ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

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Today's Game: Syracuse @ Rochester

Sabres' Justin Bailey thrilled to be recalled from Amerks
Olean Times Herald
By: Bill Hoppe

Finally, after a 21-game goal-less stretch in the AHL, Sabres winger Justin Bailey recently started performing like his old self.

Prior to getting summoned Friday, the Williamsville native had four goals and five points in the last five games with the Rochester Americans.

A high ankle sprain he suffered during his last recall helped derail Bailey's promising season. He struggled to recover from one of hockey's trickiest injuries, looking nothing like the youngster who scored 20 goals in each of his first two AHL seasons.

"Those high ankle sprains, they can be fickle," Sabres coach Phil Housley said this morning inside KeyBank Center. "You can tweak them, it's a nagging injury. But he's finally found his stride, and that's why he's going to get an opportunity.

Bailey, who also hurt his hand in December, said ditching bad habits helped him turn a corner late last month.

"When you miss time like that, you forget how to play a little bit," he said. "Just doing the right thing, using my speed, using my size, making sure I was hard on the forecheck and letting my skill do the rest."

This afternoon's tilt against the Vegas Golden Knights will be Bailey's first appearance with the Sabres since Oct. 28.

"It's nice, it's definitely something I wanted to happen at some point before the end of the year," Bailey said of getting recalled.

Bailey, 22, has scored two goals and three points in seven NHL games this season. He has compiled six goals and 10 points in 27 appearances with the Amerks.

In other news, Housley said goalie Robin Lehner will start this afternoon. Defenseman Nathan Beaulieu, a healthy scratch Thursday, will move in for Justin Falk. Defenseman Victor Antipin will also be scratched.

This time, the OT loser point was good for the Amerks
Pickin' Splinters
By: Kevin Oklobzija

Over the course of the season, there have been nights that Rochester Americans players left the rink muttering about how they let one get away.

Like three weeks ago, when on back-to-back nights they couldn't beat the team with the worst record in the American Hockey League, the Binghamton Devils.

Actually, it's a fairly lengthy list of should-have-been wins that became overtime or shootout losses.

But on Friday night, following a 2-1 overtime loss to the Providence Bruins, Amerks coach Chris Taylor was fairly content.

With a roster ravaged by recalls and injuries at forward, a point against the team with the third-most wins (36) in the AHL was a solid consolation prize.

"This is one of the good points," said Taylor, whose team has gone to overtime in 25 of 60 games. "They're a really good team, a veteran team with skilled forwards, big D."

The Amerks, meanwhile, used a lineup that included just seven of their top 14 forwards. Justin Bailey on Friday afternoon joined Nick Baptiste, Seth Griffith, Kyle Criscuolo and Danny O'Regan on recall to the parent Buffalo Sabres.

The Amerks still allowed just one goal in regulation, and that came on a twice-deflected Paul Postma shot from the point that last hit the stick of Ryan Fitzgerald at 3:10 of the second period.

On shots not deflected or that came at the net straight, goalie Linus Ullmark wasn't beaten. He finished with 27 saves, including six in the 3 minutes and 13 seconds of overtime.

The winning goal came right off a faceoff to the left of Ullmark. Postma powered his way to the net, had his shot stopped by Ullmark but Fitzgerald was left free to slam home the rebound.

The Amerks were by far the better team in that second period, outshooting the Bruins 12-4 and spending an extended amount of time in the offensive zone. Bruins goalie Jordan Binnington, whose cousin, Ali, played goalie on RIT's women's team from 2012-2015, was also sharp, stopping 23 shots.

The only one that beat him came off the stick of Sahir Gill with just 5:57 remaining in the third period, a slap shot from high in the left circle. It was Gill's 15th goal of the season and was set up by from Eric Cornel, who returned after missing five games because of injury.

While the Amerks were missing half of their forwards, their defense was still solid with Nathan Paetsch, Matt Tennyson, Andrew MacWilliam, Zach Redmond, Stuart Percy and Taylor Fedun. That's one reason the Bruins weren't able to mount sustained O-zone pressure.

"I thought our D played really, really well tonight," said Taylor, whose club fell to 29-15-10-6.

The weekend doesn't get any easier for the Amerks. They play at Syracuse on Saturday night, then return home to play the Crunch at 3:05 p.m. Sunday. The Crunch are second in the AHL North, two points ahead of the Amerks.

