



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

TONIGHT'S GAME: Belleville @ Rochester

Amerks sweep Monsters with 2-1 win in overtime

Pickin' Splinters

By: *Staff Report/Amerks.com*

After seeing the Cleveland Monsters (13-10-4-0) tie Saturday's rematch at Quicken Loans Arena late in the closing minutes of regulation, Rochester Americans' (18-7-2-0) reigning Rookie of the Year C.J. Smith scored the overtime-winning goal 3:32 into the extra frame to give the Amerks a 2-1 victory over their North Division rivals.

The win completes the weekend sweep for Rochester, which bested Cleveland by a 3-1 score last night on home ice, and improves the Amerks to 23-5-2-3 in their last 33 games against the Monsters dating back to the start of the 2011-12 campaign. Additionally, the Amerks have won seven of their last nine games overall while also earning 38 out of a possible 50 points in the last 25 contests. Rochester now has a six-point lead atop the AHL's North Division standings heading into the final week before the Christmas break.

Along with Smith's eighth tally of the season, second-year defenseman Brendan Guhle also scored for the Amerks, who have claimed the first three games this season against Cleveland. Goaltender Adam Wilcox recorded his seventh win of the campaign as he turned aside 30 of the 31 shots he faced on the night, coming within just minutes of his first shutout as an Amerk. In 12 appearances this year, Wilcox shows a 7-2-1 record.

Cleveland, which entered the matchup with a 6-4-2-0 record in its last 12 games, spoiled Wilcox's bid for a shutout thanks to Nathan Gerbe's sixth goal of the season with 3:11 remaining in regulation that forced overtime. Matiss Kivlenieks equaled a career-best 37 saves but left the game in the final minute due to an apparent injury. Jean-Francois Berube, who entered the game with 52 seconds left in regulation, suffered the overtime loss as he stopped three of the four shots he saw in 4:24 of relief effort.

Holding a 1-0 lead as the third-period clock was dwindling down, the Amerks attempted to clear the puck off the glass and out of their zone. The puck, however, sailed into the nearby stands, resulting in a Cleveland power-play with 3:17 left in regulation.

The Monsters needed only six seconds of the ensuing man-advantage as Gerbe, the Cleveland captain and former Buffalo Sabres forward, knotted the score at 1-1, which set-up the overtime period.

Rochester nor Cleveland generated much offensively in the first half of the extra session before Justin Bailey carried the puck into the Monsters zone. Bailey tried to stop inside the blueline but the puck got tangled up in the skates of a Cleveland defender. After Bailey dug the puck out, he slid a pass to Danny O'Regan to the right of Berube. O'Regan fired a shot off the pads of the netminder and Smith buried the rebound to give the Amerks the 2-1 overtime win with 1:28 to spare in the extra period.

Similar to last night's home-and-home opener between Rochester and Cleveland, the matchup was scoreless after the first intermission.

The game, which was the first in Cleveland since Apr. 10, 2016, remained scoreless until the Amerks took a 1-0 lead with just under three minutes showing on the second-period clock.

Before the end of the Amerks' third power-play of the night late in the middle frame, Guhle received a Wayne Simpson centering a pass atop the right face-off dot. After dusting the puck off, the second-year blueliner wristed it past the glove of the Monsters netminder, breaking the deadlock at the 17:12 mark of the stanza.

Simpson and Zach Redmond were credited with the assists on Guhle's third power-play goal of the season. The tally ended Guhle's career-long 16-game goal-scoring drought, while Simpson, the AHL's reigning iron man who was appearing in his 214th consecutive AHL game, recorded his eighth point (4+4) in his last 10 contests.

Rochester carried its one-goal lead into the final period. Despite seeing Gerbe tie the game late in regulation, the Amerks earned the extra point as Smith scored the overtime-winning goal at the 3:32 mark.

