



//// TORONTO MARLIES ////  
**GAME NOTES**  
 //// ROCHESTER AMERICANS ////



# Laval Rocket vs. Rochester Americans

Friday, December 29, 2017 @ Ricoh Coliseum, AHL Regular Season Game #465

## TONIGHT'S GAME

- The top spot in the American Hockey League's North Division standings is up for grabs tonight as the Rochester Americans (19-7-3-3) head north of the border to take on the Toronto Marlies (22-10-0-0) in an all-important battle for first place at Ricoh Coliseum. The 7:00 p.m. contest from across Lake Ontario will be the second meeting in as many weeks between the two teams and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

## LAST TIME OUT

- Rochester's bid for a fifth straight victory against the Laval Rocket came up short as the Amerks fell 3-1 Wednesday night at The Blue Cross Arena. It was just the fourth loss in regulation since Nov. 1 for the Amerks, who after a three-game skid back in October, haven't suffered back-to-back losses in regulation or gone more than two games without picking up at least one point since.
- Colin Blackwell** provided the lone Rochester goal with his career-high fifth tally of the season for the Amerks while goaltender **Linus Ullmark**, who was named CCM/AHL Player of the Week, made 23 saves in what was his eighth start in the past 11 games. The third-year Swedish netminder holds a share of the league-lead with 14 wins and boasts a 14-5-3 overall record on the season.

## ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- Rochester returns home to close out the 2017 calendar year on Saturday, Dec. 30 with another get-together against the Laval Rocket at 7:05 p.m. at The Blue Cross Arena. The contest will be the fourth meeting over a nine-day span between the North Division rivals and can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

## TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Tonight's contest marks the eighth of nine straight games against North Division opponents to close out the 2017 calendar year.
- The Amerks enter the matchup having won four of their last five and have collected at least one point in 25 of their first 32 games of the season. Rochester is tied with the Marlies for third overall in the league while sharing the top spot in both the Eastern Conference and the North Division.
- While the Amerks and Marlies show nearly identical records at home, Rochester boasts an AHL-best 11-1-3-2 mark (.794 winning percentage) on the road this season. The Amerks, who remain the only AHL team with just one regulation loss away from The Blue Cross Arena, carry a season-long 10-game point streak on the road dating back to a 6-5 overtime loss at Syracuse on Nov. 22, going 7-0-2-1 over that span.

## 2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



**TOTAL GOALS**  
**99-103**

**22-10-0-0 (44 points)**

**19-7-3-3 (44 points)**

## AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	32	10	20	30	8	13
Sahir Gill	32	9	13	22	2	-8
Zach Redmond	24	7	15	22	18	11

## GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	23	14-5-3	1,302	646	.924 2.44
Adam Wilcox	12	5-2-3	650:28	295	.905 2.86

## NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Dec. 30	vs. Laval	7:05 p.m.
Jan. 5	vs. Bridgeport	7:05 p.m.
Jan. 6	vs. Lehigh Valley	7:05 p.m.

## LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 27	Laval	L 3-1	32-26	0-5	3-3
Dec. 23	Laval	W 3-1	29-34	0-1	3-3
Dec. 22	Laval	OTW 3-2	28-36	0-4	4-4

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS
<b>HOME</b> 8-6-0-1	49	43	17
<b>AWAY</b> 11-1-3-2	54	45	27
<b>TOTALS</b> 19-7-3-3	103	88	44

## TORONTO OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Ben Smith	32	15	12	27	8	22
Andreas Johnsson	27	11	10	21	27	5
Chris Mueller	32	7	14	21	12	-6

## GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Garret Sparks	17	11-5-0	972:36	442	.936 1.85
Calvin Pickard	15	10-5-0	872:26	364	.919 2.20



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- Despite being held scoreless in four straight games for the first time all season, **C.J. Smith** remains tied for ninth in the AHL in scoring. He paces the team in all offensive categories with 10 goals, 20 assists and 30 points while being one of just four skaters to appear in all 32 games thus far this season. His 82 shots and plus-13 on-ice rating are also tops on the team. The Des Moines, Iowa, native currently ranks second in scoring among all AHL rookies behind only Manitoba's Mason Appelton, while his 20 assists lead all first-year skaters and are tied for seventh-most in the league.

