



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

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TONIGHT'S GAME: Binghamton @ Rochester

Sabres' Matt Hunwick to start rehab assignment with Amerks
Buffalo Hockey News
By: *Bill Hoppe*

On April 1, defenseman Matt Hunwick made his 521st NHL appearance, skating just over 12 minutes in Pittsburgh's 3-1 loss in Washington.

More than eight months later, Hunwick, 33, hasn't played another game. That should, however, change Wednesday for the Sabres newcomer, who has missed the first 30 contests this season recovering from a neck injury.

Hunwick will be assigned to the Rochester Americans for an AHL rehab assignment today, Sabres coach Phil Housley said.

The Amerks host the Binghamton Devils on Wednesday and the Cleveland Monsters on Friday. Housley said Hunwick could play both games.

"It's nice to be healthy and to get kind of get past the last step," said Hunwick, who was acquired from the Penguins with winger Conor Sheary on June 27.

Hunwick, who was injured training during the offseason, started practicing almost two weeks ago. While the Sabres have had a decent amount of practice time in the last week or so, that can only help Hunwick so much. Game action simply can't be replicated during practice.

Hunwick hasn't played an AHL contest since March 26, 2014.

"Our practices are obviously high-tempo, but games, the intensity's a lot higher," Hunwick said. "So it'll be good to get a couple games in before joining the team again.

"The NHL game, obviously, at the start of the season, maybe is a hair slower than it is at the midpoint. . . . Joining kind of halfway through will kind of be like just getting right in the fire."

Naturally, waiting so long to play has "been frustrating at times," Hunwick said.

"I'm not a very patient person, and this process has tested that," he said. "Sometimes you have to let time do it's thing and try to heal. We've done that."

Hunwick is long-term injured reserve, giving the Sabres relief from his \$2,250,000 salary, according to capfriendly.com. The Sabres are \$315,556 under the salary cap, according to the site.

Hunwick was one of a handful of Sabres on the ice this morning. The team hosts the Los Angeles Kings tonight at KeyBank Center.

Sabres' Hunwick nearing return, joining Rochester for conditioning assignment

Buffalo News

By: *Lance Lysowski*

Matt Hunwick is inching closer to making his long-awaited debut with the Buffalo Sabres. Hunwick, a 33-year-old defenseman acquired along with Conor Sheary from the Pittsburgh Penguins in June, was assigned to the Rochester Americans for a conditioning assignment Tuesday.

Hunwick is expected to play Wednesday night against the Binghamton Devils at Blue Cross Arena and could remain with the Americans for a home game Friday night against the Cleveland Monsters. He was unable to practice with the Sabres until Nov. 29 because of a neck injury suffered during an off-ice offseason workout.

His potential return is good news for the Sabres, who are in need of blue-line help. Injured defensemen Jake McCabe and Casey Nelson remain week-to-week, while Marco Scandella wore a white noncontact jersey during an optional morning skate Tuesday.

"I think it's a good step in the process, especially not having played a game in six, seven months, something like that," Hunwick told reporters Tuesday in KeyBank Center. "It will be a good start."

Hunwick has played in 521 NHL games for five teams. In July 2017, he signed a three-year, \$6.7 million contract with Pittsburgh, where he never quite fit into coach Mike Sullivan's system. Hunwick had four goals and six assists with a minus-4 rating in 42 games.

It was in stark contrast to his play one season earlier when he was a plus-8 in 72 games for Toronto. Hunwick was acquired along with Sheary for a conditional 2019 fourth-round pick. He counts \$2.25 million against the cap this season and is under contract for the same amount through 2019; however, the Sabres have received salary-cap relief this season since he's on long-term injured reserve.

Hunwick, a seventh-round draft pick out of the University of Michigan in 2014, played on a fourth defensive pairing with winger Remi Elie at practice Monday. It remains unclear whether he will play one or both games with Rochester, though it is unlikely the Sabres would rush him into their lineup.

"Hunwick's done a great job. ... He's in a good place," coach Phil Housley said. "We just need to get him some action. Possibly two games — Wednesday and Friday home games."

It's been an unusual six months for Hunwick. He was a healthy scratch throughout the Stanley Cup playoffs last season when the Penguins lost to the Washington Capitals in the second round. The injury put his 2018-19 season in jeopardy, and he was not able to join the Sabres until this past road trip.

