



# ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

*Wednesday, January 23, 2019*

*TONIGHT'S GAME: Binghamton @ Rochester*

It took 46 years but Pagnutti's Amerks record is about to be erased  
*Pickin' Splinters*  
By: Kevin Oklobzija

They say records are made to be broken, and Rick Pagnutti knows that very well.

But even he may have been starting to wonder if that cliché pertained to *all* records.

After all, nearly a half-century has passed since he set the Rochester Americans single-season record for goals by a defenseman. He found the net 18 times during the 1972-73 campaign playing for coach [Don Cherry](#). That's was a fairly lofty number for a defenseman, but it certainly wasn't an outrageous goal total for a 76-game season.

And yet, here we are, 46 years later and midway through the 2018-19 season, and only now is his record about to fall.

[Zach Redmond](#) scored a pair of goals on Friday night in a 5-4 victory at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, giving him 18 through 40 games. With 36 games remaining, the hard-shooting, offensively gifted defenseman will obviously break the mark.

He has a chance to set the record Wednesday night when the Amerks play the Binghamton Devils at 7:05 at Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial.

"I congratulate Zach," Pagnutti, 72, said today by phone from his home in Sudbury, Ontario, where he was born and raised. "I've always cherished that.

"But, my God, who would have thought that with all the defensemen who have come through there, that record still would have existed this long."

Indeed, the mark has stood the test of time — and challenges.

[Bob Hess](#) came the closest to erasing Pagnutti from the team record book He scored 17 in 70 games during the 1980-81 season under then-rookie coach Mike Keenan.

The only reason Hess probably didn't set the record, or at least tie it: He started the season with the NHL's St. Louis Blues and didn't join the Amerks until late October after a trade by the Buffalo Sabres.

[T.J. Brennan](#) most likely would have obliterated the mark in 2012-13. He had piled up 14 through just 36 games but then was recalled by the Sabres when the NHL lockout ended in mid-January. Just three weeks later, he was traded to the Florida Panthers. Brennan flaunted his goal-scoring ability with the Toronto Marlies the next season by scoring 25 times. He matched that for the Marlies two years later.

In 1994-95, [Philippe Boucher](#) was well on his way to surpassing Pagnutti. Through 43 games of the 80-game season, he already had 14 goals. But that production merited a recall to Buffalo, and then in February he was traded to the Los Angeles Kings.

Boucher scored 19 for the NHL's Dallas Stars in 2006-07.  
And so the record has lived on.

Pagnutti, a retired Sudbury firefighter of 30 years, has fond memories of his four seasons in Rochester, when he produced 45 goals, 149 assists and 194 points. He was inducted into the Amerks Hall of Fame in 2012.

"That was so heart-warming," he said. "When [Jody Gage](#) called me to tell me, I had to go outside and go for a walk. I just kept thinking, 'Can you believe they remember me?'"

Long-time Amerks fans haven't forgotten Pagnutti, and he hasn't forgotten the city.

"If I wouldn't have gotten a job as a firefighter in Sudbury, I probably would have gone back to Rochester to live," he said.

He's still an Amerks fan, too. "I've followed them ever since I left," he said. "If they can make a nice run in the playoffs, I hope to get down for a game or two."

Zach Redmond scores by simply being alive  
*Rochester First*  
By: *Dan Fetes*

On a roster filled with young talent and top prospects, the Amerks' leading goal scorer is a 30-year old defenseman.

"When you're hot, you're hot," smiled CJ Smith.

"We want him to keep shooting. I don't know what else he can do. He just keeps scoring," smirked Amerks captain Kevin Porter.

"No, I'm not surprised," laughed Smith. "You guys can be surprised but I'm not surprised."

But is Redmond surprised by his sudden scoring success?

"The pace that they're going in is maybe a little bit different... but I'll take it," grinned Redmond.

His next goal will set a franchise record for goals in a season by an Amerks defenseman.

