



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

Friday, December 28, 2018

TONIGHT'S GAME: Toronto @ Rochester

Amerks end 3-game losing skid

C&C WorldWide

By: *Staff Report*

The Rochester Americans (19-10-2-0) ended their season-long three-game skid in a monstrous way, scoring three power-play goals behind a 31-save shutout from goaltender Scott Wedgewood to cruise to 4-0 win over the Cleveland Monsters (16-11-4-0) in their first game back from the Christmas break Wednesday at Quicken Loans Arena. Rochester becomes the first team in the American Hockey League's North Division this season to reach the 40-point plateau as tonight's win was the Amerks' fourth consecutive of the campaign over Cleveland and second straight at the Quicken Loans Arena.

With the victory, Rochester has won eight of its last 13 games and remains in first place in the North Division standings with a two-point lead over the Syracuse Crunch entering the final week of the 2018 calendar year.

Forwards C.J. Smith and Kyle Criscuolo each collected a multi-point night as the duo tallied a goal and an assist while Victor Olofsson registered a pair of helpers for the Amerks, who improved to 24-5-2-3 in their last 34 games against the Monsters since the start of the 2011-12 season.

Alexander Nylander and Wayne Simpson rounded out the scoring while Wedgewood stopped all 31 shots he faced to record his third shutout of the year and 10th win of the slate. The netminder boasts a 10-6-1 record in 19 appearances this season and is one shutout shy of tying a career-best that he set during the 2013-14 season.

Dan DeSalvo and Dillon Simpson each had five shots on goal for Cleveland, which entered the contest winners of its last three games and had points in its last four outings. Netminder Matiss Kivlenieks made his third consecutive start but was dealt the loss as he made 27 saves on the night.

Nearly seven minutes into a fast-paced opening frame, the Amerks drew the game's first penalty of the night at the 6:14 mark. Rochester controlled much of the time with the extra skater before Justin Bailey centered a pass to Brendan Guhle atop the blueline. Guhle flung a shot towards the Monsters net, and with traffic in front of Kivlenieks, Nylander swept the puck into the net to break the scoreless tilt.

Nylander's goal at the 7:35 mark held up as the game-winner as the Amerks led 1-0 after the first 20 minutes of play while Guhle and Bailey recorded the assists on the power-play goal.

In the middle frame, the Amerks drew a pair of penalties in succession before Smith doubled Rochester's lead with his 12th goal of the season with 4:20 left in the stanza. Olofsson, who earned the secondary helper on the power-play goal, fired a shot from the left point before Danny O'Regan dished a pass across the zone to Smith at the point. Smith took a few more strides before wiring a shot past Kivlenieks to give the visitors a 2-0 advantage.

The goal was Smith's 12th of the season and 25th point overall on the year, which tops all Rochester skaters. Rochester carried a 2-0 lead into the final 20 minutes of regulation.

The Amerks continued to pad their lead in the early stages of the final frame when Criscuolo won a face-off to the left of the Monsters net and slid a pass to Simpson. As he found himself all alone in front of Kivlenieks, Simpson tucked a backhanded shot into the cage for his 10th goal of the season 4:09 into the period.

With a three-goal cushion, the Amerks capped off the scoring near the 10-minute mark as Criscuolo slipped a shot inside the left post from Olofsson and Smith.

Criscuolo's second goal of the year was Rochester's third power-play tally of the night while Olofsson earned his sixth multi-point effort of the campaign. The Swedish forward is second among all Amerks with 26 points in his first season in the AHL.

Looking to spoil Wedgewood's bid for a shutout, the Monsters recorded 11 shots during the final 20 minutes of regulation, but the goaltender's best save of the night came in the last 30 seconds as he turned aside Alex Broadhurst's breakaway chance to preserve the 4-0 victory.

The Amerks close out their home portion of the 2018 calendar year on Friday, Dec. 28 when they host the defending Calder Cup champion Toronto Marlies for a North Division matchup at the Blue Cross Arena. Game time is slated for a 7:05 pm start.

