



# ROCHESTER AMERICANS

## DAILY PRESS CLIPS

*Monday, January 15, 2018*

*TODAY'S GAME: Utica @ Rochester*

## **Amerks shut out at streaking Syracuse**

*Buffalo News*

By: Staff Report

The Rochester Americans had their 12-game road point streak snapped in a 4-0 loss at Syracuse Saturday night.

It's the third shutout loss for the Amerks this season, the other two coming against Utica on Oct. 13 and Binghamton on Nov. 18. It drops their road record to a league-best 12-2-4-2. No other team has less than three losses away from home.

The Crunch (23-12-1-2) scored once in the first period and three times in the second to extend their winning streak to eight games.

The last three and six of eight games in the series between the teams had been decided by one goal.

The return of Linus Ullmark and Brendan Guhle to the lineup didn't seem to help the Amerks. They were sent back to the AHL Friday afternoon but were both scratches in Rochester's 5-2 win over Binghamton that night.

Ullmark made 28 saves Saturday, while Guhle had one of the team's 27 shots on goal.

At 23-9-4-3, Rochester sits three points behind Toronto for first place in the North Division and Eastern Conference. The Marlies (28-11) won Saturday at Charlotte, 3-1.

Rochester returns to Blue Cross Arena for a Monday afternoon game against Utica at 1:05 p.m. The Amerks complete a home-and-home series against the Comets with a 7 p.m. game Wednesday.

## **Amerks pull away late for third straight home win**

*Buffalo News*

By: Staff Report

The Rochester Americans erupted for four third-period goals Friday night to pull away from Binghamton for a 5-2 win over the Devils at Blue Cross Arena.

Three players recorded multiple points to help the Amerks win their third game in a row at home and improve their overall record to 23-8-4-3. Seth Griffith had a goal and two assists, while C.J. Smith and Kyle Criscuolo each added one goal and one assist.

Rochester's 53 points remains one behind Toronto for first place in the North Division and Eastern Conference. The Marlies (27-11) beat Charlotte on the road Friday, 4-1.

The Amerks have now collected at least a point in 25 of their last 29 games and in 31 of 38 outings this season. They're 4-1 against the Devils, who are the last-place team in the Eastern Conference with an 11-20-4-2 record.

Goalie Linus Ullmark and rookie defenseman Brendan Guhle were assigned to Rochester Friday afternoon after stints with the Sabres this week, but both were held out of the lineup against Binghamton.

Guhle notched his first NHL point with an assist on Kyle Okposo's game-winning goal in Thursday's 3-1 win against Columbus. Ullmark made the start and stopped 44 shots, the most in a win by a Sabres netminder since Anders Nilsson stopped 46 of 47 shots in a Nov. 2016 game against Pittsburgh.

Rochester's Adam Wilcox made his second straight start in place of Ullmark. He made 18 saves to improve to 6-3-4 in 15 appearances so far this season and also picked up an assist on Nick Baptiste's game-winning goal. The Amerks had 32 shots on goal.

Justin Bailey and Nathan Paetsch returned to the lineup from injury, and Alex Nylander was back after helping Sweden to a silver medal at the World Juniors held in Buffalo.

Smith opened the scoring on the power play with 7:43 left in the first period. His 12th goal of the season was assisted by Griffith and Stuart Percy.

Binghamton tied it up 4:40 into the second, the only goal in the middle frame.

Amerks captain Kevin Porter made it 2-1 4:51 into the third period when he stole the puck in the offensive zone and buried a return feed from Griffith. Baptiste scored on a spinning shot from the left circle 3:16 later for his seventh goal of the season. Criscuolo had the primary assist.

The Devils made it a one-goal game again with 8:11 to go but couldn't tie it up.

Criscuolo scored his ninth with 5:27 left with assists going to Smith and Paetsch, and Griffith capped it off on a breakaway 1:41 later from a Sean Malone feed.

Rochester heads to Syracuse today for a 7 p.m. game against the Crunch at War Memorial Arena.

The Amerks are the only team in the AHL with one regulation loss away from home. Their record currently sits at 12-1-4-2 in 19 road games this season.

