



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

Friday, January 12, 2018

TONIGHT'S GAME: Binghamton @ Rochester

Ullmark's joy for the game lifts the Sabres to a win

Buffalo News

By: Amy Moritz

The joy is always there for Linus Ullmark. There's a smile, often a wise-crack, and a love for the game of hockey, whatever the day may bring.

His attitude combined with his skill earned the goaltender a start with the Buffalo Sabres Thursday night. Those same attributes allowed him to backstop the Sabres to a 3-1 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets in KeyBank Center.

Ullmark made a career-high 44 saves and picked up his first NHL win since making 24 saves against the New York Islanders in the last game of the 2015-16 season.

"Very emotional inside. I try to keep it in," Ullmark said. "It's been my dream ever since the last summer to get it all together and come up here and play. I'm very humble and very happy about what happened tonight."

While the Sabres came out with power and a strong game in the first period to grab a 1-0 lead, the Blue Jackets had plenty of push-back in the second and third. Ullmark had to make all kinds of saves. He flashed the glove to save a shot from Seth Jones with 9:54 left in the second period. He found the puck during a few goalmouth scrambles. He smothered the puck to get whistles when his teammates desperately needed a moment to regroup.

And he did all with a sense of ease, purpose, and calm.

"I thought he was really compact, very calm in net," Sabres forward Kyle Okposo said. "He made a lot of saves look easy and a lot of pucks were hitting him in the chest. He looked really calm back there and that was the first game I've seen him play live in the regular season. I thought he did a really good job. We don't want to give up 45 shots too many nights but we'll take that win."

Confidence is what coach Phil Housley saw from his goaltender, the first time he's seen Ullmark play an NHL game.

"I think he's carried (confidence) forward from Rochester," Housley said. "He's very calm. He doesn't overplay things. He's pretty tight. He's pretty square to the puck and he makes that first save. He fought through some traffic then he made the second save. He stepped up, he was really on his angle and challenging and you could see the confidence in his game."

Ullmark became a familiar face to Sabres fans in the 2015-16 season when he played 20 games, mostly early in the season as Robin Lehner was out with a high ankle sprain. His "minions" mask was unmistakable, quirky, and endearing, and the native of Sweden looked like a starting goalie of the future.

With Lehner healthy, Ullmark went to Rochester where he's been steadily developing.

His first season saw him get 28 games with the Amerks, posting a 3.41 goals-against average and a .902 save percentage.

Last season, in 55 games with the Amerks, his numbers improved as his goals-against dropped to 2.87 and his save percentage improved to .909. Though he was recalled by the Sabres seven different times last season, he made just one NHL appearance, recording 33 saves in the Sabres' season-ending loss at Tampa Bay on April 9.

This season, his numbers are even better with Rochester. Through 26 games with the Amerks, he has a 2.27 goals-against and a .928 save percentage, earning him his second straight selection to the American Hockey League All-Star Game.

The key to his development, Ullmark said, isn't so much about technical work on the ice. His answer to questions about the growth in his game have always had a holistic bent.

"Mostly as a person," Ullmark said about how he's grown during the last three seasons. That includes getting married and now expecting his first child.

And it includes watching other players for ideas while staying true to himself.

"It's watching all the pros up here in Buffalo and also the pros that we have down there in Rochester and trying to figure out what's good for me, what works for me," Ullmark said. "If you do that, you can keep yourself in good shape and you can put up a lot more in games and all that stuff."

What works for Ullmark is keeping calm and being a goalie his team can feed off. It's something that defenseman Brendan Guhle has witnessed all season in Rochester. Ullmark finds ways to make saves and keep his team in games. But more importantly for Guhle, it's what Ullmark brings to the dressing room that makes him special.

"He's just a great teammate," Guhle said. "He's always got time for you and in return it reflects on the ice. He's always going to be there for you and you know you can trust him to do his job back there. If you're battling for him, he's going to battle for you. He's a real positive guy. I love being around him."

The feeling was mutual for Ullmark, who was perhaps as happy for Guhle to get his first NHL point as he was to get himself back in the NHL win column.

Guhle, in his second game with the Sabres this season, had the secondary assist on Kyle Okposo's goal that put the Sabres up, 2-0, in the third.

But aside from the assist, Guhle was again impressive on the blue line. He was plus-2 with two shots, three hits, and 16:10 of ice time. Several times he joined the rush, once a bit too eager, skating offside ahead of Jack Eichel.

"He wants to attack the game in a good way and he wants to get involved in the rush and sometimes he got a little too anxious, got too far ahead of it and had to put on the breaks," Housley said of

Guhle. "But he's trying to do the right play. He's trying to get involved in the rush. He's trying to attack the game and that's what we need from our defense."

Oh, the other noticeable thing about Guhle? He smiles. A lot.

"It's funny because he's got a smile on his face when he comes to the rink," Housley said. "He's happy to be here. He wants to contribute in the worst way and good for him. He's used the confidence that he's gained down in Rochester and brought it up here."