The Amerks return to action on Wednesday, Dec. 19 as they welcome the Belleville Senators back to The Blue Cross Arena to kick start a three-game homestand before the Christmas break. Game time is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/ 95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Wedgewood steals the show; your Friday Amerks 6-pack
Pickin' Splinters
By: *Kevin Oklobzija*

Scott Wedgewood returned to the Rochester Americans' starting lineup on Friday night and it's a good thing.

The seventh-year veteran goaltender made a season-high 42 saves as the Amerks defeated the Cleveland Monsters 3-1 at Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial.

Here's your Friday night Amerks 6-pack as they improved to 17-7-2 to maintain first place in the AHL's North Division:

1. Wedgewood was spectacular

The Monsters fired 14 shots in the first period, 11 in the second and 18 in the third. Only their 41st shot found the net, and that was on a power play and with Monsters goalie J-F Berube pulled for an extra attacker.

Among Wedgewood's best stops: robbing Kevin Stenlund on a power play 1:40 into the second period, lunging right to left across the crease to block a Kole Sherwood shot toward an open side midway through the second period, making point-blank saves on a Sherwood rebound 4:17 into the third and then finally stonewalling Mark Letesu on a breakaway with 8:14 to play.

"He made a few really, really good saves and kept it a one-goal game," winger Justin Bailey said. "He played an amazing game."

2. Layoff concerned Wedgewood

Wedgewood's last game was on Dec. 1. He was with the Amerks for the Dec. 5 game against Utica, but just-promoted Jonas Johansson got the start.

The next day, the parent Buffalo Sabres needed Wedgewood because Carter Hutton was banged up. Wedgewood was with the Sabres until Monday, but never played.

And even though he was returned to the Amerks on Tuesday, Wedgewood didn't play Wednesday night, either. Coach Chris Taylor said that due to a lack of practice time during the recall to Buffalo, it made more sense to start Johansson.

Johansson struggled mightily, allowing four goals on 10 shots before being pulled after 22 minutes and the Amerks lost 5-1.

Wedgewood was good to go on Friday, albeit a little concerned.

"To be honest I was a little nervous going in; I think it's been two weeks tomorrow since I played," he said. "So I had a couple days here to get in reps and I got through the first five minutes and the rest started rolling."

3. A unique line combination, to be sure

Taylor didn't really like what his forward lines were doing in the first period so he made mid-game alterations.

One of the new combos: left winger C.J. Smith, left winger Alex Nylander and right winger Justin Bailey.

"It was kind of weird being thrown together and then the first shift we had together we scored," Smith said.

The goal at 2:39 of the second period broke the scoreless tie, with strong forechecking pressure by all three members of the line leading to a turnover by defenseman Blake Siebenaler.

Smith worked the puck to Bailey in front and, without anything to shoot at it, pushed it to Nylander for the goal, his seventh to go with 13 assists in 26 games.

But the most important play of all before the goal: Defenseman Jack Dougherty being able to take a big hit from Sherwood in order to make the long outlet pass from the Amerks zone.

4. Two assists for Bailey

Bailey also set up the game's second goal, which didn't come until just 2:51 remained in the third period. He passed from the right corner to the center point, and Brandon Hickey fired a low slap shot that was redirected by Smith.

The goal was Smith's eighth to go with 13 assists in 26 games. Hickey was initially credited with the goal but it is expected to be changed.

5. Getting ahead was important

The Monsters (13-10-3) roster features plenty of experience with Nathan Gerbe, Zac Dalpe and Letestu.

"We knew that's a good team that has a lot of veteran guys, guys that know how to win, that know how to play with the lead," Bailey said.

The Amerks never let the Monsters get the lead, however.

6. Hunwick's conditioning stint likely over

The veteran defenseman played his second game of a conditioning assignment and was strong, looking poised and in control throughout the game.

"He calmed us down a lot," Taylor said.

NOTES: That goal-less drought Andrew MacWilliam thought he ended back on Nov. 5? It turns out he didn't. Danny O'Regan tipped the MacWilliam point shot and, thus, the veteran defenseman has now gone 141 games without scoring.

