



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

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TONIGHT'S GAME: Hartford @ Rochester

Upcoming games bring back former Penguins

Standard Speaker

By: Tyler Piccotti

This weekend might have the feel of a family reunion or an alumni event for the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, as opposed to a simple three-in-three stretch.

Tonight, the team welcomes the Milwaukee Admirals and former players Trevor Smith and Harry Zolnierczyk to Mohegan Sun Arena. Then on Saturday, six Penguins from last season — Kevin Porter, Sahir Gill, Stuart Percy, Adam Krause, Barry Goers and coach Chris Taylor — will return to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton as part of the Rochester Americans. Toby Petersen, who helped the Penguins during their first two runs to the Calder Cup Final in 2001 and 2004, is also an assistant coach for the Amerks.

For current Penguins personnel, it will be a welcome opportunity to see old friends again.

“It’s going to be fun,” forward Jean-Sebastien Dea said Thursday at the Toyota SportsPlex. “I was really close with Gilly, so it’s going to be exciting to see them. It’s always fun when you play against your old buddies, old teammates.”

Many of them have become key contributors for their respective teams.

The Admirals are second in the very tight Central Division; Zolnierczyk is tied for the team lead in goals (8), while the veteran captain Smith has nine points through 10 games.

Rochester, meanwhile, enters the weekend second in the North Division at 11-5-3-1. Gill is in the midst of a career season — with six goals and 15 points through his first 20 games — and Percy has already surpassed his goal and point totals from 37 games last season.

Forward Jarrett Burton said it’s good to see his teammates from last season make the most of their new opportunities, and he expects the Amerks to give the Penguins a tough time.

“It’s going to be an important game for both teams,” Burton said of Saturday’s game. “They’re doing well, and we’re doing well too. It’s going to be a lot of fun, but it’s also going to be a good test for us.”

Indeed, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton is excited to get back on the ice after last weekend’s sweep at the hands of the Syracuse Crunch.

The Penguins fell behind early in both games, something head coach Clark Donatelli hopes will change starting tonight. He said the Admirals are a very fast and skilled team, and the Penguins must execute their own game plan if they want to get back to their winning ways.

“We’ve got to stay out of the box, all the same things,” Donatelli said. “We’re going to have to manage the puck and be ready for them.”

Roll call

Just when it appeared the Penguins' goaltending situation was resolved for the near future, a new wrinkle was added to the mix Thursday.

Sean Maguire, who was recalled from Wheeling on Monday, was ill and not at practice. It's nothing too serious, but the team instructed him to stay home, rest and get fluids, according to Donatelli.

"Hopefully, he'll be ready to go," Donatelli added. "We're going to monitor that throughout the day."

If Maguire is unable to play tonight, Colin Stevens would likely make his first start with the Penguins. The 24-year-old hasn't appeared in a game since Oct. 22, when he made 30 saves in an overtime loss for Wheeling.

Forward Garrett Wilson is expected to be back in the lineup, while Tom Sestito's status remains questionable.

Linus Ullmark remains a happy guy, on and off the ice

Buffalo News

By: Amy Moritz

On Wednesday night, Linus Ullmark was in Utica. He made 31 saves for the Rochester Americans, but the team ended up on the short end of a 2-1 overtime loss to the Comets.

Thursday morning, Ullmark found himself in Buffalo, practicing with the Sabres in HaborCenter. The official word from the team was that starting goaltender Robin Lehner was given a "maintenance day" and the Sabres wanted two goalies at practice. So up came Ullmark to join Chad Johnson. Just for the day. Just for practice.

And as usual, the 24-year-old was all smiles and jokes, offering a side of life lessons with Linus for good measure.

"The show is what you dream of so every opportunity I get to show how I'm doing down there is great fun," Ullmark said after Thursday's practice.

What has Ullmark been showing in Rochester? He's 6-0-2 in his last eight appearances.

A year after leading the AHL in saves, games and minutes played, he has picked up where he left off. He won a career-best five straight from Nov. 1 to Nov. 17. He currently leads the AHL in saves (444) and is tied third in wins with nine while his .919 save percentage ranks 14th. But Ullmark insists the personal success is the result of a team effort.

"I wouldn't say what's working well for me, I would say how it works for the team," Ullmark said. "You know personal success comes when the team is having success. So if the team's doing good, I'm doing good."

And the team is doing pretty good. The Amerks entered Thursday tied for third in the Eastern Conference with 26 points (11 wins, five losses, three overtime losses and one shootout loss). And the winning has created a better environment for players to grow.

