



UTICA COMETS GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERICANS



Rochester Americans @ Utica Comets

Saturday, November 4, 2017 @ Adirondack Bank Center, AHL Regular Season Game #158

TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (6-4-0-0) kick-off a three-game North Division road trip tonight as they make their second trip in the last four days to the Adirondack Bank Center to face the Utica Comets (4-4-0-1). Tonight is the fourth of the 10 scheduled meetings between the North Division foes. 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 scored five goals in a span of 5:17 during the second period and added another later in the frame to erase a 3-0 deficit before surviving a late push from the Hershey Bears to come out on top with a 7-6 shootout win Friday night at The Blue Cross Arena.
- Much as he did Wednesday night in Utica, **Eric Cornel** provided the heroics for the second straight game, netting the shootout game-winner to cap the 455th all-time meeting between the American Hockey League's two oldest teams. He also added his first of the season during a wild six-goal second-period that saw the Amerks quickly turn a 3-0 deficit into a 6-4 advantage in a matter of minutes.
- Fifteen of Rochester's 18 skaters recorded a point while **Kevin Porter**, **Kyle Criscuolo** and **Brendan Guhle** all notched a multi-point (1+1) outing to lead the Amerks to their fourth win in the last five games. Criscuolo now shows eight points (3+5) over a career-long five-game point streak while Guhle booked his first-career two-point night. Cornel, **Garret Ross**, **Hudson Fasching** rounded out the scoring for Rochester. Goaltender **Linus Ullmark** earned his fourth win in the last five games as he improved his record to 5-3-0 by making 28 saves.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks head north of the border for a weekend set against the Belleville Senators on Friday, Nov. 10 and Saturday, Nov. 11 at Yardmen Arena for the first two meetings in franchise history. Both contests are slated for a 7:00 p.m. start and will be broadcast live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Rochester enters the contest just two points behind the Toronto Marlies for the top spot in the AHL's North Division standings after earning eight of a possible 10 points in the last five games.
- The Amerks bring a penalty kill success rate of 83.6%, which is sixth-best in the Eastern Conference, into tonight's matchup against the Comets. Conversely, Rochester's power-play unit has enjoyed success as of late, scoring seven goals while on the man-advantage in the last four games, going 7-for-23 (30.7%) in that span.

2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
25-32



4-4-0-1 (8 points)

6-4-0-0 (12 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Kyle Criscuolo	10	4	6	10	8	2
C.J. Smith	10	2	7	9	4	1
Sahir Gill	10	3	3	6	0	-5

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	9	5-3-0	454:49	236	.908	3.17
Adam Wilcox	4	1-1-0	154:23	54	.871	3.11

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 10	@ Belleville	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	@ Belleville	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 15	vs. Binghamton	7:05 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Nov. 3	Hershey SOW	7-6	34-37	3-7	4-6
Nov. 1	Utica	SOW 4-3	33-48	2-6	5-6
Oct. 28	Syracuse L	3-2	27-19	1-4	4-5

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	3-4-0-0	19	25	6
AWAY	3-0-0-0	12	7	6
TOTALS	6-4-0-0	31	32	12

COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Nikolay Goldobin	9	4	7	11	2	0
Reid Boucher	9	3	7	10	4	-3
Philip Holm	9	1	6	7	2	-1

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Thatcher Demko	7	4-2-1	421:00	199	.939	1.85
Richard Bachman	2	0-2-0	119:27	44	.830	4.52



- Criscuolo (4+6) enters tonight's contest leading the team in goals (4), points (10) and shots (30) through 10 games this season. The second-year forward is currently riding a career-best five-game point streak, which ranks fourth-longest in the league among active skaters. Dating back to Oct. 25, Criscuolo has recorded eight points (3+5) and has multi-point outings in three of his last four games. His 10 points place him inside the AHL's top 20 point-getters.
- Rookie forward **C.J. Smith** enters the weekend leading the Amerks with seven assists while ranking tied for fifth among all AHL rookies with nine points (2+7) overall. His seven assists are fourth-most among all first-year skaters. Smith carries a four-game assist streak into play tonight and shows six points (1+5) over his last six games overall.
- Defenseman **Brendan Guhle** enters play tonight after notching his first-career two-point (1+1) outing in last night's victory. Over the previous six games, the rookie blueliner has collected six points (1+5) after failing to record a point in his first four games of the campaign. The 20-year-old leads all Amerks defensemen with six points and is tied for second in scoring among all first-year defensemen.
- Amerks forward **Sahir Gill** comes into the weekend after seeing his three-game goal-scoring streak end in Wednesday's shootout win over the Comets. The 25-year-old pro has totaled six points (3+3) over his last seven games.
- Rochester remains the only team unbeaten on the road.

SCOUTING THE COMETS

- Following a season-long seven-game road trip to open the campaign, Utica is in search of its first win of the season on home ice. The Comets fell 4-3 in a shootout Wednesday night to the Amerks before dropping a 2-1 contest last night to the Binghamton Devils.
- Nikolay Goldobin leads all Comets skaters with 11 points in nine games. The Russian forward shows a team-high four goals and is tied with Reid Boucher for the team lead with seven assists. Goldobin enters tonight's contest with eight points (2+6) over his last six 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 five points (2+) in seven 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. On the season, Demko has got the starting nod in six of the last seven games. Prior to Wednesday, he had won his four starts allowing just six goals but has since dropped his last two starts, going 0-1-1 while surrendering five markers.

2017-18 SEASON SERIES SCORING LEADERS BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	3	1	2	3	4	1
Steve Moses	3	1	1	2	0	-1
Kyle Criscuolo	3	0	2	2	4	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Linus Ullmark	3	1-1-0	163:42	7	.931	2.57
Adam Wilcox	1	0-1-0	19:56	3	.500	9.03

UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Darren Archibald	2	2	3	5	2	2
Reid Boucher	3	2	3	5	4	0
Alexis D'Aoust	3	1	2	3	0	3

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Thatcher Demko	3	2-0-1	184:50	4	.962	1.30

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	SOW	4-3	33-48	2-6	5-6
Nov. 4					
Nov. 29					
Dec. 15					
Dec. 17					
Jan. 15					
Jan. 17					
Mar. 28					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 17-20-2

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester enters tonight's contest having won five of its last eight 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 52-for-63 (83.8%).
- The Comets are in game three of a stretch in which the team will play eight of their nine games on home ice at the Adirondack Bank Center. The Amerks, meanwhile, are beginning a three-game road-trip tonight before making their first trip to face the Belleville Senators.