ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

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TONIGHT'S GAME: Laval @ Rochester

Ullmark named CCM/AHL Player of the Week
WHEC
By: Staff Report

The American Hockey League announced today that Rochester Americans goaltender Linus Ullmark has been selected as the CCM/AHL Player of the Week for the period ending Dec. 24, 2017.

Ullmark stopped 65 of the 68 shots he faced in two starts for the Americans last week, going 2-0-0 with a 1.46 goals-against average and a .956 save percentage as Rochester continued to surge towards the top of the Eastern Conference standings.

On Wednesday evening, Ullmark took a shutout bid into the final minute of regulation and finished with 31 saves in Rochester's 3-1 victory over Belleville. And on Friday, Ullmark improved to 6-0-3 on the road this season, making 34 saves as the Americans defeated Laval, 3-2 in overtime.

A sixth-round choice by the Buffalo Sabres in the 2012 NHL Entry Draft, Ullmark has a record of 14-4-3 in 22 appearances for Rochester this season, posting a 2.46 goaals-against average and a .924 save percentage. The 24-year-old native of Lugnvik, Sweden, is tied for the AHL lead in wins and ranks first in saves (623) and minutes played (1,243). Ullmark is in his third season of pro hockey in North America and has played 105 AHL games with Rochester, going 50-47-5 with a 2.93 GAA, a .910 save percentage and two shutouts. The 2017 AHL All-Star has also made 21 career NHL appearances with Buffalo, posting a record of 8-11-2 (2.64, .913).

In recognition of his achievement, Ullmark will be presented with an etched crystal award prior to an upcoming Americans home game.

Amerks continue winning ways, top Laval 3-2 in overtime
13 Wham
By: Tobias Motyka

The Amerks had their ten game point streak snapped last week.

But Rochester got right back on the winning horse.

Kyle Criscuolo's goal with less than two minutes to go in regulation tied it, then Nick Baptiste won it in overtime, giving Rochester its third straight win, 3-2 at the Laval Rocket.

The win kept the Amerks within two points of Toronto in the North Division. At 18-6-3-3 on the season, Rochester has the second best record in the Eastern conference.

The same two teams will drop the puck again Saturday night in Laval, at 7 pm.

Nicholas Baptiste scores in overtime lift Americans over Rocket 3-2
The Canadian Press
By: Staff Report

Nicholas Baptiste scored at 3:51 of overtime as the Rochester Americans edged the Laval Rocket 3-2 on Friday in American Hockey League action.

Kyle Criscuolo's second goal of the game forced the extra period for the Americans (18-6-6), as he scored at 18:20 of the third with the goalie pulled for the extra attacker.

Eric Gelinas and Chris Terry found the back of the net for the Rocket (11-13-7).

Linus Ullmark made 34 saves for the win as Charlie Lindgren stopped 25-of-28 shots in defeat.

Both clubs went 0 for 4 on the power play.

Amerks – Rocket: Late Rochester Comeback Dooms Laval in Overtime
AHL Report
By: Amy Johnson

After a tremendous effort against the red-hot Syracuse Crunch on Wednesday night, the Rocket got back to work on Friday night with the first of a back-to-back series against the Rochester Americans.

The first period seemed a bit cautiously played, with the Amerks outshooting the Rocket substantially for the first half of the period. Physicality was in no short supply, however, as the two teams roughed each other up in a few post-whistle scrums throughout the period.

Rochester got on the board first after **Nick Baptiste** centered the puck perfectly, only to have **Kyle Criscuolo** deflect the shot directly into the net for the 1-0 lead.

Charlie Lindgren had some big saves in the period, as he tracked the puck well and stayed with shooters until the last possible second. At the other end of the ice, **Linus Ullmark** also robbed a few Laval shots, including a solid chance by **Jordan Boucher** in close.

Late in the period, McCarron dug the puck out down low behind the net and fed it up to **Eric Gelinas** on the point, who fired it home to even the score at 1-1.

