



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

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Today's Game: Laval @ Rochester

Newcomer O'Regan hopes comfort with Amerks leads to spot with Sabres

Buffalo News

By: John Vogl

Dan O'Regan walked into the Rochester dressing room, and it was more reunion than morning skate.

Over there was Colin Blackwell, who was O'Regan's roommate last year in San Jose. In that corner was Sahir Gill, a former teammate at Boston University. One pack included Kyle Criscuolo and Sean Malone, who played at Harvard with O'Regan's brother, Tommy. There were five others who joined O'Regan at Evan Rodrigues' wedding last summer.

"I'm really comfortable in the locker room," O'Regan said.

He and the Buffalo Sabres hope that comfort leads to more development.

The Sabres' newest prospect made his debut with the Rochester Americans on Wednesday, recording no points or shots in a 2-1 overtime loss to Bridgeport. The right winger skated with Gill and Amerks captain Kevin Porter after flying in from San Jose following Monday's trade that sent Evander Kane to the Sharks.

"Joining the Sabres' organization, there's a lot of good young players," O'Regan told the Rochester media. "You see Rochester's doing well this year, and they've just got a good core of young guys. I'm just excited to hopefully make an impact on the team."

The 24-year-old has made an impact during his two professional seasons. He was the American Hockey League Rookie of the Year last season, putting up 23 goals and 58 points in 63 games. He had seven goals and 25 points in 31 minor-league games this year, plus no goals and four assists in 19 NHL games.

Sabres General Manager Jason Botterill said he'll let O'Regan get settled in Rochester before contemplating a call-up, which could be good for the forward's mind.

"I was up and down a lot," O'Regan said of this season's recalls. "I was up and down maybe four or five times, and that can sometimes take a toll on you mentally, just kind of adjusting, transitioning, getting excited and then let down a little.

"But I think everything that has happened this year has helped me develop and gotten me ready for hopefully a good end of the year here."

The Sharks selected O'Regan in the fifth round of the 2012 NHL Draft, and he spent the next four years producing at BU. He had 66 goals and 154 points in 154 games, including 23 goals and 50 points in 41 games as linemates with the Sabres' duo of Rodrigues and Jack Eichel in 2014-15.

They were among those to reach out after the trade, which came while O'Regan was on the ice practicing with the San Jose Barracuda.

"Just packing up your whole life and leaving some of it in San Jose is tough, but I'm just excited," said the Massachusetts native. "I'm closer to home, so I've got some family that's maybe only a six-hour drive instead of a six-hour flight now."

O'Regan is excited to see the Amerks firmly in a playoff spot despite a 3-7-8 slide. He had four goals and seven points in 15 playoff games for San Jose last year.

"Who knows?" he said. "Maybe I'll provide a spark for the guys."

If he does, the 5-foot-10, 185-pounder could make a visit to Buffalo before the end of the year and reunite with Eichel and Rodrigues.

"That's the goal eventually to try to get up there," O'Regan said. "If that line ever happened again, that'd be fun. Right now I'm in this locker room looking around. There's a lot of great players, and nothing's going to be given to anyone."

"While there's a lot of opportunity, I've definitely just got to work hard and earn it."

Amerks' Danny O'Regan sees fit in Sabres organization

Olean Times Herald

By: Bill Hoppe

Early in Danny O'Regan's junior season at Boston University, he earned a coveted spot playing beside an ultra-talented freshman center named Jack Eichel.

The two meshed well together, but around Christmas that rollicking 2014-15 campaign, an underrated senior began playing right wing with O'Regan and Eichel.

"Evan came onto that line and (we) just absolutely took off," O'Regan said Wednesday following his debut with the AHL Americans, a 2-1 overtime loss inside Blue Cross Arena.

Evan is Evan Rodrigues, the speedy forward the Buffalo Sabres signed as a free agent out of BU that spring.

O'Regan, Eichel and Rodrigues quickly morphed into perhaps the NCAA's most lethal line, piling up points as the Terriers roared to the national title game.

"We still talk about it all the time," O'Regan said. "We were obviously one win away. But just the amount of fun we had winning games like that, the season, I'll never forget."

If O'Regan impresses the Sabres enough, the slick trio could be reunited someday in Buffalo. The Sabres acquired O'Regan, 24, Monday in the trade that sent winger Evander Kane to the San Jose Sharks.