"It's not something I've given a whole lot of thought to but it is pretty cool. I've never done anything like that individually," said Redmond.

There were plenty of bumps along the way to this record setting season for Redmond.

When he was fifteen Redmond suffered a stroke and had to relearn how to walk and talk.

Then in 2013 he had his femoral artery cut in his leg by the skate of a teammate during practice.

Redmond lost half the blood in his body and required 200 stitches. Doctors gave him a 50/50 chance if he would play hockey again.

"It was like should I keep doing this. You kinda have to step back and think what's this all about," he said.

Redmond says his career has had ups and downs adding, "To have those couple setbacks to put things into perspective have probably helped me in the long run."

"It's definitely something I remind myself of everyday or every game even. It's super easy to take anything for granted," smiled Redmond.

As recent first-rounders shine in Buffalo, Alexander Nylander continues slow and steady path to NHL  
*The Athletic*  
By: *Joe Yerdon*

There's a certain pressure that comes with being a first-round pick in the NHL, let alone one selected in the top 10. For Alexander Nylander, the expectations of his draft position and hockey legacy have made the process of becoming an everyday player in the NHL even more challenging.

By now, Nylander's history is known. He was taken eighth by the Sabres at the 2016 NHL Draft in front of a hometown crowd at KeyBank Center. He's the son of longtime NHL star Michael Nylander. In the middle of his third season with the AHL's Rochester Americans, the 20-year-old is the brother of budding Maple Leafs star William Nylander.

After being selected by former GM Tim Murray and now under Jason Botterill's regime, Nylander has been given the slow and steady path to the NHL by going through the AHL. There are some who view the AHL as a professional purgatory, but it's the top professional developmental league in the world. For a player of Nylander's upbringing, playing against career professionals rather than schooling kids his age or younger in junior hockey can pay off.

"I'm a lot more experienced and I know that this league is a tough league. It's hard to play here, which I've learned my first two years," Nylander said. "It was nice coming in this year, I was ready last year but that injury changed a lot of that season. That was my first injury ever in my life so it was weird to come back from that, but I just think of all the things I've learned and I feel a lot better now. I'm way more experienced and I'm still learning things and trying to get better every day."

The injury Nylander referenced was a groin injury he sustained during the first game of the Prospects Challenge last season. That injury caused him to miss two months of action. After getting one season of the AHL under his belt at 18, he had to contend with an injury that hampered his development in his second year.

"It was very difficult and it was a lot harder than I thought coming back," Nylander said. "My season started later than usual and it wasn't as good as I wanted it to be. I felt really ready going into that season and it's a season that just happened. I don't want to have that ever happen again, especially like that with an injury in the beginning of the year. I don't want to go through that again. I'm just trying to stay healthy and trying to get better every day and not thinking too much about getting injured." Nylander said the Sabres went beyond his expectations to help him recover during the summer. They sent the head of rehab and development, Dennis Miller, to Sweden to work with him on getting his groin back to 100 percent for this season.

"It means a lot to me, I was really thankful to them for them to come over and to look at me and take care of me and help me on the ice," Nylander said. "I had to start looking at my groin and rehab it again because I still felt it throughout the season last year and it never really went away and it came back. So at the end of the season I really wanted to take care of it and I told them about it and they came over a month into my rehab and they had me start slow skating and warm up the groin area."

After he put up 55 points (18 goals, 37 assists) in 116 games in his first two AHL seasons, he's got 24 points (nine goals, 15 assists) in 35 games and he realizes that if he continues along the path he's on now, there's a lot more to come.

"I still think I can do even better from what I've done throughout this whole season," Nylander said. "I'm trying to reach a point where I'm playing really well and hopefully get called up with the way I'm playing and I just want to do my best every game."

Maturity has been Nylander's calling card this season. He arrived at Sabres camp this year showing his evolution after being part of an Americans team that returned to the AHL playoffs for the first time since 2013-2014. He was also a guiding hand at development camp in late June for the Sabres' latest class of draft picks as he was also the guy who welcomed Swedish countrymen Lawrence Pilut, Rasmus Asplund and Victor Olofsson to North America.

