



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

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TONIGHT'S GAME: Springfield @ Rochester

Rochester Amerks 'humble' legend Dick Gamble dies

Democrat & Chronicle

By: Leo Roth

When Jody Gage broke Dick Gamble's Rochester Americans career scoring record on Feb. 21, 1992, with an assist on a goal by Darcy Loewen for his 566th point, a sellout crowd of 7,300 fans erupted in cheers and began chanting "Jody, Jody."

But that's not what Gage remembers most about that night at the War Memorial, which produced a 2-1 victory over the Binghamton Rangers. It was the fact Gamble was there to congratulate him, handing Gage a silver bowl as a giant "566" was lowered from the rafters.

"I was so honored and appreciative that he came that night and I got the chance to meet him and his family," said Gage, who like Gamble wore No. 9. "He was so humble and such a gentleman and we just loved talking hockey. It was truly a great honor to have known Dick for all these years and I really appreciated and cherished the friendship we developed."

Mr. Gamble died Thursday evening of congestive heart failure at Strong Memorial Hospital's palliative care unit surrounded by his family.

He was 89.

"We were all by his side holding his hands," son Craig Gamble said.

Family members planned on being at Friday's Amerks game at Blue Cross Arena to observe a moment of silence with fans. Services will be a private family "celebration of his great life," Craig Gamble said. "He loved Rochester and he loved winning here."

A native of Moncton, New Brunswick, Mr. Gamble starred for the Amerks for nine seasons during the 1960s, helping the franchise capture three Calder Cups in a span of four seasons under coach Joe Crozier.

This "Golden Era" established Rochester as one of the top cities in professional hockey.

A member of the 1952-53 Montreal Canadiens Stanley Cup champions, Mr. Gamble had played four seasons for the Buffalo Bisons of the AHL before demanding "pay me or trade me," he said in a 2016 interview.

They traded him and it was the best thing that could've happened to Mr. Gamble.

In addition to his success with the Amerks, he married a local girl, raised four children in LeRoy, and spent his retirement years in Pittsford, putting his carpentry skills to use.

"I enjoyed playing here better than anywhere, even Montreal because there was so much pressure in Montreal," Mr. Gamble said in a 2016 interview. "Before expansion, I know our team could've beat a couple (NHL) teams every day, give or take. But like everything else, there's politics in the

hockey world. But I enjoyed it here and I've been here ever since. It's a great place to live. What can one say? Here I am."

Blessed with great speed and a booming shot off the left wing, Mr. Gamble made scoring look easy.

Some of his best seasons, in fact, took place in his late 30s during Rochester's Calder Cup run (titles in '65, '66 and '68 and a loss in the finals in '67). Mr. Gamble led the team in goals three of those years with totals of 48, 47 and 46 and 258 points overall.

His best year was 1965-66 when he scored 47 goals and had a career-high 51 assists for 98 points, earning the AHL's scoring title and MVP trophy.

"I never saw anybody come off that left wing and fire a puck like he did," said Hockey Night in Canada icon Don Cherry, 84, Gamble's teammate and fellow Hall of Famer speaking from his home in Mississauga, Ontario.

"Right now he'd be making about \$8 million in the National Hockey League. I remember one time in Providence, he cut around the guy and let a shot go and hit the top corner and I swear the net went up about an inch. He was a real goal scorer. He could put the puck in the net boy and could he shoot. I'm sorry to hear he's gone. He was such a good guy and you could trust him to get 40 for you every year."

When Mr. Gamble retired after the 1969-70 season, he was the Amerks' career leader in goals (300), points (565) and games played (569), all marks that Gage would surpass. He also was fifth in assists with 265.

"That's what records are for," Mr. Gamble said. "To be broken."

Mr. Gamble, who also served a time as the Amerks coach and general manager, was a member of the team's inaugural Hall of Fame class of 1986, joining former teammates Bronco Horvath, Norm "Red" Armstrong, Al Arbour and Bobby Perreault.