Utica then visits Rochester at 1:05 p.m. Monday afternoon.

## **With Sabres on bye, Guhle and Ullmark return to Amerks**

*Buffalo News*

By: Mike Harrington

The Sabres began their bye week Friday and made their stated intentions official by returning goaltender Linus Ullmark and defenseman Brendan Guhle to Rochester. There is no bye coming for the Amerks, who have three games in the next four days.

The stretch opens Friday night in Blue Cross Arena against Binghamton, moves to Syracuse on Saturday and returns home for a Monday matchup with Utica.

Ullmark made a career-high 44 saves for the Sabres in Thursday's 3-1 win over Columbus, his first victory at the NHL level since the 2015-16. Guhle got a two-game look with the Sabres and his assist on Kyle Okposo's goal Thursday night was his first NHL point.

The Sabres are off until practice reconvenes on Wednesday and they play the New York Rangers in Madison Square Garden on Thursday night. Guhle's spot in the Buffalo lineup will likely be taken by Victor Antipin, who has been out since Dec. 19 with a combination of healthy scratches and a heavy bout with the flu.

Ullmark was up with the big club after Robin Lehner got drilled in the neck by a shot Sunday in Philadelphia. He's slated to represent the Amerks in the AHL All-Star Game Jan. 28-29 in Utica.

The Amerks are 22-8-7 and sit one point behind Toronto in the battle for the North Division lead in the AHL. They are third overall in the league standings with 51 points, behind only Toronto (52) and Manitoba (55).

## **Sabres goalie Linus Ullmark savors rare NHL victory**

### ***Buffalo Hockey Beat***

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.

Update: Both have been sent back.

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 look 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 Housley.

"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 backhander 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.”

## **Amerks beat Binghamton, 5-2**

**WHEC**

By: Staff Report

The Rochester Americans (23-8-4-3) pushed their point streak to four games as they exploded for four third-period goals on their way to a 5-2 victory over the North Division rival Binghamton Devils (11-20-4-2) Friday night at The Blue Cross Arena.

With the win, the Amerks have earned points in 26 of their last 29 games and have collected 45 points dating back to Nov. 1. Additionally, the win extends Rochester's home win streak to three straight games.

Seth Griffith led the Amerks offense as he tallied a three-point (1+2) night, his second in the last three games, and shows seven points (2+5) over his last four home games. Kyle Criscuolo and C.J. Smith each finished with a goal and an assist while Nick Baptiste and Kevin Porter completed the scoring for Rochester. Goaltender Adam Wilcox, who made back-to-back starts for the first time all season, stopped 18 of 20 shots he faced to improve to 6-3-4 on the season. The 25-year-old netminder also recorded his first point as an Amerk with an assist on Baptiste's game-winning goal.

Kevin Rooney bagged his fourth two-point (1+1) night for the Devils as Nick Lappin recorded his team-leading 14th goal of the season. Ken Appleby earned the start in the blue paint and made 27 saves for the second straight outing, but took the loss.

The Devils made it a one-goal game at the 11:49 mark of third period before the Amerks responded less than four minutes later to up their lead to 4-2.

Appearing in his first game since suffering an injury on Oct. 13, veteran defenseman Nathan Paetsch fired a shot from the left point towards Appleby. The rebound then found its way to Criscuolo between the face-off circles and the second-year pro banged in his ninth marker of the slate with 5:27 left in the contest to give Rochester its two-goal lead.

"It felt awesome to be back on the ice with the guys," said Paetsch, who missed 34 games in total due to a lower-body injury. "After such a long recovery, it was good to be a part of the game again. Sitting out for that long makes you appreciate the game that much more after a long layoff."

Less than two minutes later, Griffith tracked down an outlet pass from Sean Malone and raced in all alone on the Binghamton netminder. As he raced towards Appleby, Griffith ripped in his sixth tally of the season to cap off the 5-2 victory.

