



//// SPRINGFIELD THUNDERBIRDS ////  
**GAME NOTES**  
 //// ROCHESTER AMERICANS ////



# Rochester Americans @ Springfield Thunderbirds

Friday, December 8, 2017 @ MassMutual Center, AHL Regular Season Game #340

## TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (12-5-3-2) continue their four-game trek through the Atlantic Division and open their first three-in-three of the season tonight as they take on the Springfield Thunderbirds (9-15-1-0) at MassMutual Center. The 7:05 p.m. matchup is just the fifth all-time meeting between the two teams and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

## LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks kicked-off a four-game, eight-day road swing in a big way on Saturday, scoring four-unanswered goals during the second period on their way to a 5-2 victory over the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza.
- With the win, the Amerks have notched points in 13 of their last 14 games and 25 points out of a possible 34 dating back to Oct. 25. Rochester also improved to 6-1-3-1 in 11 games away from the Blue Cross Arena this season.
- Evan Rodrigues** (2+1), who was recalled by Buffalo earlier in the week after posting 10 points (5+5) in his last six games, and rookie forward **C.J Smith** (1+2) each recorded three-point nights to lead the Amerks to the win. The multi-point effort was Smith's third in the last eight appearances. **Garret Ross** scored his third goal in as many contests and **Eric Cornel** capped off the scoring while goaltender **Linus Ullmark** earned his 10<sup>th</sup> victory of the season, stopping 22 of 24 shots he faced. Over his last nine starts, the third-year netminder has a 7-0-2 record.

## ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- Rochester continues its weekend trek through the Atlantic Division on Saturday, Dec. 9 when the Amerks visit the Hartford Wolf Pack for a 7:30 p.m. face-off before taking on the Bridgeport Sound Tigers on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. All of the action from both games will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

## TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Rochester enters the weekend with points in six straight games and 13 of its last 14 to remain in sole possession of second place in the AHL's North Division standings. The Amerks trail the first-place Toronto Marlies by a mere seven points but with a game in hand.
- With four more points (1+3) through the weekend, including a three-point effort in Saturday's win at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Smith now leads the Amerks in all offensive categories with seven goals, 16 assists and 23 points while being one of just four skaters to appear in all 22 games this season. Smith currently leads all active AHL rookies in scoring and is tied for eighth overall among the league's

## 2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



**TOTAL GOALS**  
71-77



9-15-1-0 (19 points)

12-5-3-2 (29 points)

## AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	22	7	16	23	6	6
Sahir Gill	22	6	10	16	2	-7
Steve Moses	22	6	8	14	2	-8

## GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	16	10-3-2	877:44	466	.919	2.80
Adam Wilcox	9	2-2-3	470:28	195	.878	3.44

## NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Dec. 9	@ Hartford	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	@ Bridgeport	3:00 p.m.
Dec. 13	vs. Utica	7:05 p.m.

## LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 2	WBS	W 5-2	37-24	1-7	1-1
Dec. 1	Hartford	SOL 5-4	38-29	1-6	5-5
Nov. 29	Utica	OTL 2-1	30-33	0-4	0-0

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	6-4-0-1	40	35	13
AWAY	6-1-3-1	37	35	16
TOTALS	12-5-3-2	77	70	29

## THUNDERBIRDS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Alexandre Grenier	25	6	16	22	10	4
Curtis Valk	22	7	13	20	10	-5
Denis Malgin	13	4	10	14	0	2

## GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Harri Sateri	12	5-6-0	696:26	308	.906	2.76
Samuel Montembeault	13	3-9-1	717:51	333	.895	3.26



# //// SPRINGFIELD THUNDERBIRDS //// GAME NOTES //// ROCHESTER AMERICANS ////



top point-getters. He also ranks third among all first-year skaters with 11 power-play points, including a team-best three power-play tallies.

- With another assist on Saturday, **Brendan Guhle** pushed his point streak to a career and season-long four straight games. He remains Rochester's top-scoring blueliner and comes into the weekend tied for third in scoring among all AHL rookie defensemen with 14 points (5+9), all of which have come in his last 17 games. His three power-play goals are also tops amongst all first-year blueliners while his 51 shots are second-most.