With the Sabres beginning their bye week with five days off, Ullmark and Guhle will return to the Amerks, who play at home Friday against Binghamton, at Syracuse on Saturday, and home again Monday to host Utica.

Sabres not only call up goalie Linus Ullmark, he will start against Columbus

Democrat & Chronicle

By: Andy Lipari

Linus Ullmark's performance this season in Rochester has earned both a promotion and a start with the Buffalo Sabres. He made his NHL seasonal debut Thursday against the Columbus Blue Jackets making 44 saves in a 3-1 win, but it might come as a surprise that he has doubted his abilities for a long time.

"I was very fortunate to get a few games with the Sabres my first year, which was a lot of fun and a lot of good experience during that period," said the 6-foot-4, 221-pound Ullmark, who turned 24 last summer. "I had a big dip at the end of the season, which I can look back now as a good thing that happened to me. I got to know I wasn't good enough."

This season with the Amerks, Ullmark is good enough — putting together his best season in parts of three seasons in Rochester. In 26 starts this season, he is 17-5-1 with a 2.27 goals-against average and .928 save percentage.

Linus Ullmark

The 2017-18 season stands in stark contrast to most recent Amerks seasons, and Ullmark is at the center of the team's success. The Amerks have 51 points, second-best in the Eastern Conference, and are only 16 points away from tying last year's 67 points that saw them land a 12th-place finish.

Ullmark was originally selected by the Sabres in the sixth round of the 2012 draft. Darcy Regier was still the Sabres general manager and Ullmark was the third-to-last pick Regier ever made with Buffalo.

Ullmark said he had some discussions with other teams before the draft but he never thought he was good enough to get drafted.

"I never saw it, I didn't attend the draft, I didn't watch the draft," he said recently following a weekend of games with the Amerks. "I did watch the first round because there were a lot of guys I knew who were projected to go pretty high. Once that round was over I just relaxed and did my own thing.

"I remember being out golfing and afterwards I got a call from the scouts saying congratulations. I had no idea what it meant for me in the long term but I knew it was a big opportunity for me and I was super excited at the time."

The Sabres were a fairly stable franchise when Ullmark was drafted.

Fast forward to 2018, the Sabres organization has been anything but stable. They've seen three different management teams, while the Sabres and Amerks have each had five head coaches since 2012.

Ullmark came over from the SweHL in his native Sweden in 2015 and started his first season in North America with the Sabres, going 8-10-2 with a 2.60 goals-against average and .913 save percentage.

The plan for Ullmark had been to start in the minors but injuries threw him into the starting role with Buffalo. Ullmark, however, knew he needed time in Rochester.

And now, at least for Thursday, his time is in Buffalo.

The Sabres former GM Tim Murray and Jason Botterill, the current general manager, have taken different approaches with the Sabres goaltender situation.

Murray traded for Robin Lehner before the 2015 draft and moved into the starting goaltender role in Buffalo. It was a trade Ullmark wasn't disappointed to see.

"At the time, I was only playing in the minors so the Sabres making a trade was out of my reach," he said. "I can't go out there and pretend I'm going to be a hot shot and deserve to be an NHL player because I wasn't good enough. That's what I thought at the time and still think that."

Botterill has been consistent that he wants Ullmark, and the younger players for that matter, to play in Rochester on a regular basis instead of going up and down the Thruway to play sparingly with Buffalo.

Botterill also showed enough belief in Ullmark that he sent Las Vegas a sixth-round pick out of good faith so the Golden Knights would not select Ullmark in their expansion draft.

"I'm very happy that they wanted to keep me here," Ullmark said. "I like Rochester, I like Buffalo, so when that happened I was very happy. They did something to keep me here, it wasn't that another team didn't pick me. I have a lot of gratitude toward management."

Ullmark's hockey roots run deep. He was born in Lugnvik, Sweden where his dad created a rink outside of the daycare his mother worked at for Linus and his brother. Whenever they weren't there, they were at the local rink.

As a kid, Ullmark's favorite player Peter Forsberg, a fellow Swede, whose game-winning goal in the 1994 Olympics became the stuff of lore (and a postage stamp) after Sweden captured the gold medal. Ullmark wasn't even a year old.

"I always loved him ever since he came over to the Colorado Avalanche, so I've always been looking up to him," Ullmark said. "When I started to get into being a goalie, I started looking at guys like (Dominik) Hasek; him and (Patrick) Roy were a fan favorite of mine."

However, Ullmark didn't always want to wear the big pads between the pipes.

"I wanted to be a player, you know, I liked to score goals," said Ullmark. "I went back and forth on it until I turned 16, when I played goalie with the older guys. I got to a point where I needed to choose, and it was pretty obvious because I was a lot better being a goalie than a player."

Ullmark played an AHL-high 55 games last season, facing the most shots (1,678) and making the most saves (1,525) in the league. He's once again near the top of those categories this season with 26 games played, tied for the most in the league, and he's third with 722 saves.

All those minutes have taught Ullmark one important lesson: how to take care of his body.

"The ability to play a lot of games really takes a toll on your body, so the amount of work you have to do before hand and during the off-season has changed a lot since my first year coming in," said Ullmar. "Being able to stay on top of it every day and not think, 'I'm alright,' because you're not.

