



# BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERICANS



## Bridgeport Sound Tigers vs. Rochester Americans Friday, January 5, 2018 @ The Blue Cross Arena, AHL Regular Season Game #500

### TONIGHT'S GAME

• The Rochester Americans (20-8-3-3) usher in the New Year with the first of back-to-back Atlantic Division matchups tonight when they host the Bridgeport Sound Tigers (16-12-3-1) at The Blue Cross Arena tonight. The 7:05 p.m. contest will be the second of four meetings between the two teams this season and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

### LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks suffered a two-goal loss to the Laval Rocket Saturday night on home ice, concluding a stretch of nine straight games against North Division rivals with a 4-2 setback. It was the fourth meeting over a five-game span between the two teams.
- Rochester closed out the 2017 calendar year with points in 21 of its last 25 games and collected 38 points dating back to Nov. 1 during its recent surge up the Eastern Conference standings.
- **Zach Redmond** pushed his career-long point streak to six games with his eighth goal of the season while **Sahir Gill** added his team-leading 11<sup>th</sup> of the season. Goaltender **Adam Wilcox** stopped 21 of 24 but took the loss, which snapped his three-game win streak.

### ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

• Rochester remains at home on Saturday, Jan. 6 as former Amerks Phil Varone and T.J. Brennan lead the Lehigh Valley Phantoms back to The Blue Cross Arena for their only trip of the season. The 7:05 p.m. matchup will be the first of just two meetings between the two clubs. All of the action will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

### TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Tonight's contest marks the first of back-to-back home games and begins a stretch in which the Amerks will play three of their next four at The Blue Cross Arena to open the 2018 slate.
- The Amerks enter the matchup having won five of their last seven and have collected at least one point in 26 of their first 34 games of the season. Rochester is just two points behind the Toronto Marlies for the top spot in the North Division with 46 points and rank third in the Eastern Conference with a .676 win-percentage behind only the Marlies and the Providence Bruins coming into tonight.
- Currently in his first pro season, **C.J. Smith** paces the Amerks with 20 assists and 30 points and ranks second on the team with 10 goals while being one of just three skaters to appear in all 34 games this season. His 87 shots and plus-12 on-ice rating are also tops on the team. Coming into the New Year, the Des Moines, Iowa, native is tied for second among all AHL rookies in scoring and 10<sup>th</sup> overall among the league's top point-getters while his 20 assists lead all first-year

### 2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



**TOTAL GOALS**  
101-107



**16-12-3-1 (36 points)**

**20-8-3-3 (46 points)**

### AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

| SKATER       | GP | G  | A  | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|--------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| C.J. Smith   | 34 | 10 | 20 | 30  | 12  | 12  |
| Zach Redmond | 26 | 8  | 16 | 24  | 18  | 9   |
| Sahir Gill   | 34 | 11 | 12 | 23  | 2   | -8  |

  

| GOALTENDER    | GP | REC    | MIN    | SVS | SV%  | GAA  |
|---------------|----|--------|--------|-----|------|------|
| Linus Ullmark | 24 | 15-5-3 | 1,362  | 668 | .926 | 2.33 |
| Adam Wilcox   | 13 | 5-3-3  | 707:56 | 316 | .903 | 2.88 |

### NEXT THREE GAMES

| Date    | Opponent          | Time      |
|---------|-------------------|-----------|
| Jan. 6  | vs. Lehigh Valley | 7:05 p.m. |
| Jan. 10 | @ Belleville      | 7:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 12 | vs. Binghamton    | 7:05 p.m. |

### LAST THREE GAMES

| Date    | Opponent | Score | SF-SA | PP  | PK  |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Dec. 30 | Laval    | L 4-2 | 38-25 | 1-5 | 2-2 |
| Dec. 29 | Toronto  | W 2-0 | 32-22 | 1-3 | 5-5 |
| Dec. 27 | Laval    | L 3-1 | 32-26 | 0-5 | 3-3 |

| YEARLY RECORD | GF       | GA  | POINTS |    |
|---------------|----------|-----|--------|----|
| <b>HOME</b>   | 8-7-0-1  | 51  | 47     | 17 |
| <b>AWAY</b>   | 12-1-3-2 | 56  | 45     | 29 |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | 20-8-3-3 | 107 | 92     | 46 |

### SOUND TIGERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

| SKATER        | GP | G  | A  | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|---------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tanner Fritz  | 29 | 10 | 25 | 35  | 22  | 6   |
| Devon Toews   | 30 | 8  | 14 | 22  | 8   | 3   |
| Sebastian Aho | 29 | 9  | 11 | 20  | 10  | 1   |

  

| GOALTENDER          | GP | REC    | MIN    | SVS | SV%  | GAA  |
|---------------------|----|--------|--------|-----|------|------|
| Christopher Gibson  | 20 | 12-6-2 | 1,157  | 446 | .903 | 2.49 |
| Kristers Gudlevskis | 14 | 4-6-2  | 761:23 | 299 | .890 | 2.92 |



skaters. Smith also leads the Amerks with seven multi-point outings, including a career-best four-point effort back on Nov. 17 vs. Hartford.