This past week has given Hunwick more practice time to learn the Sabres' system, particularly defensive-zone and neutral-zone coverages. He has also enjoyed Housley's uptempo practices, which served as an important step in his return to game action. The veteran accepted the conditioning assignment because there is no other way to get acclimated to game speed.

"It will be good to get a couple games in before joining the team again," Hunwick said. "The NHL game at the start of the season is maybe a hair slower than it is at the midpoint and obviously the playoffs are another step up. Joining kind of halfway through will be like getting right in the fire. This will be a good opportunity to kind of get my feet wet."

Sabres goalie prospect Jonas Johansson gets a shot with Amerks
Buffalo News
By: *Bill Hoppe*

Goalie Jonas Johansson figured he could earn a recall to the Americans this season.

The Sabres' prospect had already played 14 AHL games, including some big matchups down the stretch in March and April. The Sabres also awarded him a long look during NHL training camp, boosting his confidence.

Still, when Johansson, 23, learned last Monday the Amerks were summoning him from the Cincinnati Cyclones, their ECHL affiliate, the news was unexpected.

"I try to stay ready if it would happen," Johansson said after making 25 saves in Wednesday's 5-2 win against the Utica Comets in Blue Cross Arena. "I don't want to say I was surprised about it, but I wasn't really expecting it. I was just trying to have it in mind that it might happen sometime during the season."

That it happened in early December with two healthy goalies on the roster and the Amerks in first place surprised some observers. But Amerks coach Chris Taylor insisted Johansson's presence isn't a reflection of Scott Wedgewood and Adam Wilcox, his regular goalies.

"I'm not sending a message, definitely not," Taylor said.

The Sabres recalled Wedgewood on Friday, so Johansson, the only goalie prospect in Rochester or Cincinnati, could earn more action as Carter Hutton recovers from his upper-body injury. The Sabres' old regime drafted Johansson in the third round in 2014, 61st overall.

Johansson played again in Friday's 2-1 home win against the Providence Bruins, making 26 saves. Taylor said the start would've been Wedgewood's and he wanted to keep his goalie schedule.

Wilcox was scratched Wednesday before playing in Saturday's 4-3 road win against the Syracuse Crunch.

Taylor said it was organizational decision to recall Johansson, who had won six of his last eight starts with the Cyclones.

"He played well and he's a big part of our organization," Taylor said. "So we wanted to get him a game and we felt this was the right time to get him a game."

Johansson stopped the first 23 shots he faced Wednesday and lost the shutout with 4:14 left in the third period.

Taylor said he chose to play the Swede against Utica because he liked the way he practiced Tuesday and the team has a busy schedule.

The Amerks have three games a week the rest of December.

"We thought this was a good opportunity with how many games we have coming up, a good opportunity to get into action against a good team," Taylor said. "He played very well."

The 6-foot-5, 214-pound Johansson said he has "found a better consistency" this season, his second full North American campaign.

In his last eight appearances, he has compiled a 1.74 goals-against average and a .940 save percentage.

"I'm trying to work more on my fundamental part of my game a little bit, because I feel like I have the strength and the speed but maybe I didn't find the consistency yet," Johansson said.

Overall, he is 7-3-1-1 with a 2.49 goals-against average, a .910 save percentage and two shutouts in 12 games with the Cyclones. "It's great for goalies to get an opportunity to play down there, because it's a scrambly league, a lot of things can happen," Johansson said. "If you manage to play good on that level, I think that can help you the rest of your career."

Johansson's long stay in Buffalo during camp, including his first NHL exhibition appearance Sept. 17, clearly helped him.

"That was really cool," Johansson said of his 20-minute relief stint. "I took a lot of confidence. It's great to feel you have done it, you have it with you. I got to play against NHL players, it's great to have that in your stomach that you can handle."

Bailey ends goal drought

Amerks winger Justin Bailey ended a six game-goal drought Friday, getting an early power-play marker before scoring again thanks to "playing good structure," Taylor said.

Later in the first period, Bailey intercepted a pass just inside the blue line and beat two defenders down the slot to score his seventh goal this season.

"If he took care of those details away from the puck, he'd get those scoring opportunities, and that's how he creates offense," Taylor said.

Bailey, who didn't score his first goal until his 12th game, also utilizes his speed to create offense.