"I (stinks) if you lose every game, don't you agree?" Ullmark said. "That's just how it is. If you win, you don't really care about what's really going on with your game or something. It's easier to let it go whenever you hit a slump or something like that personally. It's when you start getting all those losses in a row that you start thinking about what I'm doing wrong. You might not be doing anything wrong it's just the puck is passed this way and goes into the net."

So what is it exactly that Ullmark is doing right? He considers this a vague question and offers a vague answer, although one that's offered with the bits of wit and wisdom that have become a hallmark of the goaltender.

"I've had this question a lot of times during this season. I thought that people might know the answer by now," Ullmark said. "I'm just going to say once again, it's personal level. It's about growing as person. You grow as an athlete. And you can't take any days off. You can't really take

any days off as a person. You can't go out there and be a moron ... It doesn't work like that. Just be yourself. I'm a happy guy. I like being a happy guy so why shouldn't I be happy guy at all times? Same thing being on the ice. I'm a happy guy, so why not be happy on the ice."

Matt Tennyson looks ready for game action. But the Buffalo Sabres want the defenseman to get his timing back with some time down in Rochester.

Before he can play for the American Hockey League affiliate, he has to clear waivers.

And Sabres coach Phil Housley sure hopes he does.

"Well hopefully he does clear because I thought Matt brought a lot to the table," Housley said Thursday afternoon after the team practice in HarborCenter. "He had a really good, solid camp. He was really consistent with his play when he was in the lineup and then he got hurt and unfortunately we've got numbers coming back at us. On a personal note I'd like to see him get through, get back his timing, and get some games in."

Tennyson has been on the injured reserve since Nov. 7 missing 11 games with a foot injury. He was an everyday defenseman in the lineup, twice skating more than 20 minutes in a game.

The Sabres have an abundance of defensemen, nine total participating in Thursday's practice, as players start to return from injury. Zach Bogosian continues to inch forward to playing his first game of the season after suffering a lower body injury in the last game of the preseason.

Two Western New York natives have earned assignments to officiate at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea.

Dina Allen (North Tonawanda) will be a referee for the women's tournament while Fraser McIntyre (Amherst) will be a linesman in the men's tournament.

There were seven Americans selected for the 47 on-ice positions at the Olympics. The referees and linesmen come from 13 countries.

Fans will have a chance to skate on the outdoor rink at New Era Field. But it will cost you.

Organizers of the IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship announced two sessions of open skating for fans, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 27, and from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 28.

The cost is \$100 and includes a 300 level ticket to the United States vs. Canada outdoor game scheduled for 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29, at New Era Field in Orchard Park.

Any fan who has already purchased a ticket and would like to also experience the skate can contact the Bills ticket office and they will make an accommodation.

Skaters will enter the stadium through Gate 1 and head toward section 122/123 for field and ice access. There will be a warming station in New Era Field's east end zone tunnel, and fans can purchase concessions at the Miller Lite Brew Pub. Participants must bring their own skates, and helmets are required for anyone under the age of 12.

The offer is first open to Bills season- ticket members, Sabres season ticket holders, and My One Buffalo members starting Thursday. Remaining slots are open to the general public beginning at 10 a.m. Dec. 1.

With Botterill a believer in world juniors, Sabres may let Nylander play

Buffalo News

By: John Vogl

Though Alex Nylander is in his second professional season, the Buffalo Sabres prospect is still eligible to play in the world juniors. That might happen.

General Manager Jason Botterill will continue to talk with Nylander and Swedish hockey officials before deciding whether to release the forward for the world junior tournament. It's being held in Buffalo from Dec. 26 to Jan. 5.

"I'm a big believer of the tournament," Botterill said Thursday. "I think it's a great tournament for young players to play against their peers and represent their country.

"The fact the tournament is right here in Buffalo versus him traveling halfway around the world makes it an easier possibility."

Previous Sabres GM Tim Murray allowed Nylander to represent Sweden at last year's world junior tournament. The winger had five goals and 12 points in seven games.

It didn't translate to success in the American Hockey League. Nylander had 10 goals and 28 points in 65 games for Rochester.

"We'll continue to look at where his game's at over the next little bit, continue to talk to him and our coaches down in Rochester," Botterill said. "We're just looking at hey, what's the best thing for his development path right now?"