"It was big to get the win, but especially at home," said Amerks head coach Chris Taylor when talking about the Amerks stretch of four straight games against divisional opponents. "I thought the guys had good first and second periods, but in the third I thought we came out strong and took the game over. It was important to close out the game after the results we had on Wednesday."

Rochester opened the scoring 12:17 into the first period as Smith tucked in his 12th marker of the season as the Amerks were on a two-man advantage before Binghamton tied the game at 1-1 during the sandwich stanza.

The Amerks took a 3-1 lead before the midway point of the final frame of regulation when Porter and Baptiste tallied their ninth and seventh goals of the year less than four minutes apart.

Binghamton was able to make it a one-goal game, but again the Amerks added a pair of markers to close out the 5-2 victory.

“These are the type of games that are similar to playoff games,” said Porter. “It is important for us as a group to continue to keep getting better and better and close out games down the stretch. Tonight was a case where we were tied after two periods and we were able to come out and have a good third period. That is crucial as the season rolls on.”

The Amerks travel east down the I-90 to face-off with the Syracuse Crunch on Saturday, Jan. 13 at the War Memorial Arena. The matchup will be the fifth of 10 meetings between the longtime rivals this season and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

## **Amerks blanked by Syracuse**

*C&C Worldwide*

By: Staff Report

The Rochester Americans (23-9-4-3) entered Saturday night's matchup with the red-hot Syracuse Crunch (23-12-1-2) notching points in an AHL-best 12 straight road games 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 in the fifth of 10 meetings between the longtime rivals.

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. Additionally, Rochester's regulation loss was just the second of the season away from the Blue Cross Arena as they show 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 15-3-3 during that span and has won 16 of his last 23 games.

Rookie forward Mathieu Joseph collected his fourth three-point (1+2) outing of the season while Mitchell Stephens also notched a three-point (1+2) outing, a career-high, to lead the Crunch to their 19th win in the last 22 games. Adam Erne and Alexander Volkov rounded out the scoring as Louis Domingue earned his first shutout of the campaign, stopping all 27 shots he faced.

Following a tripping infraction 7:16 into the first period against the Amerks, the Crunch opened the scoring on the ensuing face-off to grab a 1-0 lead.

As Stephens won the draw back to Joseph just above the left dot, the defenseman ripped a shot past a screened Ullmark four seconds into the penalty.

The Amerks had entered the contest allowing just one goal while shorthanded in the last 13 games and had killed off 42-of-43 dating back to Dec. 15.

Rochester trailed after the first 20 minutes, but the Crunch doubled their lead 2:11 into the second period as Erne exchanged a series of give-and-go's with Joseph before tucking his team-leading 12th marker into the cage.

Syracuse continued to carry the energy, putting Rochester in a four-goal deficit as Stephens and Volkov added pair of tallies 38 seconds apart.

The Crunch had a 4-0 lead despite holding a 25-19 shot-advantage after 40 minutes.

Rochester tried to spoil Domingue's shutout bid as they had a pair of power-plays during the final stanza, but much like the four previous chances, the Amerks could not solve the netminder as he held off the attack to give the Crunch their eighth straight victory.

The Amerks are back at the Blue Cross Arena on Monday, Jan. 15 for the final home game of the month when they host the Utica Comets in the front-end of a home and home series. The 1:05 pm matinee can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester and will be televised state-wide on MSG.

## **4-goal third period propels Amerks to win over Binghamton**

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\*NOTES — The Buffalo Sabres on Friday announced the team has assigned defenseman Brendan Guhle and goaltender Linus Ullmark to the Rochester Americans. Both were given the night off...Two Amerks returned to the lineup after recovering from injuries. Defenseman Nathan Paetsch played his first game since sustaining an injury in the second game of the season. Forward Justin Bailey also returned to the lineup off an injury. This was just his third game since being sent down by the Buffalo Sabres as after each game the two previous times, he sustained an injury...Also returning to the Amerks lineup was forward Alex Nylander since he played for Sweden in the World Juniors Championship in Buffalo...Greece native Phil Lane returned to his hometown as a member of the Binghamton Devils. He started the season with the Atlanta Gladiators of the ECHL where he played 33 games. He then played 3 games with the Milwaukee Admirals as this was his second game with Binghamton. Lane, 25, was the 52nd overall pick in the 2010 NHL Entry Draft by the Phoenix Coyotes...An Amerk last season, Tim Kennedy is playing for the Devils this season...Former Amerks 2-time MVP goalie David Leggio has been named to Team USA for the upcoming Olympics in South Korea. He joins Greece native, and recently named Team USA captain, Brian Gionta, who won a Stanley Cup while with the New Jersey Devils. He also captained the Montreal Canadiens, just the second American-born player to have that honor, and the Buffalo Sabres.