"When I'm moving my feet, I put a lot of pressure on the D," the Williamsville native said. "I find, especially in the first 10 minutes, if I'm moving, it creates a lot of bad gaps later in the game, the D start to back off a little bit. That's when the holes and things like that open up."

Notes

Wilcox has recorded three of his wins this season against Syracuse, his former team. Saturday's victory stopped the Crunch's 13-game point streak. . . . Defenseman Zach Redmond ended a season-long four-game goal drought Saturday, scoring his 14th in the Amerks' 24th game. Redmond scored a career-high 15 times last season in 66 appearances. . . .

Rochester Amerks learn it's sometimes better to be lucky
Pickin' Splinters
By: *Kevin Oklobzija*

So we pose this question late on a Friday night: Lucky or good, which do you want to be?

Jonas Johansson, making his second AHL start of the season, was more than willing to pick lucky after he helped the Rochester Americans to a 2-1 victory over the Providence Bruins at Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial.

Your Friday night Amerks 6-pack after the Amerks improved to 15-6-2 and maintained a four-point lead over the Syracuse Crunch in the North Division (32-28):

How 'd that stay out, Part I?

With the Amerks up 2-0, Bruins right winger Martin Bakos ended up by himself moving down the right of the slot off a two-on-one fast break.

As the pass came to Bakos, Johansson shifted across his crease to get into something resembling proper defending position.

Except he had no time to really accomplish that, so he improvised, flinging his catching glove and left leg high into the air.

His left skate ended up as high as the cross bar, his glove was pretty close to that high, and somehow he stopped the shot.

"I think it hit my arm," he said. "I just felt I didn't have enough body behind the puck so I just tried to get anything I could up there.

"Sometimes you get lucky."

He's now 2-0 since his Monday promotion from ECHL Cincinnati (three goals against).

How 'd that stay out, Part II

With the Amerks clinging to the 2-1 lead in the final seconds — aren't they always barely hanging on? — Ryan Fitzgerald pass from the right edge of the crease to Trent Frederic in the deep slot.

Frederic immediately fired a shot that hit everything except the other side of the goal line.

"I think it hit me, hit the post, hit my back and maybe hit the other post," Johansson said. "Maybe I should take a moment to thank my posts."

Strong night for Bailey

Fourth-year winger Justin Bailey scored both goals for the Amerks, giving him seven. They've all come in the past 11 games, because he went the first 11 games without one.

"Obviously it's not the start I would have wanted but at the same time I've been playing better as of late and I attribute a lot of that to my linemates (Sean Malone and Alex Nylander)," he said.

His play away from the puck, the attention to the details of every shift, also has improved, coach Chris Taylor said. The line has been more noticeable of late.

"My speed, his (Nylander) skill and Sean doing a good job winning faceoffs and his grit," Bailey said.

Don't ever leave early

A one-goal lead is rarely, if ever, safe for the Amerks. The Bruins were storming for the final two minutes but couldn't score the tying goal.

Well, actually Jordan Szwarz did hammer home a rebound but it came a split second after time expired. The referees immediately waved it off, and apparently couldn't have gone to replay if they wanted because the system malfunctioned.

Are the Amerks getting any better defending the one-goal lead?

"Sometimes I think we are and sometimes I don't know," Taylor said.

So why start Johansson again?

Goalie Scott Wedgewood was promoted by the Sabres on Friday morning because of an undisclosed injury to Carter Hutton. That left Taylor with the decision of starting Johansson or Adam Wilcox.

Taylor said the plan all along was Wedgewood on Friday and Wilcox on Saturday and he said he didn't want Wilcox thinking differently "and I really wanted Wilcox playing against his former team (at Syracuse on Saturday)."

Porter, Malone hurt

Captain Kevin Porter suffered what Taylor said was a lower body injury delivering an open-ice check late in the third period. He's apparently doubtful for Saturday.

Malone was struck in the face by an errant stick in the third period and did not return.

Amerks begin busy week with win over Comets

Buffalo News

By: Staff Report

Rochester built a 3-0 lead after two periods and went in to 5-2 American Hockey League victory over the Utica Comets on Wednesday night before 2,929 at Blue Cross Arena.

Victor Olofsson, Matt Tennyson and Andrew MacWilliam scored for the Amerks with Rasmus Asplund getting two of his game total of three assists.