Amerks tripped up in Syracuse, 4-2
13 Wham
By: Staff Report

The Syracuse Crunch scored three times in the second period and came away victorious with a 4-2 win over the Rochester Americans in the first half of their weekend home-and-home series Saturday at the War Memorial Arena.

Kevin Porter and Taylor Fedun each finished with a goal and an assist while Eric Cornel and Stuart Percy each tallied assists for the Amerks, who saw their five-game point streak halted. Adam Wilcox made his 23rd appearance of the season between the pipes, stopping 27 shots against his former team.

Leading point-getter Mathieu Joseph began and ended the scoring on the night with a pair of goals while multi-point nights were also had by Erik Condra and Gabriel Dumont. Netminder Eddie Pasquale stopped 21 shots for Syracuse, which won its fifth straight over the Amerks and now has a four-point lead over Rochester in the AHL's North Division standings heading into Sunday's rematch.

After a relatively quiet first period, the scoring opened five minutes into the middle frame when a shot from Alexander Volkov took a fortuitous bounce off Wilcox before ricocheting off a net-front Joseph and into the net for a 1-0 Crunch lead.

Minutes later, the Crunch were whistled for too many men on the ice and the Amerks would capitalize on the ensuing power-play. A perfect feed from Cornel though the slot left Fedun all alone in front of the net and the veteran blueliner picked the upper-left corner for his third goal of the year to make it a 1-1 game.

Syracuse regained its lead just over four minutes later after a blast from the right point by Ben Thomas made its way through traffic and past Wilcox at 12:06. The Crunch went up by a pair at 15:55 after a failed clearing attempt was intercepted by Dumont, who then set-up Walcott for the defenseman's third goal of the season.

Rochester trimmed the deficit in half three minutes into the third period with another power-play goal. Percy's bid from the right face-off circle was denied, but Porter was right there to pick up the rebound, making it a one-goal game with his team-leading 16th goal of the season.

The Amerks pulled Wilcox for the extra attacker in the waning minutes of regulation in an attempt to find the equalizer, but Joseph added an empty-netter with 52 seconds remaining to seal the 4-2 win for Syracuse.

The same two teams are back in action again tomorrow afternoon as the home-and-home series shifts back to Rochester for a rematch at The Blue Cross Arena. The 3:05 p.m. matinee will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester and will be televised on MSG.

RIT's Powell signs tryout contract with Amerks
Pickin' Splinters
By: Kevin Oklobozija

Even though Rochester Institute of Technology was eliminated from the Atlantic Hockey playoffs last weekend, Myles Powell is still getting a chance to skate at Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial.

Except it won't be in next weekend's AHA tournament. Instead, he has joined the Rochester Americans on an amateur tryout contract and could very well end up in their lineup in the near future.

"It's been pretty crazy," Powell said of the rapid pace at which the deal came together this week between the parent Buffalo Sabres and his agent, Steve Bartlett of Pittsford-based Sports Consulting Group. "I really wasn't expecting it."

Powell and the Tigers were bounced out of the AHA playoffs on Sunday when Sacred Heart won the deciding third game of the best-of-three series 2-0 at the Gene Polisseni Center.

"It's still pretty fresh in my mind, getting knocked out in the first round of the playoffs," Powell said. "You don't want to end your season as a senior in college but you have to move on from that."

The 23-year-old Courtenay, British Columbia, native will quite likely need to endure some good-natured taunting since one of his new teammates is Justin Danforth, who completed a four-year collegiate career at Sacred Heart last spring.

Powell led RIT in assists (26) and finished second in team scoring with 39 points. He was a member of RIT's AHA championship teams as a freshman and sophomore.

The 2014-15 Tigers became the first No. 16 seed in NCAA history to oust the No. 1 seed when they upended Minnesota State-Mankato (and current Sabres defenseman Casey Nelson) in the Midwest Regional semifinals.

Powell was quite sure he'd have the chance to sign with a pro team when his senior season ended, he just didn't know where it would be.

"I'm just happy to get the opportunity here," he said. "It's a big jump but I think I'm ready."

Two of his teammates signed tryout contracts in the ECHL. Defenseman Chase Norrish signed with the Colorado Eagles, reuniting with former RIT teammate Matt Garbowsky, and defenseman Matt Abt joined the Wheeling Nailers.

