



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

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TONIGHT'S GAME: Utica @ Rochester

Amerks' Redmond 'week to week' with injury
Pickin' Splinters
By: Kevin Oklobzija

Zach Redmond's unspecified lower body injury will keep him off the ice for at least the short-term, with coach Chris Taylor terming his playing status as "week to week."

Redmond will not play in this weekend's two games (home against Utica on Friday, at Syracuse on Saturday), will miss the AHL All-Star Classic in Springfield on Sunday and Monday, and it would seem he is doubtful to play following the break at Binghamton on Feb. 1 and Hartford on Feb. 2.

The veteran defenseman was injured in the final minute of Wednesday's 7-5 victory over Binghamton. He played the puck behind the net, then tumbled into the end boards after his skate appeared to get stuck in the ice. He was not hit by a Binghamton player until he had already crashed into the boards.

Taylor said there was no broken bone. Based on the way he fell, and the difficulty he had leaving the ice, a high ankle sprain would seemingly be one of the possible injuries.

"Honestly, I don't think it's major," Taylor said.

Redmond established an Amerks franchise single-season record for goals by a defenseman when he scored his 19th (in 41 games) in the second period on Wednesday.

"We have depth here and it creates opportunity for someone else," Taylor said. "These are the times we found out about our depth."

Goalie Scott Wedgewood also won't play this weekend and he, too, is listed as "week to week." He allowed five goals on 30 shots on Wednesday.

Taylor said the team's No. 1 goalie had been bothered by an undisclosed ailment before the game but thought he would be able to play with it.

He said with the All-Star break coming, this was a good time to give him time off. Jonas Johansson was recalled from ECHL Cincinnati on Thursday morning.

With Redmond on the injured list, the Amerks won't have a representative at the All-Star event. Lawrence Pilut was the other Amerks selection but he remains on recall to the Buffalo Sabres.

Rick Pagnutti enjoyed 46 years as Amerks' record holder
Buffalo News
By: *Bill Hoppe*

Rick Pagnutti enjoyed his long run in the Rochester Americans' record book. Forty-six years, however, was enough for the retired American Hockey League star.

On Wednesday, veteran Zach Redmond scored his 19th goal in the Amerks' exciting 7-5 home win over the Binghamton Devils, breaking Pagnutti's single-season record for most goals by a defenseman.

Redmond, an AHL MVP candidate, surpassed the mark in just 41 games, 31 fewer appearances than Pagnutti had in the 1972-73 season.

While Pagnutti said he "cherished" the record, he's happy Redmond owns it.

"I can always tell my children ... my family that, 'Hey, I had a record for 46 years with the Rochester Americans that just got broken,'" Pagnutti said Tuesday from his home in Sudbury, Ontario. "You kind of expect it sooner or later. I was quite proud of it, but it's time to go, you know?"

Pagnutti, 72, is surprised the record lasted so long. Some players approached it over the years. Most recently, T.J. Brennan scored 14 goals in 36 games before the Sabres recalled him when the NHL lockout ended in 2012-13.

But the modern game is more defensive and structured than in the 1970s. Under coach Don Cherry with the Amerks, Pagnutti could basically do whatever he wanted.

"Do what you can, just put the puck in the net," he said of Cherry's philosophy.

Pagnutti, who was inducted into the Amerks' Hall of Fame in 2012, created plenty of offense over his four seasons in Rochester, scoring 45 goals and 194 points.

Still, when Pagnutti compiled 18 goals in his first season with the Amerks, no one really knew he had made history.

"It took them a while to figure out that I had set a record," said Pagnutti, who possessed a terrific shot. "No one came to me after I scored 18 goals and said, 'You know what? You've set a record tonight.' ..."

"It came up much later. Someone looked into it, I guess. ... It really wasn't a big deal. But obviously it is now."

Pagnutti said the Amerks invited him to Rochester to present Redmond a plaque. Although Pagnutti can't attend, he plans to make a trip to Blue Cross Arena soon.

"I am definitely going down at the end of the year," he said. "If they make a little run in the playoffs, I'll go down and catch a couple of games."