The middle frame was filled with penalties, but both teams successfully killed off the infractions. **Chris Terry** banged home the go-ahead goal early in the period when **Tom Parisi** shot the puck from the point and Terry cleaned up the rebound off of Ullmark.

Terry had another golden opportunity later in the period, but hit the post instead. He entered the game just two points shy of tying the league leaders for first place in the AHL points race.

In the third period, things seemed almost sluggish. The teams exchanged a pair of penalties, but no damage was done on either power play. And while Laval outshot their opponents in the period, much of their play was done from the perimeter without any real danger.

Then, with just 1:40 left in the game, formed IceCap **Zach Redmond** blasted the puck from the point and Criscuolo got his second goal of the night. Immediately following that, **Nikita Scherbak** took an ill-timed high-sticking penalty, leaving his team shorthanded for the remainder of regulation and a bit of the overtime period.

Rochester seemed to control the pace in the extra minutes, but Laval managed to get some good shots on net as well. With just over a minute left, however, the Rocket turned over the puck in their own end and with Baptiste wide open it only took a quick wrister to seal the victory for the Americans.

These two teams face off again tomorrow night, and two more times next week when Laval goes on the road. The Rocket will need to find a way to maintain pressure, and not take their foot off the gas until the final horn sounds to end each game.

Amerks continue winning ways, top Laval 3-2 in overtime
13 Wham
By: Tobias Motyka

The Amerks broke a 1-1 tie with two third period goals, and got 31 saves from Adam Wilcox, defeating the Laval Rocket for a second straight night, this time by a final of 3-1.

Garret Ross (5), Stuart Percy (4), and Kevin Porter (6) scored the goals for Rochester, who improved to 19-6-3-3 with the win.

The Amerks head to Christmas break tied with Toronto atop the North Division with 44 points, though the Marlies are percentage points ahead of Rochester.

The Amerks return to the ice on Wednesday night at home against Laval for what will be their third straight game against the Rocket.

Amerks move to top of conference with win
Buffalo News
By: Staff Report

The Rochester Americans completed their back-to-back sweep of the Laval Rocket with a 3-1 road win Saturday night.

Rochester improved its record to 19-6-3-3, which moves the team into a first-place tie atop the Eastern Conference with Toronto. The Marlies have the edge in points percentage with 44 points in 30 games, as opposed to Rochester's 31.

The Amerks have recorded at least a point in 20 of its last 22 games heading into the holiday break. With an 11-1-3-2 mark on the road, they're the only team in the AHL with one regulation loss away from home.

Rochester's Garret Ross scored 20 seconds before the first intermission, and Laval evened it up with 7:10 left in the middle frame.

C.J. Smith scored the game-winning goal, his team-leading 11th of the season, with 9:50 left on the clock. Kevin Porter added a shorthanded insurance marker three minutes later.

Amerks complete sweep of Laval
C&C World Wide
By: Staff Report

The Rochester Americans scored 2 goals in the third period to beat Laval, 3-1, on Saturday night before 6,423 fans at Place Bell, and complete a sweep of the weekend series.

Rochester opened the scoring just 20 seconds into the contest on a goal by Garrett Ross off assists from Seth Griffith and team captain Kevin Porter.

The Rocket tied the game midway through the second period against goalie Adam Wilcox, who finished with 31 saves.

Sahir Gill notched his 10th goal of the season midway through the final stanza, which proved to be the game-winner. Stuart Percy assisted on the play.

Porter closed out the scoring with a short-handed goal less than 4 minutes later. Nick Baptiste received an assist on the play.

With the victory, Rochester (19-6-3-3) not only ties the Toronto Marlies (22-8-0-0) for the lead in the North Division, but both teams share the lead in the Eastern Conference with 44 points. However, the Marlies have 1 game in hand.

The Amerks now go on their Christmas break and return to action on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at the Blue Cross Arena against Laval. It will be the third of four meetings in five games as the Rocket also are in town on Saturday, Dec. 30.

The Amerks travel to Toronto to face the Marlies on Friday, Dec. 29.