Syracuse doubles-up Amerks
C&C WorldWide
By: Staff Report

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P-Bruins 2, Americans 1, OT: Fitzgerald, Postma combine for both goals
The Providence Journal
By: Staff Report

Ryan Fitzgerald scored both goals as the Providence Bruins defeated the Rochester Americans, 2-1 in night in overtime in the first matchup of the season between the two teams.

Goaltender Jordan Binnington stopped 24 shots in his 14th win of the year for Providence.

The first period was all about defense for Providence, as they limited Rochester to just six shots on net. The P-Bruins controlled offensive play, putting 13 shots on Amerks goalie Linus Ullmark, but was unable to get on the scoreboard.

The top line for Providence broke through at 3:10 of the second period, when Paul Postma kept the puck in the offensive zone and backhanded it into the left wing corner. Austin Czarnik got it there and fed Postma back at the left point. He fired a slap shot toward Ullmark and Fitzgerald deflected it in for his 14th goal of the season.

With six minutes left in the third period Rochester tied it. Sahir Gill took a pass from Eric Cornel and ripped a one-timer over the shoulder of Binnington for his 15th goal of the season.

At 3:13 of the extra period, Fitzgerald and Postma teamed up again for the game-winner. After Fitzgerald won the faceoff to Postma, the defenseman drove to the net and put a backhander on Ullmark. Ullmark stopped his shot, but Fitzgerald came flying in to bury the rebound for his 15th of the season.

The P-Bruins are back in action on Saturday afternoon when they play in Toronto for a matchup against the first- place Marlies at 4 p.m.

Less than a minute later, Muzito-Bagenda tapped in his first of the goal of the season from Danforth and Dalton Smith, but the Rocket tied the game at 2-2 just before the end of the first period.

Danforth, though, gave the Amerks the lead for good as he scored his first of the season at the 15:15 mark of the second before Porter sealed the 4-2 win with his empty-netter late in the final period.

The Amerks embark on another busy stretch of three games in three nights on Friday, Mar. 9 when they host the Providence Bruins for the only time this season at The Blue Cross Arena. The 7:05 p.m. contest will be the first of just two meetings between the two teams this season.

Amerks lose in overtime to Bruins
13 Wham
By: Staff Report

A goaltending duel between two American Hockey League All-Star goaltenders in Linus Ullmark of the Rochester Americans (29-15-10-6) and Jordan Binnington of the Providence Bruins (36-19-3-2) lived up to its expectation. The Amerks opened their three-in-three weekend by dropping a 2-1 overtime decision Friday night at The Blue Cross Arena.

Despite the overtime loss, the Amerks, who have earned at least one point in 19 of their last 26 games since Jan. 1, while appearing in a league-high 25 games decided beyond regulation this season.

Amerks forward Sahir Gill scored his 15th 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.

Ryan Fitzgerald tallied his fourth multi-point (2+0) effort of the slate for Providence, which has won five of its last six games, while Paul Postma chipped in his second two-assist performance in the last four games. Goaltender Jordan Binnington improved to 14-6-1 as he stopped 23 of 24 on the night.

As regulation was drawing an end, Gill blasted a one-time feed from Eric Cornel to knot the score at 1-1 at the 14:03 mark of the third period.

Cornel dug out a puck from the left corner and centered a pass to Gill atop the near face-off dot. In one motion, Gill fired a shot over the right shoulder of Binnington, spoiling his bid for a shutout and forcing the overtime period.

"I think we didn't have the start we had liked," said Cornel. "We had a strong second and third periods, and I think we deserved the point, but we would have preferred two points."

The Amerks had their best chance of the extra session when they fired a shot that eluded the netminder, but it caromed off the crossbar at the 3:34 mark. Providence responded and ended the contest as Postma sent a backhanded shot on Ullmark before Fitzgerald slipped the rebound into the cage at the with 1:47 left in the frame for his second of the night.

Following a scoreless, penalty-free opening period where Providence held a 13-7 shot-advantage, the Bruins opened the scoring 3:10 into the second stanza. The Amerks outshot the Bruins 12-4 during the frame, but trailed 1-0 going into the second intermission.

"I liked our resilience as a group against a really good team," said Amerks head coach Chris Taylor. "I thought we stuck with the game plan, had good chances on the power-play, had strong penalty-killing, but unfortunately it was one of those games that just did not go our way."

Rochester and Providence each fired five shots apiece during the third period, but Gill's tally set-up the overtime session before Fitzgerald sealed the Bruins 2-1 victory.

