



UTICA COMETS GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERICANS



Utica Comets vs. Rochester Americans

Monday, January 15, 2018 @ The Blue Cross Arena, AHL Regular Season Game #571

TODAY'S GAME

• The Rochester Americans (23-9-4-3) continue a four-game stretch against North Division opponents this afternoon as they return home to take on the intrastate rival Utica Comets (17-14-4-3) in the front-end of a home-and-home series at The Blue Cross Arena. The 1:05 p.m. matinee will be the eighth of 10 scheduled meetings between the cross-town foes 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.

LAST TIME OUT

• The Amerks entered Saturday night's matchup with the red-hot Syracuse Crunch riding an AHL-best 12-game road point streak dating back to Nov. 17. However, as the final horn sounded at the War Memorial Arena, the Amerks found themselves on the wrong end of a 4-0 setback.

• Despite the loss, the Amerks have earned points in 26 of their last 30 games and have collected 45 points dating back to Nov. 1. The loss was just the second in regulation all season away from The Blue Cross Arena as Rochester shows a 12-2-4-2 record on the season.

• Defenseman **Casey Nelson** led the Amerks with four shots while goaltender **Linus Ullmark**, coming off a stellar 44-save effort in his season debut with the Buffalo Sabres on Thursday, suffered just his third regulation loss in his last 20 appearances. The Swedish netminder has gone 14-3-3 during that span and has won 16 of his last 23 games.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

• The same two teams meet again for the second time in three days as the home-and-home series shifts to Utica on Wednesday, Jan. 17 for a rematch at Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium. Game time is slated for a 7:00 p.m. start and can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

• Rochester enters the matchup with a 6-3-1-0 record in its last 10 games and have collected at least one point in 31 of its first 39 games of the season. Saturday's loss to the Crunch dropped the Amerks to three points behind the Toronto Marlies for the top spot in the North Division with 53 points. The club currently ranks third in the Eastern Conference with a .679 win-percentage behind only the Marlies and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins entering play today.

• Today is the final home game of the month for the Amerks before they begin a season-long five-game road-trip that includes a pair of contests in Charlotte against the Checkers for the first time in franchise history.

2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
110-120



17-14-4-3 (41 points)

23-9-4-3 (53 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|--------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| C.J. Smith | 39 | 12 | 21 | 33 | 12 | 10 |
| Sahir Gill | 39 | 12 | 13 | 25 | 2 | -5 |
| Kevin Porter | 33 | 9 | 15 | 24 | 18 | -5 |

GOALTENDER

| GP | REC | MIN | SVS | SV% | GAA | |
|---------------|-----|--------|--------|-----|------|------|
| Linus Ullmark | 27 | 17-6-3 | 1,543 | 750 | .926 | 2.33 |
| Adam Wilcox | 15 | 6-3-4 | 830:43 | 366 | .904 | 2.82 |

NEXT THREE GAMES

| Date | Opponent | Time |
|---------|-------------|-----------|
| Jan. 17 | @ Utica | 7:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 20 | @ Charlotte | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 20 | @ Charlotte | 1:00 p.m. |

LAST THREE GAMES

| Date | Opponent | Score | SF-SA | PP | PK |
|---------|------------|---------|-------|-----|-----|
| Jan. 13 | Syracuse | W 4-0 | 27-32 | 0-6 | 2-3 |
| Jan. 12 | Binghamton | W 5-2 | 32-20 | 1-4 | 2-2 |
| Jan. 10 | Belleville | OTL 3-2 | 23-35 | 0-2 | 3-4 |

| YEARLY RECORD | GF | GA | POINTS | |
|---------------|----------|-----|--------|----|
| HOME | 11-7-0-1 | 62 | 52 | 23 |
| AWAY | 12-2-4-2 | 58 | 52 | 30 |
| TOTALS | 23-9-4-3 | 120 | 104 | 53 |

COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Reid Boucher | 29 | 17 | 16 | 33 | 8 | 0 |
| Phillip Holm | 31 | 8 | 12 | 20 | 20 | -7 |
| Nikolay Goldobin | 18 | 7 | 12 | 19 | 6 | 1 |

GOALTENDER

| GP | REC | MIN | SVS | SV% | GAA | |
|-----------------|-----|--------|--------|-----|------|------|
| Thatcher Demko | 25 | 13-7-5 | 1,521 | 755 | .926 | 2.37 |
| Richard Bachman | 13 | 4-7-2 | 782:22 | 324 | .880 | 3.37 |



- Goaltender **Linus Ullmark** has carried a majority of the workload between the pipes as he has won 16 of his last 23 starts and is 14-3-3 in his last 20 games. Recently named to his second straight AHL All-Star appearance, Ullmark begins the week third in the AHL in saves (750) and in minutes played (1,543) while being tied for first in wins (17) and shutouts (2). The former Swedish Goaltender of the Year and reigning team MVP is also tied for fourth and seventh amongst all AHL goaltenders with a .926 save percentage and 2.33 goals-against average, respectively.