Utica broke through with a goal by Reid Boucher, his 11th, at 15:46 of the third but C.J. Smith responded for Rochester with his seventh to make it 4-1. Jonathan Dahlen of the Comets made it 4-2 at 17:16, but a shorthanded tally by Wayne Simpson of the Amerks matched that.

Jonas Johansson made 25 saves for Rochester. Thacher Demko had 22 stops for the Comets.

It's the first of three games in four nights for Rochester. The Providence Bruins will come to Blue Cross Arena on Friday night, their only visit to Rochester this season. The Amerks will play at the Syracuse Crunch on Saturday night in what shapes up as an important game for both teams.

Rochester (14-6-2) went into Wednesday night with a two-point lead over the idle Crunch. Syracuse (12-5-2) will be home to Binghamton on Friday night while the Amerks are hosting the Bruins.

Amerks defenseman Zach Redmond had only one shot on goal Wednesday in his quest for his 14th goal in 22 games this season. He had 15 goals all last season and the club record for a defenseman is 18.

Sabres notes: Lawrence Pilut making case to stick in NHL

Buffalo Hockey Beat

By: Bill Hoppe

Every once in a while a prospect like Sabres defenseman Lawrence Pilut comes along. After a short apprenticeship in the AHL — maybe just a few months or less — he arrives in the NHL and stays for good.

For as much as the Sabres and other teams stress development and paying dues, some guys are just ready for the big leagues right away.

Pilut, 22, is just four games into his career. It's very early. Still, having played five years in the Swedish Hockey League, the slick rookie arrived in North America this season close to a finished product.

The Swede dominated the AHL from the get-go, scoring three goals and 22 points in 16 games with the Rochester Americans.

Pilut recorded his first NHL point, an assist, on Jack Eichel's second first-period goal in Saturday afternoon's ugly 6-2 loss to the Philadelphia Flyers inside KeyBank Center.

The play illustrated some of Pilut's supreme vision, as he spotted a teammate at the net from the left point and unleashed a quick wrist shot.

"I just saw something lingering around the net," said Pilut, who looked a little shaky defensively against the Flyers. "I felt like I just wanted to get it to the net. Hopefully it would bounce in somehow."

Eichel said: "He does a great job getting the shot through."

With three regulars injured, Sabres coach Phil Housley has been relying heavily on Pilut, the SHL's top defenseman last season, playing him around 20 minutes a game.

Housley said Pilut's "uncanny creativity" and the "way he attacks the game" has impressed him.

"He has a lot of confidence in himself where when he gets the puck, he commands it and he makes the right decision," Housley said. "He makes good decisions coming up ice. I think the first game he was really excited to play, I thought he got ahead of the puck at times. But his intentions are all in the right area."

Most Sabres prospects, of course, spend years developing in the minors. The last youngster who quickly outgrew the AHL was Drew Stafford, way back in 2006-07.

Stafford, then 21, compiled 22 goals and 44 points in 34 games with the Amerks before the Sabres kept him for good.

"I feel like I've been ready for this and I feel like I still am ready for this," Pilut said. "I just want to go out there and compete with the best. I'm playing with the best right now."

For the last three games, Pilut has been playing beside Rasmus Ristolainen, perhaps the Sabres' best defenseman.

"They're creating some chemistry, they're reading off each other very well," Housley said. "Risto had a great game (Tuesday), just jumping in the play in the offensive zone. Pilut just read off him. When it was his turn to go, he attacked the game as well. I really like the chemistry that they're building."

Besides recording his first point, Saturday's game was special for another reason. Pilut's parents, Diana and Larry, came from Sweden to watch him.

"It would be extra special if we just won," Pilut said.

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Instead of recalling a defense prospect after Casey Nelson suffered an upper-body injury in Tuesday's 4-3 overtime loss to Toronto, the Sabres summoned Matt Tennyson.

Why Tennyson, 28, over, say, Will Borgen or Brendan Guhle?

"His veteran experience," Housley said. "We needed somebody more stable back there. He went back, his last game he scored, he was physical."

Tennyson played his first NHL game since April 2. The Sabres scratched him during his earlier trips to the NHL this season.

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After missing two games with an upper-body injury, Sabres winger Jason Pominville returned Saturday. To make room, they scratched winger Zemgus Girgensons.