- Goaltender **Linus Ullmark** earned his second straight AHL All-Star selection yesterday, joining Smith as the Amerks two representatives. A mainstay between the pipes again for the Amerks this season, Ullmark boasts a 15-5-3 record and has won 14 of his last 20 starts dating back to Oct. 25, including a career-best five straight to open the month of November. Even more impressively, Ullmark is 7-0-3 on the road this season and is 12-2-3 over his last 17 appearances. Named the CCM/AHL Player of the Week for period ending Dec. 24, 2017, he currently ranks second in the AHL in saves (668) and minutes played (1,362) while being tied for first in wins (15) and shutouts (2). The former Swedish Goaltender of the Year and reigning team MVP also ranks third and fifth amongst all AHL goaltenders with a .926 save percentage and 2.33 goals-against average, respectively.

- The Amerks own three of the top 20 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 24 points (8+16) through 26 games, is tied for third in goals by a defenseman with eight, which matches the career-high he previously set twice as a member of the St. John's IceCaps. The veteran blueliner is also third in points amongst all defensemen coming into the weekend and is currently riding a career-long six-game point streak (2+6). Guhle, meanwhile, ranks third in scoring among all AHL rookie defensemen with 18 points (6+12) while his six goals are second-most among first-year blueliners in the league.

#### SCOUTING THE SOUND TIGERS

- Following a season-long five-game losing skid, the Sound Tigers have picked up 10 points in their last seven games as they have gone 4-1-2-0 since Dec. 16.
- Bridgeport comes into the matchup having allowed 90 goals through its first 32 games of the season, which are third-fewest in the Eastern Conference.
- The Sound Tigers' special teams have been dominant as of late, ranking second and third in the Eastern Conference with an 86.9% penalty kill and a 19.7% power-play percentage, respectively. Over its last seven games, Bridgeport has killed off 33 of the last 34 penalties (97.0%) and have scored 10 power-play goals during that same stretch, going 10-for-31.
- With leading point-getter Tanner Fritz on recall to the New York Islanders, the Sound Tigers return to Rochester fueled by second-year pro Devon Toews, who leads all active Bridgeport skaters with 14 assists and 22 points in 30 games this season.
- First-year forward Scott Eansor leads all AHL rookies with a team-high 13 goals and is fourth on the team with 18 points in 32 games for Bridgeport this season. Eansor opened the campaign with seven goals through his first six games, including a pair of multi-goal games.

#### AMERKS-SOUND TIGERS 2017-18 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

| ROCHESTER             |     |       |       |     |      |      |
|-----------------------|-----|-------|-------|-----|------|------|
| SKATER                | GP  | G     | A     | PTS | PIM  | +/-  |
| Zach Redmond          | 1   | 2     | 1     | 3   | 0    | 1    |
| Seth Griffith         | 1   | 1     | 1     | 2   | 2    | 1    |
| Stuart Percy          | 1   | 0     | 2     | 2   | 0    | 1    |
| GOALTENDER            |     |       |       |     |      |      |
| GP                    | REC | MIN   | GA    | SV% | GAA  |      |
| Adam Wilcox           | 1   | 1-0-0 | 59:53 | 1   | .973 | 1.00 |
| BRIDGEPORT            |     |       |       |     |      |      |
| SKATER                | GP  | G     | A     | PTS | PIM  | +/-  |
| Casey Bailey          | 1   | 1     | 0     | 1   | 0    | -1   |
| Michael Dal Colle     | 1   | 0     | 1     | 1   | 0    | -2   |
| Mitchell Vande Sompel | 1   | 0     | 1     | 1   | 0    | -1   |
| GOALTENDER            |     |       |       |     |      |      |
| GP                    | REC | MIN   | GA    | SV% | GAA  |      |
| Kristers Gudlevskis   | 1   | 0-1-0 | 60:00 | 4   | .879 | 4.00 |

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

| Date    | Result | Score | SF-SA | PP  | PK  |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Dec. 10 | W      | 4-1   | 33-37 | 2-3 | 5-6 |
| Jan. 5  |        |       |       |     |     |
| Feb. 28 |        |       |       |     |     |
| Mar. 15 |        |       |       |     |     |

**AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. BRIDGEPORT: 3-6-0**

#### SERIES NOTABLES

- The Amerks enter play tonight with a 17.4% success rate on the power-play while the Sound Tigers show a success rate of 19.7%, which is third-best in the Eastern Conference.
- Tonight's contest is just the 10<sup>th</sup> all-time meeting between the two clubs. With Rochester's 4-1 win earlier this season, it marked the Amerks first win at Webster Arena while Bridgeport failed to record a point for the first time in the previous eight games.
- In his second stint with the Sound Tigers, forward Stephen Gionta returns to his hometown of Rochester.
- The Sound Tigers have used the goaltending tandem of Christopher Gibson and Kristers Gudlevskis through 32 games this season. Gibson holds a 4-0-2 record in his last seven starts, while Gudlevskis is winless in his last seven appearances, going 0-3-2 during that stretch.