Nylander has played just six games in Rochester this season after suffering an injury during the Sabres Prospect Challenge in September. The 19-year-old has one goal and three points for the Amerks.

"We're just very excited to have him back right now," Botterill said. "It's been a frustrating start to the season for him, but he's excited about being back right now, being part of our group down there."

Evan Rodrigues making an impact since returning to Amerks lineup

Democratic & Chronicle

By: Andy Lipari

Evan Rodrigues could have been an important piece for the Sabres to start this season and given the way Buffalo has played thus far, they need all the help they can get.

However, plans for Rodrigues were derailed Sept. 22 when he took a hit during a preseason game in Toronto and broke a bone in his hand. That injury kept him out of a lineup until he returned with the Amerks on Nov. 17 against Hartford.

The injury happened on what started as an ordinary play but, like Rodrigues' season, took a strange turn.

“I tried to go wide on the first defenseman and he kind of poked it, (the puck) went through my skates and I went to go look for it down at my feet. At the last second, I saw the guy coming and tried to brace myself,” he said. “It’s just one of those unlucky plays. I got up and didn’t really feel any pain until I got back up and started staking on the back check. I don’t know how it happen exactly. I watched it once or twice and put it in the rearview mirror.”

Rodrigues split time between Buffalo and Rochester last year, along with making a transition to center from his usual wing position. He posted four goals and two assists in 30 games with the Sabres, and while with the Amerks for 48 games recorded nine goals and 21 assists.

During the 2015-16 season, Rodrigues had the same exact numbers, nine goals and 21 assists, but in 72 games with Amerks.

So, it’s understandable how disappointed Rodrigues has been that his season didn't start on time, especially since he had been building toward a spot in the NHL.

“It was a little frustrating because I thought I had a good camp in Buffalo, so I was really excited for the year,” Rodrigues said. “To break a bone at any time stinks but that’s the nature of the game and you have to deal with it. I did everything I could to get back as quickly as possible. I’m still rehabbing it but I’m glad to be back.”

Rodrigues signed a two-year extension with the Sabres in the off-season. He was originally signed as undrafted free agent out of Boston University in 2015. His senior season he finished with 61 points, second on the team to another current Sabre, Jack Eichel (71).

Amerks head coach Chris Taylor said Rodrigues was impressive during the preseason.

“He was one of the best players in that first preseason game,” Taylor said. “He’s a dynamic player. He can penalty kill, he can go on the power play, he plays wing, he plays center, so he’s a huge asset for our hockey team. He has some experience too, so it’s good for everybody and it pushes the other guys in our lineup to be better.”

In six games this season since returning to the Amerks lineup, Rodrigues has made his presence felt with two goals and four assists. He said after last Friday's 10-3 win over Binghamton it was the first time he didn't have any pain in his hand.

Rodrigues and the Amerks won his first game back, but then dropped two straight and allowed 11 goals.

Taylor said Rodrigues took the team's two bad performances personally.

"He knew coming back into the situation that we were playing well and all of a sudden we lose a couple with him in the lineup, he felt bad about it," Taylor said. "It's nice to see him bounce back."

The Amerks won the next two against Binghamton and lost to Utica in overtime Wednesday night, but this is still one of the best starts to an Amerks season in years.

At 11-5-3-1 and 26 points, the Amerks are in third place in the Eastern Conference. They have one more point than Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, but trail in percentage points for second place.

Rodrigues pointed to the chemistry of the team as one of the reasons for the early success.

"This is probably the first locker room I've been in where guys really enjoy coming to the rink and spending time with each other," he said. "There's a lot of camaraderie on this team and I think that's why we're doing so well."

For the Amerks, it's hard to look in the rear-view mirror and think of what happened as a bad break.

Despite struggles, GM Jason Botterill confident Sabres on right path

Olean Times Herald

By: Bill Hoppe

Barely one-quarter into Jason Botterill's first season as general manager, the Sabres are a mess, tied for the NHL's lowest point total with a measly 16.

A team expected to improve and showcase an exciting style under new coach Phil Housley has regressed and averaged a league-low 2.2 goals through its first 25 games. Slick center Jack Eichel, who signed an \$80 million contract extension in October, has struggled along with many of the team's other top players.

Botterill has remained quiet over the last seven weeks, making no notable moves. In his first public chat with the media since training camp, Botterill on Thursday acknowledged many of the Sabres' problems while going out of his way to note the positives and growth within the organization.

"I'm optimistic and I'm very happy with our players and especially our coaching staff," said Botterill, whose Sabres host the Pittsburgh Penguins tonight inside KeyBank Center.