- The Amerks own three of the top 13 point-producing defensemen in the AHL in **Zach Redmond**, **Stuart Percy** and rookie **Brendan Guhle**, with Redmond and Percy accounting for half of the team's top four point-getters. Redmond, who leads all Amerks defensemen with 22 points (7+15) through 24 games, is tied for fourth 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. The veteran blueliner is also tied for third in points coming into the weekend and is currently riding a four-game point streak (1+5). Guhle, meanwhile, ranks third in scoring among all AHL rookie defensemen with 17 points (6+11) while his six goals are second-most among first-year blueliners in the league.

- Amerks goaltender **Linus Ullmark** was named the CCM/AHL Player of the Week for period ending Dec. 24, 2017. Ullmark stopped 65 of the 68 shots he faced in two starts for the Amerks last week, going 2-0-0 with a 1.46 goals-against average and a .956 save percentage over that span. Similar to last season, no other goaltender has played more games than Ullmark. He enters play tonight the AHL's leader in saves (646) and minutes played (1,302) and is tied for first in wins (14). He's also tied for fourth and 12<sup>th</sup> amongst all AHL qualified goaltenders with a .924 save percentage and 2.44 goals-against average, respectively.

### SCOUTING THE MARLIES

- The Marlies hold a 5-5-0-0 record in their last 10 outings, but are winless in their last two following a 5-4 setback to the Syracuse Crunch Wednesday night at the War Memorial Arena.
- The teams combined for five goals in the first period before the Crunch tacked on two more to hand Toronto its fifth loss in the last six games. The team's lone win over that span was a 3-2 victory over the Amerks back on Dec. 15 in Rochester.
- Ben Smith paces the Marlies in both goals (15) and points (27) coming into tonight's showdown as well as a plus-22 on-ice rating that ranks second-best in the AHL. The forward has 10 points (6+4) in his last eight games but has been held pointless in the last two.
- Toronto owns one of the top goaltending tandem in the AHL in Garret Sparks and Calvin Pickard. The duo is ranked second and fourth in the AHL with a 1.85 and 2.20 goals-against average, respectively. After starting the season 9-2-0, which included a career-long seven-game win streak, Pickard has gone 1-3-0 in his last four starts since.

### AMERKS-MARLIES 2017-18 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

#### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Alexander Nylander	1	1	1	2	0	1
Seth Griffith	1	0	2	2	0	0
Brendan Guhle	1	1	0	1	0	0

#### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Linus Ullmark	1	0-1-0	58:14	3	.875	3.09

#### TORONTO

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Kerby Rychel	1	1	2	3	0	3
Ben Smith	1	1	2	3	2	3
Miro Aaltonen	1	1	0	1	0	1

#### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Calvin Pickard	1	1-0-0	60:00	2	.941	2.00

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

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 15	L	3-2	34-29	0-3	2-2
Dec. 29					
Jan. 26					
Feb. 2					
Feb. 23					
Feb. 24					
Mar. 3					
Apr. 7					

### AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. TORONTO: 41-63-4

### SERIES NOTABLES

- Dating back to last season, the Amerks have gone 4-1-0-1 while on home ice against the Marlies and are 6-4-0-1 in the last 11 games overall against Toronto.
- The Amerks enter tonight having successfully killed off 21 straight penalties, going seven straight games without allowing a power-play goal.
- Forward **Seth Griffith** and defenseman **Stuart Percy** each spent time with the Marlies organization.
- Amerks assistant coach **Gord Dineen** spent the last eight seasons on Toronto's coaching staff, helping the team to six 40-win seasons and four division titles. He served as Marlies head coach in 2014-15.
- After being part of the Amerks the last two seasons, forward Jean Dupuy has appeared in five games with the Marlies since his promotion from Orlando.