*NOTES — Rochester Americans General Manager Randy Sexton announced today that the team has recalled forward Vasily Glotov from the Cincinnati Cyclones. Glotov, 21, has appeared in all 29 games with the Cyclones so far in his rookie campaign, ranking third on the team with 15 assists and tied for fourth with 21 points. The 5-foot-11, 174-pound forward has amassed 23 points (7+16) in 34 career games with Cincinnati and made his American Hockey League debut last season with Rochester, dressing in one game. Prior to turning pro, the Barnaul, Russia, native played two seasons in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, scoring 44 goals and adding 49 assists for 93 points in 128 games with Cape Breton and Shawinigan. Glotov was the Buffalo Sabres' seventh-round selection (190th overall) of the 2016 NHL Draft. With 14 goals in 30 games this season, Zach Redmond is on a record-setting pace to etch his name in team history. Earlier this season, he became the fastest Amerks defenseman to score 10 goals in the fewest amount of games to begin the season since Amerks Hall of Famer Don McSweeney reached the mark in his first 21 games during the 1989-90 campaign. . . Forwards Victor Olofsson and C.J. Smith each scored their 10th goals of the season last Wednesday, becoming the third and fourth players this season to reach the mark. Zach Redmond and Lawrence Pilut, who is on a call-up to the Buffalo Sabres, are the other two players with 10 or more goals.

AHL: Amerks Blank Monsters in Cleveland

Buffalo News

By: *Staff Report*

Four different Rochester Americans scored and Scott Wedgewood made 31 saves for the shutout in a 4-0 win over the host Cleveland Monsters before 9,296 at Quicken Loans Arena Wednesday.

Alex Nylander got the Amerks on the board at 7:35 of the opening period. C.J. Smith scored in the second while Wayne Simpson and Kyle Criscuolo tallied in the third. All but Simpson's goal came on the power play, where Rochester was 3 of 6. Cleveland failed to score in four attempts.

Rochester kept its two-point lead over Syracuse, which beat Binghamton Wednesday, and moved four points up on Cleveland in the AHL's North Division.

The Amerks host Toronto Friday at 7:05 p.m. at Blue Cross Arena.

Amerks end skid with 4-0 win over Cleveland

Pickin' Splinters

By: *Staff Report/Amerks.com*

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Sluggish Monsters blanked by Rochester on Ninja Turtles night, 4-0

The News-Herald

By: *Jeff Scudel*

Ninja Turtles Night at Quicken Loans Arena Dec. 26 did not turn out the way Monsters management envisioned when they planned the special theme for the night after Christmas.

Moving like real turtles instead of the masked green Nickelodeon heroes, the Monsters were trampled, 4-0, by the Rochester Americans in front of a crowd of 9,296 that for some reason remained enthusiastic until the final horn.

Sometimes Coach John Madden finds good things to say about his hockey team following a lopsided loss that makes reporters wonder whether they were watching the same game as the former NHL player and three-time Stanley Cup champion. The loss to the Americans was not one of those nights.

"I think we enjoyed our (Christmas) break a little too much," Madden said. "We had no legs, no compete, no desire. Without having any of those, you don't give yourself a chance.

"I guess the only positive of entire night is Kivvie (goalie Matiss Kivlenieks played well and held us in the game."

It was disappointing to see the Monsters play so poorly in front of the home crowd because they could have moved into a tie with Rochester for first place in the AHL North. Instead, the Americans now lead the division with 40 points followed by Syracuse (38) and Cleveland third with 36 points.

The Americans scored three of their four goals on power plays. They scored one power play goal in each period and added an even-strength goal to make it 3-0 4:08 into the third period on a backhand shot by Wayne Simpson. Simpson skated in uncontested, which pretty much describes each Rochester goal.

Both teams were credited with 31 shots on net, but those numbers are misleading. Kivlenieks got very little help from his defense. The Monsters, meanwhile, had very few quality chances outside of five shots on goal during a power play earlier in the first period.

"There was no sacrifice getting in front of the net or second effort or following a simple game plan," Madden said. "We'll get back to work at 10:30 (Dec. 27) and iron this out."

The Monsters won three straight before running into the Americans. They are back in action Dec. 28 at The Q in a 7 p.m. faceoff with the Grand Rapids Griffins.