



//// SYRACUSE CRUNCH ////  
**GAME NOTES**  
 //// ROCHESTER AMERICANS ////



## Syracuse Crunch vs Rochester Americans

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 @ KeyBank Center | AHL Regular Season Game #779

### TONIGHT'S GAME

- For the sixth straight year, the Rochester Americans (26-13-8-5) make the trek down the New York State Thruway to play in the home of the Buffalo Sabres tonight as they host the intrastate rival Syracuse Crunch (30-18-2-3) in a North Division showdown at the KeyBank Center in downtown Buffalo. The 7:05 p.m. contest will be the sixth of 10 scheduled meetings 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 extended their point streak against the Binghamton Devils to six straight games Sunday afternoon as the North Division rivals met for the second time in as many days. The 2-1 shootout loss completed the back-end of a home-and-home series at The Blue Cross Arena and also concluded a three-in-three during which the Amerks took four of a possible six points.
- Sunday's game marked the 10<sup>th</sup> time since Jan. 1 and league-most 23<sup>rd</sup> of the campaign that went beyond regulation time.
- Second-year forward **Kyle Criscuolo** scored his team-leading 15<sup>th</sup> goal of the season and 10<sup>th</sup> point (5+5) in the last nine contests. Goaltender **Linus Ullmark** stopped 29 of 30 shots on the day, including two of three in the shootout, but took the overtime loss in the blue paint for Rochester.

### ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks are back at The Blue Cross Arena on Friday, Feb. 23 for the front-end of a home-and-home set with the league-leading Toronto Marlies. The 7:05 p.m. contest will be the first of three meetings over the next eight days between the two rivals and can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

### TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- A total of three points is all that separates the Amerks from their closest rivals in the North Division standings, including Utica, which thanks to an AHL-best 16-game point streak, have recently moved into second place. Rochester, which has collected at least one point in 36 of its last 45 games dating back to Nov. 1, including 14 of its last 18 since the turn of the New Year, has fallen into third. Syracuse, too, is closing its gap, and coming off a 3-1 win over Charlotte on Sunday, now sits just a point behind the Amerks entering play tonight.
- Sunday's 2-1 shootout loss to Binghamton marked the 10<sup>th</sup> time since Jan. 1 that Rochester was forced to play beyond regulation. Coming into tonight, the Amerks lead the AHL in games decided after regulation with 23, showing a 7-8 mark in overtime while going 2-6 in shootouts.

### 2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



**TOTAL GOALS**  
166-158



**30-18-2-3 (65 points)**

**26-13-8-5 (66 points)**

### AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	50	14	25	39	14	6
Seth Griffith	33	11	21	32	18	4
Zach Redmond	45	10	22	32	28	4

### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	36	18-9-8	2,095	1,033	.924 2.43
Adam Wilcox	20	8-4-6	1,132	499	.911 2.60

### NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 23	vs. Toronto	7:05 p.m.
Feb. 24	@ Toronto	4 :00 p.m.
Feb. 28	vs. Bridgeport	7:05 p.m.

### LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Feb. 18	Binghamton	SOL 3-2	23-31	0-4	5-5
Feb. 17	Binghamton	OTL 1-0	19-35	0-1	0-4
Feb. 16	WBS	W 12-3	37-38	6-9	2-3

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	12-9-0-3	78	65	27
AWAY	14-4-8-3	80	79	39
TOTALS	26-13-8-6	158	144	66

### CRUNCH OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Anthony Cirelli	47	11	23	34	12	2
Mathieu Joseph	50	9	25	34	31	5
Mitchell Stephens	52	17	15	32	16	14

### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Eddie Pasquale	22	9-6-5	1,228	526	.916 2.34
Conor Ingram	26	10-5-1	1,448	585	.903 2.61



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- Despite missing his first three games of the season due to injury, rookie forward **C.J. Smith** continues to pace the team with 25 assists and 39 points in 50 games thus far this season. The Des, Moines, Iowa native currently ranks fourth in scoring among all AHL rookies. His 25 assists are also tied for fourth-most between all first-year skaters and are tied for 18<sup>th</sup> in the league.