Botterill said the Sabres will "have a long discussion" on whether they're better or worse than their awful 6-15-4 record.

"Bottom line is our record's our record," he said. "We're looking for players to help us out of this situation here, players who want to improve and want to become part of the solution here, and that's where I like the communication with our coaching staff and the players."

The Sabres' best player, winger Evander Kane, has morphed into a top scoring threat, compiling 12 goals and 23 points. Kane, 26, will be a free agent following the season, igniting speculation Botterill will deal him before the trade deadline.

But Botterill said Kane's future hasn't been decided.

"We're a team that's looking for more goals, and he's scored goals," he said. "I think Phil deserves a lot of credit with Evander. It was one of those situations where he reached out to build that relationship early in the season, and Evander's come in here and from Day One of training camp has performed very well for us."

If the Sabres have won just 24 percent of their games with Kane scoring 22 percent of their goals, how bad could they become if they trade him?

Botterill praised Housley and his staff for their communication skills throughout a rough stretch. He said he hired Housley, in part, because he believed he could build relationships with his players.

"He's done a very good job communicating with the players of what we're trying to improve on and what we try to ask for," Botterill said. "What I've really liked is he's an emotional guy, he keeps guys accountable, and ... there's frustration with the results on the ice, but then the next day,

instead of just being disappointed about it, he's like, 'These are the things we have to do to improve.'"

Of course, the Sabres can improve their effort many nights. They've showcased little consistency, something Botterill knows.

"Where some of the frustration comes from even our own players is that I think there is a work ethic, I think they are working, but it's a game-by-game basis," Botterill said. "It's one player working hard, not all the players working hard at the same time. You see one line going well, but the other line's not going well.

"The penalty killing's improved this year, but the power play has slipped. So there has to be more consistency for us to be a successful team."

The Sabres often fall behind early before roaring back, a disturbing trend. While Botterill likes the "compete" and "resilience" they've shown late, he said they "can't be chasing games all the time."

"We have to have that desperation, that jump at the start of the games," he said. "We've talked about our leadership group a lot, and the good thing is they keep communicating with each other, they keep communicating with Phil.

"Phil and our coaches can keep pushing things and stuff, but it's that internal drive from our leaders that has to keep for us to become a more consistent team."

One team under Botterill, the Rochester Americans, has performed consistently all season, starting 11-5-3-1. Botterill overhauled the Amerks during the summer, hiring a new coach, Chris Taylor, and GM for the AHL affiliate, Randy Sexton.

Botterill also signed a slew of players he had during his tenure with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, the affiliate he ran as Pittsburgh's associate GM.

"Chris Taylor and his staff have done an excellent job down there on getting guys to buy into the system, getting guys to buy into their games to get up to the National Hockey League," Botterill said.

Still, the Amerks, who haven't made the playoffs since 2014, are short on impact prospects the Sabres could summon.

Rookie Brendan Guhle, the Sabres' top defense prospect, has been bypassed for recalls all season. The Sabres seem intent on leaving him in the AHL for a bit. Second-year forward Alexander Nylander has only played six games this season. The eighth overall pick in 2016 suffered a lower-body injury in training camp. While goalie Linus Ullmark seems ready to graduate, the Sabres have two NHL netminders, Robin Lehner and Chad Johnson, blocking his path.

There's no quick fix for the Sabres.

With Zach Bogosian close to return, Sabres waive Matt Tennyson

Olean Times Herald

By: Bill Hoppe

Nearly two months into the season, the Sabres could have their six regular defensemen play together for the first time tonight.

Zach Bogosian, out since suffering a lower-body injury in the preseason finale, could return in this weekend's home-and-home series against the Pittsburgh Penguins.

"I've had a couple good days of practice," Bogosian said after the Sabres prepared for tonight's tilt inside KeyBank Center. "I feel ready. We'll see what tomorrow brings."

With Bogosian and defensemen Matt Tennyson (ankle) back, the Sabres had nine healthy defensemen, so they waived Tennyson following Thursday's practice at HarborCenter.

Housley leaned on Tennyson regularly for 14 games as injuries ravaged the blue line, playing him 18 minutes, 16 seconds a contest.

If Tennyson clears, he could bolster the Rochester Americans' defense.

"Matt brought a lot to the table," Housley said. "He had a really good, solid camp, really consistent with his play when he was in the lineup. ... I'd like to see him get through and get back to his timing and get some games in."