He is one of just seven players who played on all three of Crozier's Calder Cup winners.

In 1999, the Amerks retired the No. 9 worn by both he and Gage. In 2007, he was inducted into the AHL Hall of Fame.

He still ranks fourth in AHL history with 468 goals and 892 points and was voted one of the 10 greatest minor league players ever by the Society for International Hockey Research.

"Dick Gamble will always be remembered as one of hockey's all-time greatest players and a legendary figure in both Buffalo and Rochester," AHL President and CEO Dave Andrews said. "The entire AHL offers its heartfelt condolences to Dick's family and to the Amerks organization."

Last July, a scuba diver returned Mr. Gamble's AHL ring that had accidentally slipped off son Craig's finger while swimming in Canandaigua Lake. Dick Gamble hadn't known it was lost.

Craig Gamble said at the time, "It means a lot to me (to get it back). My dad has been a wonderful man and he's taught me lot of things in life — right from wrong, resiliency, stick-to-itiveness and to always keep going. This ring represents all those things he taught me as a child."

After his 19-year professional hockey career — he was 41 when he retired — Mr. Gamble ran hockey schools in Canada and in Rochester for the old Lions Club. He also enjoyed a long, successful career in sales, including 17 years at Meyer's RV Superstores in Caledonia where he enjoyed talking hockey with customers.

"Many people who watched him play bought from him and loved his laid-back demeanor," said Marcia Gamble, Dick's wife of 45 years.

Mr. Gamble, who enjoyed attending Amerks Alumni events later in life, did not completely retire from work until he was 79.

"I enjoyed what I did," he said. "I met a lot of fans who watched me play because they were my vintage (buying motor homes), they were all retired while I was still working. But I enjoyed it."

When people would ask Mr. Gamble to recall his favorite hockey career moment, he would hesitate.

"Not really, I just loved to play and loved to win," he said. "When I won the scoring championship I was pretty old so that was an exceptional year for me. But I just loved to play and I played a lot."

Almost 1,200 minor league games.

With only six NHL teams during most of his career, which limited opportunities, Mr. Gamble played just 195 NHL games, scoring 41 goals with 41 assists for Montreal, Chicago and Toronto.

Gage, who grew up in the Toronto area, would often hear stories from his father about the Rochester Americans and Dick Gamble, listening to games on the radio.

"It's still amazing he didn't spend more time in the NHL," Gage said. "He's one of those players that could've helped my Maple Leafs. I never had the pleasure to see him play but he was a true gentleman."

Mr. Gamble is survived by his wife, Marcia, children Richard, Craig, Brent and Darlene, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The Rochester Americans will honor the memory of legend Dick Gamble, who died late Thursday at age 89, with a helmet decal and commemorative patch on players' jerseys for the remainder of the season. The patch features Gamble's initials, his iconic No. 9, and three stars for the three

Calder Cup teams he was part of in 1965, 1966 and 1968. The jersey patch logo will also be placed in-ice behind both nets.

Is there really an on/off switch for the Amerks? They sure hope so
Pickin' Splinters

By: Kevin Oklobzija

First it was just a speed bump when the Rochester Americans began to lose games with regularity back in January.

Then it was a mini slump in early February; no reason for alarm.

Then come the beginning of March, it was a real slump. Still, there was no reason for panic. After all, the rest of the American Hockey League's North Division was so far in the rear view mirror that a playoff berth would be safe regardless of how badly the Amerks stumbled.

But now, well, let's be honest; there's reason for concern. And maybe even alarm.

Because unless someone in the dressing room can locate the on/off switch that triggers real, consistent, 60-minute hockey, then what's the point of making the Calder Cup playoffs? One-and-done may be just as bad as going home after Game 76 of the regular season.

And right now, after Friday's 4-2 loss to the still-lowly Binghamton Devils, Amerks coach Chris Taylor surely doesn't know where that switch is.