- Seth Griffith** has made a recent surge to move into second on the team in scoring with seven points (3+4) over his last five games. The former AHL All-Star has maintained nearly a point-per-game pace all season as he shows 32 points (11+21) through 33 games and hasn't gone more than three games without a point all season. Along with Griffith, second-year forward **Kyle Crisculo** took over the team-lead in goals as he netted his 15<sup>th</sup> in Sunday's shootout loss. Over his last 10 games, Crisculo shows 10 points (5+5), which includes a career-high four-point (2+2) effort Friday against Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. He shares the team-lead with four game-winning goals while his 31 points (15+16) rank third among all Rochester forwards.

- Two-time AHL All-Star **Linus Ullmark** continues to shoulder the majority of the workload between the pipes, boasting an 18-9-8 record with two shutouts in 36 games this season. He currently ranks second in the AHL in both saves (1,033) and in minutes played (2,095) while being five wins shy of tying for the league-lead in wins (18). The former Swedish Goaltender of the Year and reigning team MVP also ranks seventh and 11<sup>th</sup> amongst all AHL goaltenders with a .924 save percentage and a 2.43 goals-against average, respectively.

- The Amerks own three of the top point-producing defensemen in the AHL in **Zach Redmond**, **Stuart Percy** and rookie **Brendan Guhle**. Redmond leads all Amerks defensemen with 32 points (10+22) through 45 games, ranking tied for second on the team and fifth among all AHL defensemen in scoring. The veteran blueliner is also tied for fourth in goals by a defenseman with 10, which is a new career-high. Guhle is fourth in scoring among all AHL rookie blueliners with 24 points (8+16), while his eight goals are third among first-year defensemen. Percy's four goals and 25 points on the season both tie career-highs he set with during the 2013-14 campaign.

### SCOUTING THE CRUNCH

- The Crunch enter the matchup with a 5-4-0-1 record in their last 10 contests and have recorded at least one point in five of their last six games.
- Syracuse has scored 166 goals this season, which is second among North Division teams. Of those 166, 58 have come in the opening 20 minutes of play, which is most in the AHL.
- The Crunch are led by the rookie duo of Anthony Cirelli (11+23) and Mathieu Joseph (9+25) as they share the team-lead with 34 points each. Joseph paces Syracuse with 25 assists and 121 shots, while fellow first-year forward Mitchell Stephens shows a team-best 17 goals in 52 games this season. Stephens, the Crunch's lone AHL All-Star representative, ranks seventh among all rookies with 17 goals.

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

#### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	5	1	4	5	0	-1
Kyle Crisculo	4	2	1	3	2	-1
Zach Redmond	4	1	2	3	4	-2

#### GOALTENDER

GP	REC.	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Adam Wilcox	2	1-0-0	109:20	4	.900 2.20
Linus Ullmark	4	1-2-1	191:38	12	.896 3.76

#### SYRACUSE

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Matthew Peca	5	1	5	6	0	2
Mitchell Stephens	5	2	3	5	0	4
Kevin Lynch	5	2	2	4	6	3

#### GOALTENDER

GP	REC.	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Louis Domingue	2	2-0-0	121:39	5	.919 2.47
Michael Leighton	2	1-1-0	115:42	5	.894 2.59
Connor Ingram	1	0-0-1	60:39	3	.833 2.97

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

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 6	W	3-1	20-29	1-5	6-6
Oct. 7	OTW	3-2	18-26	1-6	4-4
Oct. 28	L	3-2	27-19	1-4	4-5
Nov. 22	OTL	6-5	35-49	2-6	2-2
Jan. 13	L	4-0	27-32	0-6	2-3
Feb. 21					
Mar. 10					
Mar. 11					
Apr. 11					
Apr. 14					

### AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. CRUNCH: 128-108-17

#### SERIES NOTABLES

- Six of the last nine games between the Amerks and Crunch dating back to last season have been one-goal games, including the last three of the last four.
- The Amerks have scored a power-play goal in seven of the last eight games against Syracuse, going 8-for-33 (24.2%) with the man-advantage.
- C.J. Smith has been a point-per-game player against Syracuse this season with five points (1+4) while Adam Wilcox is 1-0-0 against his former team.