



GAME NOTES



Springfield Thunderbirds vs. Rochester Americans

Saturday, March 24, 2018 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 971

TONIGHT'S GAME

• The Rochester Americans (30-20-10-6) can clinch a playoff spot tonight as they bring the weekend to a close when the Springfield Thunderbirds (28-31-5-1), the AHL affiliate of the Florida Panthers, come to The Blue Cross Arena for the only time this season. Game time is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

LAST TIME OUT

- For the fourth straight contest, the Amerks opened the scoring but were unable to hold onto the lead as they came up short in a 4-2 loss to the Binghamton Devils last night at The Blue Cross Arena.
- The Devils struck three times on the power-play, marking the first time Rochester allowed the opposition to record multiple power-play goals on home ice since Nov. 24, also against Binghamton.
- Despite the setback, the Amerks, who have earned at least one point in 20 of their last 31 games dating back to Jan. 1, maintain a 19-point lead on the fifth-place Laval Rocket in the North Division standings.
- Rochester defenseman **Stuart Percy** and forward **Sahir Gill** each netted their career-best seventh and 16th goals of the season, respectively, while goaltender **Adam Wilcox** suffered his third straight loss despite making 29 saves.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

• The Amerks welcome the North Division rival Utica Comets back to The Blue Cross Arena on Wednesday, Mar. 28 for the final get-together of the season between the two teams. Opening face-off is set for 7:05 p.m. All the action can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester and will also be televised on MSG.

PLAYOFF PICTURE – WIN AND IN!

- Rochester remains in the thick of what is shaping up to be a very tight race to the finish in the North Division standings, where only two playoff spots remain. The Amerks need just two more points to lock up a playoff spot, meaning the team can officially punch its ticket to the postseason with a win tonight over Springfield. Rochester can also clinch with either an overtime/shootout loss to the Thunderbirds coupled with a Laval loss (reg/OTL/SOL) against Charlotte or a Laval regulation loss and a Binghamton loss (reg/OTL/SOL) versus Wilkes-Barre/Scranton.
- Should the Amerks clinch a playoff spot tonight, they will become just the fourth team – and third from the North Division – to lock up a postseason berth, joining the second-place Syracuse Crunch and the league-leading Toronto Marlies. The Lehigh Valley Phantoms became the first team from the Atlantic Division to clinch last night.

2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
182-199



28-31-5-1 (62 points)

30-20-10-6 (76 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	54	17	26	43	16	7
Zach Redmond	58	13	28	41	36	6
Kevin Porter	60	16	22	38	20	-12

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	42	20-11-10	2,461	1,199	.923	2.44
Adam Wilcox	26	10-7-6	1,472	655	.903	2.85

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Mar. 28	vs. Utica	7:05 p.m.
Mar. 30	vs. Charlotte	7:05 p.m.
Mar. 31	@ Binghamton	7:05 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Mar. 23	Binghamton	L 4-2	31-33	1-4	3-5
Mar. 18	Hartford	L 6-4	26-29	0-1	2-2
Mar. 16	Providence	L 5-3	31-49	0-3	3-5

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS
HOME 14-12-2-3	95	86	33
AWAY 16-8-8-3	104	105	43
TOTALS 30-20-10-6	199	191	76

T-BIRDS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Curtis Valk	62	17	31	48	31	-6
Anthony Greco	64	26	19	45	26	-9
Alexandre Grenier	64	16	23	39	72	-6

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Harri Sateri	21	10-7-2	1,214	571	.917	2.57
Samuel Montembeault	37	13-19-3	1,993	919	.898	3.13