- Joining Ullmark at the 2018 AHL All-Star Classic is rookie forward **C.J. Smith**, who shows three points (2+1) over his last four games following a career-long seven-game scoring drought. The 23-year-old forward paces the team with 21 assists and 33 points while being one of just two skaters to appear in all 39 games thus far this season. He's also tied for the team lead with 12 goals while his plus-10 on-ice rating is tops among team forwards. The Des Moines, Iowa, native currently ranks fourth in scoring among all AHL rookies, while his 21 assists are tied for second between all first-year skaters and are tied for 15th-most in the league.

- The Amerks own three of the top 20 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 31 games, is tied for fourth in goals by a defenseman with eight, matching the career-high he previously set twice as a member of the St. John's IceCaps. Additionally, Redmond's 24 points place him fifth among all AHL defensemen in scoring. Guhle is tied for second in scoring among all AHL rookie defensemen with 20 points (7+13) while his seven goals are third among first-year blueliners in the league.

SCOUTING THE COMETS

- Utica comes into the matchup with a 5-3-0-2 record in its last 10 contests and winners in four of its last five games since the turn of the New Year.

- Forward Reid Boucher leads the Comets in all offensive categories as he has 17 goals and 16 assists for 33 points in 29 games in his first season in Utica. Since returning to Utica following a brief three-game stint with the Vancouver Canucks, Boucher shows seven points (4+3) in his last four games, including a career-high four-point performance on Jan. 7.

- Returning from a career-long 14-game stint with the Canucks, Nikolay Goldbin makes his way back to the Comets. Prior to being recalled late in November, the native of Russia tallied 12 assists and 18 points through 19 games, ranking third among Comets skaters.

- The goaltending tandem of Thatcher Demko and Richard Bachman return to Utica this season. As a rookie, Demko showed a record of 22-17-4 in 45 games played while eight-year netminder Bachman brings a career record of 118-84-13 along with 16 shutouts into today's contest. Demko has got the starting nod in six of the last 10 games while owning a 5-1-2 record in his last eight starts.

AMERKS-COMETS 2017-18 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|----------------|----|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| C.J. Smith | 7 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 4 |
| Brendan Guhle | 6 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 3 |
| Kyle Criscuolo | 6 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 6 |

GOALTENDER

| | GP | REC | MIN | GA | SV% | GAA |
|---------------|----|-------|--------|----|------|------|
| Linus Ullmark | 5 | 2-1-1 | 285:11 | 10 | .939 | 2.10 |
| Adam Wilcox | 3 | 1-1-1 | 145:03 | 7 | .908 | 2.90 |

UTICA

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|------------------|----|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Reid Boucher | 7 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | -1 |
| Darren Archibald | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| Nikolay Goldobin | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 |

GOALTENDER

| | GP | REC | MIN | GA | SV% | GAA |
|-----------------|----|-------|--------|----|------|------|
| Thatcher Demko | 5 | 3-1-1 | 302:28 | 8 | .953 | 1.59 |
| Richard Bachman | 2 | 1-0-1 | 125:17 | 5 | .907 | 2.39 |

2017-18 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

| Date | Result | Score | SF-SA | PP | PK |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Oct. 13 | L | 2-0 | 33-30 | 0-4 | 6-6 |
| Oct. 21 | L | 5-1 | 41-30 | 0-6 | 4-8 |
| Nov. 1 | SOW | 4-3 | 33-48 | 2-6 | 5-6 |
| Nov. 4 | SOL | 3-2 | 24-38 | 1-7 | 8-9 |
| Nov. 29 | OTL | 2-1 | 30-33 | 0-4 | 0-0 |
| Dec. 13 | W | 3-1 | 34-30 | 1-1 | 1-1 |
| Dec. 16 | OTW | 3-2 | 30-33 | 1-6 | 3-3 |

Jan. 15

Jan. 17

Mar. 28

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 19-21-3

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester is 3-2-1-1 this season through the first seven games of the head-to-head series with the Comets after going 5-3-0-0 last season.
- Rookies **Brendan Guhle** and **C.J. Smith** are both averaging more than a point-per-game against the Comets this season. Smith leads the two teams with nine points (3+6) through seven games while Guhle has five (1+4) in six contests.
- In seven games this season between the Amerks and Comets, four have gone beyond regulation with each club winning one in overtime and in the shootout.