Sabres recall Guhle from Rochester, Pilut placed on injured reserve
Buffalo News
By: *Lance Lysowski*

Although Marco Scandella returned Saturday after missing eight games, Jake McCabe and Casey Nelson remain out of the lineup. Matt Hunwick, a 33-year-old acquired from Pittsburgh in June, also made his Sabres debut Sunday. He suffered a neck injury during an off-ice offseason workout that held him out of game action until last Wednesday, his first of two games in a conditioning assignment with Rochester.

Guhle had eight goals among 26 points and a plus-1 rating in 50 games for the Amerks last season. Housley's conversations with Rochester coach Chris Taylor indicated that Guhle was beginning to contribute more offensively.

"Last year, he was really attacking the game and using his speed," Housley said. "I think he got a little bit away from that. It's more or less trying to find his identity as a player, and I think he's found that in the last 10 games. Obviously, he's contributing offensively. We wanted him to continue to add to the rush and our offensive game and use his speed to his benefit."

Despite his five game-winning goals entering Saturday, Jeff Skinner was not on the ice in overtime or the shootout of the 4-3 loss to the Capitals in Capital One Arena. Instead, Conor Sheary, Tage Thompson, Evan Rodrigues and Casey Mittelstadt played during the 3-on-3 overtime.

Jason Pominville was stopped in the Sabres' final shootout attempt. Housley called Skinner's absence a "personal decision."

Amerks get series sweep on C.J. Smith's goal in overtime

Buffalo News

By: *Milt Northrop*

C.J. Smith scored 3:32 into overtime Saturday night to give the Rochester Americans a 2-1 American Hockey League victory over the Cleveland Monsters at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland.

The sweep of the two-game series against the Monsters, along with Laval's 4-0 victory over second-place Syracuse left the Amerks (18-7-2) six points ahead of the Crunch (15-7-2) in the North Division standings of the AHL. Cleveland (13-10-4) is third.

Brendan Guhle's third goal of the season, on the power play, gave Rochester a 1-0 lead at 17:12 of the second period. That stood up until former Buffalo Sabres Nathan Gerbe scored on the power play at 16:49 of the third, just 5 seconds after Rochester began serving a delay of game penalty against C.J. Smith.

With the teams skating three aside, Smith got the game winner with assists from Danny O'Regan and Justin Bailey. It was the eighth of the season for Smith, who was the 2017-18 AHL Rookie of the Year.

Adam Wilson (7-2-1) had 30 saves for Rochester, including 13 in the third period.

Matiss Kivlenieks had 37 saves for Cleveland through three period. Jean-Francois Berube took over in overtime and gave up the game winner among the four shots he faced.

Rochester has three home games this week, against the Belleville Senators on Wednesday and Friday and Saturday against the Hartford Wolf Pack.

Sabres defensemen Brendan Guhle, Matt Hunwick to make season debuts

Buffalo Hockey Beat

By: *Bill Hoppe*

Buffalo Sabres defensemen Brendan Guhle and Matt Hunwick will make their season debuts in this afternoon's tilt against the Bruins, coach Phil Housley told reporters in Boston.

With defenseman Nathan Beaulieu day-to-day with an upper-body injury, according to Housley, the Sabres recalled Guhle, 21, from the Rochester Americans this afternoon.

To make room, the Sabres placed defenseman Lawrence Pilut (lower body) on injured reserve.

Hunwick, meanwhile, just completed an AHL conditioning stint after suffering a neck injury training during the offseason. The veteran hasn't played an NHL game since April 1 with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Housley said defenseman Matt Tennyson will be scratched.

Guhle played the last two nights but was yanked out Saturday's 2-1 road win against the Cleveland Monsters.

In his second pro season, the prospect has compiled three goals, 13 points and minus-4 rating in 25 games with the Amerks.

"Last year, he was really attacking the game and using his speed," Housley said of Guhle. "I think he got a little bit away from that. It's more or less trying to find his identity as a player. I think he's found that in the last 10 games."