The Amerks are still close to Pagnutti's heart. Despite being selected first overall by the Los Angeles Kings in 1967 — the draft was in its infancy as NHL teams phased out their sponsorship of junior clubs — he never cracked the big leagues.

After being named the International Hockey League's top defenseman with the Fort Wayne Comets in 1971-72, Pagnutti said he heard the Amerks needed players and called Cherry.

If the Amerks had been affiliated with an NHL team early in Pagnutti's tenure, he might've received a call.

But Pagnutti, a retired firefighter, refuses to dwell on that.

"Life has been good, you know what I mean?" he said. "Everything turns out."

He added: "I had a lot of fun and I met a lot of nice people. That's the way I describe hockey."

Watching the Amerks' revival — right now, they are first in the North Division — has been special for Pagnutti.

"(I) had four wonderful years there," he said. "My daughter was born in Rochester. I've followed them from the day I left."

When Pagnutti returned to Rochester for his induction into the hall of fame, the reception he received floored him.

"The people that came up to me and remembered me was really, I'll tell you, something else," he said. "I walked in the front door and two of the ushers come running up and (said), 'Hey, Rick, how you doing?' Older fellas my age, (they said), 'Nice to see ya.'

"I said, 'Holy jeez, I didn't think anybody would remember me after 40-some years.'"

Redmond, 30, broke the record 16:21 into second period, converting Kevin Porter's pass on a two-on-zero break.

The slick goal, part of a three-point night, was Redmond's league-high eighth game-winning score this season.

"He's a humble guy," Amerks coach Chris Taylor said of Redmond. "He probably doesn't like talking about this at all. That's what makes him special, that's what we love about him. Guys are more happy about him than he was. That just tells me a lot about him."

Redmond hobbled off the ice in the waning seconds Wednesday and wasn't available for comment following the game. Taylor said Redmond has a lower-body injury and is week to week.

Redmond is 11 goals shy of the AHL single-season record for goals by a defenseman that John Slaney set with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins in 1999-00.

Redmond's injury puts damper on record-breaking goal

Pickin' Splinters

By: *Kevin Oklobzija*

On a night when Zach Redmond entered the Rochester Americans record book with his 19th goal, he didn't take his first-star, post-game curtain call at center ice or even celebrate with his teammates after a 7-5 victory.

He couldn't.

As Wayne Simpson was speeding down the ice to score the clinching empty net goal with 28.5 seconds to play on Wednesday night, Redmond was limping to the Amerks bench and then getting helped to the dressing room.

The veteran defenseman appeared to hurt his right ankle, although there was no report on the precise ailment, or the severity of the injury, when coach Chris Taylor spoke to the media following the victory over the visiting Binghamton Devils.

"He'll be fine," Taylor said.

He didn't look fine leaving the ice, however, and his injury prevented him from addressing the media. He was in the basement medical area for X-rays, hardly the place to celebrate his record-breaking goal.

The 46-year-old single-season franchise mark for goals by a defenseman finally fell at 16:21 of the second period, when Redmond steered home a pass from Kevin Porter on a two-on-zero fastbreak. It also was the winning goal, Redmond's eighth game-winner of the season.

"I actually didn't know it was him but I figured you have to pass it on a two-on-oh," Porter said.

Having tied Rick Pagnutti's mark on Friday night by scoring his 17th and 18th goals at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Redmond needed only two games to break it.

"It's so cool," said right winger Danny O'Regan, who scored the Amerks' second and fifth goals against Cory Schneider. "No one deserves it more."

Taylor felt the same way.

"First and foremost, he's a great person for our dressing room and you can't say enough about what he does for our team, our organization and this community. The guys were more happy than he was and that just says what kind of person he is."

That Redmond has piled up 19 goals in only 41 games tells you he has great offensive instincts along with an exceptional talent. "He's got a really good shot, a really good release," O'Regan said. "I think he's just one step ahead of everyone. Some of the shots he's able to take and some of the pucks he's able to get through, it's special."

What should have been a special night, however, was tarnished as Redmond was hurt behind the Amerks net in the final minute. He reached a loose puck first and, just as he fired it around the boards, he appeared to catch his skate in the ice, causing him to tumble awkwardly into the end boards.

