



WILKES-BARRE/SCRANTON PENGUINS  
**GAME NOTES**  
 ROCHESTER AMERICANS



# Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins vs. Rochester Americans

Friday, February 16, 2018 @ The Blue Cross Arena, AHL Regular Season Game #745

## TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (25-13-7-5) look to snap their season-long five-game winless streak tonight as they go up against the first-place Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (30-13-3-1) at The Blue Cross Arena. The 7:05 p.m. matchup will be the second and final meeting between the two teams this season and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

## LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks took their first lead of Sunday night's game against the Hershey Bears with 2:37 remaining in the third period, but the Bears tied the contest at 2-2 with three seconds to force overtime. Then, less than two minutes into the extra session, newcomer Joe Whitney, playing in just his second game with the Bears, scored the game-winner to give Hershey the win in what was the 456<sup>th</sup> all-time meeting between the league's oldest teams.
- Forwards **Seth Griffith** and **Eric Cornel** each scored for the Amerks, who have gone winless in five straight games for the first time all season. Goaltender **Linus Ullmark** manned the crease for the second time in as many nights but took the loss despite stopping 30 of 33. The Swedish netminder is winless in his last eight starts, going 0-4-4 during that span.
- The game was Rochester's league-leading 21<sup>st</sup> that went beyond regulation and the eighth since Jan. 1.

## ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks make their way to the southern tier on Saturday, Feb. 17 for the first of back-to-back meetings with the Binghamton Devils at the Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena. Following the 7:05 p.m. tilt, the same two teams are back in action again on Sunday afternoon as the home-and-home series shifts to Rochester for a 3:05 p.m. matinee to close out the weekend. Both contests can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

## TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Rochester enters the contest trailing the Toronto Marlies by 13 points for the top spot in the AHL's North Division standings. Despite having just two wins over their last 10 games, the Amerks are in a two-way tie for second place with the Utica Comets, who have closed the gap as of late and come into the weekend with points in 13 straight games dating back to Jan. 13. Only Toronto has compiled a better run than Utica, as the Marlies currently boast a 15-0-0-1 record over their last 16 games to remain atop the league standings.
- More importantly, the Amerks have collected at least one point in 33 of their last 42 games dating back to Nov. 1, including 11 of their last 16 games since the turn of the New Year.

## 2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



**TOTAL GOALS**  
**158-145**



**30-13-3-1 (64 points)**

**25-13-7-5 (62 points)**

## AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	50	14	25	39	14	6
Kevin Porter	44	13	17	30	20	-7
Zach Redmond	42	9	21	30	28	3

  

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	34	17-9-7	1,970	969	.923	2.47
Adam Wilcox	19	8-4-5	1,070	465	.906	2.69

## NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 17	@ Binghamton	7:05 p.m.
Feb. 18	vs. Binghamton	3:05 p.m.
Feb. 21	vs. Syracuse	7:05 p.m.

## LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Feb. 11	Hershey	OTL 3-2	24-33	0-3	4-5
Feb. 10	Lehigh Valley	L 5-3	27-32	1-4	2-4
Feb. 7	Belleville	L 2-0	33-25	0-1	3-3

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS
<b>HOME</b> 11-9-0-2	65	60	24
<b>AWAY</b> 14-4-7-3	80	78	38
<b>TOTALS</b> 25-13-7-5	145	138	62

## PENGUINS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Daniel Sprong	37	20	18	38	16	-1
Ryan Haggerty	33	16	15	31	10	21
Zach Aston-Reese	41	9	20	29	49	21

  

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Casey DeSmith	22	14-6-2	1,298	599	.917	2.50
Michael Leighton	15	5-4-4	786:53	279	.872	3.13



