



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



# Rochester Americans @ Syracuse Crunch

Saturday, March 10, 2018 @ War Memorial Arena, AHL Regular Season Game #886

## TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (29-15-10-6) continue their busy three-game weekend with the first leg of a home-and-home series against the Syracuse Crunch (35-19-3-3) tonight at the War Memorial Arena. Game time is slated for a 7:00 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

## LAST TIME OUT

- A goaltending duel between two American Hockey League All-Star goaltenders in **Linus Ullmark** and Jordan Binnington of the Providence Bruins lived up to its expectation. After trailing for most of the night, Rochester scored late in the third period to ultimately force overtime before Ryan Fitzgerald netted his second of the game to give the Bruins the 2-1 victory last night at The Blue Cross Arena.
- Amerks forward **Sahir Gill** scored his 15<sup>th</sup> goal of the season to force the extra session and now shares the team-lead with **Kyle Criscuolo** and **Kevin Porter**. Ullmark made 27 saves for Rochester, which has taken six out of a possible eight points through its first four games of March. The Swedish netminder carries a 19-11-10 record in 41 appearances on the campaign as he nears his second straight 20-win season for the Amerks.

## ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks close out the busy weekend with second half of the home-and-home series with the Syracuse Crunch at The Blue Cross Arena tomorrow afternoon at 3:05 p.m. The will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

## TEAM & PLAYER NOTES

- Rochester remains in the thick of what is shaping up to be a very tight race to the finish in the North Division, where just of handful of points is all that separates the Amerks from some of their closest rivals, including Syracuse, which thanks to an 7-2-1-0 run in its last 10 games, has taken over sole possession of second place in the Division standings. The Crunch currently have a two-point lead on Rochester, which needs just one more win for its third straight 30-win season. Utica has closed its gap, too, and coming off an AHL-best 16-game point streak, is now four points behind Rochester coming into the weekend. The Amerks, who have collected at least one point in 19 of their last 26 games dating back to Jan. 1, have slid into third and maintain a 20-point lead on fifth-place Laval. The top four teams in the North Division are guaranteed a playoff spot.
- The Amerks enter the contest having appeared in 12 games that have gone beyond regulation since Jan. 1. Overall on the season, Rochester leads the AHL in games decided after the third period with 25, showing a 7-10 mark in overtime while going 2-6 in shootouts.

## 2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



**TOTAL GOALS**  
**185-179**



**35-19-3-3 (76 points)**

**29-15-10-6 (74 points)**

## AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	50	14	25	39	14	6
Kevin Porter	54	15	20	35	20	-6
Zach Redmond	52	12	23	35	30	2

## GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
41	19-11-10	2,396	1,171	.924	2.40
22	10-4-6	1,252	544	.908	2.63

## NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Mar. 11	vs. Syracuse	3:05 p.m.
Mar. 15	@ Bridgeport	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 16	@ Providence	7:05 p.m.

## LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Mar. 9	Providence	OTL 2-1	24-29	0-2	3-3
Mar. 4	Laval	W 4-2	29-23	1-4	2-3
Mar. 3	Toronto	W 4-1	31-27	1-1	5-5

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS
<b>HOME</b> 13-11-2-3	88	78	31
<b>AWAY</b> 16-4-8-3	91	84	43
<b>TOTALS</b> 29-15-10-6	179	162	74

## CRUNCH OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Mathieu Joseph	56	11	28	39	35	6
Anthony Cirelli	51	14	23	37	14	2
Mitchell Stephens	59	18	17	35	16	14

## GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
25	11-6-6	1,413	618	.916	2.42
29	16-9-2	1,627	656	.907	2.47



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- Despite being held out of the lineup since Feb. 16 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 seventh in scoring among all AHL rookies while his 25 assists rank fifth-most between all first-year skaters.

- With five points (2+3) over his last five games, forward **Kevin Porter** has jumped into a second-place tie on the team in scoring with 35 points (15+20) in 54 contests this season. Rochester's team captain scored his 15<sup>th</sup> goal of the year in Sunday's 4-2 win over the Laval Rocket to grab a share of the team-lead with **Kyle Criscuolo**, who was recalled to the Buffalo Sabres last Sunday, and Gill, the lone goal scorer in last night's loss to Providence. Porter also recorded his 20<sup>th</sup> assist of the season last Saturday in Toronto, giving him 20 or more helpers in each of his seven AHL seasons with 40-plus games.

- Two-time AHL All-Star **Linus Ullmark** continues to shoulder the majority of the workload between the pipes, boasting an 19-11-10 record with two shutouts in 41 games this season. He currently ranks second in the AHL in both saves (1,171) and in minutes played (2,396) while being seven wins shy of tying for the league-lead in wins (19). The former Swedish Goaltender of the Year and reigning team MVP also ranks tied for sixth and 10<sup>th</sup> amongst all AHL goaltenders with a .924 save percentage and a 2.40 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 35 points (12+23) through 52 games, ranking second on the team and sixth among all AHL defensemen in scoring. The veteran blueliner is also tied for second in goals by a defenseman with 12, including seven that have come on the power-play. His seven power-play tallies lead the team and are tied for third among league defensemen. Guhle is fourth in scoring among all AHL rookie blueliners with 24 points (8+16), while his eight goals are third-most among first-year defensemen. Percy, meanwhile, is in the midst of his best statistical season having already established career-highs in all offensive categories. He enters play tonight tied for 13<sup>th</sup> in scoring among all AHL rearguards.

#### SCOUTING THE CRUNCH

- The Crunch, who hold a 7-2-1-0 record in their last 10 contests, have recorded at least one point in 11 of their last 13 games.
- Syracuse has scored 185 goals this season, which is second among North Division teams. Of those 185, 60 have come in the opening 20 minutes of play, which is tied for most in the AHL.
- The Crunch are led by the rookie duo of Mathieu Joseph (11+28) and Anthony Cirelli (14+23) and as they rank first and second on the team in scoring, respectively. Joseph paces Syracuse with 28 assists and 140 shots, while fellow first-year forward Mitchell Stephens shows a team-best 18 goals in 59 games this season. Stephens, the Crunch's lone AHL All-Star representative, ranks tied for sixth among all rookies with 18 goals, including four power-play tallies.

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

##### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	5	1	4	5	0	-1
Kyle Criscuolo	5	2	1	3	2	-1
Zach Redmond	5	1	2	3	6	-2

##### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Adam Wilcox	2	1-0-0	109:20	4	.900 2.20
Linus Ullmark	5	1-3-1	249:52	14	.904 3.36

##### SYRACUSE

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Matthew Peca	6	2	5	7	0	3
Mitchell Stephens	6	3	3	6	0	5
Kevin Lynch	5	2	2	4	6	3

##### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Connor Ingram	2	1-0-1	119:37	4	.895 2.01
Louis Domingue	2	2-0-0	121:39	5	.919 2.47
Michael Leighton	2	1-1-0	115:42	5	.894 2.59

#### 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
Jan. 13	L	2-1	20-31	0-5	4-4
Mar. 10					
Mar. 11					
Apr. 11					
Apr. 14					

#### AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. CRUNCH: 128-109-17

#### SERIES NOTABLES

- Seven of the last 10 games between the Amerks and Crunch dating back to last season have been one-goal games, including the last four of the last five.
- The Amerks have scored a power-play goal in seven of the last nine games against Syracuse, going 8-for-38 (21.0%) with the man-advantage.
- Yesterday afternoon, the Amerks signed forward **Myles Powell** from Rochester Institute of Technology and defenseman **Jake Linhart** from the University of Wisconsin to Amateur Tryouts (ATO).