCORING LEADERS BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	2	1	0	1	2	0
Brendan Guhle	2	0	1	1	0	0
Steve Moses	2	0	1	1	0	1

GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	2	0-1-0	98:42	4	.926	2.43
Adam Wilcox	1	0-1-0	19:56	3	.500	9.03

UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	2	2	2	4	0	1
Nikolay Goldobin	2	1	2	3	0	1
Carter Bancks	2	0	3	3	2	2

GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Thatcher Demko	2	2-0-0	119:55	1	.986	0.50

2017-18 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 13	L	2-0	33-30	0-4	6-6
Oct. 21	L	5-1	41-30	0-6	4-8
Nov. 1					
Nov. 4					
Nov. 29					
Dec. 15					
Dec. 17					
Jan. 15					
Jan. 17					
Mar. 28					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 16-20-2

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester enters tonight's contest having won four of its last seven games against the Comets dating back to last season.
- In the 10 games against Utica dating back to last season, Rochester's penalty kill unit has gone 47-for-57 (82%).
- The Comets begin a stretch in which the team will play eight of their next nine games on home ice at the Adirondack Bank Center. The Amerks, meanwhile, will play four of their next five on the road, which includes another trip back to Utica on Saturday.