"He's growing every day and he's acknowledging some things he can be better at. That only makes us help him out even more and help himself out," Americans coach Chris Taylor said. "He's taking care of his game. One-on-one video all the time, he's working hard after practice, he's doing the little things, he's asking the right questions. I think before last year, coming from an injury to a team that was successful, he couldn't find his way a little bit and it was hard. It's tougher to do that, but I thought he did a lot better at the end of the year.

"But this year he's had a full year with the guys, he's maturing. He's 20 years old now. He's almost like a three-year vet, but not a 23-year-old. You understand he's still only 20 years old and he's still maturing. He's becoming a leader. He's playing big minutes for us. He had the shootout goal in Laval (Jan. 4) and I think he's getting confidence off that. He's getting better every day."

Lately, Nylander has played on a line with Kyle Criscuolo and Scott Wilson, who was recently sent down by the Sabres as he works to recover from an ankle injury suffered in training camp.

"We don't want (Nylander) going up (to the NHL) for two or three games and having a spark up there. We want him that once he gets there, he's there and you've got to learn it here," Taylor said. "This is the best league in the world to learn. We've got some guys on our team that have played some big games in the NHL. Scott Wilson, he had a half a year in Wilkes-Barre and all of a sudden won a Stanley Cup that year (with Pittsburgh) and played the next year and won another Stanley Cup. We love having these guys, Scott Wilson-type guys here, so Alex can learn it's not easy."

Nylander's growth as a player this season has been noticeable around the locker room as well.

"He gets here a little bit earlier every day, he's on the ice a little bit earlier, he's working on skills, he's working on things like chipping pucks out so he's done a great job," Americans captain Kevin Porter said. "Right from training camp you could tell he was a different player this year."

Learning how to be an NHL player doesn't always just happen. There are a lot of things both on and off the ice that require attention and doing it out of the spotlight and the expectations and the pressure of the NHL can go a long way to ensure a long NHL career when it comes.

"When you're younger and you're in juniors, you can do it all yourself — you're one of the better players," Porter said. "When you get to this level, you need your teammates so you've got to keep it a little simple. Sometimes you've got to chip pucks in instead of trying to beat guys one-on-one and I think he's learned that."

Although that kind of progress might sound boring, it's the exact sort of thing that will get players like Nylander out of Rochester and onto the big stage in Buffalo for good.

"I think that for me, coaching Alex, I love the growth, I love seeing him grow every day, I love to see him getting his confidence and how good he is and how he responds to a not-so good game and how he does after a really good game," Taylor said. "Does he keep following that up, does he keep getting better, does he relax a little bit? Those are the things we try and help him out with at this stage in his career to get him to the level that he's maintaining and keep getting better every day."

Amerks' Bailey gets change of scenery, traded to Flyers organization  
*Rochester Democratic & Chronicle*  
By: *Leo Roth*

Justin Bailey is getting the change of scenery his career needed.

The Rochester Americans young veteran forward was traded by the parent Buffalo Sabres to the Philadelphia Flyers on Thursday, a player-for-player swap for Lehigh Valley Phantoms forward Taylor Leier.

Bailey, 23, of Williamsville, Erie County, was selected in the second-round of the 2013 NHL Draft. His father is former Buffalo Bills linebacker Carlton Bailey, who played in three of the team's four Super Bowls in the early 1990s.

In his first two seasons in Rochester, Justin Bailey produced 20 and 23 goals and seemed on the cusp of graduating to the NHL full time. He appeared in 32 games for the Sabres in 2016-17, scoring 2-2-4.

After a GM and coaching change in Buffalo, however, Bailey only earned 12 recall games with the Sabres last season (3-1-4) and none this season.