He struggled to get to his feet and, while he did manage to maneuver to the front of the net to help the Amerks protect a 6-5 lead, he could put little weight on his right leg. When the puck exited the zone, he finally headed to the bench.

Victor Olofsson also displayed his special shooting talent on Wednesday. His goal at 8:53 of the second period was a rocket wrister, placed just below the cross bar and past the glove and left arm of Schneider before the former NHL mainstay could even react.

"I was on the bench for that one," O'Regan said, "and I already had my hands in the air before he shot."

Pilut staying with Sabres, will miss AHL All-Star Classic
Pickin' Splinters
By: *Kevin Oklobzija*

The Buffalo Sabres have let Lawrence Pilut know he's an NHL defenseman.

Even though the team has been on its CBA-mandated seven-day break and now starts the All-Star break, the Sabres did not return Pilut to the Rochester Americans.

That means Pilut will not participate in the AHL All-Star Classic Sunday and Monday in Springfield. Zach Redmond will be the Amerks lone representative in Sunday's skills competition and Monday's All-Star Challenge.

The first-year defenseman has been on recall since Nov. 27 and has played in 16 games, producing one goal and four assists. The AHL announced replacements for players on recall or injured today but opted not to add another Amerk.

The Sabres don't play again until Tuesday at Columbus.

Amerks' Redmond sets single-season franchise record for goals by a defenseman *WHEC*

By: *Lance Lysowski*

Rochester Americans defenseman Zach Redmond set a new single-season franchise record tonight, scoring his team-leading 19th goal of the season against the Binghamton Devils at The Blue Cross Arena.

Redmond, who will represent the Amerks at the upcoming 2019 AHL All-Star Classic, scored at 16:21 of the second period on an assist from Kevin Porter, establishing a new franchise record for goals by a defenseman in a season. He surpasses Amerks Hall of Famer Rick Pagnutti, who set the mark with 18 goals during the 1972-73 campaign.

"Congratulations on this milestone, Zach. Treasure this as your career unfolds," said Pagnutti. "The record I have held for 46 years will always be a highlight of my career. The best of luck to you and your teammates in your quest for the Calder Cup, and to the great Rochester fans."

Earlier this season, Redmond became the fastest Amerks defenseman to score 10 goals in the fewest amount of games to begin the season, reaching the mark in just 14 games. He's currently tied for seventh in the league in goals (19) and leads all active AHL defensemen with 39 points, while his seven game-winning goals are tops in the AHL. His 19 goals are also the most by an AHL blueliner.

Former Sabres top pick Nylander encouraged by progress with Amerks
Buffalo News
By: Lance Lysowski

Alexander Nylander chuckled, leaned against the wall outside the Rochester Americans' locker room at Blue Cross Arena and revealed how he often has to remind himself that he is 20 years old.

"I feel like I'm way older," Nylander told The Buffalo News following the Amerks' morning skate Wednesday. "It's not a bad thing."

Nylander, the Buffalo Sabres' eighth overall draft pick in 2016, is 38 games into his third season with the Amerks and has appeared in 154 AHL games since beginning his professional career.

He does not feel old physically. The winger is bigger and stronger after the most important summer of his career, a fact illustrated by the Sabres' decision to send rehab and development coach Dennis Miller to work with Nylander in Sweden.

But that many minor-league games can be mentally trying for a player of Nylander's pedigree. While others his age or younger are thriving in the NHL, Nylander is still fine-tuning his game in the minors. That has created both internal and external angst at times.

"I've talked to him many times about patience," Amerks coach Chris Taylor said. "He can't compare himself to his brother or anyone else in the NHL. We just have to keep working on what he needs to do to achieve what he wants to achieve. He needs to worry about Alex and nobody else."

Entering Wednesday's game against Binghamton, Nylander had nine goals among 25 points with a plus-8 rating. He is on pace to set AHL career highs in goals, assists and points after playing only 51 games last season because of a severe groin strain. His career totals in Rochester are 27 goals, 53 assists and a minus-13 rating.