Goalie Wedgewood hot as Amerks skate past Cleveland
C&C World Wide
By: *Craig Potter*

A save on a breakaway then smothering the rebound turned out to be key elements as Rochester Americans goalie Scott Wedgewood made 42 saves on 43 shots in posting a 3-1 victory over the Cleveland Monsters on Friday night before 4,035 fans at the Blue Cross Arena.

"I was a little nervous at the beginning as it has almost been two weeks since my last game," said Wedgewood, "who was reassigned to the Amerks earlier in the week from the parent Buffalo Sabres. "After the first five minutes or so, I started feeling better and better while getting more comfortable as the game went on."

Wedgewood's crucial saves came midway through the third period with the Amerks holding a 1-0 lead on Alex Nylander's second-period goal. Justin Bailey and C.J. Smith assisted on the play.

"He made a few really, really good saves and kept it a one-goal game," Bailey said. "He played an amazing game.

"We knew coming into the game, Cleveland is a good team with a lot of veterans, who know how to play with the lead, so for us getting the lead was a big key tonight."

Amerks coach Chris Taylor didn't really like what his forward lines were doing in the first period so he made changes to start the second. He put Smith with Nylander and Bailey.

"It was kind of weird being thrown together and then the first shift we had together we scored," Smith said.

The Amerks gave Wedgewood a little more breathing room when defenseman Brandon Hickey blasted a shot from inside the blue line past Monster goalie Jean-Francois Berube. Bailey picked up his second assist of the night on the play.

Victor Olofsson stole the puck and fed Danny O'Regan who scored into the empty net for a 3-0 advantage. The Monsters had pulled Berube for the extra attacker.

However, the Rochester defenseman Jack Dougherty sent the puck outside the rink on an attempted clearing pass and was whistled for a delay of game penalty. Cleveland converted on the power play to avoid being shutout.

The Monsters outshot the Amerks in the first period, 14-6.

"We had a lot of good opportunities, especially in the first period," said Taylor. "Wedgewood came up big as did our penalty kill unit. It was a good team win."

The two teams go at it again Saturday night in the Ohio city.

The Monsters broke up the shutout bid with a power play goal by Adam Clendening with 1:11 to play in regulation.

Forward Dalton Smith led the Amerks in hits, particularly in the third period.

"He was really good," Taylor said.

**NOTES* — Rochester (17-7-2-0, 36 pts) maintained its 4-point lead over the Syracuse Crunch (15-6-2-0, 32 pts) in the North Division. Cleveland is in 4th place with 29 points. . . The Amerks have won 6 of their last 8 games while earning 36 of a possible 48 points in the last 24 games. . . Rochester sent goalie Jonas Johansson back to the Cincinnati Cyclones of the ECHL. . . Buffalo Sabres defenseman Matt Hunwick play his second game for the Amerks on his conditioning assignment. Amerks coach Chris Taylor did not know after the game if Hunwick would be accompanying the team to Cleveland or not. . . Amerks assistant coach Toby Petersen spent the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons behind the bench with the Monsters. He helped the team earn its first Calder Cup in 2016. . . That goal-less drought Andrew MacWilliam thought he ended back on Nov. 5? It turns out he didn't. Danny O'Regan tipped the MacWilliam point shot and, thus, the veteran defenseman has now gone 141 games without scoring.

Amerks complete sweep of Cleveland
C&C World Wide
By: *Staff Report*

After seeing the Cleveland Monsters (13-10-4-0) tie Saturday's rematch at Quicken Loans Arena late in the closing minutes of regulation, Rochester Americans' (18-7-2-0) reigning Rookie of the Year C.J. Smith scored the overtime-winning goal 3:32 into the extra frame to give the Amerks a 2-1 victory over their North Division rivals.