A player with great size (6-4, 214) and speed, he scored 9-11- 20 in 37 games for the Amerks, good for eighth place on the team's scoring chart. His play was inconsistent, however, prompting the Sabres to act. For his Rochester career, Bailey played 196 games, scoring 62 goals and totaling 116 points.

In Leier, 24, the organization added a veteran who was MVP of the 2017 AHL All-Star Classic and who played all of last season in the NHL as a fourth-line, penalty kill specialist with the Flyers. He scored 1-4-5 in 39 games.

He was 10-9-19 in 34 games for the AHL's Phantoms this season.

Leier, a native of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, was a fourth-round pick in 2012. He has scored 56 goals and totaled 136 points in 226 AHL games overall.

Amerks edged by Lehigh Valley in shootout  
*C&C Worldwide*  
By: *Staff Report*

Despite tying the game with just over six minutes left in regulation and registering a season-high 51 shots on goal, the Rochester Americans (24-13-2-1) could not take the lead as they fell 3-2 in a shootout to the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (22-15-2-2) to close out their three-game road swing Saturday night at the PPL Center.

Despite the shootout loss in Allentown, however, the Amerks were able to earn a valuable point to reclaim sole possession of the top spot in the AHL's North Division standings. Rochester has also now picked up 13 points in seven of its last 10 games, including three out of a possible four this weekend.

Amerks forwards Kevin Porter (1+1) and Wayne Simpson (0+2) each turned in a multi-point effort while Matt Tennyson tallied his second goal of the campaign. Goaltender Adam Wilcox stopped 22 of 24 shots he faced but was handed the loss. The game also featured the Amerks debut of forward Taylor Leier, who was acquired via trade just two days ago from the Philadelphia Flyers in exchange for Justin Bailey. Leier recorded one shot in the loss against his former team.

Connor Bunnaman and Greg Carey each found the back of the net for Lehigh Valley, which shows a 3-6-1-0 record in its last 10 games, while netminder Alex Lyon made a career-high 49 shots to improve to 10-9-1 on the season.

At the conclusion of the overtime period, the Amerks, who held a 51-24 shot advantage, and the Phantoms needed the shootout to determine a winner as the game was tied at 2-2.

Lehigh Valley elected to shoot first in the skills competition and Mike Huntebrinker converted in the opening round to put the pressure on Rochester's C.J. Smith, Victor Olofsson and Simpson. Lyon, however, stood tall like he did for most of regulation, securing the Phantoms the extra point.

The game was scoreless for the first 25:39 until Bunnaman gave Lehigh Valley its first lead of the night as he beat Wilcox on a breakaway opportunity. The Amerks, however, quickly responded less than two minutes later and tied the game at 1-1.

The Phantoms tried to carry the puck out of their own zone but Smith, who entered the contest riding a season-long five-game point streak, forced a turnover just outside the blueline. Gathering the puck in transition, Simpson sprinted into the offensive zone on a 2-on-1 rush with Porter. Simpson fired a shot off the right pad of Lyon but Porter buried the rebound for his seventh goal of the year.

With his secondary assist, Smith pushed his point streak to a career-best six games and has posted 16 points (9+7) over his last 11 games dating back to Dec. 14, including a four-point effort last Saturday in Toronto.

It appeared the contest was heading into the second intermission tied at 1-1, but prior to the buzzer, Carey reclaimed Lehigh Valley's one-goal lead as he scored his team-leading 19th goal of the season off a one-time feed from Mike Vecchione. Facing a one-goal deficit midway through the final 20 minutes of regulation, Tennyson forced the contest to go beyond regulation as the blueliner knotted the score at 2-2 at the 13:49 mark of the period.

Moments after failing to score on their seventh power-play of the night, Simpson weaved his way into the offensive zone and handed a pass to Porter at the left half-wall. As the Amerks team captain shifted in-between the face-off dots, he connected a pass to Tennyson, who wired a shot over the shoulder of the opposition's goaltender.

The extra session saw the Amerks double the Phantoms in shots yet again, but the hosts prevailed in the shootout on Huntebrinker's eventual game-winner in the first round.

