



Bridgeport Sound Tigers vs. Rochester Americans

Wednesday, January 2, 2019 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 515

TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

• The Rochester Americans (20-11-2-0) ring in the New Year tonight as they face-off with the Bridgeport Sound Tigers (21-9-4-1) 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.

LAST TIME OUT

- Despite overcoming a two-goal deficit to tie the game early in the third period, the the Amerks were unable to slow down the Utica Comets, dropping a 4-3 decision to their North Division rivals Saturday at the Adirondack Bank Center.
- With the loss, Rochester concluded the calendar year winners in nine of its last 15 games and hold a share of the top spot in the AHL's North Division with the Syracuse Crunch. The regulation loss was just the Amerks' third of the campaign away from The Blue Cross Arena, which is tied for fewest in the AHL heading into 2019.
- Forward **Justin Bailey** booked his fifth multi-point effort of campaign as he scored his ninth goal of the season and second in as many games to go along with an assist while **C.J. Smith** and **Eric Cornel** completed the scoring for the Amerks. Goaltender **Adam Wilcox** made 31 saves in his third appearance in the last seven tilts but was dealt his second straight regulation loss. It's just the second time in 43 career games with the Amerks that Wilcox has suffered back-to-back losses in regulation.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

• The Amerks wrap up the first week of 2019 as they travel north of the border for a pair of games against the Laval Rocket, beginning Friday, Jan. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Following a quick turnaround, the same two teams meet again on Saturday, Jan. 5 for a 3:00 p.m. matinee. All of the action from Place Bell 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 through 33 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, recently 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
112-108



21-9-4-1 (47 points)

20-11-2-0 (42 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
C.J. Smith*	33	13	16	29	10	8
Victor Olofsson	30	10	19	29	8	0
Zach Redmond	33	15	12	27	22	3

*Currently on NHL recall with Buffalo

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV% GAA
Scott Wedgewood	20	11-6-1	1,078	545	.916 2.78
Adam Wilcox	14	7-4-1	756:24	333	.900 2.93
Jonas Johansson	3	2-1-0	141:33	57	.891 2.97

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 4	@ Laval	7:30p.m.
Jan. 5	@ Laval	3:00p.m.
Jan. 11	vs. Toronto	7:05 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 29	Utica	L 4-3	36-35	2-5	6-8
Dec. 28	Toronto	W 5-1	27-36	2-5	7-8
Dec. 26	Cleveland	W 4-0	31-31	3-6	4-4

YEARLY RECORD

	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	11-8-0-0	60	56	22
AWAY	9-3-2-0	48	41	20
TOTALS	20-11-2-0	108	97	42

SOUND TIGERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Michael Dal-Colle*	28	16	12	28	16	10
Sebastian Aho	32	3	20	23	18	-2
Chris Bourque	33	7	15	22	20	1

*Currently on NHL recall with New York

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV% GAA
Jeremy Smith	18	11-5-1	1,053	461	.909 2.62
Christopher Gibson	19	10-4-4	1,058	463	.896 3.06



MOVING ON UP

• With five assists in his last three games, forward **Victor Olofsson** has a share of the team-lead in scoring with 29 with fellow forward **C.J. Smith**. A year after leading the SHL with 27 goals, Olofsson has collected 29 points (10+19) in 30 games this season and has multi-point efforts in three of his last six appearances.

SMITH EARNS TRIP TO SABRES

• Second-year pro **C.J. Smith** closed out the month of December with 10 points (6+4) over his last eight games, which included goals in six of eight games during the stretch, earning him a recall to Buffalo Sabres over the weekend. Smith made his Sabres season debut in Buffalo's 3-1 loss to the NY Islanders on Monday, recording three shots on goal over 11:31 of ice time, his first NHL action since the 2016-17 season. Rochester's reigning Rookie of the Year has 13 goals through 33 games and is on pace to establish a new career-high after scoring 17 in his rookie campaign.

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 sixth in the league in that category. Redmond, who had an AHL-best nine-game point streak to end the month of October, enters the New Year tied for 12th in the league in goals (15) and ranks second amongst all active AHL defensemen with 27 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 220. 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.

BUSY BETWEEN THE PIPES

• **Scott Wedgewood** has gotten the nod in five of the last eight 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 2019 third among all AHL netminders in shutouts (3), tied for sixth in wins (11) and eighth in games played (20).

SCOUTING THE SOUND TIGERS

- Bridgeport returns to Rochester arguably the hottest team in the AHL with points in eight of the its nine games and the winners of three straight. The Sound Tigers come into the matchup second in the AHL in both wins (21) and points (47).
- Tonight's game is the third of a season-long six-game road trip for Bridgeport, having won the first two contests.

AMERKS-SOUND TIGERS 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	2	2	2	4	0	-1
Zach Redmond	2	1	2	3	2	-1
Brendan Guhle	2	0	3	3	0	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Adam Wilcox	1	1-0-0	61:08	2	.882	1.96
Scott Wedgewood	1	1-0-0	60:00	3	.870	3.00

BRIDGEPORT

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Travis St. Denis	2	2	0	2	4	1
Steve Bernier	2	1	1	2	0	2
Devon Toews	2	0	2	2	0	-1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Jeremy Smith	1	0-0-1	61:46	3	.906	2.91
Christopher Gibson	1	0-1-0	58:18	4	.857	4.12

2018-19 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 13	W	4-3	28-23	2-8	5-5
Oct. 14	OTW	3-2	32-17	1-2	1-2

Jan. 2

Mar. 8

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. BRIDGEPORT: 6-8-0

SERIES NOTABLES

- Tonights contest is just the 15th all-time meeting between the two clubs. With two wins earlier this season, the Amerks have improved to 4-1-1-0 in their last six meetings against the Sound Tigers after going just 1-3-0-0 in the four meetings during the 2016-17 season.
- **Victor Olofsson** leads all skaters with four points in the season series. After scoring the game-winning goal and adding an assist in a 4-3 win at Bridgeport on Oct. 13, Olofsson repeated the performance the very next day, delivering the game-winner 1:46 into overtime to cap another two-point effort and give the Amerks a two-game sweep over the Sound Tigers.
- Bridgeport's lineup features Chris and Ryan Bourque, both sons of Stanley Cup champion and Hockey Hall of Famer Ray Bourque.