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- Sunday's game in Hershey represented the eighth time since Jan. 1 Rochester was forced to play beyond regulation time. Coming into tonight, the Amerks lead the AHL in games decided after regulation with 21, showing a 7-7 mark in overtime while going 2-5 in shootouts.
- Rookie forward **C.J. Smith** continues to pace the team in all offensive categories with 14 goals, 25 assists and 39 points through 50 games this season. The Des Moines, Iowa, native currently ranks third in scoring among all AHL rookies and is tied for 20<sup>th</sup> overall among the league's top point-getters. His 25 assists are tied for third-most between all first-year skaters and are tied for 15<sup>th</sup> in the league.
- The Amerks are led by the goaltending duo of AHL All-Star **Linus Ullmark** and third-year netminder **Adam Wilcox**. Ullmark has carried the majority of the workload between the pipes, boasting a 17-9-7 record in 34 games this season. He currently ranks second in the AHL in saves (969) and fourth in minutes played (1,970) while being five wins shy of tying for the league-lead in wins (17). The former Swedish Goaltender of the Year and reigning team MVP also ranks seventh and ninth amongst all AHL goaltenders with a .923 save percentage and a 2.47 goals-against average, respectively. Wilcox, meanwhile, is 6-2-3 in his last 11 contests and is 3-1-1 through his previous five starts.
- The Amerks own three of the top point-producing defensemen in the AHL in **Zach Redmond**, **Stuart Percy** and rookie **Brendan Guhle**, who returned to the lineup Sunday at Hershey after missing six games due to injury. Redmond leads all Amerks defensemen with 30 points (9+21) in 42 games, placing him fifth among all AHL defensemen in scoring. The veteran blueliner is also tied for sixth in goals by a defenseman with nine, a new career-high he set Saturday at Lehigh Valley. Guhle is fifth in scoring among all AHL rookie blueliners with 21 points (7+14), while his seven goals are third among first-year defensemen. Percy needs just one more point to match a career-high of 25 he set with the Toronto Marlies during the 2013-14 campaign.

### SCOUTING THE PENGUINS

- Winners in five of their last six, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton comes into the matchup sitting atop the Atlantic Division for the second straight year after claiming the Macgregor Kilpatrick Trophy in 2016-17 with the AHL's best record during the regular season.
- The Penguins' 68 points this season rank second in the Eastern Conference and third overall in the AHL entering play tonight.
- Rookie forward Daniel Sprong paces the Penguins in both goals (20) and points (38) through 37 games in his first full season with Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. Sprong, a 2018 AHL All-Star selection, ranks second all among first-year forwards and is tied for ninth overall with 20 goals, including a team-best eight power-play tallies. Over his last 10 games, the rookie forward shows 16 points (5+9), which includes his second four-point (3+1) outing of the season.
- Goaltender Casey DeSmith has handled most of the duties in the crease for the Penguins. He opened the year going 9-0-1 through his first 10 games, including a 33-save shutout in his season debut.

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

#### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Evan Rodrigues	1	2	1	3	0	1
C.J. Smith	1	1	2	3	0	1
Eric Cornel	1	1	0	1	2	0

#### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Linus Ullmark	1	1-0-0	60:00	2	.917	2.00

#### W-B/SCRANTON

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Teddy Blueger	1	2	0	2	0	2
Kevin Czuczman	1	0	1	1	0	0
Thomas DiPauli	1	0	1	1	0	1

#### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Anthony Peters	1	0-1-0	59:04	4	.889	4.06

### 2017-18 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 2	W	5-2	37-24	1-7	1-1
<b>Feb. 16</b>					

**AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. WILKES-BARRE: 16-18-7**

### SERIES NOTABLES

- The Amerks are operating with an 85.4% success rate while on the penalty kill this season, ranking fifth in the AHL in that category. The Penguins, meanwhile, own a 13.8% efficiency rate with the man-advantage, which ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the league.
- Tonight is just the 42<sup>nd</sup> all-time meeting between the Amerks and Penguins, who have won three of the last four get-togethers. Rochester's 5-2 win back on Dec. 2 earlier this season marked its first victory in Wilkes-Barre/Scranton since a 4-0 shutout victory on Feb. 1, 2014.
- Amerks head coach **Chris Taylor** along with **Kevin Porter**, **Sahir Gill**, **Adam Krause**, **Barry Goers** and **Stuart Percy** all spent last season with the Penguins.
- Amerks general manager **Randy Sexton** also spent the previous seven seasons with the Pittsburgh Penguins organization and played a key role in leading the Penguins to back-to-back Stanley Cups.
- Amerks assistant coach **Toby Petersen** spent parts of three seasons as a player with the Penguins from 2000-2004.