



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



Laval Rocket vs. Rochester Americans

Saturday, December 30, 2017 @ The Blue Cross Arena, AHL Regular Season Game #476

TONIGHT'S GAME

- The first-place Rochester Americans (20-7-3-3) play their final game of the 2017 calendar year tonight in another go-around with the Laval Rocket (13-14-5-2) at The Blue Cross Arena. The 7:05 p.m. contest will be the fourth meeting in five games between the two teams and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks rode a 22-save effort from goaltender **Linus Ullmark** to clinch sole possession of first place in the American Hockey League's North Division with a 2-0 shutout win over the Toronto Marlies last night at Ricoh Coliseum.
- With the victory, Rochester has notched points in 21 of its last 24 games and has collected 38 points since Nov. 1 during its recent surge up the Eastern Conference standings. The Amerks remain the only team in the league with one regulation loss while on the road this season and hold a record of 12-1-3-2 in their 18 games away from The Blue Cross Arena.
- In his first trip back to Toronto, former Marlie and current Amerk **Seth Griffith** led Rochester to its 20th victory of the season as he tallied a goal and an assist. **Sahir Gill** notched his 10th goal of the campaign to finish off the scoring while Ullmark, the reigning CCM/AHL Player of the Week, picked up his second shutout of the season after stopping all 22 shots sent his way. The Swedish netminder holds a share of the league-lead with 15 wins while improving to 15-5-3 on the season.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks usher in the New Year with a pair of Atlantic Division matchups at The Blue Cross Arena beginning on Friday, Jan. 5 when the Bridgeport Sound Tigers come to town. Rochester remains at home the following night as former Amerks Phil Varone and T.J. Brennan lead the Lehigh Valley Phantoms back to Rochester. Both contests are slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Tonight's contest marks the final game of nine straight against North Division opponents for Rochester to bring 2017 to a close.
- The Amerks enter the matchup having won five of their last six and have collected at least one point in 27 of their first 33 games of the season. Rochester holds the top spot in the North Division with 46 points and sits second in the Eastern Conference with a .697 win-percentage behind only the Providence Bruins coming into tonight.
- Despite being held scoreless in five straight games for just the first

2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
103-105



13-14-5-2 (33 points)

20-7-3-3 (46 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	33	10	20	30	12	13
Zach Redmond	25	7	16	23	18	11
Sahir Gill	33	10	12	22	2	-7

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	24	15-5-3	1,362	668	.926	2.33
Adam Wilcox	12	5-2-3	650:28	295	.905	2.86

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 5	vs. Bridgeport	7:05 p.m.
Jan. 6	vs. Lehigh Valley	7:05 p.m.
Jan. 5	@ Belleville	7:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

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

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS
HOME 8-6-0-1	49	43	17
AWAY 12-1-3-2	56	45	29
TOTALS 20-7-3-3	105	88	46

ROCKET OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Chris Terry	31	17	18	35	27	-13
Matt Taormina	34	2	25	27	10	-13
<i>Daniel Carr</i>	20	11	8	19	14	-3

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Charlie Lindgren	19	5-7-6	1,117	495	.900	2.96
Michael McNiven	10	4-5-1	580:00	252	.881	3.52



time all season, **C.J. Smith** remains tied for 10th in the AHL in scoring. He paces the team in all offensive categories with 20 assists and 30 points while sharing the team-lead in goals (10) with **Sahir Gill**. Smith is one of just four skaters to appear in all 33 games thus far this season. His 83 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 15 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 23 points (7+16) through 25 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 third in points coming into the matchup and is currently riding a career-long five-game point streak (1+6). 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 (668) and minutes played (1,362) and is tied for first in wins (15). He's also tied for fourth and seventh amongst all AHL goaltenders with a .926 save percentage and 2.33 goals-against average, respectively.

SCOUTING THE ROCKET

- Since last Saturday night's 3-1 loss, Laval has picked up a pair wins, which includes a 3-1 victory Wednesday against the Amerks. The team has also picked up points in five of its last 10 games, going 3-5-2-0 over that span.
- The Rocket enters the contest third in the North Division with 103 total goals through 34 games this season. Despite having the third-best offense in the Division, Laval has allowed the second-most tallies in the AHL with 119 goals-against coming into tonight.
- Chris Terry leads the Rocket and ranks third in the AHL with 17 goals, eight of which have come on the man-advantage, which also rank-third most in the league. Additionally, his 35 points lead the team and place him tied for third in the AHL in overall scoring. The veteran forward shows 13 points (5+8) in his last eight games.
- Three-time AHL All-Star and last year's Eddie Shore Award winner Matt Taormina paces the club with 25 assists on the season and is the AHL's top scoring defenseman with 27 points overall.

AMERKS-ROCKET 2017-18 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Nick Baptiste	5	4	4	8	0	8
Kyle Criscuolo	5	3	2	5	4	4
Kevin Porter	5	2	3	5	2	-1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Adam Wilcox	1	1-0-0	60:00	1	.971 1.00
Linus Ullmark	4	3-1-0	243:22	9	.934 2.22

LAVAL

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Chris Terry	5	4	1	5	4	-3
Byron Froese	2	1	1	2	2	0
Stefan Leblanc	5	1	1	2	0	3

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Charlie Lingren	3	1-0-2	186:20	8	.926 2.58
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. 22	OTW	3-2	28-36	0-4	4-4
Dec. 23	W	3-1	29-34	0-1	3-3
Dec. 27	L	3-1	32-26	0-5	3-3
Dec. 30					
Mar. 4					
Apr. 4					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. LAVAL: 4-1-0

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester enters tonight's contest with an 86.6% success rate while shorthanded, which is third-best in the Eastern Conference. Laval, meanwhile, holds the seventh-best power-play, scoring on 28 of 161 man-advantage situations for a 17.4% success rate.
- The Amerks enter tonight having successfully killed off 26 straight penalties, including eight straight games without allowing a power-play goal.
- Rocket forward Daniel Audette is the son of former Amerks forward Donald Audette.
- Linus Ullmark is 3-1-0 with a 2.22 goals-against average in four starts against Laval this season.