In other news, the Sabres gave goalie Robin Lehner a maintenance day Thursday, so they recalled goalie Linus Ullmark from the AHL to practice.

Ullmark is 9-3-2 with a 2.86 goals-against average and a .919 save percentage in 15 games for the Amerks, who are 11-5-3-1.

"Personal success comes when the team's having success," Ullmark said. "So if the team's doing good, I'm doing good."

Amerks go overtime with Utica again and lose

Buffalo News

By: Staff Report

Reid Boucher scored 1:29 into overtime Wednesday night to give the Utica Comets a 2-1 victory over the Rochester Americans in the American Hockey League game at the Utica War Memorial. It was the fourth straight overtime game the teams have played this season. Utica won three of the four, two in OT and one in a shootout.

Garret Ross scored for Rochester at 4:38 of the second period with assists by Conor Allen and Adam Krause.

Utica tied it on Jayson Megna's goal at 7:38 of the third.

Linus Ullmark made 31 saves in goal for the Amerks.

Thatcher Demko had 29 saves for Utica.

The loss left second-place Rochester six points behind the first-place Toronto Marlies in the AHL's North Division. Utica is fourth, seven points behind the Amerks.

Amerks fall in OT to Comets

WHEC

By: Staff Report

For the third consecutive game between the Rochester Americans (11-5-3-1) and the Utica Comets (9-9-0-1) at the Adirondack Bank Center the North Division showdown went beyond regulation. Wednesday night the Amerks closed out the second month of the 2017-18 season with a 2-1 overtime loss to the Comets.

Despite falling in the extra session, the Amerks concluded November owning a record of 7-1-3-1 in 12 games and collected 18 of a possible 24 points during the month.

Garret Ross, who returned to the lineup after missing the last three games, scored the lone Amerks goal 4:18 into the middle period while goaltender Linus Ullmark stopped 31 of 33 but suffered the loss. The 24-year-old netminder boasts a 6-0-2 record his last eight appearances.

Third-year defenseman Cam Darcy recorded a pair of assists while Jason Megna and Reid Boucher tallied their third and ninth goals of the slate, respectively, in the overtime win. Netminder Thatcher Demko, who was given the start for the sixth time in the last seven games, recorded his third win of the season as he made 29 saves.

Entering the final period of play, the Amerks held a 1-0 lead and it appeared they could double their lead as they drew their fourth penalty of the game midway through the stanza.

However, it was the Comets who gained momentum as they knotted the score at 1-1 as Megna tucked a cross-crease pass from Michael Carcone into the net past Ullmark at the 8:32 mark of the period while shorthanded.

Following the goal the two teams traded chances over the final 12 minutes of regulation but the extra session was required.

The Amerks controlled the first minute of the overtime period but the Comets gained possession of the puck after a shot caromed wide of the net. After skating into the offensive zone with the puck, Boucher fired a shot from the left face-off circle overtop the right shoulder of Ullmark to give the Comets a 2-1 win just 1:29 into the frame.

After a scoreless opening 20 minutes of play, the Amerks opened the scoring 4:38 into middle period as Ross beat Demko for his second marker of the campaign. Conor Allen picked up a drop-pass from Adam Krause just inside the Comets zone and spotted Ross on the doorstep of the goal-crease. The Rochester defenseman flung a pass through bodies towards Ross and he slipped a back-handed shot to break the scoreless game.

The two clubs clamped down defensively, limiting each other's scoring chances for the remainder contest and would remain a one-goal game until Megna's third-period goal and Boucher's overtime marker.

The Amerks were unable to capitalize on the four power-play opportunities but did not allow the Comets fourth-ranked man-advantage unit in the Eastern Conference on the ice as they did not take a penalty in the fifth meeting of the season.

The Amerks usher in the month of December on Friday, Dec. 1 with their second matchup in as many weeks against the Hartford Wolf Pack at The Blue Cross Arena. Following Friday's contest, the Amerks will hit the road for the next four games beginning Saturday night when they make their only trip of the season to Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza to face the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins. Both contests are slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

Amerks lose to Utica in OT

C&C WorldWide

By: Staff Report

A short-handed goal denied the Rochester Americans 2 points against the Utica Comets on Wednesday night at the Utica Memorial Arena.

Jason Megna scored while the Comets were killing a penalty midway through the third period that tied the game 1-1, and sent the game into overtime. That marked the 5th short-handed tally Rochester has yielded in the last 4 games.