His club has lost four straight and is an ugly 7-12-6-3 in the past 28 games since Jan. 13. That's a win every four games. Ever see a team win a playoff series that way?

The Amerks lost three straight last weekend in New England so the coach certainly expected them to come out with great intensity on Friday on home ice. Boy, was he wrong. They were outshot 12-8 in the period and, far worse in Taylor's mind, had just 12 shot attempts.

"Our first period, to me, was our worst in a long time," Taylor said.

Defenseman Stuart Percy, who scored the Amerks first goal, admitted that, yes, maybe there should be a little concern.

"But I'd rather lose four straight now than April 15," Percy said.

He has a point. Then again, with 1-5-1-0 record in the past seven games, and yet another loss to Binghamton (22-33-7-3), this is hardly how Cup contenders head down the stretch, especially with just 10 games to play.

The Amerks could have finally clinched the playoff spot that they've been in position to clinch since last weekend. A win in Saturday's game against the Springfield Thunderbirds still will give them the clinch.

Maybe that's just it, too. They know they're going to be in, it may not matter whether they play Toronto or Syracuse in the first round since they'll probably need to beat both of them in order to advance to the Eastern Conference finals.

And maybe that's why defenseman Zach Redmond said "there's no concern" within the dressing room.

But he also said that, despite "preaching sticking to our game plan right off the hop, we're not doing it."

Mind you, this is in late March, they're not doing what Taylor has been imploring them to do. On Friday, what they couldn't do was stay out of the penalty box. They gave the Devils five power plays, which led to three goals against Adam Wilcox.

"It's unacceptable for our team," Taylor said of the penalties. "It's too late in the year to be telling guys they can't take that man penalties."

It's also far too late to be talking about consistent play. Yet that's what he's still doing.

Amerks mourn the loss of Dick Gamble

Pickin' Splinters

By: Paul Gotham

The Rochester Americans are deeply saddened to learn of the loss of Amerks Hall of Famer and hockey legend Dick Gamble. He was 89 years old.

“The entire Rochester Americans organization is deeply saddened by the loss of Dick Gamble,” said Amerks and American Hockey League Hall of Famer Jody Gage. “Dick was someone who helped bring the Rochester Americans to prominence in the AHL and was instrumental in building this great franchise. Dick was an Amerks and AHL Hall of Famer and a founding father who played with class and dignity. It was truly a great honor to have known Dick for all these years and I will always cherish his friendship. He will be dearly missed.”

Gamble’s career in Rochester spanned parts of nine seasons from 1961-70, a time during which the Amerks – and hockey for that matter – was relatively in its infancy. Gamble would quickly bring the franchise to prominence, however, transforming a cast of future Amerks legends and American Hockey League icons alike into a dynasty that would go on to win three Calder Cup championships over a four-year span. No other AHL team would ever match the feat.

The “Golden Years” would be a stepping stone for the Amerks and Gamble, who, thanks to a heavy shot and a true knack for scoring, catapulted himself to the top of the Amerks all-time scoring lists at the time of his induction into the team’s Hall of Fame in 1986. Gamble was one of eight charter members of the inaugural class, joining the likes of former teammates Bronco Horvath, Norm “Red” Armstrong, Al Arbour and Bobby Perreault.

“Dick Gamble will always be remembered as one of hockey’s all-time greatest players and a legendary figure in both Buffalo and Rochester,” said American Hockey League President and CEO Dave Andrews. “The entire AHL offers its heartfelt condolences to Dick’s family and to the Amerks organization.”

At the time of his induction, Gamble was the club’s career leader in goals (300), points (565) and games played (569), all of which would later be surpassed by Gage. The Moncton, New Brunswick, native also finished his tenure in Rochester fifth all-time with 265 career assists.

Only once in his eight full seasons in Rochester did the sharp-shooting right wing ever fail to reach the 30-goal mark. His skills helped him to NHL stints with Montreal, Chicago and Toronto. In addition to a nine-year tour of duty as a player, Gamble also served the franchise as a coach during the era of Vancouver ownership in the late 1960s and early 70s as well as a brief three-year stint as the team’s general manager all while still playing the game.