"We played a strong defensive game," said Ullmark. "We stuck with the plan and guys did a great job tonight boxing out and allowing me to see a lot of their shots. They are good team, so to come out with one point is a good thing, but tomorrow we will look to get the extra point."

The Amerks continue the weekend with a home-and-home series with the Syracuse Crunch that begins Saturday, Mar. 10 at the War Memorial Arena. Following the 7:00 p.m. clash, the series shifts back to Rochester for a 3:05 p.m. rematch at The Blue Cross Arena. Both of the matchups will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

Syracuse Crunch skate past Rochester 4-2
WSYR
By: Mario Sacco

The Syracuse had a three-goal second period to build towards a 4-2 victory over the Rochester Americans tonight at the War Memorial Arena.

Mathieu Joseph recorded two goals in the win, while Gabriel Dumont and Erik Condra contributed two assists each to advance the Crunch to 36-19-3-3 on the season and 5-1-1-0 in the 10-game season series against the Amerks.

Goaltender Eddie Pasquale made 21 saves in net for the Crunch. Adam Wilcox turned aside 27-of-30 between the pipes for the Amerks. Rochester converted on 2-of-4 power play opportunities and held Syracuse scoreless on their two man-advantages.

The Crunch were first on the board 5:24 into the second period. Wilcox made the save on Alex Volkov's shot as he cut across the slot, but he didn't control it and the loose puck bounded off Joseph and into the net. Dumont recorded the secondary helper.

Three minutes later, the Amerks evened the score on the power play. Eric Cornel received a pass from Kevin Porter and threw a centering feed from the left circle. Taylor Fedun picked it up and fired off the post and in from between the circles.

Syracuse added two more in the second half of the middle frame to build a two-goal lead over Rochester. At 12:06, Ben Thomas ripped a slap shot through traffic from the blue line with the help of Olivier Archambault and Dennis Yan. Dumont then set up Daniel Walcott to beat Wilcox from the slot with 4:05 remaining in the stanza. Condra tallied a point on the eventual game-winner.

Rochester pulled back within one with another power-play goal four minutes into the third period. Stuart Percy's one-timer from the right circle ricocheted off a stick and kicked left for Porter to pot into an open backdoor.

Joseph added an empty-netter in the final minute of play off an assist from Condra to secure a home-ice victory in the second game of a three-in-three.

The Crunch and Amerks travel to Rochester for the back half of the weekend's home-and-home series tomorrow at 3:05 p.m.

Big second period lifts Syracuse Crunch over Rochester Americans
Auburn Citizen
By: Jeremy Houghtaling

After a scoreless first period, things started to click for the Syracuse Crunch offense.

The Crunch scored three times in the middle frame — including a pair from players not necessarily known for their scoring prowess — as the Crunch beat the Rochester Americans, 4-2, at the Onondaga County War Memorial Saturday.

"We started connecting," Crunch forward Daniel Walcott said. "We got a good bounce off (Mathieu Joseph's) leg and the floodgates opened. We just kept shooting on him. We knew he left a lot of rebounds, we just had to capitalize. We put pucks on net and we got some goals."

Joseph recorded a pair of goals to lead the Syracuse offense. Defenseman Ben Thomas scored his fourth goal of the season, while Walcott netted his third this season.

The goals came against Adam Wilcox, a former Crunch teammate.

"It was fun because I told him before the game I would score," Walcott said. "He was kind of mad that I didn't beat him clean. I beat him off a whiffed shot, but I'll take them. On the scoresheet they all look the same."

Crunch captain Erik Condra and Gabriel Dumont each registered a pair of assists, while Dennis Yan, Alexander Volkov and Olivier Archambault each had one helper. Eddie Pasquale finished with 21 saves for the win.

The victory provides the Crunch with some breathing room in the standings. Syracuse came into the game second place in the North Division, just two points ahead of Rochester.

"It's always important, especially this part of the year knowing they were two points behind us," Groulx said. "It's always important."

The Crunch recorded the first seven shots on goal, and didn't allow an Americans scoring opportunity for nearly 13 minutes to start the contest. Despite outshooting Rochester 10-5, Syracuse went into the first intermission in a scoreless tie.

"I think we had a bit of a slow start in the first, and then we kind of regrouped in-between periods and said 'Let's go here,'" Thomas said. "In the second it kind of came together for us. Pucks were going in."

