



## Rochester Americans @ Utica Comets

Saturday, December 29, 2018 @ Adirondack Bank Center | AHL Regular Season Game No. 499

### TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

• The Rochester Americans (20-10-2-0) wrap up the 2018 calendar year tonight when they face the Utica Comets (16-16-2-1) for a North Division matchup at Adirondack Bank Center. Game time is slated for a 7:00 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

### LAST TIME OUT

- Five different Amerks scored Friday night, including four in the second period, to help the club close out the home portion of the 2018 calendar year with a decisive 5-1 victory over the defending Calder Cup champion Toronto Marlies in front of a season-high crowd of 8,061 at The Blue Cross Arena.
- With the win, Rochester has won nine of its last 14 games overall to remain in first place in the North Division standings with a two-point lead over the Syracuse Crunch entering the final weekend of December. The Amerks also became just the third AHL team this season to reach the 20-win mark and first from the North Division.
- **Danny O'Regan** and **Wayne Simpson** each recorded a goal and an assist while **Victor Olofsson** notched two assists for the second straight game to give the Amerks four straight wins over the Marlies dating back to the 2017-18 campaign. **Justin Bailey**, **Brendan Guhle** and **Zach Redmond**, who tied a career-best with his 15<sup>th</sup> goal of the season, also found the back of net. Goaltender **Scott Wedgewood** made 35 saves to earn his 11<sup>th</sup> win of the campaign. The netminder is tied for fifth in the AHL as he boasts a 11-6-1 record.

### ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

• The Amerks usher in the New Year on Wednesday, Jan. 2 when they face the Bridgeport Sound Tigers for an Eastern Conference matchup at The Blue Cross Arena. Game time is slated for a 7:00 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

### REDMOND CHASING HISTORY

• With 15 goals in 32 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 McSween** reached the mark in his first 21 games during the 1989-90 campaign. McSween would later go on to become the top scoring defenseman in franchise history. Redmond, who last season became just the first Amerk blueliner in seven years to lead the team in scoring, has already matched his career-high of 15 from last season and needs only three more goals to tie the single-season franchise record for the most by a defenseman of 18, set by **Rick Pagnutti** during the 1972-73 season.

### 2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS  
105-105



16-16-2-1 (35 points)

20-10-2-0 (42 points)

### AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith	32	12	16	28	8	8
Victor Olofsson	29	10	18	28	8	0
Zach Redmond	32	15	11	26	20	3

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	20	11-6-1	1,078	545	.916	2.78
Adam Wilcox	13	7-3-1	697:11	302	.899	2.93
Jonas Johansson	3	2-1-0	141:33	57	.891	2.97

### NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 2	vs. Bridgeport	7:05 p.m.
Jan. 4	@ Laval	7:30p.m.
Jan. 5	@ Laval	3:00p.m.

### LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 28	Toronto	W 5-1	27-36	2-5	7-8
Dec. 26	Cleveland	W 4-0	31-31	3-6	4-4
Dec. 22	Hartford	L 5-1	41-37	0-3	2-3

### YEARLY RECORD

	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	11-8-0-0	60	56	22
AWAY	9-2-2-0	45	37	20
TOTALS	20-10-2-0	105	93	42

### COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	24	16	13	29	6	-7
Tanner Kero	35	10	17	27	16	-3
Zack MacEwen	34	13	13	26	40	-10

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Thatcher Demko	14	6-5-1	740:03	315	.908	2.59
Ivan Kulbakov	13	5-6-2	679:00	331	.880	3.98
Richard Bachman	9	5-4-0	526:48	252	.884	3.76



### MOVING ON UP

- Coming off his second straight two-assist effort last night, **Victor Olofsson** (10+18) is tied for the team scoring lead with **C.J. Smith** (12+16) with 28 points each. Smith has recorded nine points (5+4) over his last seven games, which includes goals in five of seven games during that same stretch. Overall on the season, the Amerks reigning Rookie of the Year has 12 goals through 32 games and is on pace to establish a new career-high after posting 17 in his rookie campaign. A year after leading the SHL with 27 goals, Olofsson has collected 28 points (10+18) in 29 games this season and has multi-point efforts in three of his last five appearances. He was named the CCM/AHL Player of the Month for October with 15 points through the his first 10 games.

### RED HOT 'REDS'

- Redmond has scored a team-high 15 goals this season, including seven that have held up as game-winning goals, a new career-high, while seven others have also been scored on the man-advantage, good enough for fourth in the league in that category. Redmond, who had an AHL-best nine-game point streak to end the month of October, is currently tied for ninth in the league in goals (15) and ranks second amongst all active AHL defensemen with 26 points, while his seven game-winning goals are tops in the AHL.

### IRON MAN SIMPSON

- Wayne Simpson** is the AHL's current leader in consecutive games played with 219. Prior to joining the Amerks, the Boxborough, Mass., native appeared in all 76 regular-season games with the Hershey Bears and Providence Bruins over each of the last two seasons, in addition to 35 straight appearances for the Portland Pirates dating back to the 2015-16 campaign. Simpson has tallied 19 points (11+8) while appearing in all 32 games so far this season.

### BUSY BETWEEN THE PIPES

- Scott Wedgewood** has gotten the nod in five of the last seven games for Rochester, going 3-2-0 over that span. After dropping his first two games of the season, the sixth-year netminder won five straight to close out the month of October, matching the career-best mark he set while backstopping the Albany Devils during the 2015-16 season. He enters the weekend third among all AHL goaltenders in shutouts (3), and tied for sixth in games played (20) and wins (11).

### SCOUTING THE COMETS

- Winners of just two of their last six games, the Comets come into the matchup fourth in the Division with 35 points and have allowed a league-most 125 goals-against through 35 games this season, including giving up 10 in a 10-1 loss to Syracuse last night.
- Utica returns to home ice with three different skaters to reach the 20-point mark on the season. Reid Boucher leads the club in both goals (16) and points (29) in 24 games while Tanner Kero has a team-high 17 assists in his first season with the Comets.

### AMERKS-COMETS 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

#### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	4	3	3	6	0	2
Lawrence Pilut	2	0	6	6	0	5
Alexander Nylander	4	2	3	5	2	4

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	2	2-0-0	119:18	1	.978	0.50
Jonas Johansson	1	1-0-0	60:00	2	.926	2.00
Adam Wilcox	1	0-1-0	57:30	5	.783	5.22

#### UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	2	1	1	2	0	1
Jonathan Dahlen	4	1	1	2	0	2
Cam Darcy	4	1	1	2	2	-3

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Thatcher Demko	1	0-1-0	55:58	3	.880	3.22
Richard Bachman	3	1-2-0	179:51	14	.861	4.67

### 2018-19 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 17	W	6-1	32-17	4-5	2-3
<b>Oct. 26</b>	W	4-0	24-20	1-4	0-5
<b>Nov. 23</b>	L	5-4	47-23	1-6	3-5
<b>Dec. 5</b>	W	5-2	27-27	0-2	3-3
Dec. 29					
<b>Jan. 25</b>					
Feb. 9					
Feb. 22					
Feb. 27					
<b>Mar. 13</b>					

### AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 22-23-5

#### SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester has collected at least one point in each of the last 11 games against Utica dating back to the start of the 2017-18 campaign, going 6-1-2-3 over that span.
- Nine of the last 12 games between the two teams have been decided after regulation.
- In the four prior meetings with the Comets this season, the Amerks have gone 6-for-17 while on the man-advantage, which included 4-for-5 in the first get-together back on Oct. 17. The four power-play goals were the most while on the road since the Amerks went 4-for-6 at Syracuse on Mar. 12, 2016.