Gamble’s finest year with the Amerks came in 1965-66 when he scored 47 goals and added a career-high 51 assists for 98 points (another career-high). For his efforts, the three-time AHL All-Star took the American Hockey League scoring championship and Most Valuable Player Trophy while helping the Amerks and Joe Crozier to their second consecutive Calder Cup title.

A 20-goal scorer in all eight seasons played in Rochester, Gamble still currently ranks fourth in AHL history with 468 goals and fifth with 892 points, respectively.

On March 19, 1999, Gamble and Gage had their No. 9 retired, joining Norm “Red” Armstrong as the only players in team history to receive that honor. The six-time postseason All-Star would later be inducted into the American Hockey League Hall of Fame in 2007.

In honor of Gamble, the Amerks will wear helmet decals for the remainder of the 2017-18 season and a commemorative patch will soon be added to their jerseys for all remaining home games. The patch features Gamble’s initials sitting above his iconic No. 9 adorned in the traditional Amerks red, white and blue colors. The three stars, outlined in white and blue, sit just below the No. 9, representing the three Calder Cup championships Gamble won with Rochester in 1965, 1966 and 1968. The predominantly red body of the patch pays homage to the early days of the franchise.

A special in-ice logo, mirroring that of the jersey patch, will also be placed behind both nets in the coming week for the remainder of the season.

Amerks legend Dick Gamble dies at the age of 89

Rochester First

By: Howard Thompson

Amerks legend and Hall of Fame hockey player Dick Gamble has passed away at the age of 89, the team announced Friday.

Gamble played in Rochester for parts of nine seasons between 1961 and 1970 and helped lead the Amerks to three Calder Cup championships.

Gamble wore number 9 -- a number that would later be worn by another Amerks Hall of Famer: Jody Gage.

“The entire Rochester Americans organization is deeply saddened by the loss of Dick Gamble,” said Gage in a statement. “Dick was someone who helped bring the Rochester Americans to prominence in the AHL and was instrumental in building this great franchise. Dick was an Amerks and AHL Hall of Famer and a founding father who played with class and dignity. It was truly a great honor to have known Dick for all these years and I will always cherish his friendship. He will be dearly missed.”

"Dick Gamble will always be remembered as one of hockey's all-time greatest players and a legendary figure in both Buffalo and Rochester," said American Hockey League President and CEO Dave Andrews. "The entire AHL offers its heartfelt condolences to Dick's family and to the Amerks organization."

At the time of his induction into the Hall of Fame, Gamble was the Amerks career leader in goals (300), points (565) and games played (569) -- all records later surpassed by Gage.

In 1999, the Amerks retired the number 9 -- only the second number retired by the club.

Devils burn Amerks on the power-play
Rochester First
Staff Report

For the fourth straight contest, the Rochester Americans (31-20-10-6) opened the scoring but were unable to hold onto the lead as the Amerks came up short in a 4-2 loss to the Binghamton Devils (22-33-7-3) Friday at The Blue Cross Arena.

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. The top four teams in the Division are guaranteed a playoff spot and Rochester needs just two points to secure a postseason berth heading into Saturday's matchup with the Springfield Thunderbirds.

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.

Nick Lappin recorded his third hat trick of the season while John Quenneville tallied three helpers to help Binghamton to its fourth straight victory against the Amerks. Former Amerk Tim Kennedy assisted on a pair of goals while Nathan Bastian lit the lamp for his eighth of the year. Netminder Eddie Lack earned his sixth victory of the campaign and second straight win as he stopped 29 of 31 shots.

Rochester drew a cross-checking penalty 10:57 into the first period of a scoreless game. Nearly a minute into the infraction, Percy dusted off a pass from Danny O'Regan atop the left point of the Devils zone. The blueliner took a few strides before wiring a shot past the blocker of Lack to give the Amerks a 1-0 lead.