A rebound bounced off Joseph's leg and into the net to open the scoring 5:24 into the second period. Taylor Fedun's power play marker evened the score less than three minutes later, but the Crunch took the momentum right back.

Thomas' shot from the point went through a crowd in front and beat Wilcox with eight minute left in the frame, and Walcott added to the Crunch lead less than four minutes later.

"It was a low to high play. It was a good play by (Archambault)," Thomas said of his goal. "It was a slap shot and I think (Wilcox) was screened and it went in."

Kevin Porter's power play goal cut Rochester's deficit to one with 16 minutes remaining, but Joseph sealed the Syracuse victory with an empty-netter in the final minute.

"Overall, I thought we had a strong effort," Groulx said. "Rochester had a push at one moment and got two power play goals. They're a good team, so it was a hard-fought battle. I expect the same game tomorrow."

Syracuse (36-19-3-3) wraps up the three-in-three weekend with a rematch in Rochester Sunday afternoon.

"It's playoff hockey from here on out," Walcott said. "We're going to play all division rivals. It's a close race right now for the playoffs and we've got to come out and play hard because it's going to be a playoff-style game. We've got to take it to the teams we played."

Providence continues its dominance over the Amerks
C&C WorldWide
By: Craig Potter

Though the Rochester Americans and Providence Bruins have not faced each other often over the past 5 years, the visitors from Rhode Island once again prevailed with a 2-1 overtime victory on Friday night before 5,576 fans at the Blue Cross Arena on Irish Night. The win was the fifth straight for Providence over that stretch.

Injuries to Buffalo Sabres have resulted in numerous call-ups from the Amerks, plus the team's leading scorer, rookie C.J. Smith, also is sidelined with an injury. The Amerks were able to suit up just 7 of their top 14 forwards.

As the game was winding down, Gill blasted a one-time feed from Eric Cornel to even the count at 1-1 late in the third period.

"I think we didn't have the start we had liked," said Cornel, who was moved up from the fourth line to the first line. "We had a strong second and third periods, and I think we deserved the point, but we would have preferred two points."

Several players have been called up from the ECHL Cincinnati Cyclones as a result of all the call-ups to the Sabres.

"I liked our resilience as a group against a really good team," said Amerks head coach Chris Taylor. "I thought we stuck with the game plan, had good chances on the power-play, had strong penalty-killing, but unfortunately it was one of those games that just did not go our way."

With defenders Casey Nelson and Brendan Guhle also on recall to Buffalo, the Amerks only allowed one goal in regulation, and that came on a twice-deflected Paul Postma shot from the point that last hit the stick of Ryan Fitzgerald at 3:10 of the second period.

The defense was solid with Nathan Paetsch, Matt Tennyson, Andrew MacWilliam, Zach Redmond, Stuart Percy, and Taylor Fedun patrolling the blue line.

"I thought our D played really, really well tonight," Taylor said.

"We played a strong defensive game," added goalie Linus Ullmark, who finished with 27 saves. "We stuck with the plan and guys did a great job tonight boxing out and allowing me to see a lot of their shots. They are good team, so to come out with one point is a good thing, but tomorrow we will look to get the extra point."

"This is one of the good points," said Taylor. "They're a really good team, a veteran team with skilled forwards, big D."

***NOTES** –The Buffalo Sabres on Friday announced the team recalled forward Justin Bailey from the Rochester Americans. Bailey (22,6-foot-4, 214 lbs.) joins the Sabres for his second recall this

season after scoring two goals and adding an assist in seven games for the club in October. Currently in his third professional season, the Buffalo native has recorded seven points (4+3) in 47 career NHL games for the Sabres. Drafted by Buffalo in the second round (52nd overall) of the 2013 NHL Draft, Bailey has five points (4+1) in his last five games for the Amerks and has posted 91 points (49+42) in 149 career AHL contests… Bailey joined forwards Nick Baptiste, Seth Griffith, Kyle Criscuolo, and Danny O'Regan on recall. However, Criscuolo is out with an injury…The Amerks played the Bruins for just the 5th time over the last 5 years, going 0-4-0-0 in the previous 4 meetings. The last time Rochester defeated Providence was Jan. 18, 2009…The Amerks continue the 3-in-3 weekend with a home-and-home series against the Syracuse Crunch, starting Saturday night in the Salt City with a 3 pm faceoff on Sunday at the BCA.