Notes: Sabres goalie Carter Hutton missed his first game with an upper-body injury. Housley said before the game Hutton is still day-to-day. . . . Sabres winger Kyle Okposo played his 700th NHL game. . . . Former Sabres goalie Michal Neuvirth, who has battled injuries for years, dressed as Philadelphia's backup. The Czech has played one game this season. . . . The Sabres are now 12-1-3 when scoring first this season. . . . The Sabres also scratched winger Remi Elie. . . . Former Sabres forward Phil Varone was a healthy scratch for the Flyers.

Sabres goalie Carter Hutton out Saturday; Scott Wedgewood recalled
Buffalo Hockey Beat
By: Bill Hoppe

With Sabres goalie Carter Hutton day-to-day with an upper-body injury and out for Saturday afternoon's tilt, according to coach Phil Housley, they recalled Scott Wedgewood this morning.

What happened to Hutton? The starter finished Monday's 2-1 loss in Nashville and backed up Linus Ullmark for Tuesday's 4-3 overtime loss here to Toronto.

Housley said Hutton had a maintenance day Thursday.

"It was sort of formed the last three or four days," Housley said this afternoon inside KeyBank Center. "During the game, it just stiffened up, his upper body. So we're just being precautionous with it."

Housley said Hutton could've played Tuesday.

Hutton has performed splendidly in his first season with the Sabres, going 12-8-1 with a 2.60 goals-against average and a .917 save percentage in 21 games.

Wedgewood, 26, has been the Rochester Americans' starter this season, going 8-4-2 with a 2.91 goals-against average, a .907 save percentage and two shutouts in 14 games.

Wedgewood has 24 games of NHL experience with New Jersey and Arizona. He spent most of last season with the Coyotes, playing 20 times.

"It's always exciting," Wedgewood said of returning to the NHL. "This is the best hockey league in the world and you want to be here all the time. I got a good chunk of it last year, started off well in Roch.

"(It's) unfortunate to hear what's going on with Hutts right now."

In addition to goalie Adam Wilcox, the Amerks have prospect Jonas Johansson, who was recalled from the ECHL on Monday. Johansson played in Wednesday's 5-2 win over the Utica Comets.

The Sabres also summoned defenseman Matt Tennyson, who was sent to the AHL on Wednesday, from the Amerks today.

With three defensemen sidelined — Jake McCabe, Casey Nelson and Marco Scandella all have upper-body injuries — Tennyson could play Saturday against Philadelphia.

Housley said defenseman Matt Hunwick, who's practicing again after missing more than two months with a neck injury, isn't ready yet.

Defenseman Zach Bogosian and captain Jack Eichel practiced today after having maintenance days Thursday.

In other news, the Flyers have recalled former Sabres forward Phil Varone from the AHL Lehigh Valley Phantoms, where he has scored 11 goals and 28 points in 22 games.

Amerks end 13-Syracuse point streak

Buffalo News

By: Staff Report

First-place Rochester expanded its league in the North Division of the American Hockey League with a 4-3 victory over the rival Syracuse Crunch on Saturday night at the Onondaga County War Memorial in Syracuse. The outcome ended the Crunch's 13-game point streak (11-0-2).

Rochester took a 3-1 lead into the third period but the Crunch closed the gap on goals by Cal Foote at 1:03 and by Taylor Raddysch on the power play with 8:05 left.

Wayne Simpson scored at 1:18 of the opening period to put the Americans in front and later assisted on the 14th goal of the season by defenseman Zach Redmond.

Tyler Randell also scored in the first period for the Amerks, getting his first of the season in his 12th game with Jack Dougherty assisting. Victor Olofsson scored the winning goal, on the power play when he made it 4-2 at 9:49 of the third with Brendan Guhle picking up his 10th assist.

Adam Wilcox made 23 saves for the Amerks. He allowed only a first period tally by Andy Andreoff for two periods. Connor Ingram had 28 saves for Syracuse.

Rochester (16-6-2) with 34 points extended its lead to six points over Syracuse (13-6-1). Cleveland (12-9-3) is next.

Friday night's 2-1 home win on a pair of goals by Justin Bailey was Rochester's first over the Providence Bruins since Jan. 18, 2009, seven games including two overtime losses.