"We have been working on the power-play lately," said Percy. "Regs found me with a great pass and I tried to make a good shot. I am not exactly sure what happened after I shot the puck because I am not a big-time goal-scorer, but lucky it went in."

The Devils, however, responded with a pair of goals to take a 2-1 lead into the intermission break as they scored twice just 71 seconds apart while on the man-advantage. It was the first time the Amerks had allowed the opposition to record multiple power-play goals in the same home game since Nov. 24, a span of 21 contests.

"It was not good on our part," said Amerks head coach Chris Taylor when talking about the penalties. "When you take that many penalties as we did during the first, you are going to give up that many goals. It is unacceptable for our guys to take penalties this late in the season."

"We took some bad penalties, myself included," said Redmond. "Those are the types of things that can cost a team in a game, especially in the playoffs, so we have to correct that while we can. We have confidence in the group to make the playoffs, so we need to be more consistent for a whole 60-minute game going forward."

During the second stanza, the teams combined for 27 shots, but the North Division rivals exchanged goals 1:52 apart.

After Lappin's second of the night pushed the Binghamton lead to 3-1 with 4:57 left in the period, Gill made it a one-goal game.

Picking up a loose puck in the neutral zone, Gill skated into the offensive zone with the puck to the right of the Devils side of the ice. As the fourth-year winger approached Lack, he flipped a backhanded shot in-between the right arm and body of the netminder, trimming the Devils lead to 3-2 with 3:05 left in the period. Hudson Fasching and Zach Redmond picked up the assists on the tally.

The two clubs tightened down defensively in the third period but Lappin completed the hat trick as he secured Binghamton's 4-2 victory with 6:28 showing on the clock. It was also the fourth straight game in which Rochester was involved in a hat trick dating back Thursday night in Bridgeport. The hat trick was the also first allowed by the Amerks to an opposing player on home ice since Justin Dowling of the Texas Stars scored three goals on Feb. 20, 2015.

Amerks miss another chance to clinch playoff spot with a loss

Democrat & Chronicle

By: Andy Lipari

It turned out an Amerks win Friday would have clinched their first playoff spot in four years, but they'll have to wait yet another day after a 4-2 loss to the Binghamton Devils at the Blue Cross Arena at the Community War Memorial.

The Amerks came in three points away from clinching but the loss, combined with a Laval Rocket loss in overtime, now has the Amerks two points away from a postseason berth.

Amerks defenseman Zach Redmond said those two points should have come Friday for a team that's dropped four in a row.

"There's no concern, I think. We're going to make the playoffs," Redmond said. "We should have clinched tonight.

Birmingham capitalized on three power plays thanks to a few soft Amerk penalties.

Frustration is setting in for the Amerks (30-20-10-6, 76 points), who had chances to clinch last weekend but lost three straight. Overall, the Amerks have dropped seven of their last eight, with five coming in regulation.

"All our guys are frustrated, it's not fun," Amerks head coach Chris Taylor said. "That's the result you get when you play that way."

Friday started a four-game home set and a stretch of eight of the Amerks' final 11 games at home. However, the Amerks have had trouble in their own building, going 14-12-2-3 which is the 11th-best home winning percentage in the Eastern Conference.

Rochester couldn't put itself in a position to clinch against a Binghamton team that it scored 10 goals on earlier this year. The Amerks were 4-1-2-1 against the Devils, who are in sixth place in the North Division, coming into Friday.

Stuart Percy gave the Amerks a 1-0 lead midway through the first period. Binghamton answered with two power-play goals in a span of 71 seconds to take the lead.

The Devils went up 3-1 before Sahir Gill scored his 16th of the season to pull the Amerks back within a goal.

With the Devils up by two, Taylor pulled Adam Wilcox with four minutes to go. Even with the extra attacker, the Amerks didn't have many good chances to score late.