RIT's Myles Powell signs tryout contract with Amerks
13 Wham
By: Staff Report

Rochester Americans General Manager Randy Sexton announced today that the team has signed forward Myles Powell and defenseman Jake Linhart to Amateur Tryouts (ATO).

Powell, 23, recently concluded a four-year collegiate career at Rochester Institute of Technology (AHA), where he finished with 105 points (45+60) in 149 games with the Tigers. This season, Powell, a two-time AHA Champion, posted career-highs with 26 assists and 39 points while serving as one of four senior captains. He finished second on the team in scoring for the third straight year and was a finalist for the 2018 Hobey Baker Award.

The 5-foot-9, 175 pound-forward became just the 10th player in RIT's Division I history to record 100 or more points. He finished his tenure at R.I.T. tied for second in program history with nine game-winning tallies while ranking sixth all-time with 45 career goals.

Before attending R.I.T., the Courtenay, British Columbia, native appeared in 148 games between the Cowichan Valley Capitals, Victoria Grizzles and Alberni Valley Bulldogs of the BCHL. In three seasons in the BCHL, he amassed 107 points (44+63).

Linhart, 22, completed a four-year career at the University of Wisconsin (Big-10) with 13 points (1+12) in 37 games this season for the Badgers. He totaled 60 points (15+45) over 142 career appearances with Wisconsin.

The Brookfield, Wisc., native posted a career-best 17 assists and 23 points during the 2016-17 season while being one of five Badgers to appear in all 36 games. Following his junior campaign, the 5-foot-11, 185-pound blueliner was named to the All Big-Ten Second Team and was the recipient of the Suter Family Award, presented annually to the team's unsung hero.

Prior to attending Wisconsin, Linhart skated two seasons with the Green Bay Gamblers of the USHL, where he notched 27 points (3+24) in 116 games from 2012-14.

Individual game tickets for the 2017-18 season start at just $14, while Amerks 2018-19 Season Ticket Memberships, which start as low as just $10 per game, are on-sale now. All memberships are up to 40% off Box Office day of game pricing. For more information, visit www.amerks.com or call 1-855-GO-AMERKS.

P-Bruins Win at Rochester, dropping magic number to 25 to clinch playoff berth
WLNE-TV
By: Staff Report

The Providence Bruins defeated the Rochester Americans Friday night in overtime 2-1 in the first matchup of the season between the two teams. The P-Bruins got both of their goals from Ryan Fitzgerald while Jordan Binnington made his 21st start of the season in net.

The first period was all about defense for Providence, as they limited Rochester to just six shots on net with no great opportunities. The P-Bruins controlled offensive play for the majority of the period, but despite 13 shots on Amerks goalie Linus Ullmark the team failed to get any Grade-A chances. Neither side had a power play or penalty in the opening 20 minutes as the sides headed to the locker room scoreless.

The top line for Providence broke through at 3:10 of the second period, netting the game's first goal. Paul Postma saved the puck from exiting the zone and backhanded it into the left wing corner. From there, Austin Czarnik gathered control and got it back out to Postma at the left point. He fired a slap-shot towards Ullmark with Fitzgerald in front, and Fitzgerald deflected it in for his 14th goal of the season. His tip-in complimented another period of strong P-Bruins defense as the team entered the second intermission up 1-0.

Rochester trailed for most of the third, but with six minutes to play tied the score 1-1. Off a pass from Eric Cornel, Sahir Gill ripped a one-timer over the shoulder of Binnington for his 15th goal of the season and sending the game to overtime. At 3:13 of the extra period, Fitzgerald and Postma teamed up again for the game winner. After Fitzgerald won the faceoff to Postma, the defenseman drove to the net and put a backhander on Ullmark. Ullmark stopped Postma, but Fitzgerald came flying in to bury a shot into the open net. His second of the game and 15th of the season gave the P-Bruins a 2-1 overtime victory.

Binnington stopped 23 of 24 shots in his 14th win of the year while Ullmark stopped 27 of 29 shots. Providence was 0-2 on the power play and 3-3 on the penalty kill. The P-Bruins are back in action tomorrow afternoon when they head to Toronto for a matchup with the first place Marlies at 4pm.

Power play not enough as Amerks fall to Syracuse
Buffalo News
By: Amy Moritz

They got a pair of power play goals, but the Rochester Americans couldn't find their groove at even strength Saturday night. The Amerks dropped a 4-2 decision to the Syracuse Crunch in Onondaga County War Memorial Arena.

