



Utica Comets vs. Rochester Americans

Wednesday, December 13, 2017 @ The Blue Cross Arena, AHL Regular Season Game #370

TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (14-5-3-3) return home from their weekend trek through the Atlantic Division tonight when they host the intrastate rival Utica Comets (10-10-3-1) in a North Division showdown at The Blue Cross Arena. Game time is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950AM ESPN Rochester.

LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks closed out their first three-in-three of the season with a 4-1 win over the Bridgeport Sound Tigers Sunday at Webster Bank Arena in the final stop of a four-game, eight-day road swing. The afternoon win extended Rochester's point streak to a season-long nine straight games as the Amerks closed out the road trip with a 3-0-0-1 record.
- Veteran defenseman **Zach Redmond** led the way offensively for the Amerks with a three-point effort, including a pair of power-play tallies, and **Seth Griffith** added two points (1+1) to extend his point streak to five straight games. The game was Redmond's first three-point outing since April 13, 2014 as a member of the St. John's IceCaps, moving him into a tie for third on the team in scoring with 15 points (6+9) in 17 games.
- Colin Blackwell** rounded out the scoring with his team-leading second shorthanded goal of the season while **Stuart Percy** (0+2) contributed a pair of assists as Rochester won it's first-ever matchup in Bridgeport. **Adam Wilcox** earned his second start in five games for the Amerks, turning aside 36 of 37 to improve to 3-2-3 on the season.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks host the first-place Toronto Marlies on Friday, Dec. 15 in the first of eight scheduled meetings between the two North Division rivals. The 7:05 p.m. matchup at The Blue Cross Arena will be followed by a rematch with the Utica Comets on Saturday at the Adirondack Bank Center to close out the weekend. Both contests can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Rochester enters the week ranked fifth overall in the American Hockey League and sits just six points back of the Toronto Marlies for first place in the North Division with an 14-5-3-3 overall record. Their 14 wins are tied for eighth-most in the league.
- The Amerks claimed five out of a possible six points last weekend and have collected at least one point in nine straight games, the team's longest stretch since the Amerks tied a franchise record with 11 straight wins from Oct. 12 to Nov. 10 during the 2009-10 season.
- Rochester has also earned points in 15 of its last 16 games dating

2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
68-85



10-10-3-1 (24 points)

14-5-3-3 (34 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	25	8	17	25	6	9
Sahir Gill	25	6	11	17	2	-7
Zach Redmond	17	6	9	15	12	6

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	18	11-3-3	1,002	508	.920	2.63
Adam Wilcox	10	3-2-3	530:21	231	.892	3.17

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Dec. 15	vs. Toronto	7:05 p.m.
Dec. 16	@ Utica	7:00 p.m.
Dec. 20	vs. Belleville	7:05 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 2	Bridgeport	W 4-1	33-37	2-3	1-6
Dec. 9	Hartford	SOL 3-2	30-27	0-3	4-5
Dec. 8	Springfield	W 2-1	37-19	0-3	3-3

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	6-4-0-1	40	35	13
AWAY	8-1-3-2	45	40	21
TOTALS	14-5-3-3	85	75	34

COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	22	13	11	24	4	-2
Nikolay Goldobin	18	7	12	19	6	1
Michael Chaput	20	8	7	15	16	-6

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Thatcher Demko	16	8-5-3	976:41	471	.920	2.52
Richard Bachman	8	2-5-1	482:54	185	.853	3.98



UTICA COMETS GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERICANS



back to Nov. 1 and have lost just twice in regulation over the last 19.

- Despite seeing his four-game point streak halted on Sunday, rookie forward **C.J. Smith** remains a point-per-game player for the Amerks. He paces the team in all offensive categories with eight goals, 17 assists and 25 points while being one of just four skaters to appear in all 25 games thus far this season. His 69 shots and plus-nine on-ice rating are also tops on the team. The Des Moines, Iowa, native currently leads all active AHL rookies in scoring and is tied for seventh overall among the league's top point-getters. His 17 assists tie him for sixth in the league.

- Three of Rochester's top five scorers are defensemen, all of whom are tied with 15 points entering the week. After recording five points over the weekend, including three goals, **Zach Redmond** (6+9) needs just two more goals to match his career-high. He has six goals on the season, placing him tied for third in the AHL in goals by a defenseman. Coming off a season-long five-game point streak, **Brendan Guhle** is tied for third in scoring among all AHL rookie defensemen with 15 points (5+10), all of which have come in his last 20 games. He also leads all first-year blueliners with three power-play tallies and 60 shots. **Stuart Percy**, meanwhile, has recorded all 15 points (2+13) in his last 16 games dating back to Nov. 3.

- Linus Ullmark** boasts an 8-0-3 record over his last 11 games. The former Swedish Goaltender of the Year and reigning team MVP hasn't lost in regulation since Oct. 28 and has won 10 of his last 14 starts dating back to Oct. 25, including a career-best five straight to open the month of November. He currently leads the AHL in saves (508), and ranks second in wins (11) and minutes played (1,002). His .920 save percentage is tied for 13th-best among all goaltenders.

- The Amerks' shootout loss to Hartford last Friday night at XL Center represented the 10th time in the last 19 games that Rochester was forced to play beyond regulation time. Coming into tonight, the Amerks lead the AHL in games decided after regulation with 11, showing a 3-3 mark in overtime while going 2-3 in shootouts.

SCOUTING THE COMETS

- Utica comes into the matchup with a 4-3-3-0 record in its last 10 contests. In their last four games on the road, however, the Comets have earned a pair of shootout wins while falling in overtime twice.

- Forward Reid Boucher leads the Comets in all offensive categories as he has 13 goals, 11 assists and 24 points in 22 games in his first season in Utica. After having been held scoreless in three straight games, Boucher notched his 12th and 13th goals of the season in a 4-3 overtime loss Sunday.

- The goaltending tandem of Thatcher Demko and Richard Bachman return to Utica this season. As a rookie, Demko showed a record of 22-17-4 in 45 games played while eight-year netminder Bachman brings a career record of 116-82-12 along with 16 shutouts into tonight's contest. Demko has got the starting nod in three of the last four games while owning a 3-2-2 record in his last seven starts.

2017-18 SEASON SERIES SCORING LEADERS BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Brendan Guhle	4	1	3	4	0	1
C.J. Smith	5	1	3	4	6	1
Steve Moses	5	1	2	3	2	-1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Linus Ullmark	4	1-1-1	225:11	9	.933	2.40
Adam Wilcox	2	0-1-1	84:56	5	.884	3.53

UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	5	3	3	6	2	1
Darren Archibald	3	2	3	5	4	2
Nikolay Goldobin	4	2	2	4	4	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Thatcher Demko	4	3-0-1	246:19	5	.963	1.22
Richard Bachman	1	1-0-0	65:00	2	.917	1.85

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	SOL	3-2	24-38	1-7	8-9
Nov. 29	OTL	2-1	30-33	0-4	0-0
Dec. 15					
Dec. 17					
Jan. 15					
Jan. 17					
Mar. 28					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 17-21-3

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester is 1-2-1-1 this season through the first five games of the head-to-head series with the Comets after going 5-3-0-0 last season.
- Rookies Brendan Guhle and C.J. Smith are both averaging a point-per-game against the Comets this season with each showing a goal and three assists. Guhle missed the previous get-together between the two teams back on Nov. 29, while Smith was held with out a point.