Those numbers pale in comparison to his contemporaries. Eight of the top 10 draft picks in 2016 have played at least 114 NHL games. Nylander has one goal and one assist in seven games with the Sabres. Meanwhile, Winnipeg's Patrik Laine, who was drafted second overall and is also 20 years old, has 105 goals in 203 career regular-season NHL games.

Nylander is also compared to his brother, William, a 22-year-old winger who signed a six-year contract extension with Toronto in December after recording back-to-back 20-goal seasons. And there is Nylander's father, Michael, who recorded 679 points over 15 NHL seasons.

Alexander Nylander is used to the expectations attached to his last name and being a high draft choice. He insists neither crosses his mind. He relies on William and Michael as resources during difficult times, particularly last season. That is when Alexander discovered what he believes is the key to helping him stick in the NHL.

"I know the training I've been doing is working," said Nylander, who turns 21 in March. "It's finally coming into my game. It feels good to be healthy this year. I was really unlucky the way I got injured last year. I'm just happy I'm 100 percent. My body feels really good. I just need to keep doing that so I can be my best on the ice."

Nylander was bothered by the groin injury all last season, and the timing could not have been worse. The Sabres were in need of scoring help and finished last in the NHL with 25 wins.

Though Nylander was drafted by the previous regime, he remains important to the Sabres. It is rare when he is not the most talented player in an AHL game. His skating and on-ice vision tantalize, and his shot shows it was no fluke that he scored 28 goals during his lone season with Mississauga of the Ontario Hockey League.

"Very skilled player with elite offensive instincts and vision," one veteran pro scout said. "He can make the play with the puck that a lot of players can't or just don't see. ... He seems to get frustrated easily but this could be due to young age and maturity. Projects as a top-six forward in the NHL if he rounds out his game."

Entering Wednesday, Nylander was a combined minus-3 over his previous three games. Offensively, there are times he can appear invisible on the ice. He has only three goals and five assists in his last 18 games.

That does not include his shootout winner against Laval on Jan. 4, when Nylander fooled goalie Michael McNiven with a backhanded shot. Taylor is quick to point out Nylander's age and is encouraged by the progress he has seen on and off the ice.

"He's getting on pucks because he's a big guy and he's smart," Taylor said. "I think he's doing a really good job, and I think he's starting to shoot the puck more, too. Overall, he keeps getting better. He's focusing on his needs and what he needs to do."

Nylander had an impressive training camp with the Sabres, only to not make the opening roster. He wasn't the first forward called up, either. While Casey Mittelstadt and Tage Thompson are learning in the NHL, General Manager Jason Botterill chose a different approach with Nylander.

The Sabres, four points out of the second wild-card playoff spot entering Wednesday's games, could use some help offensively. They are tied for 22nd in the NHL with 137 goals in 48 games and are tied for 27th since their 10-game winning streak ended Nov. 29.

Though the production has been sporadic, Nylander has posted a career-high shooting percentage (15.5), which could yield results with more shots on goal — he was averaging 1.6 shots per game entering play Wednesday. Though he wants to shoot more and do a better job of creating space in the offensive zone, Nylander is encouraged by his own progress and believes he is on the verge of accomplishing his goal.

"You want to be one of the first guys to be called up," Nylander said. "If I get called up I obviously want to be there to stay. I want to be ready when it happens."

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Sabres defenseman Lawrence Pilut will not participate in the AHL All-Star Classic on Monday in Springfield, Mass. The 23-year-old was selected to play despite appearing in only 16 games for the Rochester Americans.

The AHL announced replacements for Pilut and three others Wednesday afternoon. That will allow Pilut to practice with the Sabres following the NHL All-Star break Sunday and Monday in preparation for a Tuesday night game in Columbus.

Pilot, who signed an entry-level contract with the Sabres in May, was selected an All-Star after having a league-high 22 points with a plus-19 rating for the Amerks. He has one goal among five points since joining the Sabres.

Redmond's record goal is winner for Amerks
Buffalo News
By: *Staff News*

Danny O'Regan scored twice and defenseman Zach Redmond's record 19th goal of the season turned out to be the winner for the Rochester Americans in their 7-5 American Hockey League victory over the Binghamton Devils Wednesday night at Blue Cross Arena.