The Amerks return to action for their final three games before the All-Star break beginning on Wednesday, Jan. 23 when they host the intrastate rival Binghamton Devils at the Blue Cross Arena at 7:05 pm. The contest will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

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Redmond ties Amerks franchise record in 5-4 win over Penguins

*Pickin' Splinters*

By: *Staff Report*

Zach Redmond scored twice to tie the single-season franchise record for goals by a defenseman (18) and added two assists for a career-high four-point night to lead the Rochester Americans (24-13-2-0) to a 5-4 win over the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (19-17-4-1) Friday at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza.

Redmond scored his 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> goals of the season to tie the mark originally set by Amerks Hall of Famer Rick Pagnutti during the 1972-73 campaign. The veteran blueliner will have his first chance to break the record Saturday as Rochester concludes its weekend trek through Pennsylvania with a matchup against the Lehigh Valley Phantoms in Allentown.

With tonight's victory over Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, the Amerks have won five of the last seven get-togethers with the Penguins and six of their last nine games overall to stay tied for first-place in the AHL's North Division standings with 50 points on the season.

Redmond, who was named to the North Division All-Star roster earlier this month, collected his second straight multi-point effort (2+2) while Victor Olofsson (2+0) and Danny O'Regan (1+1) rounded out the scoring. Goaltender Scott Wedgewood, who has gotten the nod in 10 of the last 13 games for the Amerks, upped his record to 15-7-1 as he made 19 saves. The Etobicoke, Ontario, native is one win shy from tying a career-best from the 2013-14 season while his 15 wins rank fourth in the AHL.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, which entered tonight's contest winners in four of its last six games, were led by forwards Anthony Angello (2+0), Jimmy Hayes (1+0) and Adam Johnson (1+0), while netminder Tristian Jarry stopped 33 of 38 shots he faced.

After falling behind 2-1 midway through the opening stanza, the Amerks responded during the final two periods with a pair of goals to complete the season-series sweep against the Penguins.

Nearly eight minutes into the second period, O'Regan found himself and Rasmus Asplund on a 2-on-0 breakaway thanks to a long stretch pass from Redmond as the Penguins were caught in the middle of a line change. Moments after looking off Asplund, O'Regan quickly fired a shot and beat Jarry under the glove hand with 12:12 to play in the stanza.

Less than five minutes after setting up O'Regan for the game-tying goal, Redmond notched his second goal of the contest from the same spot as his first of the night, at the right face-off dot. The power-play goal from C.J. Smith and Wayne Simpson extends Rochester's stretch of road games with a tally on the man-advantage to eight.

The Amerks have gone 13-for-34 while on the man-advantage over their last eight games outside the Flower City and carry the league's top-ranked road power-play percentage with a 31.1 success rate.

Rochester did not carry the 3-2 lead for long, however, as Johnson evened the game before the end of the period, setting up a 3-3 tie after 40 minutes of play.

The Amerks did not flinch as Olofsson came out in the final 20 minutes of regulation and tallied a pair of markers to make it a 5-3 game at the 14:31 mark. O'Regan was awarded the helper on the Swede's first goal of the period while Redmond and Alexander Nylander picked up the assists on his second.

Over his last eight games, Olofsson has tallied nine points (3+6), which includes three multi-point outings, while Redmond has totaled 11 points (4+7) dating back Dec. 28, being held scoreless just once during that span.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton made things interesting yet again, making it a one-goal game with just 62 seconds remaining as Angello tallied his second of the night, but Wedgewood held off the final attack to earn the 5-4 victory.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton opened the scoring as Ethan Prow, who will represent the Penguins at the 2019 AHL All-Star Classic later this month, centered the puck in the offensive zone. The blueliner's shot towards Wedgewood was intercepted by Angello. After quickly turning from his backhand to his forehand, Angello flipped the puck into the net just 3:29 into the stanza.