Amerks hold off Syracuse
C&C Worldwide
By: Staff Report/Amerks.com

Fueled by a pair of goals less than six minutes into Saturday night's contest and one in each of the final two periods of regulation, the Rochester Americans (16-6-2-0) came away with a 4-3 victory over the Syracuse Crunch (13-6-2-0) at the War Memorial Arena.

With the win, the Amerks have won three straight and five of their last six games while also earning 34 of a possible 44 points in the last 22 games. Additionally, the victory gives Rochester three straight wins over their North Divisional rival, and an 8-5-1-0 record against the Crunch dating back to the start of the 2017-18 season.

Rochester forward Wayne Simpson recorded his fifth multi-point effort of the campaign as he netted a goal and an assist, while Tyler Randell, Zach Redmond and Victor Olofsson rounded out the scoring for the Amerks. In his third start of the season against his former club, goaltender Adam Wilcox made 25 saves to earn his third win over the Crunch this season. Overall, Wilcox boasts a record of 6-2-1 in 10 appearances.

Syracuse, which came into the matchup in the midst of an AHL-best 13-game point streak dating back to Nov. 2, got goals from Andy Andreoff, Taylor Raddysh and Cal Foote while netminder Connor Ingram stopped 29 of 33. Ingram was dealt with his first loss since Oct. 27 and saw his personal seven-game win streak snapped.

In its first trip back to Syracuse since the Opening Round of the 2018 Calder Cup Playoffs, Rochester struck for a pair of goals just 5:45 into the showdown featuring the North Division's top two teams.

After a face-off win in the offensive zone, Rochester forward Eric Cornel fired a shot from in-between the red dots towards Ingram. The netminder kicked the rebound to his right, but Simpson quickly buried the puck past the blocker to give the Amerks an early 1-0 lead just 1:18 into the game.

The visiting Amerks rode the momentum from Simpson's tally and further silenced the hometown crowd as Randell picked up a loose puck inside the Crunch zone less than four minutes later. The first-year Amerk carried the puck to the left of ice before tucking it inside the near post and the goaltender's right leg as he wrapped around the net. Defensemen Jack Dougherty and Brandon Hickey were credited with the assists on Randell's first goal as an Amerk but, it was former Crunch forward Dalton Smith that knocked a Syracuse defender off the puck to spring Randell.

Facing a two-goal deficit, Syracuse, which held its annual Teddy Bear Toss game, cut into the Amerks lead as Andreoff beat Wilcox with 3:47 left in the opening period to make it a 2-1 game going into the break.

During the second period, the clubs exchanged scoring chances but Rochester reclaimed its two-goal cushion at the 6:40 mark of the stanza as Redmond chipped in his team-leading 14th goal of the season.

With the puck along the right half-wall of the offensive zone, Simpson fired a pass to C.J. Smith, who was sneaking behind the cage. As the reigning Amerks Rookie of the Year drew the attention of the Syracuse defensemen and Ingram, he quickly dished the puck to Redmond, who was wide open in front of the net.

Simpson was credited with his fourth point (2+2) in his last three outings while Redmond snapped a season-long four-game scoring drought. Redmond's goal moves the veteran blueliner to within one of tying his own career mark of 15 from last season and now sits just four away of tying Rick Pagnutti's single-season franchise record for goals by a defenseman (18).

Before the end of the second period, the game tightened up defensively and Rochester successfully killed off a four-minute double-minor against the AHL's top-ranked power-play unit. The Crunch, however, emerged from the intermission break and made it a one-goal game just 1:03 into the final 20 minutes of play.

The Amerks, though, did not budge as they drew their third penalty of the contest and made it count as Olofsson ripped a shot under the crossbar at the 9:49 mark of the frame. While on the power-play, Brendan Guhle and Rasmus Asplund traded passes before Guhle fired the puck towards the net. Olofsson was there to clean up the rebound.

Asplund and Guhle picked up the helpers on Olofsson's ninth goal of the season which gave Rochester a 4-2 lead with just over 10 minutes left in regulation. Asplund recorded his seventh assist and eighth point in the last eight games while Guhle has recorded an assist in each of his last three outings. For Olofsson, the goal held up as the game-winner, giving him four on the season, which rank second behind only Redmond's AHL-best six game-winning tallies.