The Amerks built a 3-0 first period lead on goals by Scott Wilson, O'Regan and Taylor Leier. The Devils got one back before the first period was over when Nathan Bastian scored with 45 seconds left.

Victor Olofsson's 14th of the season made it 4-1 in the second but Binghamton scored three in a row by Eric Tangradi, Brandon Gignac and Bastian to tie it with 15:27 left in the second period.

O'Regan scored his 15th of the season less than three minutes later to restore the Amerks' lead and Redmond scored at 16:21 with Kevin Porter assisting.

Redmond's goal broke a record for goals by a Rochester defenseman that had stood for 46 years.

Nick Saracino of the Devils and Wayne Simpson traded goals in the third period.

Scott Wedgewood had 25 saves for Rochester. Cory Schneider stopped 23 in goal for the Devils.

First place Rochester (25-13-2-1) had 53 points and a three-point lead over the Utica Comets (23-18-3-1) in the North Division of the AHL. Utica will visit Rochester on Friday night. The Amerks will face the Crunch in Syracuse on Saturday night.

Sabres defenseman Lawrence Pilut won't play in AHL All-Star Classic

Buffalo News

By: *Lance Lysowski*

Buffalo Sabres defenseman Lawrence Pilut is not returning to the minors after all.

Pilut, who has played 16 games with the Sabres since being recalled Nov. 27, will not participate in the AHL All-Star Classic next Monday in Springfield, Mass. The 23-year-old was selected to play despite appearing in only 16 games for the Rochester Americans.

The AHL announced replacements for Pilut and three others Wednesday afternoon. That will allow Pilut to practice with the Sabres following the NHL All-Star break Sunday and Monday in preparation for a Tuesday night game in Columbus.

Pilut, who signed an entry-level contract with the Sabres in May, was selected an All-Star after having a league-high 22 points with a plus-19 rating for the Amerks. He has one goal among five points since joining the Sabres.

That leaves defenseman Zach Redmond as the Amerks' only player heading to the All-Star Classic, which begins at 7 p.m. Sunday, with a skills challenge. The All-Star Challenge is at 7 p.m. Monday, featuring a round-robin, 3-on-3 tournament with one team for each division.

Cleveland forward Nathan Gerbe, who played four seasons with the Sabres organization, was among the four players added to the event Wednesday.

Redmond sets record in the Amerks victory
C&C Worldwide
By: *Staff Report*

At 16:21 into the second period, Zach Redmond made franchise history for the Rochester Americans as his 19th goal of the season, which is the most-ever scored by an Amerks blueliner.

Team captain Kevin Porter was breaking down ice in Binghamton Devils goalie Cory Schneider on a 3-on-0. Redmond was on his right wing as he drew Schneider towards himself, then passed the puck to Redmond, who fired it into the empty right side of the net.

"I actually didn't know it was him but I figured you have to pass it on a two-on-oh," said Porter.

Redmond surpassed Amerks Hall of Famer Rick Pagnutti of 18, set in the 1972-73 season.

"Zach is a great person for our dressing room," said Amerks head coach Chris Taylor. "The way he helps our team and the organization is unbelievable. What he is doing on the ice is even more incredible. Overall, I am very happy for him to get the record.

"First and foremost, he's a great person for our dressing room and you can't say enough about what he does for our team, our organization and this community. The guys were more happy than he was and that just says what kind of person he is."

"He has a pretty great shot," added Danny O'Regan. "I was still on the bench when the puck got to his stick but, I was already raising my arms before he even shot it.

"It's so cool. No one deserves it more."

Earlier this season Redmond became the fastest Amerks defenseman to score 10 goals in the fewest amount of games to begin the season. That mark was held by Amerks Hall of Famer Don McSween in his first 21 games during the 1989-90 campaign. Redmond tallied his 10th goal in the 14th game this season.

The AHL record is 30 goals by a defenseman, which is held by John Slaney, set in 1999-00.

Unfortunately, Redmond sustain an injury on the final shift of the game and was unavailable for comment afterwards. "He'll be fine," Taylor said.

