



LEHIGH VALLEY PHANTOMS
GAME NOTES
 ROCHESTER AMERICANS



Lehigh Valley Phantoms vs. Rochester Americans

Saturday, January 6, 2018 @ The Blue Cross Arena, AHL Regular Season Game #513

TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (21-8-3-3) play their second of back-to-back Atlantic Division matchups tonight when they host the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (21-10-2-3) at The Blue Cross Arena for the only time this season. The 7:05 p.m. contest will be the first of just two scheduled meetings and the only one in Rochester between the two teams this season. The game will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

LAST TIME OUT

- After seeing the Bridgeport Sound Tigers tie the game at 2-2 in the final minute of regulation, Amerks rookie defenseman **Brendan Guhle** needed just 61 seconds into overtime to lift the Amerks to a 3-2 win last night at The Blue Cross Arena.
- The win gave the Amerks points in 22 of their last 26 games dating back to Nov. 1 and marked just the first time in franchise history Rochester has earned back-to-back victories against Bridgeport.
- With his two-point night (1+1), Guhle moved into second place among active rookies in the AHL with 20 points (7+13) on the season, while **Kevin Porter**, who tallied his 100th point as an Amerk, finished the night with two assists. **Garret Ross** and **Sahir Gill** capped the scoring with their sixth and 12th goals of the campaign, respectively. Goaltender **Linus Ullmark** stopped 28 of 30 to record his league-leading 16th win of the season. The Swedish netminder also upped his record to 13-2-3 in his last 18 appearances.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks travel north of the border on Wednesday, Jan. 10 for a North Division showdown against the Belleville Senators at Yardmen Arena. The 7:00 p.m. matchup will be the fourth of eight meetings between the two teams this season and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Tonight's contest marks the second of back-to-back home games and begins a stretch in which the Amerks will play two of their next three at The Blue Cross Arena to open the 2018 slate.
- The Amerks enter the matchup having won six of their last eight and have collected at least one point in 27 of their first 35 games of the season. Rochester is just two points behind the Toronto Marlies for the top spot in the North Division with 48 points and rank second in the Eastern Conference with a .686 win-percentage behind only the Marlies 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 35 games this

2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
129-110



21-10-2-3 (47 points)

21-8-3-3 (48 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	35	10	20	30	12	12
Sahir Gill	35	12	12	24	2	-8
Zach Redmond	27	8	16	24	20	9

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	25	16-5-3	1,422	696	.927	2.32
Adam Wilcox	13	5-3-3	707:56	316	.903	2.88

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 10	@ Belleville	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 12	vs. Binghamton	7:05 p.m.
Jan. 13	@ Syracuse	7:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Jan. 5	Bridgeport	OTW 3-1	28-30	1-2	6-6
Dec. 30	Laval	L 4-2	38-25	1-5	2-2
Dec. 29	Toronto	W 2-0	32-22	1-3	5-5

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	9-7-0-1	54	49	19
AWAY	12-1-3-2	56	45	29
TOTALS	21-8-3-3	110	94	48

PHANTOMS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Phil Varone	36	10	28	38	20	3
Danick Martel	33	17	9	26	26	11
Oskar Lindblom	36	12	14	26	6	1

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Alex Lyon	19	9-7-2	1,070	517	.904	3.08
Dustin Tokarski	18	10-2-3	937:49	448	.896	3.33



season. His 87 shots and plus-12 on-ice rating are also tops on the team. Coming into the first weekend of the New Year, the Des Moines, Iowa, native is fourth among all AHL rookies in scoring and tied for 13th overall among the league's top point-getters. His 20 assists lead all first-year skaters and place him 10th in the league.

- Goaltender **Linus Ullmark** earned his second straight AHL All-Star selection earlier in the week, joining Smith as Rochester's two representatives. A mainstay between the pipes again for the Amerks this season, Ullmark boasts a 16-5-3 record and has won 15 of his last 21 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 and is 13-2-3 over his last 18 appearances. Named the CCM/AHL Player of the Week for period ending Dec. 24, 2017, he currently ranks second in the AHL in saves (696) and minutes played (1,423) while being tied for first in wins (16) and shutouts (2). The former Swedish Goaltender of the Year and reigning team MVP also ranks fourth and sixth amongst all AHL goaltenders with a .927 save percentage and 2.32 goals-against average, respectively.

- The Amerks own three of the top 10 point-producing defensemen in the AHL in **Zach Redmond**, **Stuart Percy** and rookie **Brendan Guhle**. Redmond, who leads all Amerks defensemen with 24 points (8+16) through 27 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 league defensemen despite seeing his career-long six-game point streak (2+6) come to an end last night. Guhle, meanwhile, is tied for second in scoring among all AHL rookie defensemen with 20 points (7+13) and currently leads all first-year blueliners with 86 shots.

SCOUTING THE PHANTOMS

- Following a 3-2 shootout loss last night in Toronto and a 5-2 setback last Saturday against the Charlotte Checkers, the Phantoms come into the matchup with a record of 6-2-1-1 in their last 10 games.
- The Phantoms return to Rochester fueled by former Amerk Phil Varone, who paces the Lehigh Valley offense with 28 assists and 38 points while being one of just four skaters to appear in all 36 games. Varone, a two-time Amerks MVP and former Rookie of the Year, ranks third in the AHL in scoring while his 28 helpers are tied for second-most. Varone, who spent his first five seasons in Rochester, shows seven points (1+6) over his last six games, including a pair of two-assist efforts over that span.
- Defenseman T.J. Brennan returns to the Flower City with 18 assists and 22 points, both of which lead all Phantoms blueliners through 28 games. Last weekend, Brennan, a two-time Eddie Shore Winner as the AHL's best defenseman, became the 10th defenseman in league history to record 400 career points. A three-time AHL All-Star, Brennan has recorded 401 points (138+263) in 547 career games with Lehigh Valley, Toronto, Rockford, Rochester and Portland.

AMERKS-PHANTOMS 2016-17 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Cole Schneider	4	2	3	5	4	-1
Cal O'Reilly	4	2	2	4	0	-2
Nick Baptiste	4	1	3	4	8	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	3	1-2-0	179:11	11	.884 3.68
John Muse	1	0-1-0	56:52	4	.886 4.22

LEHIGH VALLEY

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
T.J. Brennan	4	1	6	7	4	1
Chris Conner	4	2	3	5	0	5
Andy Miele	4	1	3	4	7	1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Alex Lyon	4	3-0-1	239:41	11	.897 2.75

2017-18 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Jan. 6					
Feb. 10					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. LEHIGH VALLEY: 29-28-5

SERIES NOTABLES

- The Amerks enter play tonight with an 87.3 % success rate on the penalty kill, which is second-best in the Eastern Conference, while the Phantoms show a success rate of 80.8%.
- Rochester's PK unit has successfully killed off 34 straight infractions and have not allowed a power-play goal in nine straight games dating back to Dec. 15.
- Despite just going 1-3-0-0 in the four-game season series last season with the Phantoms, the Amerks enter tonight with a 5-5-0-0 record in the last 10 games against Lehigh Valley.
- A former second-round pick of the Buffalo Sabres in 2007, Phantoms defenseman T.J. Brennan patrolled the Rochester blueline for two seasons, helping the Amerks to two consecutive playoff appearances. He nearly tied the franchise record for the most goals scored by a defenseman in a single season prior to being traded by Buffalo to Florida.