Garret Ross gave the Amerks a 1-0 early in the second stanza off assists from Conor Allen and Adam Krause.

Reid Boucher netted the game-winner for the Comets 1:29 into the overtime period as he beat Amerks netminder Linus Ullmark. The Rochester goalie finished the contest with 31 saves.

The Amerks return to the Blue Cross Arena on Friday at 7:05 pm to take on the Hartford Wolf Pack. Rochester (11-5-3-1) currently is in second place in the North Division with 26 points, 6 points behind the Toronto Marlies.

*NOTES — Forward Justin Bailey did not play in this game for the Amerks. He has played in only one game since being sent down by the Buffalo Sabres. He missed the first two games with an injury, then played the one game and has not played since... The Sabres have yielded 7 short-handed goals this season. They gave up just 4 short-handed tallies all of last season.

Sabres Prospects: Evan Rodrigues ready to make another good impression

Buffalo News

By: Amy Moritz

Evan Rodrigues was on the cusp of making his first NHL roster out of training camp.

The 24-year-old was impressive for the Buffalo Sabres in the preseason, seamlessly fitting into the desired plan of the new coaching staff to utilize speed.

But then came the preseason game against Toronto, an untimely hit, and an injured hand.

That put Rodrigues on the sideline to start the season. He was in good company, joining Alexander Nylander and Zach Bogosian, but it wasn't what was planned. This was the longest injury of his career, sitting on the injured reserve list from Oct. 5 through Nov. 17.

"I missed a few weeks in college, but nothing this long," Rodrigues said. "It's part of the game. Obviously it's frustrating. I thought I had a really good camp. All my work in the offseason was transferring to the ice. I had confidence with the puck. My speed increased. I was creating chances. And then the injury happened. I know how much work I put in during the summer and I was confident in my ability to make the team."

There was no time for sulking. Rodrigues did have the opportunity to lean on the other contingent of injured Sabres as he went through his rehabilitation process. With the injury to his hand, he was able to get back on the ice to skate quickly and keep up his conditioning.

That led to him getting into a groove with the Rochester Americans pretty quickly.

Rodrigues had a four-point night Nov. 24 with two goals and two assists in the Amerks' 10-3 win over the Binghamton Devils.

"At the end of the day, hockey is hockey. It's like riding a bike," Rodrigues said, who noted he is at 100 percent both in terms of the injury and in getting his game day groove back.

He found chemistry on a line with Sahir Gill (a former teammate at Boston University) and Steve Moses (a former Hockey East rival at the University of New Hampshire). And what he's found in Rochester is a team that is winning.

"Everyone is buying in. Everyone is working for mutual success and has a positive attitude coming to the rink," Rodrigues said. "Honestly, there's nothing like winning."

The Amerks entered the week fifth overall in the American Hockey league and just five points behind the Toronto Marlies for the top spot in the North Division.

Last week, Rochester claimed five out of a possible six points and has at least one point in 10 of its last 11 games.

Among the leaders is rookie C.J. Smith, who leads the team with 13 assists and 19 points. Smith, on a three-game point streak, ranks second among AHL rookies in assists and is tied for 11th in rookie points.

The Amerks are also getting something their parent club is not — offense from the blueline. Brendan Guhle has 12 points (five goals, seven assists) in his last 15 games. Three of those goals have come on the power play.

Meanwhile forward Justin Bailey has only played one game with the Amerks since being sent down on Nov. 13. He last played on Nov. 18 vs. Binghamton where he had no points, no shots and was a minus-1.

"He's still having problems with his lower-body injury," Sabres coach Phil Housley said on Monday.

WHL

Vojtech Budik (defense, Prince Albert Raiders): Last had a point on Nov. 3. For the season he has one goal and four assists in 24 games with a minus-five rating. He has 23 penalty minutes and 61 shots on goal.

Brandon Hagel (forward, Red Deer Rebels): Scored his seventh goal of the season in a 2-1 overtime loss to the Calgary Hitmen on Nov. 25. That goal broke a four-game scoring drought for Hagel. He ranks second on Red Deer in scoring with 22 points (seven goals, 15 assists) in 25 games.

OHL

Cliff Pu (forward, London Knights): On a 10-game point streak and a six-game goal scoring streak. In the last 10 games, Pu has nine goals and 14 assists. Seven of those games have been multi-point efforts. Through 24 games, he has 12 goals (including six on the power play and one shorthanded) with 21 assists.

