



Rochester Americans @ Laval Rocket

Friday, January 4, 2019 @ Place Bell | AHL Regular Season Game No. 525

TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

• The Rochester Americans (21-11-2-0) wrap up the first week of the New Year tonight as they travel north of the border to open a two-game set with the Laval Rocket (14-16-3-2) at Place Bell. Game time is slated for a 7:30 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

- The Amerks overcame a two-goal deficit and tied the game in the final 12 seconds of regulation before needing the shootout to complete a 5-4 come-from-behind win over the Bridgeport Sound Tigers Wednesday at The Blue Cross Arena.
- With the victory, Rochester regained its lead atop the AHL's North Division by two points over the Syracuse Crunch. The Amerks have won 10 of their last 16 games while also claiming three of their last five on home ice. Overall, the team has 12 wins in the Flower City this season, which is tied for most in the AHL.
- Forward **Kyle Criscuolo** collected his third multi-point outing of the campaign as he scored his third goal of the season to go along with an assist. **Danny O'Regan**, **Andrew MacWilliam** and **Rasmus Asplund** rounded out the scoring behind a 22-save effort from goaltender **Scott Wedgewood**, who improved to 12-6-1 on the year. Rochester also improved to 5-1-1 in its last seven meetings with Bridgeport dating back to the 2016-17 season.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- Following a quick turnaround, the Amerks and Rocket meet again on Saturday, Jan. 5 for a 3:00 p.m. matinee. The rematch from Place Bell will be the third of four meetings between the North Division rivals this season before one final get-together in Rochester on Mar. 29. Saturday's action will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester and can also be viewed on AHLTV.

REDMOND CHASING HISTORY

- With 15 goals through 34 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. John Slaney holds the current AHL record with 30 goals in 1999-00.

2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
95-113



14-16-3-2 (33 points)

21-11-2-0 (44 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	31	10	20	30	8	2
C.J. Smith*	33	13	16	29	10	8
Zach Redmond	34	15	13	28	22	4

*Currently on NHL recall with Buffalo

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	21	12-6-1	1,142	567	.913	2.84
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. 5	@ Laval	3:00p.m.
Jan. 11	vs. Toronto	7:05 p.m.
Jan. 12	@ Toronto	4:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Jan. 2	Bridgeport	SOW 5-4	30-26	0-4	3-4
Dec. 29	Utica	L 4-3	36-35	2-5	6-8
Dec. 28	Toronto	W 5-1	27-36	2-5	7-8

YEARLY RECORD

	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	12-8-0-0	65	60	24
AWAY	9-3-2-0	48	41	20
TOTALS	21-11-2-0	113	101	44

ROCKET OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Alex Belzile	35	6	20	26	26	-3
Byron Froese	33	11	10	21	15	5
Jake Evans	35	9	12	21	12	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Charlie Lindgren	19	7-9-3	1,077	423	.891	2.56
Michael McNiven	12	4-4-1	609:28	198	.884	2.56



LAVAL ROCKET GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERKANS



BACK ON TOP

• Thanks to six assists over his last four games, **Victor Olofsson** has regained the team's scoring lead to begin the New Year. A year after leading the SHL with 27 goals, Olofsson has been nearly a point-per-game player for Rochester, leading the team with 20 assists and 30 points through his first 31 games of the campaign. He's currently tied for 12th among the AHL's top scorers in points and 13th in assists, while his 10 goals are fifth-most among all Rochester skaters. He also ranks tied for third in the league with 13 power-play assists.

ALL-STAR BLUELINERS

• **Zach Redmond** and **Lawrence Pilut** will represent the Amerks at the **2019 Lexus AHL All-Star Classic** later this month. Pilut earns his first trip to the annual event after posting 22 points (3+19) despite only appearing in 16 AHL games prior to being recalled by Buffalo on Nov. 21. The former SHL Defenseman of the Year has a team-best plus-19 on-ice rating that is tied for third-best in the AHL. Redmond, 30, earns his first trip back to the AHL All-Star since 2012 when he was a member of the St. John's IceCaps.

RED HOT 'REDS'

• Redmond has scored a team-high 15 goals this season, including seven on the power-play, 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 28 points, while his seven game-winning goals are tops in the AHL. His 15 goals are also the most by an AHL blueliner.

IRON MAN SIMPSON

• **Wayne Simpson** is the AHL's current leader in consecutive games played with 221. 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 six of the last nine games for Rochester, going 4-2-0 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), tied for fifth in wins (12) and eighth in games played (21). He needs one more shutout to tie a career-best from 2013-14.

SCOUTING THE ROCKET

• With a 6-3-0-1 record in its last 10 games, Laval remains on home ice for the fourth game of a five-game homestand. Of the Rocket's 33 points this season, 24 have come at Place Bell, which are tied for third-most in the Eastern Conference coming into tonight.

AMERKS-ROCKET 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Zach Redmond	1	1	0	1	0	1
C.J Smith	1	1	0	1	0	1
Yannick Veilleux	1	1	0	1	2	2

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	1	1-0-0	59:00	2	.949	2.03

LAVAL

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Jake Evans	1	0	2	2	0	-2
Kenny Agostino	1	1	0	1	2	-3
Brett Kulak	1	1	0	1	0	-2

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Charlie Lindgren	1	0-1-0	57:49	3	.880	3.11

2018-19 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 27	W	3-2	25-39	0-6	10-12
Jan. 4					
Jan. 5					
Mar. 29					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. LAVAL: 7-2-0

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester enters tonight's matchup with an all-time record of 7-2-0 against Laval and carries a two-game win streak dating back to last season.
- In his second season with the Rocket, Byron Froese leads all Laval skaters with a team-high 11 goals through 33 games. Alex Belzile, who will represent Laval at the 2019 All-Star Classic, has tied a career-high with 20 assists in just 35 contests after posting 20 in 61 games last season as a member of the San Antonio Rampage.
- The Rocket have used four different goaltenders this season while the tandem of Michael McNiven and Charlie Lindgren have handled much of the time in the blue crease for the second straight season. McNiven shows a record of 4-4-1 in 12 games while Lindgren boasts a 7-9-3 record in 19 appearances this season.
- Rocket forward Daniel Audette is the son of former Amerk Donald Audette.