"That's also what you see from the best pros out there, they're taking care of their bodies all the time. They're doing the small things every day and that's been one of the biggest things to learn."

Sabres goalie Linus Ullmark savors rare NHL victory

Olean Times Herald

By: Bill Hoppe

Sabres goalie Linus Ullmark experienced the thrill of earning an NHL victory long before making a career-high 44 saves in Thursday's 3-1 triumph against the Columbus Blue Jackets.

Ullmark won eight of his 20 appearances as a rookie two seasons ago, often showcasing the talents of a future No. 1 netminder.

But with Robin Lehner entrenched as the Sabres' starter, Ullmark, 24, has spent two seasons developing in the AHL, where he has quietly morphed into one of hockey's top goaltending prospects.

NHL starts have been scant. The Swede's last game before Thursday came April 9, his only appearance last season. He hadn't won a game since April 9, 2016.

That's why backstopping the Sabres to only their 11th win this season was so special.

"Very emotional, I try to keep it inside, naturally," Ullmark said after the Sabres' ended their five-game losing streak. "It's been my dream ever since last summer to get it all together and come up and play. ... I'm very humble and happy about the win tonight."

Coach Phil Housley said the Sabres will likely return Ullmark and rookie defenseman Brendan Guhle, who assisted on winger Kyle Okposo's game-winning goal, to the Rochester Americans today.

The Sabres begin a five-day bye week today. Still, given the team's sorry state, it's possible the two youngsters have played their last NHL games for a bit.

The Amerks looked poised for a long playoff run. That would benefit them much more than sticking around the last-place Sabres.

The Sabres had nothing to lose by starting Ullmark, who practiced three days this week as insurance after a puck hit Lehner's neck Sunday.

Lehner played Tuesday but got yanked from a 7-4 loss to Winnipeg, a game after which Housley criticized his goaltending.

The Sabres need a spark, so they turned to Ullmark, whose confidence impressed Ullmark.

"He's carried that forward from Rochester," he said. "He's very calm, he doesn't overplay things, he's pretty tight and he's pretty square to the puck and he makes that first save. He fought through some traffic to make the second save."

“He stepped up, he was on his angle and he was challenging and you could see the confidence in his game.”

Ullmark made 11 saves in the first period, 15 in the second and 18 in the third. Only Artemi Panarin’s wicked power-play backhand shot beat him high 13:45 into the third period.

The 6-foot-4 Ullmark often flopped around during his first NHL stint. On Thursday, however, he showcased a calm, compact style.

“He made a lot of saves look easy and a lot of pucks were hitting him in the chest,” Okposo said.

After opening up a 2-0 lead – winger Benoit Pouliot scored early – center Jack Eichel’s empty-net goal, his team-leading 18th score, sealed the game.

While the Sabres gave up a lot of shots, they played much tighter defensively than Tuesday, an outing so bad Housley ripped his team’s feeble efforts to defend.

“We just really had a focus on getting back and limiting their odd-man rushes,” Okposo said. “I don’t think they had too many tonight.”

Ullmark said: “We did a tremendous job of boxing out, also blocking shots that might’ve been a goal. If you keep all the shots from the outside, it makes it a lot easier.”

The slick Guhle, who recorded his first NHL point in his fifth game, can make joining the rush look easy. He pinched twice in the first 10 minutes, almost creating an early goal.

“He wants to attack the game in a good way and he wants to get involved in the rush,” Housley said. “I think sometimes he got a little too anxious, like got too far ahead of it and he had to put on the brakes.”

“But I think all the things he’s doing, he’s trying to do it in the right way. He’s trying to get involved in the rush, he’s trying to lead it, he’s trying to attack the game and that’s what we need from our defense.”

Guhle said: “I felt good out there. It’s good to start out the game with some energy. We created some chances right off the first few shifts. I think that put the other teams on their heels a little bit and gives us some momentum.”

Sabres Notebook; Biron Going In Amerks Hall

Buffalo News

By: Amy Moritz

Marty Biron will be inducted into the Rochester Americans Hall of Fame on Feb. 16 before the Amerks host the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins at Blue Cross Arena.

Biron played for the Amerks for parts of four seasons from 1997-2001 with a 59-32-9 career record, .921 save percentage, and a 2.36 goals against average, the latter ranking 12th among all goaltenders in Amerks franchise history.

"I am so truly honored and humbled to enter the Rochester Americans Hall of Fame," Biron said in the official release. "When you think about all the amazing players and coaches that have been part of such an historical organization over the years, it's an incredible feeling to be placed among them.

"The Amerks gave me my first taste of professional hockey and allowed me to have the success I did throughout my career in both the National Hockey League and American Hockey League. I wouldn't be who I am today, even now in my current role with the Sabres, if it weren't for those early years in Rochester. I am truly grateful and so proud of my time with the Amerks."