TEAM AND PLAYER NOTES

- The Amerks, who have earned at least one point in 20 of their last 31 games since the New Year, have appeared in 13 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 26, showing a 7-10 mark in overtime while going 3-6 in shootouts.
- With four points (3+1) in his last four games after missing 12 games due to injury, rookie **C.J. Smith** remains the team leader in both goals (17) and points (43) in 54 games this season. With his first-career hat trick this past Sunday in Hartford, he became the first Amerks rookie to score a hat trick since Tim Schaller at Toronto on Apr. 5, 2014. The Des, Moines, Iowa native is currently seventh in scoring among all AHL rookies while his 26 assists are tied for fifth-most between all first-year skaters.
- **Zach Redmond**, who reached the 40-point mark for the first time in his professional career last Friday in Providence, comes into the matchup with points in four of his last five games after picking up his team-leading 28th assist of the season last night against Binghamton. In 58 games so far this season, the veteran blueliner has recorded career-highs in all offensive categories with 13 goals, 28 assists and 41 points, placing him tied for fourth among all AHL defensemen in overall scoring. He's also tied for second in goals by a defenseman with 13, including seven that have come on the power-play. His seven power-play tallies lead the team and are tied for third among league rearguards. He also ranks third among defensemen with 154 shots.
- With seven points (3+5) over his last 11 games, forward **Kevin Porter** ranks third on the team in scoring with 38 points (16+22) in 60 contests this season. Rochester's team captain is also tied for second on the team in goals with 16 and is on pace to record the first 20-goal season of his pro career after scoring 19 during the 2013-14 campaign in his previous stint with Rochester. He also needs just two more points to pick up his second straight 40-point campaign.
- **Alexander Nylander** has accounted for 15 points (4+11) over his last 16 games, a stretch which includes a season-long five-game point streak from Feb. 23 to Mar. 4. Most recently, the former first-round pick of the Buffalo Sabres amassed six points (1+5) over Rochester's three-game Atlantic Division road swing, which ended with Nylander recording a career-high three assists at Hartford on Mar. 18.

SCOUTING THE THUNDERBIRDS

- Springfield comes into the matchup with a 4-3-3-0 record over its last 10 games and have dropped four straight. The Thunderbirds hold an 18-12-3-1 record on home ice compared to a 10-19-2-0 record away from the MassMutual Center.
- Former Utica Comets duo Curtis Valk (17+31) and Alexandre Grenier (16+23) sit first and third on the Thunderbirds in scoring with 48 and 39 points, respectively. Valk shows a team-best 31 assists while Grenier is one point shy of his fourth straight 40-point season.
- Anthony Greco ranks sixth in the AHL with a team-high 26 goals.

AMERKS-T-BIRDS 2017-18 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Kyle Criscuolo	1	1	0	1	2	2
Seth Griffith	1	1	0	1	0	2
Brendan Guhle	1	0	1	1	0	1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Linus Ullmark	1	1-0-0	60:00	1	.947	1.00

SPRINGFIELD

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Maxime Fortunus	1	1	0	1	0	0
Blaine Byron	1	0	1	1	0	1
Ludwig Bystrom	1	0	1	1	0	-1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Samuel Montembeault	1	0-0-1	59:27	2	.946	2.02

2017-18 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Jan. 12	W	2-1	37-19	0-3	3-3
Mar. 24					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. SPRINGFIELD: 4-1-0

SERIES NOTABLES

- Amerks goaltender **Adam Wilcox** appeared in 13 games last season with the Thunderbirds, going 7-4-1 after a midseason trade from Tampa Bay. Wilcox, who holds the longest winning streak in Springfield history, recorded three shutouts with the Thunderbirds, including a 2-0 blanking against the Amerks on March 12 of last season. During his four-game win streak, Wilcox stopped 117 of 120 shots he faced while boasting a 0.75 goals-against average.
- Springfield assistant coaches **Doug Janik** and **Michael Ryan** each have ties to Rochester having spent time in the Flower City as players, including three as teammates from 2003 to 2006. Janik, a Springfield native, appeared in 376 career games in Rochester, the third-most among any blueliner in franchise history, and his 91 points (18+73) still rank 30th among all-time defensemen. Ryan played parts of five seasons with the Amerks during which he amassed 126 points (57+69) in 218 career games.