Wilcox made 28 saves as he continues to be the main option in net with Linus Ullmark still up in Buffalo. Ullmark didn't get any help Friday from his Sabres teammates in a 3-0 loss to Montreal.

For most of the season, Sabres general manager Jason Botterill has only brought Amerks players to Buffalo for a short period of time but Ullmark and Brendan Guhle have both been in Buffalo during the four-game losing streak.

Not having a couple of the Amerks' main players all year is one of the reasons they are still looking toward improving for the postseason.

"This is one of the longer stretches we've gone without a win but we have to be focused on doing the little stuff that will make us successful in the playoffs," Redmond said. "I think we're going to be just fine."

Amerks lose 4th straight
C&C Worldwide
By: Craig Potter

The Rochester Americans are struggling to clinch a berth in the upcoming Calder Cup playoffs as they lost their fourth straight game, and sixth in their last 7 contests, following a 4-2 defeat at the hands of the Binghamton Devils on Friday night before 5,046 fans at the Blue Cross Arena.

With a victory, the Amerks could have clinched a spot in the North Division as the Laval Rocket lost in overtime to the Charlotte Checkers, 3-2.

“I’d rather lose four straight now than April 15,” said defenseman Stuart Percy, who opened the scoring with a power play tally in the first period.

Defenseman Zach Redmond, who assisted on the Amerks second goal, added “there’s no concern” within the dressing room about the current losing streak. It marked the second time all season that the team lost 4 consecutive games, but the first time all 4 losses happened in regulation.

Rochester still can secure a playoff berth Saturday night at the BCA with a victory over the Springfield Thunderbirds.

Following Percy’s goal, the Devils responded with two power play goals of their own to take the lead for good.

“Our first period, to me, was our worst in a long time,” said Amerks coach Chris Taylor.

Percy’s goal came midway through the opening stanza.

“We have been working on the power-play lately,” Percy said. “Regs (Danny O’Regan) found me with a great pass and I tried to make a good shot. I am not exactly sure what happened after I shot the puck because I am not a big-time goal-scorer, but lucky it went in.”

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“We took some bad penalties, myself included,” said Redmond. “Those are the types of things that can cost a team in a game, especially in the playoffs, so we have to correct that while we can. We have confidence in the group to make the playoffs, so we need to be more consistent for a whole 60-minute game going forward.”

Taylor added, “It was not good on our part. When you take that many penalties as we did during the first, you are going to give up that many goals. It is unacceptable for our guys to take penalties this late in the season.”

The visitors made it 3-1 in the second period before Sahir Gill broke in on Binghamton goalie Eddie Lack and beat him high with a back-handed shot.

However, the Devils took advantage of another power play in the third period, this time a 5-on-3 advantage, and scored for a 4-2 margin.

“It’s unacceptable for our team,” Taylor said of the penalties. “It’s too late in the year to be telling guys they can’t take that many (5) penalties.”

Amerks goalie Adam Wilcox finished with 28 saves.

*NOTES –The Buffalo Sabres on Friday announced the team assigned forward Seth Griffith to the Amerks...Zach Redmond reached the 40-point mark for the first time in his career last weekend and added to it with his team-leading 28th assist tonight for his 41st point...Rookie forward C.J. Smith returned to the lineup last weekend after missing 12 games with an injury, and recorded his first hat trick of the season Sunday in Hartford. He leads the Amerks in points with 43 on his 26th assist tonight.

Amerks legend Dick Gamble dies at age 89

WHEC

By: Staff Report

Rochester Amerks Hall of Famer and hockey legend Dick Gamble has died at the age of 89.

Gamble's career in Rochester spanned parts of nine seasons from 1961-70. Gamble led the team to three Calder Cup championships over a four-year span. No other AHL team would ever match the feat.

"The entire Rochester Americans organization is deeply saddened by the loss of Dick Gamble," said Amerks and American Hockey League Hall of Famer Jody Gage. "Dick was someone who helped bring the Rochester Americans to prominence in the AHL and was instrumental in building this great franchise."

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