Biron's best season with the Amerks came in 1998-99 when he appeared in 52 games and finished with a 36-13-3 record while setting the franchise mark for the lowest goals against average (2.07) and highest save percentage (.930), which also tied an AHL record. He won the AHL's top two goaltending awards – the Aldedge (Baz) Bastien Memorial Award, presented to the goalie voted best at his position, and the Harry (Hap) Holmes Memorial Award, given to the goalie with the lowest goals-against.

Biron played in the Sabres organization through the 2006-07 season, closing out his 16-year playing career with stops in Philadelphia, the New York Islanders and the New York Rangers. He retired after the 2013-14 season with a 230-191-52 record and 28 career shutouts.

He serves as the director of goaltending for the Academy of Hockey at HarborCenter and is in his first season working for the Sabres television broadcasts.

Boy, boy, crazy boy. Keep cool boy.

It's not quite West Side Story, but the rivalry between the Sharks and Jets in the NHL reached a new level this week.

Several members of the San Jose Sharks were asked what the worst NHL city was and they named Winnipeg. In the video posted on Twitter by NBC Sports California, the broadcasting partner of the Sharks players complained about the city.

"Winnipeg. Dark, cold, Internet is a little questionable," defenseman Justin Braun said. "Internet doesn't work ever. I don't know if they have Wi-Fi there yet."

"I think it's Winnipeg because every time it's so cold and dark there. I don't like it there," said forward Tomas Hertl.

The video has since been deleted.

Meeting the media Tuesday morning in Buffalo before playing the Sabres in KeyBank Center, Jets coach Paul Maurice had a classic response.

"I don't think any coach, any player, trainer, referee should ever complain about a day in the National Hockey League," Maurice said. "We've got a sold-out building. Pretty sure that all goes into hockey-related revenues and everybody cashes their check."

"The thread count in your hotel sheet isn't right or your frappuccino isn't frothed right. I don't even know what a frappuccino is. But my point being, we've got nothing to complain about. Pretty good life."

Amerks to host Teacher Appreciation Day

C&C WorldWide

By: Staff Report

The Rochester Americans announced today that the team will host Teacher Appreciation Day on Monday, Jan. 15 when the Amerks play the Utica Comets at 1:05 p.m. at The Blue Cross Arena.

With schools closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the Amerks are offering all Rochester-area school teachers one complimentary ticket to the game. Teachers can obtain their tickets by visiting www.amerks.com/teacher while additional tickets can be purchased for as low as just \$12. Teachers or their families can also use that link to submit a photo to be used during an in-game tribute on the video board.

The Amerks Team Store presented by ADPRO Sports is also offering a special sale on merchandise for that day only. Teachers can receive 25% off their entire purchase in-store beginning at 10:00 a.m. through the end of the game when they show their school-issued ID. The sale cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions. Certain restrictions may apply.

Rochester's next home game is Friday, Jan. 12 when the Amerks host the intrastate rival Binghamton Devils at 7:05 p.m. at The Blue Cross Arena.

Amerks fall in OT to Belleville

C&C WorldWide

By: Staff Report

The Rochester Americans (22-8-4-3) were 15 seconds away from coming out with a 2-1 win against the Belleville Senators (15-20-0-3) at Yardmen Arena Wednesday, but the Sens tied the game late before escaping with a 3-2 overtime win.

Despite the loss in the extra frame, the Amerks have compiled points in 24 of their last 28 games and have collected 43 points dating back to Nov. 1. Additionally, the overtime loss keeps the Amerks as the only team with one regulation loss away from the Blue Cross Arena as they show a 12-1-4-2 record in 19 road games this season.

The Amerks were led by Hudson Fasching (1+1) and Colin Blackwell (0+2) as they each turned in a multi-point performance while Taylor Fedun bagged his first goal of the season as he appeared in just his third game since returning from an injury that kept him out nearly two months. Goaltender Adam Wilcox made 32 saves but took the overtime loss to drop his record to 5-3-4 in 14 appearances this season.

Ethan Werek notched his ninth goal of the slate to go along with an assist as he grabbed a hold of the team lead in points for Belleville. Max Reinhart and Jordan Murray each found the back of the net while goaltender Andrew Hammond stopped 21 of 23 to earn his eighth win of the season in the blue paint.

Late in the contest, the Amerks pressured the B-Sens to keep Hammond in the net as they held a 2-1 lead inside the final minute of play, but Belleville evaded the press before entering the Rochester zone.

As Hammond made his way to the bench for the extra attacker, Reinhart fired a shot off the end boards that somehow made its way past Wilcox to even the score at 2-2 with 15 seconds showing on the third-period clock.

The contest went beyond regulation, similar to the previous meeting at Yardmen Arena back on Nov. 11 when the two North Division clubs required an overtime period.

Rochester controlled the puck for the first half of the extra frame, but was whistled for a slashing infraction with 2:27 left in the overtime, giving Belleville a 4-on-3 man-advantage.

After entering the Amerks zone with the puck by the right face-off dot, Chris DiDomenico slipped a pass to Murray atop the right point. The rookie defenseman, who provided the overtime winner back on Nov. 11, corralled the pass before sniping a shot past the blocker of Wilcox to give the Sens a 3-2 overtime win.