The win completes the weekend sweep for Rochester, which bested Cleveland by a 3-1 score last night on home ice, and improves the Amerks to 23-5-2-3 in their last 33 games against the Monsters dating back to the start of the 2011-12 campaign. Additionally, the Amerks have won seven of their last nine games overall while also earning 38 out of a possible 50 points in the last 25 contests. Rochester now has a six-point lead atop the AHL's North Division standings heading into the final week before the Christmas break.

Along with Smith's eighth tally of the season, second-year defenseman Brendan Guhle also scored for the Amerks, who have claimed the first three games this season against Cleveland. Goaltender Adam Wilcox recorded his seventh win of the campaign as he turned aside 30 of the 31 shots he faced on the night, coming within just minutes of his first shutout as an Amerk. In 12 appearances this year, Wilcox shows a 7-2-1 record.

Cleveland, which entered the matchup with a 6-4-2-0 record in its last 12 games, spoiled Wilcox's bid for a shutout thanks to Nathan Gerbe's sixth goal of the season with 3:11 remaining in regulation that forced overtime. Matiss Kivlenieks equaled a career-best 37 saves but left the game in the final minute due to an apparent injury. Jean-Francois Berube, who entered the game with 52 seconds left in regulation, suffered the overtime loss as he stopped three of the four shots he saw in 4:24 of relief effort.

Holding a 1-0 lead as the third-period clock was dwindling down, the Amerks attempted to clear the puck off the glass and out of their zone. The puck, however, sailed into the nearby stands, resulting in a Cleveland power-play with 3:17 left in regulation.

The Monsters needed only six seconds of the ensuing man-advantage as Gerbe, the Cleveland captain and former Buffalo Sabres forward, knotted the score at 1-1, which set-up the overtime period.

Rochester nor Cleveland generated much offensively in the first half of the extra session before Justin Bailey carried the puck into the Monsters zone. Bailey tried to stop inside the blueline but the puck got tangled up in the skates of a Cleveland defender. After Bailey dug the puck out, he slid a pass to Danny O'Regan to the right of Berube. O'Regan fired a shot off the pads of the netminder and Smith buried the rebound to give the Amerks the 2-1 overtime win with 1:28 to spare in the extra period. Similar to last night's home-and-home opener between Rochester and Cleveland, the matchup was scoreless after the first intermission.

The game, which was the first in Cleveland since Apr. 10, 2016, remained scoreless until the Amerks took a 1-0 lead with just under three minutes showing on the second-period clock.

Before the end of the Amerks' third power-play of the night late in the middle frame, Guhle received a Wayne Simpson centering a pass atop the right face-off dot. After dusting the puck off, the second-year blueliner wristed it past the glove of the Monsters netminder, breaking the deadlock at the 17:12 mark of the stanza.

Simpson and Zach Redmond were credited with the assists on Guhle's third power-play goal of the season. The tally ended Guhle's career-long 16-game goal-scoring drought, while Simpson, the AHL's reigning iron man who was appearing in his 214th consecutive AHL game, recorded his eighth point (4+4) in his last 10 contests.

Rochester carried its one-goal lead into the final period. Despite seeing Gerbe tie the game late in regulation, the Amerks earned the extra point as Smith scored the overtime-winning goal at the 3:32 mark.

The Amerks return to action on Wednesday, Dec. 19 as they welcome the Belleville Senators back to the Blue Cross Arena to kick start a three-game homestand before the Christmas break. Game time is slated for a 7:05 p.m.

**NOTES* — The Buffalo Sabres on Saturday recalled defenseman Matt Hunwick from his conditioning loan with the Rochester Americans. Hunwick (33, 5-foot-11, 194 lbs.) has missed the first 32 games of the NHL season due to injury. He returns to the team after making his season debut during a conditioning loan with the Americans, during which he recorded an assist and a plus-2 rating. The Warren, MI., native has appeared in 521 regular-season NHL games during 11 seasons spent with the Pittsburgh Penguins, New York Rangers, Toronto Maple Leafs, Colorado Avalanche and Boston Bruins. He was acquired by the Sabres from the Penguins in June 2018.

