



//// LAVAL ROCKET ////
GAME NOTES
 //// ROCHESTER AMERICANS ////



Rochester Americans @ Laval Rocket

Saturday, December 23, 2017 @ Place Bell, AHL Regular Season Game #436

TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (18-6-3-3) are back at Place Bell tonight for the final game of a back-to-back set against the Laval Rocket (11-13-5-2) as the new North Division rivals meet for the second time in as many nights before heading into the Christmas break. Tonight's 7:00 p.m. contest will be the second of four meetings between the two teams over the next seven days to close out the calendar year. All of the action will be broadcast live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks tied Friday night's game against the Rocket late in the third period to force overtime before **Nick Baptiste** scored the game-winning goal with 1:09 left in the extra frame.
- With the 3-2 overtime victory, Rochester has notched points in 19 of its last 21 games and 34 points since Nov. 1 while improving 10-1-3-2 while on the road this season. The Amerks remain the only team with one loss in regulation in the AHL and just sit two points behind the first-place Toronto Marlies.
- Amerks forward **Kyle Crisculo** (2+0) notched his second multi-point performance in the last three outings, and the first multi-goal game of his career, while defenseman **Zach Redmond** registered his second two-point night in as many games with a pair of helpers. Baptiste scored his sixth goal of the slate along with an assist for his fourth multi-point game of the campaign and shows five points (2+3) in the last six games. Goaltender **Linus Ullmark** stopped 34 of 36 to improve to 11-1-3 in last 15 starts. The Swedish netminder has a league-best 14 wins on the season.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks return home to The Blue Cross Arena following the Christmas break on Wednesday, Dec. 27 when they take on the Laval Rocket for the third straight game at 7:05 p.m. All the action can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Tonight's contest marks the six of nine straight games against North Division opponents for Rochester to close out the 2017 calendar year.
- The Amerks have collected at least one point in 19 of their last 21 games and 34 points dating back to Nov. 1. Rochester ranks third overall in the American Hockey League with just two points sitting between them and the top-ranked Toronto Marlies.
- The Amerks hold a record of 10-1-3-2 in 16 games away from The Blue Cross Arena on the season while being the only AHL team on the campaign with one regulation loss on the road this season.

2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
95-99



11-13-5-2 (29 points)

18-6-3-3 (42 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	30	10	20	30	8	13
Sahir Gill	30	9	12	21	2	-7
Zach Redmond	22	7	13	20	14	9

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	22	14-4-3	1,244	623	.924	2.46
Adam Wilcox	11	4-2-3	590:28	262	.897	3.05

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Dec. 27	vs. Laval	7:05 p.m.
Dec. 29	@ Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	vs. Laval	7:05 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 22	Laval	OTW 3-2	28-36	0-4	4-4
Dec. 20	Belleville	W 3-1	24-32	0-6	5-5
Dec. 16	Utica	OTW 3-2	30-33	1-6	3-3

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	8-5-0-1	48	40	17
AWAY	10-1-3-2	51	44	25
TOTALS	18-6-3-3	99	84	42

ROCKET OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Chris Terry	28	15	17	32	21	-14
Matt Taormina	31	2	24	26	10	-10
<i>Daniel Carr</i>	20	11	8	19	14	-3

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Charlie Lindgren	18	4-7-6	1,057	464	.896	3.07
Michael McNiven	8	3-4-1	461:14	203	.879	3.64



- Despite being held pointless in his last two games for just the second time this season, rookie forward **C.J. Smith** remains a point-per-game player for the Amerks and is tied for sixth in scoring in the AHL. He paces the Amerks in all offensive categories with 10 goals, 20 assists and 30 points while being one of just three skaters to appear in all 30 games thus far this season. His 81 shots and plus-13 on-ice rating are also tops on the team. The Des Moines, Iowa, native is currently second amongst all AHL rookies in scoring, while his 20 assists lead all first-year skaters and are tied for sixth-most in the league. Smith hasn't gone more than two games all season without recording a point.

- Three of Rochester's top six scorers are defensemen led by **Zach Remond's** 20 points (7+13) through 22 games, while both **Brendan Guhle** (6+11) and **Stuart Percy** (3+14) each have tallied 17 on the season. The veteran blueliner is currently third in goals by a defenseman with seven, one shy of matching his career-high of eight he set twice as a member of the St. John's IceCaps. He's also tied for fourth in points coming into the weekend. Guhle ranks third in scoring among all AHL rookie defensemen while his six goals are second among first-year blueliners in the league. Guhle also leads all first-year blueliners with 77 shots. Percy, meanwhile, has recorded all 17 points over his last 21 games dating back to Nov. 3, including a career-best three-point night against Binghamton.

- Goaltender **Linus Ullmark** boasts an 11-1-3 record over his last 15 games. The former Swedish Goaltender of the Year has suffered just one loss in regulation since Oct. 28 and has won 13 of his last 18 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 (623), minutes played (1,244) and wins (14). He also ranks tied for seventh and 12th amongst all AHL goaltenders with a .924 save percentage and 2.46 goals-against average, respectively.

SCOUTING THE ROCKET

- With a 3-2 overtime loss last night, Laval fell in the extra period for the third time in the last 10 games and show a record of 2-5-3-0 during that span.
- The Rocket, the new primary affiliate of the Montreal Canadiens, enters the contest third in the North Division with 95 total goals through their 31 games of the season. Despite having the third-best offense in the Division, Laval has allowed the second-most tallies in the AHL with 112 goals-against coming into the weekend.
- Chris Terry leads the Rocket with 15 goals, eight of which have come while on the man-advantage, which is second-most in the AHL. Additionally, his 32 points lead the team and place him fourth in the AHL in overall scoring. The veteran forward is also fourth in the league in goals and shows 10 points (3+7) in his last five games.
- Three-time AHL All-Star and last year's Eddie Shore Award winner Matt Taormina paces the club with 24 assists on the season and is the AHL's top scoring defenseman with 26 points overall.

AMERKS-ROCKET 2017-18 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Nick Baptiste	3	4	3	7	0	7
Kyle Criscuolo	3	3	2	5	2	5
Colin Blackwell	3	2	1	3	2	2

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	3	3-0-0	185:07	7	.937 2.27

LAVAL

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Chris Terry	3	2	1	3	0	-4
Byron Froese	2	1	1	2	2	0
Stefan Leblanc	3	1	1	2	0	2

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Charlie Lingren	2	0-0-2	126:20	7	.908 3.32
Zachary Fucale	1	0-1-0	60:00	5	.815 5.00

2017-18 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 25	W	5-2	27-39	0-5	5-6
Oct. 27	OTW	4-3	48-36	1-6	4-4
Dec. 23	OTW	3-2	28-36	0-4	4-4
Dec. 23					
Dec. 27					
Dec. 30					
Mar. 4					
Apr. 4					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. LAVAL: 3-0-0

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester looks for its fourth straight win over the Rocket after taking both ends of a home-and-home series against Laval earlier this season and with last night's game 3-2 overtime victory.
- Tonight is the second of four meetings over the next seven days between the Amerks and Rocket.
- Rochester enters tonight's matchup with an 85.5% success rate while shorthanded, which is third-best in the Eastern Conference. Laval, meanwhile, holds the seventh-best power-play, scoring on 26 of 147 man-advantage situations for an 17.7% success rate.
- The Amerks also enter tonight with 18 straight penalties killed, which includes five straight games without allowing a power-play goal.