Murray's fifth tally of the season came at the 3:18 mark and snapped a string of 10 straight games that the Amerks had not allowed a power-play goal. Rochester's shorthanded unit had successfully killed off 40 consecutive infractions dating back to Dec. 15.

Belleville opened the scoring and took a 1-0 lead into the first intermission break despite outshooting Rochester 16-6, but Fedun tied the game with 1:26 left in the second period with his first goal of the season.

Fasching broke up a B-Sens pass to enter the Amerks zone and sprung Blackwell and Fedun on a 2-on-1 rush towards Hammond late in the second stanza. Blackwell drifted to his left, forcing the defender to lose his angle, before sending a pass to Fedun. The blueliner fired the puck past the glove-hand of the netminder to even the game at 1-1.

Rochester carried the momentum of Fedun's tally as Fasching redirected a Blackwell shot to give the Amerks their first lead of the night with 10:56 left in the contest. Both Blackwell and Garret Ross each factored in on Fasching's seventh goal of the year.

The Sens would not go away quietly, however, as Reinhart evened the score with 15 seconds remaining before Murray sealed the 3-2 win for Belleville.

The Amerks return to the Blue Cross Arena Friday, Jan. 12 when they host the Binghamton Devils for a 7:05 pm showdown in Rochester. Friday's matchup will be the fifth of 10 meetings between the North Division rivals this season and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester. The game will also be televised on MSG.

Gill exceeding expectations for Amerks

Pickin' Splinters

By: Kevin Oklobzija

When the Rochester Americans signed Sahir Gill to an American Hockey League contract over the summer, they had specific needs in mind.

They weren't expecting Gill to be their go-to goal-scorer, they wanted him to fill a bottom-six forward role. They didn't plan on having him log big-time power-play minutes, they envisioned him killing penalties.

But it's amazing what happens to a player when all he does is work, and work on getting better.

A year ago, Gill finally spent an entire season on an AHL roster after bouncing between the ECHL and AHL in his first three pro seasons. And now, as the Amerks near the midway point of their 76-game regular-season schedule, the 25-year-old left winger is firmly entrenched in the Amerks lineup and playing a prime-time role.

"I've always believed that whether you're on an NHL contract or an AHL contract, until you let your advance go, you keep going," Amerks coach Chris Taylor said. "He's a smart player, he cares, he works hard after practice and he's got those instincts that you can't teach."

Taylor knew that coming into the season. As an assistant coach last season with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, he's the guy who spent a good many post-practice hours working with Gill on skill development and the nuances of the game.

"I worked with him a lot, I did video with him every day," Taylor said.

Still, even with the best scouting report on Gill of anyone in the organization, Taylor didn't envision the 25-year-old Boston University product playing a prominent top-six role.

What's that they say about assuming? Gill leads the Amerks in goals (12) and is second behind rookie C.J. Smith in points (25). Four of his goals have come on the power play, which is more than he has ever scored in college or pro.

When at even strength, he's playing the left wing on a line with center Kevin Porter and right winger Seth Griffith.

"He's a really smart player and he hangs onto the puck, he doesn't just throw it away," said Porter, who also played in Wilkes-Barre/Scranton last season. "When we get the puck into the zone, he and Griffith can make plays with the puck. He's getting more of an opportunity this year and it's great to see."

Taylor doesn't see any reason that will change, either.

“He deserves to be on the power play and he deserves to be on that line,” Taylor said. “He’s going to be there until he falters. Nobody’s going to push him out; only he can push him out.”

Gill, of course, plans to continue proving his roles shouldn’t change. Well, actually he plans to just keep working. The last thing he wants to do is look at his offensive production and feel satisfied.

“It’s not something I want to dwell on, that’s when the details of your game get away,” the Terrance, British Columbia native said.

Instead, his focus is on helping the team win. The points in the standings are far more important.

“You have 60 minutes to get two points,” he said.

Amerks to host Teacher Appreciation Day on Monday, January 15th

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By: Paul Gotham

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Rochester's next home game is Friday, Jan. 12 when the Amerks host the intrastate rival Binghamton Devils at 7:05 p.m. at The Blue Cross Arena. Individual game tickets for the 2017-18 season start at just \$14. Amerks Season Ticket Memberships, which start as low as just \$12 per game, are on-sale now. The Amerks are also offering a variety of partial plans, including Half-Season Memberships and Flex Season Memberships with vouchers good for best available seating to any home game. All memberships are up to 40% off Box Office day of game pricing. For more information, visit www.amerks.com or call 1-855-GO-AMERKS.

Amerks give up late goal, fall in OT

Rochester First

By: Thad Brown

The Rochester Americans (22-8-4-3) were 15 seconds away from coming out with a 2-1 win against the Belleville Senators (15-20-0-3) at Yardmen Arena Wednesday but the Sens tied the game late before escaping with a 3-2 overtime win.

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Belleville opened the scoring and took a 1-0 lead into the first intermission break despite outshooting Rochester 16-6, but Fedun tied the game with 1:26 left in the second period with his first goal of the season.