Rochester, however, responded on the ensuing shift as former Penguin Scott Wilson forced a turnover below the goal line and dished a perfect cross-ice feed to Redmond atop the right faceoff dot. Wasting no time, Redmond sniped a shot inside the right post to knot the score.

The Penguins reclaimed their one-goal cushion midway through the stanza as Joseph Caramossa and Hayes skated into the Amerks zone on a 2-on-1 rush. Caramossa carried the puck down the left wing before hitting Hayes, who tucked a shot just inside the near post to give Wilkes-Barre/Scranton a 2-1 lead entering the intermission break.

Despite trailing 2-1 after the opening period, the Amerks countered with a pair of goals during each of the final two stanzas to record their North Division-leading 24<sup>th</sup> win of the campaign.

The Amerks wrap up their three-game road swing as they travel to Allentown for a 7:05 p.m. clash with the Lehigh Valley Phantoms on Saturday, Jan. 19 at PPL Center. The contest will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Amerks hold off Wilkes-Barre/Scranton  
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Wilkes-Barre/Scranton opened the scoring as Ethan Prow, who will represent the Penguins at the 2019 AHL All-Star Classic later this month, centered the puck in the offensive zone. The blueliner's shot towards Wedgewood was intercepted by Angello. After quickly turning from his backhand to his forehand, Angello flipped the puck into the net just 3:29 into the stanza.

Rochester, however, responded on the ensuing shift as former Penguin Scott Wilson forced a turnover below the goal line and dished a perfect cross-ice feed to Redmond atop the right faceoff dot. Wasting no time, Redmond sniped a shot inside the right post to knot the score.

The Penguins reclaimed their one-goal cushion midway through the stanza as Joseph Caramossa and Hayes skated into the Amerks zone on a 2-on-1 rush. Caramossa carried the puck down the left wing before hitting Hayes, who tucked a shot just inside the near post to give Wilkes-Barre/Scranton a 2-1 lead entering the intermission break.

Despite trailing 2-1 after the opening period, the Amerks countered with a pair of goals during each of the final two stanzas to record their North Division-leading 24<sup>th</sup> win of the campaign.

The Amerks wrap up their three-game road swing as they travel to Allentown for a 7:05 p.m. clash with the Lehigh Valley Phantoms on Saturday, Jan. 19 at PPL Center. The contest will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Flyers trade Taylor Leier to Sabres for Justin Bailey  
*The Intelligencer*  
By: *Wayne Fish*

In the past couple years, it looked like forward Taylor Leier might figure into the Flyers' future plans.

That speculation ended late Thursday when the Flyers traded him to Buffalo in exchange for forward Justin Bailey.

Bailey, 23, has appeared in 37 games this season for Buffalo's American Hockey League affiliate, the Rochester Americans. He has nine goals and 11 assists for 20 points.

A 6-foot-4, 214-pound native of Buffalo, Bailey has split time between Rochester and Buffalo in each of the last three seasons. He played in 12 games for the Sabres last year, recording three goals and an assist for four points. In 52 career NHL games, all with Buffalo, Bailey has five goals and three assists for eight points.

Bailey was a 20-goal scorer in each of his first two AHL seasons, posting 20 goals and 25 assists for 45 points in 75 games in 2015-16 and then picking up 23 goals and 13 assists for 46 points in 53 games a year later. He turned pro after playing three years in the Ontario Hockey League with Kitchener and Sault Ste. Marie, where he totaled 75 goals and 73 assists for 148 points in 168 career games. He was selected by the Sabres in the second round (52nd overall) of the 2013 NHL Entry Draft.

Leier, 24, never really caught on with the Flyers.

He had 10 goals and nine assists for 19 points in 34 games for the Lehigh Valley Phantoms this season. He made the Flyers out of training camp last year and appeared in 39 games, picking up a goal and four assists while averaging 10:29 of ice time.

In all, he appeared in 55 games for the Flyers over three seasons, scoring two goals and adding five assists for seven points.

