



Charlotte Checkers vs. Rochester Americans

Friday, March 30, 2018 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 1006

TONIGHT'S GAME

- The Rochester Americans (31-20-11-6) wrap up their first of two four-game homestands tonight as they host the Charlotte Checkers (39-26-0-3) in the final meeting of the season between the two teams at The Blue Cross Arena. 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.

LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks and Utica Comets combined for four power-play goals Wednesday night at The Blue Cross Arena, but it was Rochester that came out on the short end of a 3-2 overtime loss to the Comets. Michael Chaput put the finishing touches on a three-point night when he scored with 1:24 remaining in the extra session to give the Comets their third straight win over the Amerks. It was also the fifth straight game between the two teams that went beyond regulation.
- Seth Griffith** tallied his 15th of the season – and third in the last two games – while **Zach Redmond** notched his 14th of the year for Rochester. **Adam Wilcox** suffered the loss in-between the pipes as he finished the night with 19 saves in what was his third straight start for the Amerks. The loss dropped Wilcox to 11-7-7 on the season.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks conclude the month of March on the road on Saturday, Mar. 31 when they travel to the southern tier to meet up with the Binghamton Devils at Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena. The 7:05 p.m. contest will be the 10th and final meeting between the North Division rivals this season 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 this past Saturday, marking the team's first playoff berth since 2014 and the fifth time in the last nine years Rochester advanced to the postseason. On Sunday evening, the Utica Comets became the fourth and final team from the North Division to lock up a playoff spot, joining the Amerks, Syracuse Crunch and league-leading Toronto Marlies.
- 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 48 wins and 98 points while Syracuse maintains a 12-point lead over Rochester. Utica, meanwhile, sits just one point back of the Amerks coming into the weekend. The top team in the North 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
227-205



39-26-0-3 (81 points)

31-20-11-6 (79 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	54	17	26	43	16	7
Zach Redmond	60	14	29	43	36	7
Kevin Porter	62	16	24	40	20	-12

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Linus Ullmark	42	20-11-10	2,461	1,199	.923 2.44
Adam Wilcox	28	11-7-7	1,595	695	.903 2.82

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Mar. 31	@ Binghamton	7:05 p.m.
Apr. 4	@ Laval	7:30 p.m.
Apr. 6	vs. Belleville	7:05 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Mar. 28	Utica	OTL 3-2	33-22	2-4	4-6
Mar. 24	Springfield	W 4-2	35-22	1-6	6-6
Mar. 23	Binghamton	L 4-2	31-33	1-4	3-5

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS
HOME 15-12-3-3	101	91	36
AWAY 16-8-8-3	104	105	43
TOTALS 31-20-11-6	205	196	79

CHECKERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Valentin Zykov	61	32	20	52	43	-13
Lucas Wallmark	42	16	35	51	12	15
Andrew Miller	53	15	36	51	20	-3

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Alex Nedeljkovic	48	31-12-2	2,666	1,050	.904 2.52
Jeremy Smith	25	8-13-1	1,319	563	.898 2.91



TEAM AND PLAYER NOTES

- Despite missing the last two games due to injury, rookie forward **C.J. Smith** continues to pace the team in goals (17) and shares the team lead in points (43) in 54 games this season. The 2018 AHL All-Star scored his first hat trick earlier this month in Hartford, becoming the first Amerks rookie to score three goals in the same game 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 rank eighth-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 weekend with points in six of his last seven games after scoring his 14th goal of the season Wednesday night to grab a share of the team lead in points. He's now just four goals away from tying the single-season franchise record for the most goals by a defenseman of 18 set by Amerks Hall of Famer **Rick Pagnutti** during the 1972-73 campaign. In 61 games so far this season, the veteran blueliner has recorded career-highs in all offensive categories with 14 goals, 29 assists and 43 points, placing him fourth in scoring among all AHL defensemen. He's also tied for second in goals by a defenseman with 14, including a team-best eight power-play tallies, and ranks seventh among all defensemen in assists. Additionally, Redmond has the third-most shots among any other defenseman this season with 166, 10 of which came against Utica on Wednesday night.

- With 10 points (3+7) over his last 13 games, veteran forward **Kevin Porter** ranks third on the team in scoring with 40 points (16+24) in 61 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 reached the 40-point mark for the second straight season on Wednesday with an assist.

SCOUTING THE CHECKERS

- Charlotte, playing its third of a four-game road-trip through the North Division tonight, comes into the matchup boasting an 8-2-0-0 record over its previous 10 contests.

- The Checkers will be without the services of their top point-getter in Valentin Zykov, who remains on recall with the parent Carolina Hurricanes. Zykov currently leads the league with 32 goals, including an AHL-best 16 power-play tallies, and ranks 17th in scoring among the league's top scorers. The St. Petersburg, Russia, native also shows an eight-game point-streak (7+4) dating back to Mar. 3.

- Forwards Lucas Wallmark (16+35) and Andrew Miller (15+36) share the team lead among active skaters with 51 points in 42 and 53 games, respectively. Wallmark has recorded 25 points (6+19) over his last 16 games, which includes 10 multi-point outings. Additionally, he is currently riding a career-best eight-game point-streak (3+12) dating back to Mar. 9. Miller, meanwhile, has collected 17 points on six goals and 11 assists over his last 14 contests.

AMERKS-CHECKERS 2017-18 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Kevin Porter	3	2	1	3	0	-4
Seth Griffith	2	1	2	3	0	1
C.J. Smith	3	1	2	3	0	-2

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Adam Wilcox	2	1-0-0	85:07	2	.950	1.41
Linus Ullmark	2	0-1-1	95:55	9	.795	5.63

CHARLOTTE

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Valentin Zykov	3	2	3	5	2	0
Warren Foegele	3	2	2	4	2	0
Andrew Miller	3	1	3	4	2	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Alex Nedeljkovic	2	2-0-0	120:47	6	.885	2.98
Jeremy Smith	1	0-1-0	57:48	3	.875	3.11

2017-18 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 20	L	5-2	22-32	1-8	4-4
Jan. 20	W	4-1	25-24	0-0	1-2
Jan. 20	OTL	5-4	30-20	1-4	3-3
Mar. 30					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. CHARLOTTE: 1-1-1

SERIES NOTABLES

- Charlotte owns one of the top netminders in the AHL in Alex Nedeljkovic. The second-year pro leads the AHL with 31 wins and ranks third with five shutouts. Nedeljkovic became the 13th goaltender in AHL history to score a goal earlier this season.
- The Amerks enter tonight with an 84.9% success rate on the penalty kill, which is third in the AHL. Conversely, the Checkers rank fourth in the league with an 20.2% efficiency rate while on the man-advantage.
- Charlotte enters tonight's matchup with 227 goals in its first 68 games of the season, which is second-most in the AHL. Rochester, meanwhile, owns the conference's fifth-best goals-against average (2.88).
- Rochester has played in 27 games that have gone beyond regulation, which are most in the American Hockey League. Charlotte has played in a league-low six overtime games this season.