



Rochester Americans @ Charlotte Checkers

Saturday, January 20, 2018 @ Bojangles' Coliseum, AHL Regular Season Game #603

TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (23-9-4-5) continue their season-long five-game road swing tonight as they make their inaugural trip to the Bojangles' Coliseum for the first of a weekend set with the Charlotte Checkers (23-16-0-1). The 6:00 p.m. matchup is just the second meeting all-time between the two teams and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

LAST TIME OUT

- For the second time in three days, the Amerks found themselves on the short end of a shootout loss to the Utica Comets, dropping a 3-2 decision in the back-end of a midweek home-and-home series Wednesday night at Adirondack Bank Center. The game was the ninth meeting of the season between the North Division rivals, and the sixth of which needed extra time to determine a winner.
- Kevin Porter** (1+0) and **C.J. Smith** (1+0) tallied the Amerks goals, with helpers from **Seth Griffith** (0+1), **Zach Redmond** (0+1), **Eric Cornel** (0+1) and **Stuart Percy** (0+1). **Linus Ullmark** stopped 35 of 37, including six in overtime, in what was his third straight start for Rochester, which saw its winless streak reach three games.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The same two teams are back in action again on Sunday, Jan. 21 as the Amerks and Checkers conclude the weekend set with a 1:00 p.m. rematch at Bonjangles' Coliseum. Following Sunday's matchup, the Amerks will bring the road trip to a close with a pair of games north of the border on back-to-back nights prior to the AHL All-Star break. All three games can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Rochester enters the contest with a 4-3-1-2 record in its last 10 games and have collected at least one point in 32 of its first 41 games of the season, including six of its last eight.
- Despite a three-game winless stretch, their first since Oct. 13-Oct. 21, the Amerks remain just one point back of the Toronto Marlies for the top spot in the AHL's North Division with 55 points. The Marlies, though, have a game in hand on Rochester coming into the weekend. The club currently ranks third in the Eastern Conference with a .671 win-percentage behind only the Marlies and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, while the Syracuse Crunch, winners in nine of their last 10, continue to inch closer to Rochester in the overall standings.
- Through 41 games this season, the Amerks have played in 17 contests that have gone beyond regulation, which leads the AHL. Of those 17, 11 have been away from The Blue Cross Arena where the Amerks hold an overall record of 12-2-4-3.

2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
139-123



23-16-0-1 (47 points)

23-9-4-5 (55 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	41	13	21	34	12	10
Zach Redmond	33	8	18	26	24	7
Sahir Gill	41	12	13	25	2	-6

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	29	17-6-5	1,673	825	.929	2.26
Adam Wilcox	15	6-3-4	830:43	366	.904	2.82

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 21	@ Charlotte	1:00 p.m.
Jan. 26	@ Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 27	@ Belleville	7:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Jan. 17	Utica	SOL 3-2	35-38	1-3	3-3
Jan. 15	Utica	SOL 2-1	28-42	1-4	4-5
Jan. 13	Syracuse	W 4-0	27-32	0-6	2-3

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	11-7-0-2	63	54	24
AWAY	12-2-4-3	60	55	31
TOTALS	23-9-4-5	123	109	55

CHARLOTTE OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Andrew Miller	40	9	26	35	14	-6
Warren Foegele	38	19	11	30	14	13
Valentin Zykov	35	19	8	27	29	-12

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Alex Nedeljkovic	25	16-7-0	1,395	537	.895	2.71
Jeremy Smith	18	7-9-1	984:10	432	.902	2.87



- Anchored by veteran defensemen **Nathan Paetsch** and **Taylor Fedun**, the Amerks own the fifth-best defense in the AHL, averaging just 2.66 goals-against through 41 games this season.

- Goaltender **Linus Ullmark** has carried the majority of the workload between the pipes as he has won 16 of his last 25 starts and is 14-3-5 in his last 22 games. Recently named to his second straight AHL All-Star appearance, Ullmark enters the contest the AHL's leader in saves (825) and minutes played (1,673) while being one win shy of tying for the league-lead in wins (17). The former Swedish Goaltender of the Year and reigning team MVP is also tied for fourth and sixth amongst all AHL goaltenders with a .929 save percentage and 2.26 goals-against average, respectively.

- Joining Ullmark at the 2018 AHL All-Star Classic is rookie forward **C.J. Smith**, who shows four points (3+1) over his previous six games following a season-long seven-game scoring drought. The 23-year-old forward paces the team in all offensive categories with 13 goals, 21 assists and 34 points while being one of just two skaters to appear in all 41 games thus far this season. His plus-10 on-ice rating is also 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 17th-most in the league.

- The Amerks own three of the top 15 point-producing defensemen in the AHL in **Zach Redmond**, **Stuart Percy** and rookie **Brendan Guhle**. Redmond, who leads all Amerks defensemen with 26 points (8+18) through 33 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 26 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 CHECKERS

- Charlotte, playing its fifth of a season-long six-game homestand tonight, comes into the matchup fresh off back-to-back wins over the Bridgeport Sounds Tigers to end a four-game skid.

- Forward Andrew Miller paces the Checkers with a team-high 26 assists and 35 points through 41 games in his second season in Charlotte. Following a 14-game stretch from Dec. 1 through Jan. 6 where he notched 18 points (3+15), Miller has since tallied one assist over his last five games.

- First-year forward Warren Foegele shares the team-lead with 19 goals through his first 38 games. In addition to pacing all AHL rookies in goals, Foegele ranks fifth in scoring among all first-year players with 30 points on the season. The 21-year-old has tallied 10 multi-point performances, including back-to-back two-goal games to begin the campaign as well as a hat trick in a 4-1 win over Springfield on Dec. 1. Foegele, who earned CCM/AHL Player of the Week honors for the first week of the season, has also scored a league-best four shorthanded goals and leads all Checkers forwards with a plus-13 on-ice rating.

AMERKS-CHECKERS 2017-18 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Adam Krause	1	1	0	1	0	-1
Zach Redmond	1	1	0	1	0	1
Conor Allen	1	0	1	1	0	1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	1	0-1-0	34:48	4	.750 6.90
Adam Wilcox	1	0-0-0	25:07	1	.938 2.39

CHARLOTTE

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Warren Foegele	1	1	2	3	2	1
Trevor Carrick	1	1	0	1	2	3
Roland McKeown	1	1	0	1	0	2

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Alex Nedeljkovic	1	1-0-0	59:44	2	.909 2.01

2017-18 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 20	L	5-2	22-32	1-8	4-4
Jan. 20					
Jan. 21					
Mar. 30					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. CHARLOTTE: 0-1-0

SERIES NOTABLES

- Tonight is just the second all-time meeting between the Amerks and Checkers and first-ever in Charlotte. The Amerks suffered a 5-2 loss in the previous get-together back on Oct. 20 in Rochester.
- Charlotte enters tonight's matchup with 139 goals in their first 40 games of the season, which is tops in the Eastern Conference. Meanwhile, Rochester owns the conference's fourth-best goals-against average (2.66).
- Rochester has played in 17 games that have gone beyond regulation, which are most in the American Hockey League. Charlotte has played in a league-low one overtime game this season.
- The Amerks remain the only team in the AHL with just two losses in regulation while on the road this season as they carry a 12-2-4-3 in 21 games away from The Blue Cross Arena.