## **Disaster strikes Devils in third period**

*Fox 40*

By: Jeremy Donovan

The Binghamton Devils gave up four third-period goals in a 5-2 loss at Blue Cross Arena to the Rochester Americans on Friday night.

After the Devils couldn't convert on several great chances in the first period, Rochester took advantage of a two-man advantage to take a 1-0 lead. Rochester's C.J. Smith took a pass across the top of the crease and beat goaltender Ken Appleby by the left leg pad for the one goal lead. The tally was Smith's 12th of the year with assists from Seth Griffith and Stuart Percy and tied him for the team lead in goals. Binghamton trailed Rochester 1-0 after 20 minutes while also being outshot, 8-7.

The Devils evened up the score in the second period after a scramble in front of Rochester's net on a Jacob MacDonald shot. Rooney was denied on the rebound by Adam Wilcox but Nick Lappin punched home his team-leading 14th of the year to tie the game. Lappin's goal came just 4:40 into the middle period with assists from Rooney and MacDonald. The game was tied heading into the third period with Rochester leading in shots, 20-14.

Kevin Porter started the scoring in the third period for the Americans to take a 2-1 lead. Binghamton gave the puck away in the defensive zone and Seth Griffith found Porter who beat Appleby for his ninth of the year at 4:51 of the third.

Just under four minutes later, the Americans took a two-goal lead off the stick of Nick Baptiste. After a save by Wilcox, Baptiste converted on a turnaround shot for his seventh of the year to give Rochester the 3-1 lead. Assists on Baptiste's goal were given to Kyle Criscuolo and Wilcox on the save.

Binghamton's Kevin Rooney pulled the Devils back within a goal later in the third. Josh Jacobs started the play jumping in the neutral zone to grab the puck and start a four-on-two rush in the offensive zone. Jacobs fed Rooney who released a quick shot and beat Wilcox for his seventh of the year at 11:49 with the lone assist to Jacobs.

The Amerks added two more goals late in the game for for three-goal win. Criscuolo tallied a goal of his own at 14:33 for his ninth of the year and a 4-2 lead and Griffith scored his sixth at 16:14 for the 5-2 lead. Appleby stopped 27 of 32 in the loss while Wilcox put away 18 of 20 in the win.

The Binghamton Devils return home Saturday for Mascot Madness presented by McDonald's. Join us against the Utica Comets at 7:05 p.m. at Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena. Call the Devils' front office at 607-733-7367 for more information.

## **Third Period Collapse Sinks Binghamton Devils Once Again**

### *All About That Jersey*

By: Jeff Ullmer

Where have we seen this before?

Binghamton played a decent first two periods and were tied with the Amerks at one a piece, but the same old Devils showed up in the third as they gave up four goals on their way to a 5-2 loss in Rochester on Friday. The visiting BDevils (11-20-4-2) have lost for the 12th time in the last 15 games while Rochester (23-8-4-3) is percentage points out of first place behind the Toronto Marlies in the North Division.

Devils' goaltender Ken Appleby, in his first start in over a week, didn't show any signs of rust and was solid in net for 40 minutes until the Amerks broke the game open in the final 20. (He filled in as Eddie Lack is out with an undisclosed injury.)

Rochester led early as they capitalized on a 5v3 situation when forward C.J. Smith poked home a loose puck past Appleby for his 12th goal of the season. Binghamton would then tie it in the middle frame as Nick Lappin scored his team leading 14th with a pounce on the puck near the crease sent in by Amerks' netminder Adam Wilcox. Shots after two periods were 20-14 Rochester.