- Ullmark picked up his 10<sup>th</sup> win of the season on Saturday while improving to 7-0-2 in his last nine starts. The former Swedish Goaltender of the Year and reigning team MVP hasn't lost in regulation since Oct. 28 and has won nine of his last 12 dating back to Oct. 25, including a career-best five straight to open the month of November. He's currently tied with fellow Swedish netminder and former Buffalo Sabres goaltender Anders Lindback for the league lead in saves (466), ranks fourth in wins (10) and is fifth in minutes played (878). His .919 save percentage is 14<sup>th</sup>-best among all goaltenders.

- Coming off Saturday's win over the Penguins, the Amerks have earned at least one point in 10 of their first 11 road games this season with only one regulation loss, a 5-0 setback at Binghamton back on Nov. 18. This weekend's three-in-three concludes a busy stretch in which Rochester played eight out of 10 on the road.

- The Amerks' 5-4 shootout loss to Hartford last Friday represented the ninth time in the last 16 games that Rochester was forced to play beyond regulation time. Coming into tonight, the Amerks lead the AHL in games decided after regulation with 10, showing a 3-3 mark in overtime while going 2-2 in shootouts.

## SCOUTING THE THUNDERBIRDS

- Despite dropping a pair of road contests last weekend to the Charlotte Checkers, the Thunderbirds return home to kick-off their fourth three-in-three of the season tonight against the Amerks.

- Springfield welcomes Rochester to MassMutual Center owning a record of 7-6-0-0 in 13 games at home compared to its 2-9-1-0 mark while on the road this season.

- Former Utica Comets duo Alexandre Grenier (6+16) and Curtis Valk (7+13) sit first and second on the Thunderbirds in scoring with 22 and 20 points, respectively. Grenier's 16 assists and 22 points both lead Springfield while Valk shows 10 points (3+7) over his last 10 games.

- After scoring 16 goals as a rookie last season for Springfield, second-year forward Anthony Greco leads the Thunderbirds with eight goals and 85 shots. He posted a five-game goal-scoring streak earlier this season, tying him for third-longest in the AHL.

- The Thunderbirds have used the goaltending tandem of Harri Sateri and Samuel Montembeault through 25 games this season. Prior to being recalled yesterday, Sateri was 5-1-0 in his last six games after going winless in six straight appearances to open the campaign.

## 2016-17 SEASON SERIES SCORING LEADERS BREAKDOWN

### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Derek Grant	3	3	1	4	0	1
Cole Schneider	4	1	3	4	2	3
Nick Baptiste	3	3	0	3	0	1

### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Linu Ullmark	4	3-1-0	241:40	7	.933 1.74

### SPRINGFIELD

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Anthony Greco	4	1	1	2	0	-2
Dryden Hunt	4	1	1	2	2	0
Paul Thompson	4	1	1	2	0	0

### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Adam Wilcox	3	1-1-1	182:57	5	.943 1.64
Mike McKenna	1	1-0-0	58:01	3	.864 3.10

## 2017-18 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

### Date Result Score SF-SA PP PK

Dec. 5

Mar. 24

**AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. SPRINGFIELD: 3-1-0**

## SERIES NOTABLES

- Amerks goaltender **Adam Wilcox** appeared in 13 games last season with the Thunderbirds, going 7-4-1 after a midseason trade from Tampa Bay. Wilcox, who holds the longest winning streak in Springfield history, recorded three shutouts with the Thunderbirds, including a 2-0 blanking against the Amerks on March 12 of last season. During his four-game win streak, Wilcox stopped 117 of 120 shots he faced while boasting a 0.75 goals-against average.

- Springfield assistant coaches **Doug Janik** and **Michael Ryan** each have ties to Rochester having spent time in the Flower City as players, including three as teammates from 2003 to 2006. Janik, a Springfield native, appeared in 376 career games in Rochester, the third-most among any blueliner in franchise history, and his 91 points (18+73) still rank 30<sup>th</sup> among all-time defensemen. Ryan played parts of five seasons with the Amerks as a forward, during which he totaled 126 points (57+69) in 218 career games, including eight during the 2011-12 campaign.