Fasching broke up a B-Sens pass to enter the Amerks zone and sprung Blackwell and Fedun on a 2-on-1 rush towards Hammond late in the second stanza. Blackwell drifted to his left, forcing the defender to lose his angle, before sending a pass to Fedun. The blueliner fired the puck past the glove-hand of the netminder to even the game at 1-1.

Rochester carried the momentum of Fedun's tally as Fasching redirected a Blackwell shot to give the Amerks their first lead of the night with 10:56 left in the contest. Both Blackwell and Garret Ross each factored in on Fasching's seventh goal of the year.

The Sens would not go away quietly, however, as Reinhart evened the score with 15 seconds remaining before Murray sealed the 3-2 win for Belleville.

The Amerks return to The Blue Cross Arena Friday, Jan. 12 when they host the Binghamton Devils for a 7:05 p.m. showdown in Rochester. Friday's matchup will be the fifth of 10 meetings between the North Division rivals this season.

Home Sweet Home for B-Sens in OT win

Quinten News

By: David Foot

After lopsided back-to-back losses on the road last weekend, the Belleville Senators are on a three-game home winning streak, knocking off the Rochester Americans in overtime on Wednesday.

Unlike the previous two games, the Senators carried the play for the majority of the night, storming ahead with 16 shots in the first period but falling victim to a couple of “moments” that coach Kurt Kleinendorst has spoken about throughout the season.

Kleinendorst says he was pleased with how his team played overall, with his group showing the type of effort and system they need to continue to be successful.

Ethan Werek opened the scoring with his ninth goal of the season, just under seven minutes into the first period, taking a pass out of the corner from Jack Rodewald and out-waiting Adam Wilcox, beating him high.

Kyle Flanagan earned his first point of the season on the second assist.

Belleville had a couple more goal mouth scrambles before the end of the first period, but couldn't convert, it was 1-0 Senators after the first.

Rochester, who had just one regulation loss on the road coming into the game, evened the score late in the second, with Taylor Fedun finishing off a two-on-one, following a turnover by Flanagan in the offensive zone.

The score was even 1-1 after the second.

Belleville's Jack Rodewald battles for a puck in front of Rochester goalie Adam Wilcox, during a game at Yardmen Arena, on January 10, 2018. (Photo: Jason Scourse / Belleville Senators)

The Amerks looked to improve on that regulation road record when they jumped ahead mid-way through the third period.

Hudson Fasching tipped a point shot past Andrew Hammond to make it 2-1 and send Belleville scrambling into the final minute of the game, when they would tie it again.

The B-Sens pulled Hammond for the extra attacker and pushed into the offensive zone.

Christian Jaros took a long wrist shot that went wide, but rebounded off the end wall to a wide open Max Reinhart, who put it past Wilcox to force overtime, with 15 seconds left.

Midway through the overtime, Rochester's Zach Redmond took a slashing penalty, leading to a Belleville power play and the eventual game winning goal.

Chris DiDomenico carried the puck into the Amerks' zone up the left wing side, stopped in the near face off circle and spotted Jordan Murray coming off the bench, with Murray snapping a perfectly placed wrist shot by Wilcox from the high slot area to win the game.

The former CIS Defenceman of the Year has five goals this season, now four of them against Rochester and two of them overtime winners against the Americans as well.

He says the veterans in the dressing room sent a message through the week and during the game, that the effort needed to be better and the team seems to thrive in overtime.

Coach Kleinendorst agreed that his team definitely seems more comfortable in sudden death situations.

The B-Sens will look to continue their success at Yardmen Aren, during this current four-game home stand and hope some time on home ice will get them back on track in the push for the playoffs.

Belleville is home to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins on Friday and the Hartford Wolf Pack for "Star Wars Night" on Saturday, before welcoming the Syracuse Crunch next Wednesday.

800 AM CJBQ has coverage of every game, with pre game coverage beginning at 6:50 p.m., for Eastern Overhead Doors and Deerhaven Farm and Garden.

Amerks lose to Senators in OT

13 Wham

By: Staff Report

The Amerks went on the road to Belleville with a chance to steal 2 points away from home. When Hudson Fasching scored on a deflection, Rochester had a 2-1 lead. The Amerks held that lead until there were just 15 seconds left in regulation. Max Reinhart, the brother of the Sabres Sam Reinhart, scored to tie the game and send it to overtime. And then in the OT, the Sens won the game on a goal by Jordan Murray.

The Amerks are back home Friday night for a game against Binghamton.

Biron to be inducted to Amerks Hall of Fame

96.5 WCMF

By: Staff Report

Former Buffalo Sabres goalie Martin Biron is going to be inducted as the 62nd member of the Amerks Hall of Fame.

The Rochester Americans made the announcement on Tuesday that Biron was unanimously selected by the Amerks Hall of Fame committee to be inducted before the Amerks' game against the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Penguins on Friday, February 16th at Blue Cross Arena.

