



UTICA COMETS GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERICANS



Utica Comets vs. Rochester Americans

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 992

TONIGHT'S GAME

- Just four days removed from clinching their first playoff spot in four years, the Rochester Americans (31-20-10-6) return to action tonight as they welcome the North Division rival Utica Comets (33-24-6-4) back to The Blue Cross Arena 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.

LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks punched their ticket to the postseason with a 4-2 victory over the Springfield Thunderbirds Saturday at The Blue Cross Arena. The Amerks, who became the fourth AHL team – and third from the North Division – to lock up a playoff berth, also snapped a season-long four-game point-streak with the win.
- In his second game since returning from the Buffalo Sabres, **Seth Griffith** recorded his eighth multi-point outing of the campaign with a three-point night (1+2) to give Rochester its fifth win all-time in just six games against the Thunderbirds. Second-year forward **Colin Blackwell** chipped in two goals, including the eventual game-winner, while **Danny O'Regan** rounded out the scoring with his 12th of the year. **Adam Wilcox** halted a personal three-game winless streak as he stopped 20 of 22 shots against his former team to improve to 11-7-6 on the season. He needs just five more wins for 50 in his career.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks close out their four-game homestand on Friday, Mar. 30 when they host the Charlotte Checkers in the final meeting of the season between the two teams. Game time is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

AMERKS PUNCH PLAYOFF TICKET

- The Amerks officially punched their ticket to the postseason with a 4-2 win over the Springfield Thunderbirds on Saturday, the team's first playoff berth since 2014. On Sunday evening, Utica became the fourth and final team from the North Division to lockup a playoff spot, joining the Amerks, Toronto Marlies and Syracuse Crunch.
- The race to the finish will determine the seeding for the Calder Cup Playoffs among North Division teams, who are separated by a total of 20 points. Toronto remains atop the AHL standings with a league-best 47 wins 96 points while Syracuse maintains an eight-point lead over Rochester. Utica, meanwhile, sits just two points back of the Amerks coming into tonight's contest. The winner of the Division will take on the fourth-place seed while the second and third-place teams will square off in the best-of-five opening round.

2017-18 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
188-203



33-24-6-4 (76 points)

31-20-10-6 (78 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	54	17	26	43	16	7
Zach Redmond	59	13	29	42	36	7
Kevin Porter	61	16	23	39	20	-12

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA	
Linus Ullmark	42	20-11-10	2,461	1,199	.923	2.44
Adam Wilcox	27	11-7-6	1,532	676	.904	2.82

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Mar. 30	vs. Charlotte	7:05 p.m.
Mar. 31	@ Binghamton	7:05 p.m.
Apr. 4	@ Laval	7:30 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Mar. 24	Springfield	W 4-2	35-22	1-6	6-6
Mar. 23	Binghamton	L 4-2	31-33	1-4	3-5
Mar. 18	Hartford	L 6-4	26-29	0-1	2-2

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	15-12-2-3	99	88	35
AWAY	16-8-8-3	104	105	43
TOTALS	31-20-10-6	203	193	78

COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	45	25	21	46	35	1
Michael Chaput	48	14	21	35	57	-17
Patrick Wiercioch	51	9	24	33	39	-5

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA	
Thatcher Demko	41	22-12-6	2,466	1,193	.921	2.51
Richard Bachman	27	11-12-4	1,592	715	.901	2.98



TEAM AND PLAYER NOTES

- Rookie forward **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 last 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 also tied for seventh-most between all first-year skaters.
- **Zach Redmond**, who reached the 40-point mark for the first time in his professional career earlier this month, comes into the week with points in five of his last six games after picking up his team-leading 29th assist of the season Saturday night against Springfield. In 59 games so far this season, the veteran blueliner has recorded career-highs in all offensive categories with 13 goals, 29 assists and 42 points, placing him tied for fourth among all AHL defensemen in overall scoring. He's also tied for third 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 fourth among defensemen with 156 shots.
- With nine points (3+6) over his last 12 games, veteran forward **Kevin Porter** ranks third on the team in scoring with 39 points (16+23) in 60 contests this season. Rochester's team captain is also 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 one more point to pick up his second straight 40-point campaign.
- **Alexander Nylander** is in the midst of his best stretch of the season as he shows 15 points (4+11) over his last 17 games, including six points (1+5) over his last five. Nylander matched last season's total of 18 assists in 20 fewer games this season and is on pace to break his career-high 28 points as he shows 24 (6+18) so far this year.

SCOUTING THE COMETS

- Winners in three of its last four, Utica, which clinched the final playoff spot in the North Division this past weekend, enters tonight's matchup with a record of 4-6-0-0 in the last 10 games.
- Despite being up with the Vancouver Canucks since the beginning of the month, forward Reid Boucher leads the Comets in both goals (25) and points (46) and is tied for third in assists (21) in 45 games this season. Prior to his recall, the 24-year-old recorded 21 points (12+9) over an impressive 20-game stretch dating back to Jan. 7.
- Following a season-high three points (2+1) last Friday night, Michael Chaput leads the club's active skaters in both goals (14) and points (35) in 48 games this season.
- The duo of Thatcher Demko and Richard Bachman have split the goaltending duties this season. Demko, who has started six of the last 10 games, boasts a 22-12-6 record through 41 games this season. The 2018 AHL All-Star ranks third in the AHL in saves and fifth in wins. Bachman owns a career record of 125-89-15 along with 16 shutouts.

AMERKS-COMETS 2017-18 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	9	4	6	10	6	4
Brendan Guhle	7	1	5	6	2	3
Kyle Criscuolo	8	0	4	4	10	3

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Linus Ullmark	7	2-1-3	415:11	13	.946	1.88
Adam Wilcox	3	1-1-1	145:03	7	.908	2.90

UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	9	3	4	7	6	-1
Darren Archibald	5	3	3	6	4	2
Michael Carcone	6	2	3	5	2	1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Thatcher Demko	7	5-1-1	432:28	11	.953	1.53
Richard Bachman	2	1-0-1	125:17	5	.907	2.39

2017-18 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 13	L	2-0	33-30	0-4	6-6
Oct. 21	L	5-1	41-30	0-6	4-8
Nov. 1	SOW	4-3	33-48	2-6	5-6
Nov. 4	SOL	3-2	24-38	1-7	8-9
Nov. 29	OTL	2-1	30-33	0-4	0-0
Dec. 13	W	3-1	34-30	1-1	1-1
Dec. 16	OTW	3-2	30-33	1-6	3-3
Jan. 15	SOL	2-1	28-41	1-4	4-5
Jan. 17	SOL	3-2	35-38	1-4	3-3

Mar. 28

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 19-21-5

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester is 3-2-1-3 through the first nine games of the season series with the Comets after going 5-3-0-0 last season.
- Rookies **Brendan Guhle** and **C.J. Smith** are both averaging more than a point-per-game against the Comets this season. Smith leads the two teams with 10 points (4+6) through nine games while Guhle has six (1+5) points in seven contests.
- In nine games this season between the Amerks and Comets, six have been decided after regulation, including each of the last three contests.