Amerks rally past Laval in OT
C&C World Wide
By: Staff Report

Trailing 2-1 after two periods, the Rochester Americans pulled out a 3-2 overtime victory over the Laval Rocket before 6,801 fans at Place Bell on Friday night.

Kyle Criscuolo gave the Amerks a 1-0 lead midway in the first period off an assist from Nick Baptiste. The Rocket netted the equalizer past goalie Linus Ullmark about 5 minutes later.

The hosts grabbed the lead 5:16 into the second stanza.

With time winding down in the third period, Criscuolo notched his 8th goal of the season, and second of the contest, with 1:40 left in regulation to send the game into overtime.

Baptiste tallied his 6th goal of the campaigne 3:51 into the extra session for the game-winner off an assist from team captain Kevin Porter.

Ullmark finished with 34 saves as the Rocket outshot the Amerks, 36-28.

The two teams conclude the weekend series Saturday at 7 pm, before going on Christmas break.

Moses suspended

Rochester Americans General Manager Randy Sexton announced on Friday that forward Steve Moses has been suspended indefinitely for breach of contract. No further comment will be made by the organization.

Laval Rocket vs. Rochester weekend recap: Swept away
Habs Eyes on the Prize
By: Scott Matla and Jared Book

The Laval Rocket were coming off of a big win against the Syracuse Crunch, but weren't able to carry that momentum in their two-game series with the Rochester Americans. Laval lost both games as they head into the holiday break.

Friday - L 3-2 (OT)

On Friday night it would not be the start the Rocket were looking for as the Amerks struck first on some sloppy play behind the net. Nick Baptiste would strip Tom Parisi of the puck, and then find Kyle Criscuolo crashing the net for the opening goal. The Rochester lead wouldn't make it to the end of the period however, with Eric Gelinas tying the game up with a cannon of a shot from the blue line.

Jeremy Gregoire battled the puck behind the net, before getting it over to Michael McCarron. The forward passed out to the point and Gelinas let his massive shot fly and beat Linus Ullmark cleanly to tie the game up at one goal apiece.

After the opening twenty minutes of tightly contested hockey, the Rocket and Amerks would renew that same competitiveness in the middle period. It would end up being a period dominated by the Rocket, even if the shot clock remained even, the Laval side hammered the Amerks right from the outset. Nikita Scherbak and Markus Eisenschmid both had grade A chances early on in the period, but Linus Ullmark stood tall in net to turn them away. Then just over five minutes in the newly rejuvenated Chris Terry broke the deadlock on the scoreboard.

Michael McCarron got the puck to Tom Parisi at the point, and the defender let a wrist shot fly on net, and before Ullmark could find the loose puck, Terry crashed the net and shot the puck home for his team leading 15th goal of the season.

After Terry's goal the Rocket offence found a second gear and went after Rochester, and if not for some bad luck off the posts, and some stellar goaltending by Ullmark likely would have been leaving the period up by more than a goal. A late back and forth between power plays saw neither team do much with their man advantage, except take a lazy penalty and cancel out their own power play.

The Rocket would again dominate the shot clock in the final period, piling up 14 shots on Linus Ullmark, but couldn't find the back of the net for an insurance goal. With victory seemingly in hand after owning the flow of play for almost 19 minutes, the Rocket saw their two points go frittering away. Former IceCap Zach Redmond let a shot go from the point and Kyle Criscuolo got a stick on it to deflect the puck past Charlie Lindgren for a late, tying goal. To make matters worse, immediately after the goal Nikita Scherbak, who had played well again, took an ill-timed penalty that carried into the overtime period.

In overtime, the Rocket never found their legs, and Rochester took lengthy trips into the Laval zone, forcing their most skilled players to chase the puck for most of the extra period. Then it was Nick Baptiste who found some open space, and ripped a shot over Lindgren for the game winning goal.

Less than 24 hours after their overtime loss, it was a battle of the backups. Michael McNiven got the start for Laval. Adam Wilcox would start for Rochester.