Biron spent parts of four seasons with the Amerks between 1997 and 2001, compiling a 59-32-9 record with a 2.36 goals-against average, a .921 save-percentage and 13 shutouts. Biron is ranked 12th among all goalies in Amerks franchise history.

“I am so truly honored and humbled to enter the Rochester Americans Hall of Fame,” said Biron in a statement posted at the Amerks' team website. “When you think about all the amazing players and coaches that have been part of such an historical organization over the years, it’s an incredible feeling to be placed among them. The Amerks gave me my first taste of professional hockey and allowed me to have the success I did throughout my career in both the National Hockey League and American Hockey League. I wouldn’t be who I am today, even now in my current role with the Sabres, if it weren’t for those early years in Rochester. I am truly grateful and so proud of my time with the Amerks.”

Biron's best season with the Amerks came in the 1998-99 season when he posted a 36-13-3 record with a 2.07 goals-against average, a .930 save percentage and six shutouts. For his efforts, Biron was named as the recipient of the Aldege (Baz) Bastien Memorial Award (best goalie in the AHL) and the Harry (Hap) Holmes Memorial Award (fewest goals-against per-game) that season.

Biron spent parts of nine seasons with the Sabres, playing in 300 games while amassing a 134-115-29 record, a 2.53 goals-against average, a .909 save-percentage and 18 shutouts. He also spent parts of eight seasons combined with the Philadelphia Flyers, New York Islanders and New York Rangers before retiring in 2014.

Martin Biron headed into Amerks Hall of Fame

Pickin' Splinters

By: Kevin Oklobzija

For many top-flight NHL prospects, playing in the American Hockey League is just a stop along the way to the ultimate destination, a fulfillment of a necessary apprenticeship that in reality won't make or break a career.

But Martin Biron, a first-round draft pick of the Buffalo Sabres, says it wasn't like that for him. He says playing for the Rochester Americans is not only why he reached the NHL, but thrived once he got there.

"I wouldn't have made it to the NHL and wouldn't have had the career I had if it wasn't for my time there," Biron said. "It was a learning time and a hard time. It was some of my best and worst times in hockey."

Those trials and tribulations built a solid foundation for what became 13-year NHL career. He played in 508 NHL games (300 for the Buffalo Sabres) and posted a 230-191-52 record with a 2.61 goals-against average and .910 save percentage. He had 28 shutouts.

But before enjoying glory in the NHL, there were many happy times in an Amerks sweater, and his induction into the club's Hall of Fame will be proof. The Amerks announced on Tuesday that Biron will become the 62nd member of the Hall during pre-game ceremonies on Feb. 16, though he says he wasn't expecting the honor.

"I was completely shocked when I got the call," Biron said.

He must have forgotten just how well he played for the Amerks, especially during the 1998-99 season. The native of Lac-Saint-Charles, Quebec, went 36-13-3 with a .930 save percentage and a league-best 2.07 GAA that year. He posted six shutouts and even had three assists and the Amerks advanced to the Calder Cup finals, where they lost in five games to the Providence Bruins.

Yet he remembers his rookie season of 1997-98 perhaps more vividly. That's when, in his mind, his career was at a crossroads. The Amerks weren't playing all that well under first-year head coach Brian McCutcheon and Biron, the 16th overall by the Sabres in 1995, was trying to find his way in pro hockey.

"From my first year of junior (1994-95) to pro hockey, my career was in a downward regression, not a progression," he said. "I still remember getting called into Brian's office and him saying, 'We've decided you're going to go to the East Coast League.'"

"Now the East Coast League then wasn't what it is today. You were going down three steps when you went to the Coast."

He didn't pout, though. He went to the South Carolina Stingrays, intent on getting better. Fate, however, intervened before the week was over. Because of injuries, the Amerks needed a goalie. Biron came back up and was stellar in a 2-1 victory over the Kentucky Thoroughblades.

Mitch Korn was the Sabres goalie coach at the time and had accompanied Biron to South Carolina and back.

"After the game Mitch said, 'You went down to South Carolina, you came back to Rochester and played a really good game, and now you're going to get an opportunity,'" Biron recalled.

He made the most of that opportunity.

Biron helped stabilize the Amerks down the stretch and they earned a playoff berth, though they lost in the first round to the eventual Calder Cup champion Philadelphia Phantoms.

The next season Biron dominated. The best scorers in the AHL couldn't score on him. Even as the Amerks defense lost player after player during the playoffs, Biron backstopped them into the finals.

"Going to South Carolina was the lowest of times in my career," Biron recalled, "and the very next year was probably my highest of times."

He was the AHL's goalie of the year, a first-team All-Star and along the way he won his first NHL game with the Sabres. He combined with Tom Draper to share the Hap Holmes Memorial Award for the lowest GAA in the AHL.

"My goal that year was to be the best goalie in the American Hockey League," he said. "I wanted to win the Calder Cup and I wanted to win MVP.

"It wasn't that I wanted to be in Buffalo that year. It was how I was going to be the best player in the AHL."

Now you know why he did so well in Rochester, and why he'll be the newest member of the Amerks Hall of Fame.

