



UTICA COMETS  
**GAME NOTES**  
ROCHESTER AMERICANS



## Rochester Americans @ Utica Comets

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 @ Adirondack Bank Center, AHL Regular Season Game #586

### TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (23-9-4-4) embark on a season-long five-game road swing tonight beginning with a rematch against the intastate rival Utica Comets (18-14-4-3) in the back-end of a home-and-home series at Adirondack Bank Center. The 7:00 p.m. matchup will be the ninth 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.

### LAST TIME OUT

- A goaltending duel between **Linus Ullmark** of the Amerks and Thatcher Demko of the Utica Comets ultimately went the way of the visitors, as the Comets came away with a 2-1 shootout win Monday afternoon in Rochester. It was the fifth time in six games between the two teams that extra time was required to determine a winner.
- Monday's loss was also the first time Rochester has gone winless in back-to-back games since Nov. 29 and Dec. 1.
- Seth Griffith** led the Amerks offense as he tallied his seventh goal of the campaign, upping his recent offensive surge to eight points (3+5) over his last five games at The Blue Cross Arena. Ullmark made 40 saves on the afternoon but suffered the overtime loss. The Swedish goaltender has gone winless in two straight starts for the first time since his second and third appearances of the season.

### ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- Rochester's five-game road swing continues this weekend as the Amerks make their inaugural trip to Bojangles' Coliseum on Saturday, Jan. 20 for the first of back-to-back meetings with the Charlotte Checkers. Saturday's 6:00 p.m. contest will be followed by a 1:00 p.m. matinee on Sunday afternoon. Both games can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.
- The Amerks will then close out the trip with a pair of games north of the border on back-to-back nights prior to the AHL All-Star break.

### TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Rochester enters the matchup with a 5-3-1-1 record in its last 10 games and have collected at least one point in 31 of its first 40 games of the season, including five of its last six. Saturday's loss to Syracuse in addition to Monday's setback to Utica keep the Amerks two points back of the Toronto Marlies for the top spot in the AHL's North Division with 54 points. The club currently ranks third in the Eastern Conference with a .675 win-percentage behind only the Marlies and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins entering play tonight.
- Anchored by veteran defensemen **Nathan Paetsch** and **Taylor Fedun**, the Amerks own the fifth-best defense in the AHL, averaging just 2.65 goals-against through 40 games this season.

### 2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



**TOTAL GOALS**  
112-121



**18-14-4-3 (43 points)**

**23-9-4-4 (54 points)**

### AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	40	12	21	33	12	10
Sahir Gill	40	12	13	25	2	-5
Zach Redmond	32	8	17	25	24	6

  

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	28	17-6-4	1,608	790	.928	2.28
Adam Wilcox	15	6-3-4	830:43	366	.904	2.82

### NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 20	@ Charlotte	6:00 p.m.
Jan. 21	@ Charlotte	1:00 p.m.
Jan. 26	@ Toronto	7:00 p.m.

### LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Jan. 15	Utica	SOL 2-1	28-42	1-4	4-5
Jan. 13	Syracuse	W 4-0	27-32	0-6	2-3
Jan. 12	Binghamton	W 5-2	32-20	1-4	2-2

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS
<b>HOME</b> 11-7-0-2	63	54	24
<b>AWAY</b> 12-2-4-2	58	52	30
<b>TOTALS</b> 23-9-4-4	121	106	54

### COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	30	17	17	34	8	0
Phillip Holm	32	8	12	20	20	-7
Nikolay Goldobin	19	7	13	20	6	1

  

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Thatcher Demko	26	14-7-5	1,586	782	.928	2.31
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 24 starts and is 14-3-4 in his last 21 games. Recently named to his second straight AHL All-Star appearance, Ullmark enters the contest the AHL's leader in saves (790) and minutes played (1,608) while being tied for first in wins (17). The former Swedish Goaltender of the Year and reigning team MVP is also tied for fourth and seventh amongst all AHL goaltenders with a .928 save percentage and 2.28 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 five games following a season-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 40 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 third-most between all first-year skaters and are 17<sup>th</sup>-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 25 points (8+17) through 32 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 25 points place him fifth among all AHL defensemen in scoring. Guhle is second in scoring among all AHL rookie defensemen with 21 points (7+14) while his seven goals are third among first-year blueliners in the league.

#### SCOUTING THE COMETS

- Utica comes into the matchup with a 6-2-0-2 record in its last 10 contests and winners in five of its last six games since the turn of the New Year.

- Forward Reid Boucher leads the Comets in all offensive categories as he has 17 goals and 17 assists for 34 points in 30 games in his first season in Utica. Since returning to the Comets following a brief three-game stint with the Vancouver Canucks, Boucher shows nine points (4+5) during his five-game point streak, including a career-high four-point performance on Jan. 7 which featured his hat trick and an assist in a 5-1 win over the Harford Wolf Pack.

- Nikolay Goldbin makes his way back to the Comets, returning from a career-long 14-game stint with the Canucks. The Moscow, Russia, native tallied 13 assists and 20 points through 19 games, ranking third among Comets skaters.

- The goaltending dup 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 seven of the last 11 games while owning a 6-1-2 record in his last nine starts.

#### AMERKS-COMETS 2017-18 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

##### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	8	3	6	9	6	4
Brendan Guhle	7	1	5	6	2	3
Kyle Criscuolo	7	0	4	4	10	3

##### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Linus Ullmark	6	2-1-2	350:11	11	.946	1.88
Adam Wilcox	3	1-1-1	145:03	7	.908	2.90

##### UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	8	3	4	7	4	-1
Darren Archibald	4	2	3	5	4	2
Nikolay Goldobin	5	2	3	5	4	0

##### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Thatcher Demko	6	4-1-1	367:28	9	.955	1.47
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
<b>Oct. 13</b>	L	2-0	33-30	0-4	6-6
<b>Oct. 21</b>	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
<b>Dec. 13</b>	W	3-1	34-30	1-1	1-1
Dec. 16	OTW	3-2	30-33	1-6	3-3
<b>Jan. 15</b>	SOL	2-1	28-41	1-4	4-5
Jan. 17					
<b>Mar. 28</b>					

#### AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 19-21-4

##### SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester is 3-2-1-2 this season through the first eight 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 eight games while Guhle has six (1+5) points in seven contests.
- In eight games this season between the Amerks and Comets, five have gone beyond regulation with each club winning one in overtime and in the shootout.