While O'Regan was happy in San Jose, he's already comfortable in the Sabres organization, where familiarity surrounds him.

"I loved it in San Jose, but I was really excited to come here," he said.

He added: "Everything considered, it's a really good spot for me."

O'Regan is still close with Eichel and Rodrigues. He lived with Eichel last summer in Massachusetts. O'Regan also roomed with Amerks forward Colin Blackwell last season when they were rookies with the San Jose Barracuda, the Sharks' AHL affiliate.

One of the Sabres' assistant general managers, Steve Greeley, was an assistant coach when O'Regan played at BU.

O'Regan wasn't expecting to leave San Jose, which drafted him in the fifth round, 138th overall, in 2012. He scored 23 goals and 58 points in 63 AHL games last season, winning top rookie honors. He has also played 22 NHL contests over the two years, including nine last month, compiling one goal and five points.

But shortly before Monday's trade deadline, O'Regan was called off the ice while practicing with the Barracuda.

"I had no idea it was coming, I was caught off guard a little bit," said O'Regan, who will be a restricted free agent following the season. "I know it's always a possibility, that people get traded all the time. I never ruled it out."

The 5-foot-10, 185-pound O'Regan offers the Sabres an intriguing prospect.

"I'm going to be a guy that creates offense," he said. "I try to be good down low, good in traffic, come out and make plays, making guys around me better, try to be good in all three zones. But offense is really on my mind a lot, too."

Despite flying across the country and only having a short morning skate with his new teammates, Amerks coach Chris Taylor ran O'Regan ragged Wednesday against the Bridgeport Sound Tigers, playing him in every situation.

Taylor said he wanted to see what the newcomer could do and noticed he wore down late. O'Regan was on the ice for the overtime winner.

"He was great, he showed a lot of patience with the puck, he's gritty down low, really like his cutbacks around the net, his vision's really good," Taylor said.

As you would expect, Rodrigues raved about O'Regan's talents.

"He has a knack for finding open areas on the ice and he has a knack for the net," Rodrigues said Tuesday. "He always seems to be poking around and finding soft spots, and when he gets open looks he's able to put the puck in the net."

An infusion of O'Regan's offense for the stretch run – the Amerks have lost 10 of their last 12 games – should help the struggling team.

"It's big," Taylor said of O'Regan's addition.

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Top Sabres defense prospect Brendan Guhle, 20, has played eight games since a lower-body injury sidelined him three weeks with the Amerks.

"Just making quick decisions and making the right play, it takes a couple games to get that back," Guhle said.

Guhle played his first two games with the Sabres this season shortly before he was hurt.

"I think I showed them I could play at that level," he said. "That's my goal."

Amerks win big in Toronto

13 Wham

By: Staff Report

For the second time in a week, the Rochester Americans (28-15-9-6) left the Ricoh Coliseum victorious after defeating the league-leading Toronto Marlies (39-16-1-1). Newcomer Daniel O'Regan scored his first two goals for Rochester to help lead the Amerks to a 4-1 win Saturday evening.

With the victory, the Amerks, who have earned at least one point in 17 of their last 23 games since Jan. 1, have a 21-point lead on the fifth-place Laval Rocket in the AHL's North Division standings heading into tomorrow's 3:05 matinee in Rochester.

O'Regan netted his eighth and ninth goals of the season while Justin Bailey and Zach Redmond rounded out the scoring for Rochester, which remains the only team in the AHL with four regulation losses away from The Blue Cross Arena through 31 games. Goaltender Linus Ullmark made 26 saves to snap a four-game winless streak while improving to 19-11-9 in 40 appearances on the season.

Andreas Johnsson, who was dubbed as the CCM/AHL Player of the Month earlier this week, scored the lone tally for the Marlies, who have lost five of their last six games, while netminder Calvin Pickard stopped 27 of 30 but suffered the loss.

Late in the first period, the Amerks drew the game's first penalty with 5:28 showing on the clock and holding a 1-0 lead. However, Rochester doubled its lead on a Redmond goal that eventually served as the game-winning tally.

Second-year winger Alexander Nylander circled the Marlies net and centered a pass to Matt Tennyson atop the Amerks blueline. The defenseman, who would pick up his 100th professional assist on the play, spotted Redmond near the left face-off dot. Redmond blasted the one-time set-up to give the Amerks a 2-0 cushion at the 16:12 mark.