Syracuse broke the scoreless game at 5:24 of the second period on a goal from Mathieu Joseph. The Amerks tied the game at 8:05 when Taylor Fedun scored his third goal, tallying on the power play for the Amerks with assists from Eric Cornell and Kevin Porter.

But the Crunch responded well, scoring two more goals from Ben Thoams and Daniel Walcott to take a 3-1 lead into the second intermission.

Rochester cut the lead to 3-2 when Porter scored on the power play at 4:01 of the third with assists from Stuart Percy and Fedun. But the Amerks couldn't get equalizer. Joseph sealed the win for the Crunch with an empty-net goal with 52 seconds left to play.

The Amerks slip to 29-16-10-6 while Syracuse improved to 36-19-3-3.

After long year, Justin Bailey cashes in his shot with Sabres

Buffalo News
By: John Vogl

This is not the season Justin Bailey expected. It makes days like Saturday a little sweeter.

The right winger has totaled just 35 games because of ankle and thumb injuries. He went 21 games without a goal in Rochester. It added up to just one stint with Buffalo.

Things are finally looking up. Bailey put up four goals and five points in five games with the Amerks. It prompted the Sabres to recall him Friday, and he scored the only goal Saturday in a 2-1 shootout loss to the Vegas Golden Knights.

"Anytime you can help your team against a good team like that it, it's a good feeling," Bailey said in KeyBank Center. "It's been a season of ups and downs this year, so it was definitely good to get one."

Bailey hadn't played for the Sabres since Oct. 28. He had two goals and three points in seven games, but then he suffered an ankle sprain that limited him to just one game with Rochester in a seven-week span. During his return Dec. 15, he hurt his thumb and was out another month.

It'll be a year that I'm sure that I'll look back on and be able to use later in my career," the 22-year-old said. "I've been fortunate enough not to be injured my first two years pro at all, and it kind of seemed like they all came at once.

"At the same time, it's something I'll learn from. I'm just going to do my best to finish the year strong and I know in Rochester with a playoff push as well."

Before starting his recent hot stretch with Rochester, Bailey had just two goals and three assists in 22 games with the Amerks. That's not what anyone expected from someone who recorded 43 goals and 81 points during his first two seasons in the American Hockey League.

"When you miss time like that, you forget how to play the right way a little bit," Bailey said. "It's just doing the right things, using my speed, using my size and making sure I was hard on the forecheck and letting my skill do the rest.

"It was tough. Obviously, I want to help the team in any way I can, especially being able to score goals. It was definitely a tough stretch when I first came back not exactly feeling 100 percent like myself."

He credits Amerks coach Chris Taylor for getting him back in the right frame of mind.

"He kept positive with me, just telling me to continue to play the right way and things will start to happen," Bailey said. "That's just what happened."

The final month of the season will be important for the second-round pick in the 2013 NHL Draft. His entry-level contract expires this summer, and he'll be a restricted free agent. He has a chance to show he's part of the future with the recall.

"It's definitely something I wanted to happen before the end of the year," said the Williamsville native. "I played physical. I played with speed. Those are two things I can control, my speed and my size. I just tried to come out here and use both of those. "

It was exactly what Sabres coach Phil Housley ordered.

"He's got to use his speed on the forecheck and get to the net," Housley said of the 6-foot-4, 214-pounder. "He's a big kid, so hopefully he'll bring some energy for us.

"He's been using speed. Those high-ankle sprains, they can be fickle. You can tweak them. It's a nagging injury, but he's finally found his stride and that's why he's going to get an opportunity."

Bailey made the most of his best chance, snapping a scoreless tie with 2:47 gone in the third period. Benoit Pouliot knocked away a Vegas pass at the Buffalo blue line, then chased the puck down the ice. He found Bailey in front, and the winger deked Marc-Andre Fleury to the ice and dumped the puck home while tripping over the goaltender.

"It was a great play by Benny there," Bailey said. "He worked hard to go get the puck and made a great pass. I just did my best to finish it.

"I just wanted to have an idea if the pass came to me of what I was going to do."

What he did was score his third goal in eight NHL games this season. That's a pretty good stat line after finally putting up nice numbers with the Amerks.

"What I've been doing in Rochester can translate to here," Bailey said. "Nothing should change between coming back on the backcheck, getting in on the forecheck. Everything I'm doing there should translate here."