Amerks beat Cleveland in OT on the road

13Wham

By: *Staff Report/Amerks.com*

After seeing the Cleveland Monsters (13-10-4-0) tie Saturday's rematch at Quicken Loans Arena late in the closing minutes of regulation, Rochester Americans' (18-7-2-0) reigning Rookie of the Year C.J. Smith scored the overtime-winning goal 3:32 into the extra frame to give the Amerks a 2-1 victory over their North Division rivals.

The win completes the weekend sweep for Rochester, which bested Cleveland by a 3-1 score last night on home ice, and improves the Amerks to 23-5-2-3 in their last 33 games against the Monsters dating back to the start of the 2011-12 campaign. Additionally, the Amerks have won seven of their last nine games overall while also earning 38 out of a possible 50 points in the last 25 contests. Rochester now has a six-point lead atop the AHL's North Division standings heading into the final week before the Christmas break.

Along with Smith's eighth tally of the season, second-year defenseman Brendan Guhle also scored for the Amerks, who have claimed the first three games this season against Cleveland. Goaltender Adam Wilcox recorded his seventh win of the campaign as he turned aside 30 of the 31 shots he faced on the night, coming within just minutes of his first shutout as an Amerk. In 12 appearances this year, Wilcox shows a 7-2-1 record.

Cleveland, which entered the matchup with a 6-4-2-0 record in its last 12 games, spoiled Wilcox's bid for a shutout thanks to Nathan Gerbe's sixth goal of the season with 3:11 remaining in regulation that forced overtime. Matiss Kivlenieks equaled a career-best 37 saves but left the game in the final minute due to an apparent injury. Jean-Francois Berube, who entered the game with 52 seconds left in regulation, suffered the overtime loss as he stopped three of the four shots he saw in 4:24 of relief effort.

Holding a 1-0 lead as the third-period clock was dwindling down, the Amerks attempted to clear the puck off the glass and out of their zone. The puck, however, sailed into the nearby stands, resulting in a Cleveland power-play with 3:17 left in regulation.

The Monsters needed only six seconds of the ensuing man-advantage as Gerbe, the Cleveland captain and former Buffalo Sabres forward, knotted the score at 1-1, which set-up the overtime period.

Rochester nor Cleveland generated much offensively in the first half of the extra session before Justin Bailey carried the puck into the Monsters zone. Bailey tried to stop inside the blueline but the puck got tangled up in the skates of a Cleveland defender. After Bailey dug the puck out, he slid a pass to Danny O'Regan to the right of Berube. O'Regan fired a shot off the pads of the netminder and Smith buried the rebound to give the Amerks the 2-1 overtime win with 1:28 to spare in the extra period.

Similar to last night's home-and-home opener between Rochester and Cleveland, the matchup was scoreless after the first intermission.

The game, which was the first in Cleveland since Apr. 10, 2016, remained scoreless until the Amerks took a 1-0 lead with just under three minutes showing on the second-period clock.

Before the end of the Amerks' third power-play of the night late in the middle frame, Guhle received a Wayne Simpson centering a pass atop the right face-off dot. After dusting the puck off, the second-year blueliner wristed it past the glove of the Monsters netminder, breaking the deadlock at the 17:12 mark of the stanza.

Simpson and Zach Redmond were credited with the assists on Guhle's third power-play goal of the season. The tally ended Guhle's career-long 16-game goal-scoring drought, while Simpson, the AHL's reigning iron man who was appearing in his 214th consecutive AHL game, recorded his eighth point (4+4) in his last 10 contests.

Rochester carried its one-goal lead into the final period. Despite seeing Gerbe tie the game late in regulation, the Amerks earned the extra point as Smith scored the overtime-winning goal at the 3:32 mark.