Along with Tennyson, Nylander also was credited with the helper and now shows a career-best four-game point (1+3) streak.

The middle stanza appeared it was going to be scoreless but O'Regan changed that thought as he picked the top-right corner of the net with 22 seconds left in the frame.

As Kevin Porter stepped into the offensive zone with the puck, the Amerks team captain blistered a shot towards Pickard, who deflected it to his right. Stuart Percy jumped into the rush and dished a pass to O'Regan from the goal-line. As the second-year pro stepped out from the left of the cage, he spun and fired his first goal as an Amerk while increasing the lead to 3-0 entering the final frame.

With his primary assist, Percy registered his 100th American Hockey League point while, Porter, who was named the game's third star, picked up his 20th assist of the campaign. Porter has now recorded 20 or more assists in each of his seven AHL seasons with 40-plus games.

The Marlies tried to chip away at the Amerks' lead when Johnson scored his team-leading 24th goal of the season just 45 seconds into the third period, but it would be as close as Toronto would get.

After Rochester successfully killed off a double-minor for high-sticking, Toronto pulled Pickard for the extra attacker with just over three minutes, but O'Regan sealed the 4-1 win as he deposited the puck into the vacant net with 2:44 remaining in regulation.

Rochester finished the road portion of the season series at Ricoh Coliseum with a 3-1-0-0 record and outscored the Marlies 13-5 in the four meetings north of the border.

The Amerks will celebrate Youth Hockey Day in Rochester and bring the weekend to a close on Sunday, Mar. 4 when they welcome the Laval Rocket back to The Blue Cross Arena. The 3:05 p.m. contest will be the sixth of eight scheduled meetings between the two teams this season and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

O'Regan scores two in Amerks win in Toronto

Buffalo News

By: Staff Report

Newcomer Daniel O'Regan scored twice, one an empty-net tally, in the Rochester Americans' 4-1 victory over the Toronto Marlies Saturday at Ricoh Center in Toronto.

It was the final regular season game between the first-place Marlies and their American Hockey League North Division rival Amerks. Toronto won the season series, 4-3, but Rochester won three of the four games played in Toronto.

Justin Bailey scored his sixth goal of the season to put Rochester in front at 7:58 of the opening period. Colin Blackwell and Kyle Criscuolo assisted.

Zach Redmond made it 2-0 with his 11th of the season, on the power play. Matt Tennyson and Alexander Nyland had the assists.

O'Regan, obtained from San Jose in the Evander Kane trade on Monday, scored with 22 seconds left in the second period. Defenseman Stuart Percy got his 23rd assist on the play and his 100th career point in the AHL. Kevin Porter had his 20th assist on the goal, too.

Andreas Johnsson got Toronto on the board just 45 seconds into the third period.

O'Regan scored with 2:44 left with Toronto goalie Calvin Pickard off in favor for an extra attacker.

It was the second game in an Amerks uniform for O'Regan who played at Boston University. The goals gave him nine for the season in the AHL, the first seven with the San Jose Barracuda. He also had one goal and five assists in the NHL with the Sharks.

Rochester will return home for a 3:05 p.m. game against the Laval Rocket today at Blue Cross Arena.

Saturday's victory moved Rochester (28-15-9-1) to within four points of the Syracuse Crunch in the North Division. Toronto (39-16-1-1) leads the division with 80 points.

O'Regan, Ullmark lead Amerks to 4-1 win in Toronto

C&C Worldwide

By: Staff Report

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Daniel O'Regan's two-goal night leads Americans past Marlies 4-1

The Canadian Press

By: Staff Report

Daniel O'Regan scored twice as the Rochester Americans beat the Toronto Marlies 4-1 on Saturday in American Hockey League play.

Justin Bailey and Zach Redmond had goals in the first period as Rochester (28-15-15) built a 2-0 lead by the first intermission. Linus Ullmark made 26 saves for the win.

Andreas Johnsson was the lone scorer for the Marlies (39-16-2), the AHL affiliate of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Calvin Pickard stopped 27-of-30 shots for Toronto.

The Americans scored on their one power play and the Marlies were 0 for 5 with the man advantage.