Austin Osmanski (defense, Peterborough Petes): The East Aurora native has one goal and 10 assists through 26 games. He ranks a plus-two, has 32 penalty minutes and 45 shots on goal.

QMJHL

Vasily Glotov (forward, Shawinigan Cataractes): After posting 11 points (eight goals, three assists) in October, has been held to one goal in seven games in November. On the season he has nine goals and five assists.

NCAA

William Borgen (defense, St. Cloud State): The junior has one goal and seven assists on the season as the Huskies are 9-2-0 overall.

Christopher Brown (forward, Boston College): Has four goals and four assists in 15 games this season. Has two multi-points games as the Eagles are on an eight-game unbeaten streak to move to 8-5-2 overall.

Jacob Bryson (defense, Providence): The sophomore picked up his ninth assist of the season in a 3-0 win against Maine on Nov. 24. He has one goal and nine assists through 14 games for the Friars.

Ivan Chukarov (defense, UMass): Missed the first month of the season with an upper body injury. Picked up his first assist of the season in a 6-3 win over Quinnipiac on Nov. 25, his fifth game of the season.

Casey Fitzgerald (defense, Boston College): Has three goals and six assists on the season, including a four-game point streak from Nov. 4 to Nov. 17.

Connor Hurley (forward, Minnesota): After three seasons at Notre Dame, Hurley transferred to the University of Minnesota. He will sit out this season per NCAA transfer rules and have one year of college eligibility left for the 2018-19 season. In 98 career games for the Fighting Irish, Hurley had 48 points (14 goals, 34 assists).

Casey Mittelstadt (forward, Minnesota): The Sabres first-round pick in 2017 has four goals and nine assists in his first 15 games at the collegiate level. He is tied for fourth nationally in freshman scoring.

Brett Murray (forward, Penn State): The sophomore scored his first collegiate goal Nov. 18, an empty netter, in a 4-2 win at Arizona State. In 15 games he has five points.

Philip Nyberg (defense, UConn): Registered his first two goals of the season in back-to-back games. Notched his first of the year Nov. 21 in a 4-1 win at Vermont then his second Nov. 25 in a 2-1 win against RIT.

Judd Peterson (forward, St. Cloud State): The senior has a two-game point streak after the Huskies swept Colorado College, Nov. 17-18. Peterson picked up an assist in a 6-1 win then had a goal (short-handed, empty-netter) and an assist in a 5-1 win.

Linus Weissbach (forward, Wisconsin): A native of Sweden, the 19-year-old freshman is on a four-game point streak as the Badgers are 9-6-2. In that span, Weissbach has two goals and four assists. In his first 15 collegiate games he has five goals and seven assists.

Maxwell Willman (forward, Brown): The senior has one goal and four assists in eight games as Brown has started the season, 4-5-0.

Europe

Rasmus Asplund (forward, Farjestad BK): In 23 games in the SHL, he has four goals and nine assists.

Marcus Davidsson (forward, Djurgardens): Has one goal and seven assists in 19 games in the Swedish Hockey League. He has three goals and an assist in three games played with the Djurgardens Under-20 team in the SuperElit League.

Oskari Laaksonen (defense, Ilves): Has two goals and seven assists in 28 games in the Under-20 league (Jr. A SM-Liiga).

Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen (goalie, LeKi): Has a 2.79 goals against average and a .914 save percentage for LeKi, a second-tier league in Finland.

Victor Olofsson (forward, Frolounda HC): Has 11 goals and six assists in the Swedish Hockey League.

Sabres' Josefson out four to six weeks; Griffith sent to Rochester

Buffalo News

By: John Vogl

Jacob Josefson's ankle is turning into his Achilles' heel.

Just three games after returning from an ankle injury, the Buffalo Sabres center tweaked the ankle again. Coach Phil Housley announced Monday that Josefson will miss the next four to six weeks.

"It's tough," Housley said in KeyBank Center. "It's difficult when you lose a guy like that. He sort of put everybody in the right seat. We'll have to deal with it and move forward."

Josefson was originally injured Oct. 15, and he returned to the Sabres' lineup Wednesday against Minnesota. Centering for Kyle Okposo and Jordan Nolan, Josefson had an assist against the Wild and scored Friday against Edmonton.

He played only one period Saturday in Montreal.

"That line in particular with Nolan and Okposo really had shown some good signs of contributing offensively with their overall play in the zone," Housley said. "A lot of good possession numbers for them."