It was a slow start for both teams as 15 minutes into the game, the two teams combined for only eight shots (four apiece). However, the Americans would come on strong late in the frame, and Seth Griffith found Garret Ross with a beautiful cross-ice feed who beat McNiven to give Rochester a 1-0 lead with only 20 seconds remaining in the period.

Rochester would close the first period on a 7-2 run on shots and lead 11-6 overall.

Laval would come back fighting in the second period, peppering Wilcox with chances. Michael McCarron would get a few, as would Daniel Audette and Antoine Waked but both times Wilcox would stop them.

It was the Rocket shot that seemed the least likely to go in that would eventually tie the game. After getting stopped on the doorstep, Chris Terry found the puck behind the goal line and somehow banked the puck in off of Wilcox to tie the game 12:50 into the second frame.
It was Terry's team-leading 16th goal of the season. Unsurprisingly, it was the new-found combination of Cracknell and Scherbak getting assists as the trio continues their strong form.

Laval would actually outshoot Rochester 17-9 in the second period but Wilcox kept his team in the game.

McNiven would also need to make some big saves in the second and early in the third as Rochester would get some scoring chances.

With 9:50 to go in the frame, former Hab Zach Redmond would throw the puck on goal and it would be tipped by Stuart Percy to give Rochester a 2-1 lead. It was the type of dirty goal you would need to beat one of the two goaltenders who were playing quite well.

Just over three minutes later, with the Rocket on the power play, a Laval turnover at the blue line would lead to a 2-on-1 and Nicholas Baptiste would pass across to Kevin Porter to make the game 3-1 and put the game out of reach.

Laval, after getting outshot in the first period, would put 34 shots on Wilcox. McNiven made 26 saves for the Rocket.

Amerks – Rocket: Late Rochester Comeback Dooms Laval in Overtime
AHL Report
By: Amy Johnson

The Rocket played a solid game on Friday night and deserved the win, despite a late-game comeback by Rochester, who would eventually win in overtime. Laval looked to build on that effort in their rematch against the Amerks on Saturday night.

It was a quick first period in that the first stoppage of play didn't occur until nearly 13 minutes had passed. Both teams were strong on their skates and the puck, but neither side could muster many good shots on net.

Late in the period, Michael McNiven made a series of big saves for Laval as the Americans surged in the final five minutes and began getting in close to the net.

But there wasn't much he could do when, with 20 seconds left before intermission, Garret Ross was left all alone to receive a centering pass and put a one-timer right into the net.

The second period brought some more tension when Jeremy Gregoire and Andrew MacWilliam each sat in the penalty box together on two separate occasions. First was when Gregoire had had enough of MacWilliam's jabs while they were jostling for position in the crease. The pair went off with coincidental roughing minors.

In response, Laval seemed to feed off that energy and picked up their own pace by getting a lot more pucks on net and buzzing around Adam Wilcox in the Rochester crease.

Then MacWilliam tried a new opponent, Michael McCarron, and after the two of them escalated their chirping, Gregoire stepped in and dropped the gloves. The pair sat again, this time with five-for-fighting penalties.

That really seemed to wake up the Rocket bench, and when Chris Terry got the puck on his stick down low he was determined to put it past Wilcox. His first shot hit the netminder and bounced off, he shot off the rebound deflected behind the net, and upon getting it back a third time finally found mesh. The teams went to the dressing room tied at 1-1.

For the final period, however, the Rocket fell back a bit. Gregoire and MacWilliam got in each other's faces for a third time, but no penalties were handed out. Then after a clean point-to-point pass from Zach Redmond, Stuart Percy rifled the puck towards the net and Sahir Gill deflected it past McNiven to put the Amerks up 2-1.

Late in the game, on a power play, McCarron couldn't control the puck along the far boards and turned the puck over to Kevin Porter who skated it through the neutral zone, drove the net, and roofed it. The Rocket couldn't recover and found themselves on the losing side of the game yet again.

Both teams now have a very short holiday break for Christmas, after which they'll meet again in Rochester next Wednesday.