Leier was selected by the Flyers in the fourth round (117th overall) of the 2012 NHL Entry Draft.

Alex Lyon has career-night as Phantoms edge Rochester in shootout  
*The Morning Call*  
By: Staff Report

Alex Lyon stopped a regular-season career-high 49 shots on Saturday, lifting the Phantoms to a thrilling 3-2 shootout victory over the Rochester Americans at PPL Center.

Lyon made at least 15 saves in every period, including 17 in the first and third, plus two more game-saving saves in overtime. Mike Huntebrinker scored the shootout winner to give the Phantoms two points.

Connor Bunnaman opened the scoring for the home team 5:39 into the first period when he got behind the defense and snapped a wrist shot past Rochester goalkeeper Adam Wilcox for his 12th goal of the season.

Bunnaman now has scored in a career-high four straight games and also extended his point streak to a career-best six games.

Rochester was finally able to get one by Lyon on their 28th shot of the night as Kevin Porter beat Lyon on the rebound following a shot from Wayne Simpson.

The Phantoms retook the lead six and a half minutes later when Greg Carey blasted a one-timer that hit nothing but the back of the net off a perfect pass from Mike Vecchione.

Rochester was able to once again tie the game with 6:09 remaining in the third period as Matt Tennyson snapped a shot through traffic and past a screened Lyon to make it a 2-2 game.

With nothing doing in overtime, Huntebrinker went first in the shootout for the Phantoms and tucked it just inside the far post with a quick forehand-backhand deke that beat Wilcox.

Lyon shut down the three Rochester shooters and the Phantoms secured the second point.

Phantoms win in shootout, 3-2

*WFMZ-TV*

By: *Tyler Trumbauer*

The Lehigh Valley Phantoms defeated the Rochester Americans 3-2 in a shootout on Saturday night at the PPL Center. The Phantoms pulled off the win despite being outshot 51-25 by Rochester.

Connor Bunnaman and Greg Carey scored the two goals for LV in regulation. Michael Huntebrinker netted the lone goal in the shootout to earn the victory for the Phantoms.

The teams were a combined 0-9 on power plays in the game. Alex Lyon recorded 49 saves to earn the win in goal for the Phantoms.

The Phantoms visit the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins on Monday at 1:05 p.m.

Americans hold off Penguins  
*The Citizens' Voice*  
By: *Wayne Fish*

The opening five minutes made it evident this wouldn't be the same kind of goaltending duel the two teams waged in November.

And once the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins fell behind two defensemen on Friday night, the Rochester Americans made sure they took advantage.

Victor Olofsson scored twice in the third period, and the Amerks held on for a 5-4 win at Mohegan Sun Arena despite Anthony Angello's late tally with the Penguins net empty. The loss dropped Wilkes-Barre/Scranton to 19-17-4-1.

Rochester is a deep offensive team with six players having scored 10 or more goals, so the Penguins were shorthanded in the third period after blueliners Jeff Taylor and Matt Abt left with injuries. Forward Jarrett Burton was tasked with taking a few shifts as a defenseman.

Ultimately, though, the loss boiled down to other factors.

"I didn't think we had a good game overall," Penguins head coach Clark Donatelli said. "For whatever reason, we didn't have the energy. We weren't managing pucks. Our execution wasn't sharp. There was just too many turnovers."

Rochester goaltender Scott Wedgewood had a 35-save shutout against the Penguins in the aforementioned meeting at Blue Cross Arena, but a repeat of that was immediately taken off the table when Angello corralled a puck from Ethan Prow and shoveled it into the cage at 3:29.

After Zach Redmond answered for the Amerks, Jimmy Hayes finished off a pretty 2-on-1 with Joseph Cramarossa to put the Penguins back ahead.

It started to unravel for the Penguins in the second frame, though, when they failed to get a puck deep and still made a full line change. With no one on the ice to defend him, Danny O'Regan beat Tristan Jarry to tie the game.