Amerks to induct Marty Biron into HOF next month

WHEC

By: Staff Report

The Rochester Americans are pleased to announce today that the team will induct goaltender Martin Biron into the Amerks Hall of Fame as the Class of 2018. Biron was unanimously selected by the Amerks Hall of Fame Committee and will be officially inducted as the 62nd member of the prestigious club on Friday, Feb. 16 when Rochester hosts the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins at The Blue Cross Arena at 7:05 p.m. on Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino Legends Night.

Biron backstopped the Amerks for parts of four seasons from 1997 to 2001, during which he compiled a 59-32-9 career record with a .921 save percentage and a 2.36 goals-against, which ranks 12th among all goaltenders in franchise history.

“I am so truly honored and humbled to enter the Rochester Americans Hall of Fame,” said Biron. “When you think about all the amazing players and coaches that have been part of such an historical organization over the years, it’s an incredible feeling to be placed among them. The Amerks gave me my first taste of professional hockey and allowed me to have the success I did throughout my career in both the National Hockey League and American Hockey League. I wouldn’t be who I am today, even now in my current role with the Sabres, if it weren’t for those early years in Rochester. I am truly grateful and so proud of my time with the Amerks.”

A native of Lac-Saint-Charles, Quebec, Biron played his first full professional season with the Amerks during the 1997-98 campaign, posting a 14-18-6 record while appearing in 41 of Rochester’s 80 games that year. He also became just the second netminder in franchise history to record five shutouts in his first season with the team, a feat originally accomplished by Gerry McNeil in 1957-58, and that would soon be matched just two years later by former teammate Mika Noronen.

Biron’s best season as an Amerk came the next year during the 1998-99 campaign when he appeared in 52 of Rochester’s 80 games, finishing with a 36-13-3 overall record while setting the franchise mark for the lowest goals-against average (2.07) and highest save percentage (.930), the latter of which also tied an AHL record. For his efforts, Biron was named the recipient of the AHL’s top two goaltending awards – the Aldedge (Baz) Bastien Memorial Award, presented annually to the goaltender voted best at his position, and the Harry (Hap) Holmes Memorial Award, which recognizes a team’s goaltender(s) with the fewest number of goals-against per game who has appeared in at least 25 games during the regular season. He also represented Rochester at the 1999 AHL All-Star Game and would later be named to the AHL’s First All-Star Team at the conclusion of the regular season.

The former first-round pick of the Buffalo Sabres became just the second netminder in team history to post six shutouts in a single season that year, matching the then franchise record originally set by Amerks Hall of Famer Bobby Perreault in 1967-68.

Biron played his final season in Rochester in 2000-01 while also splitting time with the Buffalo Sabres, concluding his Amerks career with 2,761 saves and 13 shutouts in 103 games in the red,

white and blue. His 13 shutouts are still the fourth-most among any Rochester goaltender in the 62-year history of the franchise.

After making 68 NHL appearances for the Buffalo Sabres between 1995 and 2001, Biron made a permanent jump to the NHL beginning in 2001-02 when he took over the starting goaltending duties for the Sabres. He finished the year with a career-best 2.22 goals-against average in 72 games for Buffalo, in addition to setting NHL career-highs in wins (28), saves (1,630) and shutouts (6).

After departing Buffalo midway through the 2006-07 season, Biron closed out his 16-year playing career with stops in Philadelphia, the New Islanders and the New York Rangers. He retired following the 2013-14 NHL season with a 230-191-52 record and 28 career shutouts to go along with a 2.61 goals-against average and a .910 save percentage.

Biron currently serves as the Director of Goaltending for the Academy of Hockey at HarborCenter and is in his first season working alongside Brian Duff for all Sabres TV broadcasts on MSG.

Amerks to induct Martin Biron into Hall of Fame

C&C Worldwide

By: Staff Report

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Amerks call up Johansson

Rochester Americans General Manager Randy Sexton announced on Tuesday that the team has recalled goaltender Jonas Johansson from the Cincinnati Cyclones of the ECHL.

In his first pro season with the Cyclones, the 22-year-old rookie netminder is 6-4-0 with a 2.91 goals-against average and a .907 save percentage in 11 appearances. He opened the campaign with three straight wins for Cincinnati, including a 32-save effort in his season debut against Wheeling on Nov. 24.

A native of Gavle, Sweden, Johansson made his American Hockey League debut at the end of last season with the Amerks, going 3-3-1 with a 2.85 goals-against average and a .892 save percentage in seven games.

Johansson also spent three seasons with Almtuna of Sweden's second professional league prior to joining the Amerks last season. In those three seasons, Johansson registered a 47-38 record with a 2.36 goals-against average and a .911 save percentage. Dating back to 2013-14, he has also appeared in eight games in Sweden's top professional league for Brynäs (SHL).

The 6-foot-4, 210-pound goaltender was drafted by the Buffalo Sabres in the third round (61st overall) of the 2014 NHL Entry Draft.

Rochester's next home game is Friday, Jan. 12 when the Amerks host the intrastate rival Binghamton Devils at 7:05 pm at the Blue Cross Arena.