



## Rochester Americans @ Laval Rocket

Saturday, January 5, 2019 @ Place Bell | AHL Regular Season Game No. 539

### TODAY'S GAME OVERVIEW

- The Rochester Americans (22-11-2-0) conclude their two-game series with the Laval Rocket (14-16-3-3) at Place Bell to wrap up the first week of the New Year this afternoon. Game time is slated for a 3:00 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

- For the second consecutive game, the Amerks erased a deficit before completing the come-from-behind win in a shootout. Friday night's 3-2 five-round shootout win against Laval at Place Bell served as the first leg of a back-to-back set.
- With the victory, Rochester retains its two-point lead atop the AHL's North Division standings heading into today's rematch with the Rocket. The Amerks have won four of their last five games and 11 of their last 17 contests. Rochester also became the fifth Eastern Conference team this season to reach double digits in road wins (10) while its three regulation losses are tied for fewest in the entire AHL.
- Judd Peterson**, who made his Amerks debut after being recalled earlier this week from the ECHL, and **Alexander Nylander** both lit the lamp for the Amerks while netminder **Scott Wedgewood** turned in a 22-save effort to push his record to 13-6-1 on the season. Rochester also improved to 8-2-0 in its last 10 meetings with Laval dating back to the 2017-18 season, which includes a perfect 5-0-0-0 mark inside Place Bell.

### ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks return home at 7:05 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 11 as they begin a home-and-home set with the Toronto Marlies. The matchup will be the third straight game at The Blue Cross Arena before the season-series shifts to Coca-Cola Coliseum on Saturday, Jan. 12 at 4:00 p.m. All of the 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 35 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  
97-116



14-16-3-3 (34 points)

22-11-2-0 (46 points)

### AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	32	10	20	30	8	3
Zach Redmond	35	15	14	29	22	4
C.J. Smith*	33	13	16	29	10	8

\*Currently on NHL recall with Buffalo

### GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	22	13-6-1	1,206	589	.913	2.79
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. 11	vs. Toronto	7:05 p.m.
Jan. 12	@ Toronto	4:00 p.m.
Jan. 18	@ W-B/Scranton	7:05 p.m.

### LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Jan. 4	Laval	SOW 3-2	35-24	1-2	2-3
Jan. 2	Bridgeport	SOW 5-4	30-26	0-4	3-4
Dec. 29	Utica	L 4-3	36-35	2-5	6-8

### YEARLY RECORD

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	12-8-0-0	65	60	24
AWAY	10-3-2-0	51	43	22
TOTALS	22-11-2-0	116	103	46

### ROCKET OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Alex Belzile	36	7	20	27	26	-3
Byron Froese	34	11	11	22	15	6
Jake Evans	36	9	12	21	12	1

### GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Charlie Lindgren	19	7-9-3	1,077	423	.891	2.56
Michael McNiven	13	4-4-2	674:15	230	.891	2.49



# LAVAL ROCKET GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERICANS



## BACK ON TOP

Thanks to six assists over his last five 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 32 games of the campaign. He's currently tied for 18<sup>th</sup> among the AHL's top scorers in points and 16<sup>th</sup> in assists, while his 10 goals are fifth-most among all Rochester skaters. He also ranks tied for fourth 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 seventh 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 13<sup>th</sup> in the league in goals (15) and ranks second amongst all active AHL defensemen with 29 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 222. 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 seven of the last 10 games for Rochester, going 5-2-0 over that span, which includes a four-game win streak. 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 third in wins (13) and sixth in games played (22). He needs one more shutout to tie a career-best from 2013-14.

## SCOUTING THE ROCKET

Of the Rocket's 34 points this season, 25 have come at Place Bell, which are third-most in the Eastern Conference coming into today.

## AMERKS-ROCKET 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Zach Redmond	2	1	1	2	0	1
Alexander Nylander	2	1	0	1	0	0
Judd Peterson	1	1	0	1	0	1

### GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	2	2-0-0	123:20	4	.937	1.95

### LAVAL

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Alex Belzile	2	1	1	2	0	-1
Jake Evans	2	0	2	2	0	-1
Byron Froese	2	0	2	2	2	-1

### GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Michael McNiven	1	0-0-1	64:47	2	.941	1.85
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	SOW	3-2	35-24	1-2	2-3
Jan. 5					
Mar. 29					

## AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. LAVAL: 8-2-0

## SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester enters tonight's matchup with an all-time record of 8-2-0 against Laval and carries a four-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 34 games. Alex Belzile, who will represent Laval at the 2019 All-Star Classic, has tied a career-high with 20 assists in just 36 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 4-4-2 in 13 games while Lindgren boasts a 7-9-3 record in 19 appearances this season.