Amerks then took over and went ahead with four goals on just 12 shots in the final 20 minutes that began with a bad BDevils turnover that led to Kevin Porter's ninth goal of the season at 4:51. Less than four minutes after, it was a spin-o-rama shot by forward Nicholas Baptiste from the circle that went into the back of the net on Appleby's short side.

Kevin Rooney would cut the lead to one with his seventh on a Rochester turnover near the blueline as the BDevils had a four on two rush with 10:11 left in the third. However, Kyle Criscuolo would restore the two goal lead as Appleby gave up a big rebound as it appeared the puck jumped off of his leg pad on a funny bounce, but Criscuolo would drive the puck through traffic from high in the slot area for a 4-2 Rochester lead.

Amerks would put the game away as Devils' defenseman Colton White took a wrong turn near center ice that led to a breakaway goal by forward Seth Griffith, who finished the night with three points and a 5-2 Amerks victory. Shots ended up in favor of the home team 32-20.

## **Amerks reassign Johansson to Cincinnati**

### ***Pickin' Splinters***

By: Paul Gotham

Rochester Americans General Manager Randy Sexton announced today that the team has reassigned goaltender Jonas Johansson to the Cincinnati Cyclones of the ECHL.

Rochester's next home game is Monday, Jan. 15 when the Amerks host the intrastate rival Utica Comets in a 1:05 p.m. matinee 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](http://www.amerks.com) or call 1-855-GO-AMERKS.

## **Amerks come up empty-handed at Syracuse**

### ***Pickin' Splinters***

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The Rochester Americans (23-9-4-3) entered Saturday night's matchup with the red-hot Syracuse Crunch (23-12-1-2) notching points in an AHL-best 12 straight road games 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 in the fifth of 10 meetings between the longtime rivals.

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. Additionally, Rochester's regulation loss was just the second of the season away from The Blue Cross Arena as they show a 12-2-4-2 record on the season.

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The Crunch had a 4-0 lead despite holding a 25-19 shot-advantage after 40 minutes.

Rochester tried to spoil Domingue's shutout bid as they had a pair of power-plays during the final stanza, but much like the four previous chances, the Amerks could not solve the netminder as he held off the attack to give the Crunch their eighth straight victory.

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## **Four-goal third period sends Amerks to 5-2 win over Devils**

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With the win, the Amerks have earned points in 26 of their last 29 games and have collected 45 points dating back to Nov. 1. Additionally, the win extends Rochester's home win streak to three straight games.

Seth Griffith led the Amerks offense as he tallied a three-point (1+2) night, his second in the last three games, and shows seven points (2+5) over his last four home games. Kyle Criscuolo and C.J. Smith each finished with a goal and an assist while Nick Baptiste and Kevin Porter completed the scoring for Rochester. Goaltender Adam Wilcox, who made back-to-back starts for the first time all season, stopped 18 of 20 shots he faced to improve to 6-3-4 on the season. The 25-year-old netminder also recorded his first point as an Amerk with an assist on Baptiste's game-winning goal.

Kevin Rooney bagged his fourth two-point (1+1) night for the Devils as Nick Lappin recorded his team-leading 14<sup>th</sup> goal of the season. Ken Appleby earned the start in the blue paint and made 27 saves for the second straight outing, but took the loss.

The Devils made it a one-goal game at the 11:49 mark of third period before the Amerks responded less than four minutes later to up their lead to 4-2.

Appearing in his first game since suffering an injury on Oct. 13, veteran defenseman Nathan Paetsch fired a shot from the left point towards Appleby. The rebound then found its way to Criscuolo between the face-off circles and the second-year pro banged in his ninth marker of the slate with 5:27 left in the contest to give Rochester its two-goal lead.

"It felt awesome to be back on the ice with the guys," said Paetsch, who missed 34 games in total due to a lower-body injury. "After such a long recovery, it was good to be a part of the game again. Sitting out for that long makes you appreciate the game that much more after a long layoff."