The Sabres are down to the minimum of 12 forwards after losing Josefson and waiving Seth Griffith. The winger cleared waivers Monday and was sent to Rochester.

"He certainly had a really good opportunity," said Housley, who wanted more complete and better offensive decisions from Griffith. "He's really a gifted scorer, talented and very fast. A lot of the games when he had opportunities to really take a hard look and had open ice to make a play or shoot the puck, he was almost looking to pass.

"Obviously, when you're not doing well, you're going to make changes."

Housley said the Sabres would decide Tuesday whether to call up a forward for the game against Tampa Bay.

Here were the forward lines and defense pairs during practice in HarborCenter:

Evander Kane-Jack Eichel-Sam Reinhart

Benoit Pouliot-Ryan O'Reilly-Kyle Okposo

Jordan Nolan-Johan Larsson-Jason Pominville

Zemgus Girgensons-Kyle Crisculo-Matt Moulson

Marco Scandella-Rasmus Ristolainen

Jake McCabe-Victor Antipin

Nathan Beaulieu-Justin Falk

Josh Gorges-Zach Bogosian

Matt Tennyson

Housley said Bogosian is a game-time decision for Tuesday's visit by the Lightning.

Sabres Jacob Josefson out 4 to 6 weeks; Seth Griffith sent to Amerks
Olean Times Herald

By: Bill Hoppe

Sabres center Jacob Josefson is out four to six weeks after tweaking the ankle that recently sidelined him, coach Phil Housley said. Winger Seth Griffith, meanwhile, cleared waivers today and was assigned to the AHL.

So, does that mean a forward will be recalled from the Rochester Americans? Housley said that would be decided Tuesday.

For now, winger Matt Moulson, a healthy scratch the last six games, is slotted to return for Tuesday's home tilt against Tampa Bay. Moulson, 34, has zero points in 12 games this season.

Moulson, who practiced at left wing beside center Kyle Criscuolo and Zemgus Girgensons today inside HarborCenter, has a spot on the power play.

Josefson looked impressive after returning from a 15-game absence Wednesday, pivoting the fourth line with Jordan Nolan and Kyle Okposo.

"It's tough, the way he came and the way he was skating, and that line in particular, with Nolan and Okposo, was really showing some good signs of contributing offensively," Housley said of Josefson's play over two games.

Josefson was injured in Saturday's 3-0 loss in Montreal. Griffith also played that night, his return after sitting out two contests as a healthy scratch.

Griffith's strong training camp earned him a roster spot. But the AHL star mustered only two goals and three points in 18 NHL appearances.

"He certainly had a really good opportunity," Housley said inside KeyBank Center. "I just thought a lot of his compete in his game, and also he's a really gifted scorer, talented and very fast. A lot of the games that he really had an opportunity to take a hard look and had open ice to make a play or shoot a puck, he was almost looking to pass.

"Obviously, when you're not doing well, you're going to make changes."

Griffith has 66 goals and 202 points in 203 career AHL games.

In other news, Housley said defenseman Zach Bogosian, who practiced again today, could make his season debut Tuesday.

"We'll see how he reacts after this practice," he said.

A lower-body injury has sidelined Bogosian since late in training camp.

Housley revamped his struggling power play today, spreading out players from the first unit. The Sabres' 30th-ranked power play is scoreless in 15 tries over the last five outings.

The units from forwards to defense:

– Evander Kane, Jack Eichel, Sam Reinhart, Victor Antipin and Nathan Beaulieu

– Moulson, Jason Pominville, Okposo, Ryan O'Reilly and Rasmus Ristolainen

“It's been a little bit stale lately, not to say that we haven't had chances on the power play, because we've had quality looks,” Housley said.

Sabres place Tennyson on waivers

WGR 550

By: Brayton Wilson

With some healthy defensemen ready to return to the lineup, the Buffalo Sabres have placed Matt Tennyson on waivers. If he clears waivers, he will be eligible to be sent down to the Rochester Americans.

The 27-year old defenseman started the season with the Sabres and appeared in 14 games before suffering a lower-body injury. In those games, Tennyson was held pointless with a minus-8 rating and 24 shots on goal.

Tennyson would have been the ninth defenseman on the roster with Zach Bogosian nearing a return from a lower-body injury, and with Josh Gorges and Justin Falk as the likely extras.

The Sabres will know if Tennyson clears waivers by 12 p.m. on Friday. The Amerks are home to face the Hartford Wolf Pack on Friday night at KeyBank Center.