The Amerks return to action on Wednesday, Dec. 19 as they welcome the Belleville Senators back to The Blue Cross Arena to kick start a three-game homestand before the Christmas break. Game time is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/ 95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Wedgewood leads Amerks to 3-1 win
13 Wham
By: *Staff Report/Amerks.com*

On the strength of a season-high 42-save effort from goaltender Scott Wedgewood, the first-place Rochester Americans (17-7-2-0) came away with a 3-1 victory over the Cleveland Monsters (13-10-3-0) Friday at The Blue Cross Arena. The contest served as the front-end of a home-and-home weekend series between the two North Division teams.

With the win, the Amerks improved 22-5-2-3 in the last 32 games against the Monsters dating back to the start of the 2011-12 campaign. Additionally, the Amerks have won six of their last eight games overall while also earning 36 out of a possible 48 points in the last 24 contests to maintain a four-point lead atop the AHL's North Division standings.

Forward Justin Bailey (0+2) recorded a pair of assists to give the Amerks their fourth home win in last five tilts while Brandon Hickey, Danny O'Regan and Alexander Nylander all lit the lamp. Wedgewood made his first appearance in the blue paint since Dec. 1 and improved to 9-4-1 with the win, stopping all but one while carrying a shutout into the final 1:11 of regulation.

Cleveland, which entered the matchup with a 6-4-2-0 record in its last 12 games, got on the scoreboard thanks to Adam Clendening's third goal of the slate while goaltender Jean-Francois Berube made 23 saves but took the loss.

Following a scoreless opening period between the two clubs, the Amerks broke through as Nylander tallied his seventh goal of the campaign 2:29 into middle stanza.

Clearing the puck out from the Amerks zone, Jack Dougherty took a hit to send an outlet pass into the Monsters end of the rink. Nylander intercepted a pass between two Cleveland defensemen and Bailey tipped the puck back to the Swedish forward. Failing on his initial shot, Nylander followed it up with another to compete the goal. Bailey and C.J. Smith were credited with the helpers.

"We knew coming into the game, Cleveland is a good team with a lot of veterans, who know how to play with the lead, so for us getting the lead was a big key tonight," Bailey said.

"We had a lot of good opportunities, especially in the first period," said Amerks head coach Chris Taylor. "Wedgewood came up big as did our penalty kill unit. It was a good team win."

The game remained 1-0 in favor of the hosts until the 17:09 mark of the third period as Hickey fired a shot from the top of the left point to double Rochester's lead. Bailey tracked down a loose puck in the far corner before he connected with Hickey to pick up his second assist of the night.

Trailing by a pair of goals, Cleveland pulled Berube in favor of the extra attacker, but O'Regan pushed the Amerks lead to 3-0 with 2:27 remaining. Victor Olofsson picked up the lone helper on O'Regan's 10th of the season. Cleveland drew a penalty in the final two minutes of the contest and pulled Berube yet again but this time the decision paid off as Clendening spoiled Wedgewood's bid for a third shutout of the season with 1:11 left in the tilt.

Rochester, despite being outshot 18-6 over the final 20 minutes of regulation and 43-26 in the game, survived the final 71 seconds to earn the 3-1 victory in the first game of the home-and-home series.

"I was a little nervous at the beginning as it has almost been two weeks since my last game," said Wedgewood," who was reassigned to the Amerks earlier in the week from the parent Buffalo Sabres. "After the first five minutes or so, I started feeling better and better while getting more comfortable as the game went on."

After a quick turnaround, the same two teams clash for the second time in as many nights as the action shifts to Quicken Loans Arena on Saturday, Dec. 15 for a 7:00 p.m. rematch in Cleveland. All of the action will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/ 95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Amerks grab a win against Cleveland

WHEC

By: *Staff Report/Amerks.com*

The Amerks lost at home for the first time in nearly three weeks on Wednesday.

Surprising because the best team in the north division didn't get to the top by letting their opponent light the lamp at Blue Cross Arena.

On Friday, they looked to regroup against one of the teams chasing them in the division.

Cleveland entered the night just five points behind the Amerks in the standings.