



//// UTICA COMETS ////
GAME NOTES
 //// ROCHESTER AMERICANS ////



Rochester Americans @ Utica Comets

Saturday, December 16, 2017 @ Adirondack Bank Center, AHL Regular Season Game #399

TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (15-6-3-3) renew their intrastate rivalry with the Utica Comets (11-11-3-1) tonight in a North Division showdown at the Adirondack Bank Center. The matchup will be the seventh of the season and second in the last four days between the two teams. Game time is slated for a 7:00 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950AM ESPN Rochester.

LAST TIME OUT

- For the first time in nearly a month, the Amerks fell in regulation, coming up just short to the league-leading Toronto Marlies last night at The Blue Cross Arena.
- With the 3-2 loss, Rochester's point streak was halted at a season-long 10 games and was just its second in regulation since Nov. 18. The Amerks have notched points in 16 of their last 18 games and 28 points since Nov. 1.
- Forward **Seth Griffith** pushed his point streak to seven games as he notched a pair of assists while **Alexander Nylander** recorded his second multi-point outing of the season with his second goal of the campaign to go with a helper. Rookie defenseman **Brendan Guhle** capped the scoring for the Amerks with his sixth tally of the year as goaltender **Linus Ullmark** took his first loss in regulation since Oct. 28. Entering the night, the Swedish netminder showed a 9-0-3 in his last 12 starts.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks return home on Wednesday, Dec. 20 when the Belleville Senators make their inaugural visit to The Blue Cross Arena. Following the 7:05 p.m. contest with the Senators, Rochester will travel north of the border for back-to-back meetings with the Laval Rocket prior to heading into the Christmas break. All the action can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Tonight's matchup marks the third of nine straight games against North Division opponents for Rochester to close out the 2017 calendar year. After this weekend, the Amerks are back home against the Belleville Senators on Wednesday night before seeing Laval four times over a five-game stretch to conclude the month of December.
- Rochester enters the contest after seeing a season-long 10-game point streak come to a halt last night against the Toronto Marlies. The Amerks, though, have collected at least one point in 16 of their last 18 games dating back to Nov. 1. The Amerks are fourth overall in the American Hockey League with just six points sitting between them and the top-ranked Marlies.
- With two points (1+1) over his last three games, rookie forward

2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
71-90



11-11-3-1 (26 points)

15-6-3-3 (36 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	27	9	18	27	6	9
Sahir Gill	27	6	12	18	2	-8
Zach Redmond	19	6	10	16	12	6

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	20	12-4-3	1,121	558	.921	2.57
Adam Wilcox	10	3-2-3	530:21	231	.892	3.17

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Dec. 20	vs. Belleville	7:05 p.m.
Dec. 22	@ Laval	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 23	@ Laval	7:30 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 15	Toronto	L 3-2	34-24	0-3	2-2
Dec. 13	Utica	W 3-1	34-30	1-1	1-1
Dec. 10	Bridgeport	W 4-1	33-37	2-3	5-6

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	7-5-0-1	45	39	15
AWAY	8-1-3-2	45	40	21
TOTALS	15-6-3-3	90	79	36

COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	24	13	12	25	4	-4
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	18	9-6-3	1,093	522	.921	2.47
Richard Bachman	8	2-5-1	482:54	185	.853	3.98



C.J. Smith remains a point-per-game player for the Amerks. He paces the team in all offensive categories with nine goals, 18 assists and 27 points while being one of just four skaters to appear in all 27 games thus far this season. His 78 shots and plus-nine on-ice rating are also tops on the team. The Des Moines, Iowa, native currently leads all AHL rookies in scoring and is tied for fifth overall among the league's top point-getters. His 18 assists also tie him for sixth in the league and are most among all first-year skaters.

- Three of Rochester's top five scorers are defensemen as they each show 16 points entering the weekend. Playing at nearly a point-per-game pace, **Zach Redmond** (6+10) has three goals in his last four games for a season of total of six, placing him tied for third in the AHL in goals by a defenseman. The veteran blueliner also has six points over his last four games and needs just two more goals to match his career-high of eight.

- **Stuart Percy** has recorded all 16 points (3+13) in his last 18 games dating back to Nov. 3, including a career-best three-point night on Nov. 15 against Binghamton. With his goal last night **Brendan Guhle**, ranks third in scoring among all AHL rookie defensemen with 16 points (6+10), all of which have come in his last 22 games. He leads all first-year blueliners with three power-play tallies and 69 shots.

- **Linus Ullmark** boasts a 9-1-3 record over his last 13 games. Last night's loss to Toronto was the first in regulation since Oct. 28 for the former Swedish Goaltender of the Year and reigning team MVP. Ullmark, however, has won 11 of his last 16 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 (558) and minutes played (1,121) and is tied for the league-lead with 12 wins. He also presently ranks 11th and 16th amongst all AHL goaltenders with a .921 save percentage and 2.57 goals-against average, respectively.

SCOUTING THE COMETS

- Utica, which picked up a 2-1 victory over the Binghamton Devils last night, come into tonight's matchup with a 5-2-3-0 record in its last 10 contests. Beginning with last night's game, the Comets are in the midst of a stretch of playing six of their next seven at Adirondack Bank Center.

- Forward Reid Boucher leads the Comets in all offensive categories as he has 13 goals, 12 assists and 25 points in 24 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 as well as an assist in last night's 2-1 win over Binghamton.

- 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 four of the last five games while owning a 4-3-2 record in his last nine starts.

2017-18 SEASON SERIES SCORING LEADERS BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

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

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Linus Ullmark	5	2-1-1	285:11	10	.939	2.10
Adam Wilcox	2	0-1-1	84:56	5	.884	3.53

UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	6	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	5	3-1-1	302:28	8	.953	1.59
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	W	3-1	34-30	1-1	1-1
Dec. 17					
Jan. 15					
Jan. 17					
Mar. 28					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 18-21-3

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester is 2-2-1-1 this season through the first six 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 plus/minus-rating of plus-two. Smith shows six points (2+4) in the six games against Utica, which includes a goal and assist on Wednesday, while Guhle boasts four points (1+3) in five matchups with the Comets.