"You just can't do that," Donatelli said. "You can't change like that, give them a 2-on-0. We've talked about it and talked about it and talked about it. Some guys just aren't getting it."

Redmond and Adam Johnson traded goals later in the period to make the score 3-3 at the second intermission, but Rochester had found another gear and was outshooting the Penguins 24-17 at that point.

The Amerks kept up that pace with Abt and Taylor absent, as Olofsson settled a bouncing puck behind Ethan Prow and beat Jarry with the Penguins playing only one defenseman. Olofsson later fired a one-timer at 14:31 for the needed insurance.

Burton said he has played on defense in emergency situations during his career, but it's definitely something he's not used to.

"Obviously, there's some of the same responsibilities as a centerman in the D zone," Burton said. "But, a little different when you're seeing the play in front of you the whole time."

"It's obviously not easy when you start losing guys like that and shorten the bench, but I thought the guys that were going were still working hard. Just one of those nights."

Rochester outshot the Penguins, 36-23, and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton fell into a virtual tie for sixth place in the Atlantic Division with Hartford.

With today's game moved up to 3:05 p.m. because of the approaching winter storm, Burton said the quick turnaround can actually be a good thing.

"Any time you have a disappointing game like that, it's always good to get back out there," Burton said. "We got a good team in Hershey coming in, rivalry game, so it'll be good to get the juices flowing early (today)."

WBS Penguins lose defensemen, and game, to Rochester  
*Times Leader*  
By: *Tom Venesky*

When the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins lost two defensemen for the entire third period on Friday, that would seem to be a major factor behind the 5-4 loss to the Rochester Americans.

But Head Coach Clark Donatelli said his team's problems were apparent long before the attrition on defense occurred.

"It put some stress on the other four D. But when we had all six D, for whatever reason, we didn't have that jump," Donatelli said. "I didn't think we had a good game overall."

Anthony Angello scored twice for the Penguins, who lost defensemen Jeff Taylor and Matt Abt in the second half of the game and used center Jarrett Burton as a fill-in on the blueline.

Burton said he's been in a similar situation a handful of times in his career so it's not entirely new.

But it wasn't ideal, either.

Burton was playing defense with Ethan Prow in the third period when Rochester scored its fourth goal of the night.

"A little different when you're seeing all the play in front of you the whole time. It was fun but, yeah, I don't know how often I'll be doing that," Burton said.

Both teams established the offenses early, as Angello struck first for the Penguins less than four minutes into the opening period. After the Americans answered a minute later, Jimmy Hayes converted a nice pass from Joseph Cramarossa to finish a two-on-one rush and give the Penguins a 2-1 lead to close out the period.

Rochester struck twice in the second to gain a 3-2 advantage, but Adam Johnson's breakaway — which resulted after he stole the puck in the defensive end and pulled away from several Rochester players and put a shot under the crossbar — tied things up at 3-3.

Rochester's tallies in the period — one on the power play and the other after the Penguins botched a line change — didn't sit well with Donatelli.

"We didn't get the puck in deep and they all changed. You can't do that. You have to stick to it. You can't change like that and give them a two-on-zero," Donatelli said. "We talked about it and talked about it, but some guys just aren't getting it."

The third period didn't put Donatelli in a better mood, either.

With Burton filling in on defense while Taylor — who was shaken up on a hit in the first period — and Abt were out, the Americans capitalized with a pair of goals from Victor Olofsson.

Olofsson snuck into the zone after the puck hopped over Prow's stick, and beat Jarry to make it 4-3.

With a few minutes left to play, Olofsson struck again when he blasted a one-timer into the net for a 5-3 advantage.

After Jarry was pulled for the extra attacker, Angello made it interesting when he scored his second of the game with one minute remaining, but the Penguins couldn't connect again to force overtime.

#### NOTES

— Due to a winter storm forecast for Saturday, the Penguins game against Hershey has been changed from 7 p.m. to 3 p.m.