Syracuse, facing its second two-goal deficit of the night, would not let the Amerks off easy as Raddysh made it a 4-3 score as he buried a power-play goal with 8:05 left in regulation.

The Crunch continued to force the issue and tie the game in hopes of extending their point-streak to 14 games, but the Amerks hung on for the victory to close out the weekend, which saw Rochester snap point streaks of the two hottest teams in the AHL on back-to-back nights.

The Amerks return home on Wednesday, Dec. 12 when they take on the intrastate rival Binghamton Devils at the Blue Cross Arena. Following the 7:05 pm contest, Rochester hosts the Cleveland Monsters for a home-and-home weekend-series beginning on Friday, Dec. 14.

Rochester Amerks spoil Syracuse Crunch points streak

Syracuse.com

By: Lindsay Kramer

Sixty minutes of uphill hockey was finally enough to stall the month-long momentum of the Syracuse Crunch.

The Rochester Amerks jumped out to an early two-goal lead and fought off the Crunch from there to claim a 4-3 win at the War Memorial on Saturday, snapping Syracuse's 13-game points streak.

Syracuse cut into the two-score deficit three times, pulling within 2-1, 3-2 and 4-3, but could never draw even.

Andy Andreoff, Cal Foote and Taylor Raddysh all scored for the Crunch, and goalie Connor Ingram made 29 stops.

"I thought we responded pretty well. Obviously, you don't want to be chasing like that," Andreoff said. "We had a bit of tough start right off the bat, so that kind of put us in a hole. We were gaining momentum, but obviously we need to be a little bit better."

Rochester nursed a 3-1 edge heading into the final 20 minutes before Syracuse rookie defenseman Foote snapped a hard shot from the near ride side of the slot over the stick side of Rochester netminder Adam Wilcox at the 1:03 mark. Rochester's Victor Olofsson countered that with a man-up marker at the 9:49 mark and a 4-2 Amerks lead.

Raddysh put up the last counterpunch for the Crunch, turning and firing a shot into twine from the left circle for a power-play goal with 8:05 remaining to make it 4-3.

"For most of the game we were chasing. It's obviously hard coming back," Raddysh said. "We had a good pace there at the end. We brought it pretty close, but it just wasn't enough."

The Crunch continued to smother Rochester goalie Adam Wilcox with quality chances, but Wilcox, who made 25 stops, wouldn't crack.

"I thought Rochester played a strong game," said Syracuse coach Ben Groulx. "They deserved that win. I like the fact that we never went away. We traded goals in the second and third. We got a little bit better, but overall they were the best team on the ice."

Ingram came into the game riding consecutive shutouts but the Amerks quickly took care of that. Wayne Simpson struck just 1:18 in, putting home a bid from the left side of the crease.

"I think they just came out really strong," Andreoff said. "They came with a jump a little bit more than us. We've just got to be ready for that next game."

Tyler Randell made it 2-0 at the 5:45 mark, zipping through the right circle, dashing behind the net and tucking a wrap-around past Ingram's right skate.

"I think that's a goal that Connor would like to get back," Groulx said. "But you know what? He was probably our best player tonight. He gave us a chance to win. He made five, six great stops to keep us in the game."

Andreoff answered with 3:47 left, slamming home a long shot from above the left circle. Alex Barre-Boulet picked up an assist on the play, extending his points streak to 11 games.

The Crunch's Cory Conacher was held off the scoresheet, though, ending his points streak at 12 games.

Amerks make it a weekend sweep with impressive 4-3 win in Syracuse
13Wham

By: Tobias Motyka/Amerks.com

One day after stopping one of the longest point streaks in the AHL with a 2-1 win over Providence, the Rochester Americans one-upped themselves.

Rochester went to Syracuse and beat the previously red hot Crunch 4-3, ending Syracuse's 13 game point streak in the process. With the win, Rochester now has a five game lead over Cleveland in the North Division. Syracuse fell to third, and six points back.

The Amerks are heating back up after a luke warm stretch, and have won five of their last six. Their point percentage of .708 is third best in the AHL.

Wayne Simpson, Tyler Randell, Zach Redmond, and Victor Olofsson all scored for Rochester. Adam Wilcox stopped 22 of 25 shots. The Amerks will be back in action on Wednesday when they host Binghamton at the Blue Cross Arena. Puck drop is slated for 7:05 pm.