Less than two minutes later, Griffith tracked down an outlet pass from Sean Malone and raced in all alone on the Binghamton netminder. As he raced towards Appleby, Griffith ripped in his sixth tally of the season to cap off the 5-2 victory.

"It was big to get the win, but especially at home," said Amerks head coach Chris Taylor when talking about the Amerks stretch of four straight games against divisional opponents. "I thought the guys had good first and second periods, but in the third I thought we came out strong and took the game over. It was important to close out the game after the results we had on Wednesday."

Rochester opened the scoring 12:17 into the first period as Smith tucked in his 12<sup>th</sup> marker of the season as the Amerks were on a two-man advantage before Binghamton tied the game at 1-1 during the sandwich stanza.

The Amerks took a 3-1 lead before the midway point of the final frame of regulation when Porter and Baptiste tallied their ninth and seventh goals of the year less than four minutes apart.

Binghamton was able to make it a one-goal game, but again the Amerks added a pair of markers to close out the 5-2 victory.

“These are the type of games that are similar to playoff games,” said Porter. “It is important for us as a group to continue to keep getting better and better and close out games down the stretch. Tonight was a case where we were tied after two periods and we were able to come out and have a good third period. That is crucial as the season rolls on.”

The Amerks travel east down the I-90 to face-off with the Syracuse Crunch on Saturday, Jan. 13 at the War Memorial Arena. The matchup will be the fifth of 10 meetings between the longtime rivals this season and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

## **Syracuse Shuts Out the Amerks at Home**

***13 Wham***

By: Staff Report

The Rochester Americans (23-9-4-3) entered Saturday night's matchup with the red-hot Syracuse Crunch (23-12-1-2) notching points in an AHL-best 12 straight road games 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 in the fifth of 10 meetings between the longtime rivals.

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. Additionally, Rochester's regulation loss was just the second of the season away from The Blue Cross Arena as they show 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 15-3-3 during that span and has won 16 of his last 23 games.

Rookie forward Mathieu Joseph collected his fourth three-point (1+2) outing of the season while Mitchell Stephens also notched a three-point (1+2) outing, a career-high, to lead the Crunch to their 19th win in the last 22 games. Adam Erne and Alexander Volkov rounded out the scoring as Louis Domingue earned his first shutout of the campaign, stopping all 27 shots he faced.

Following a tripping infraction 7:16 into the first period against the Amerks, the Crunch opened the scoring on the ensuing face-off to grab a 1-0 lead.

As Stephens won the draw back to Joseph just above the left dot, the defenseman ripped a shot past a screened Ullmark four seconds into the penalty.

The Amerks had entered the contest allowing just one goal while shorthanded in the last 13 games and had killed off 42-of-43 dating back to Dec. 15.

Rochester trailed after the first 20 minutes, but the Crunch doubled their lead 2:11 into the second period as Erne exchanged a series of give-and-go's with Joseph before tucking his team-leading 12th marker into the cage.

Syracuse continued to carry the energy, putting Rochester in a four-goal deficit as Stephens and Volkov added pair of tallies 38 seconds apart.

The Crunch had a 4-0 lead despite holding a 25-19 shot-advantage after 40 minutes.

Rochester tried to spoil Domingue's shutout bid as they had a pair of power-plays during the final stanza, but much like the four previous chances, the Amerks could not solve the netminder as he held off the attack to give the Crunch their eighth straight victory.

## **Binghamton Devils blasted by four third-period goals in Rochester**

*Press Connects*

By: Staff Report

The Binghamton Devils gave up four third-period goals against the host Rochester Americans and lost 5-2 at Blue Cross Arena on Friday night.

Nick Lappin and Kevin Rooney scored the only goals for the Devils. Lappin scored his team-leading 14th goal in the first period and Rooney's goal came in the third period.

Five Rochester players scored a goal.

Rochester's Kevin Porter scored first in the third period, giving the Americans a 2-1 lead. Nick Babbione scored the third goal for a 3-1 advantage.

The Devils return home Saturday against the Utica Comets at 7:05 p.m.