However, Redmond didn't look fine leaving the ice. He was in the basement medical area for X-rays.

The Amerks never trailed in the game, but did squander a 4-1 lead as the Devils battled back in the second stanza to knot the count at 4-4.

Scott Wilson, O'Regan, Taylor Leier, and Victor Olofsson scored the goals for Rochester.

O'Regan scored again on a power play to put the Amerks back in front to stay. Redmond's tally proved to be the game-winner.

Wayne Simpson tacked on an empty net marker to secure the victory in the final minute after the Devils cut the margin to 6-5 with a goal early in the third period.

Goalie Scott Wedgewood made 25 saves to improve his record to 16-7-1-3.

Rochester increased its lead in the North Division to 3 points over the Utica Comets, (53-50).

**NOTES* — Rookie Lawrence Pilut will *not* play in the AHL All-Star Classic this weekend in Springfield, MA., as he still is with the Buffalo Sabres on a callup. . . With Zach Redmond's injury, his status for the AHL All-Star Classic is in doubt, as of Wednesday night. Pilut and Redmond were the only 2 Amerks selected to play in the Challenge.

C.J. Smith Patiently Waits for Next Callup

Spectrum

By: *Ted Goldberg*

As Amerks compete to be the next NHL callup, the favorite might be a guy who was in Buffalo a few weeks ago. C.J. Smith earned his second stint with the Sabres after starting well in Rochester.

"Much more rewarding," he says. "I would say I was a lot more prepared having a season here in the AHL under my belt. A pro season under my belt. This team and this coaching staff developed my game. I was able to go in confident I could play at that level."

The Sabres signed Smith as an undrafted free agent after spending three years at UMass-Lowell. Soon after signing, he played two games with the Sabres before spending the entire 2017-2018 season with the Amerks, putting up 44 points in 57 games.

"I think he came in really focused on what he had to be like as an athlete," says Amerks head coach Chris Taylor. "Get in better shape. Bigger and stronger in his leg. After training camp, he's had a really good start."

The 24-year-old's most recent promotion wasn't much of a surprise - he's among the AHL's scoring leaders and one of the top offensive weapons on the Amerks. What's surprising is his staying power with a new ownership group in Buffalo; Smith signed with the Sabres about a month before Tim Murray was fired. Since last season ended, current GM Jason Botterill has traded away prospects stockpiled by previous GMs, such as Justin Bailey, Nick Baptiste and Hudson Fasching.

"If you're good enough you find ways to get up there," Smith says. "That's my thing. I've always been under the radar. If you're good enough and you work hard and you do the right things, then you're able to find a way. That's my motto. Whatever I can do to make it to that next level, it was rewarding. Hopefully, I'll get another shot at it."

Cory Schneider Struggles, BDevils Lose 7-5 to Amerks
All About The Jersey
By: *Jeff Ulmer*

In his second game, and in his second conditioning stint of the season for Binghamton, goaltender Cory Schneider took the loss in a wild one at Blue Cross Arena on Wednesday. The former NHL All-Star goalie stopped 23 of 29 attempts as the BDevils faltered once again, this time by a score of 7-5 to the Amerks for their fourth loss in a row.

It was a see-saw night that resembled pond hockey at best between the two rivals as ten goals were exchanged in the first 40 minutes of action with the Devils down 6-4. In what was anticipated to be a goaltender duel didn't turn out that way as former Devils' prospect Scott Wedgewood was in net for Rochester and finished with 25 saves on 30 shots.

And a lot to be desired about the defense, or the glaring lack of, that didn't help matters much for either club as shots ended up even at 30 apiece.

The Americans jumped out to a three-goal lead in the opening twenty minutes on goals by F Scott Wilson (1), F Danny O'Regan (14), and F Taylor Leier (11) as two were on re-directs and the third was from the slot that Schneider routinely makes in his prime.

The BDevils would counter back with 45 seconds left with a nice individual effort from Nathan Bastian as he split the defense and scored on a backhand in front for his 11th of the season.

In the second period with Binghamton down 4-1 thanks to snipe from the circle by rookie F Victor Olofsson (14), it was all tied up with three goals within a span of 1:55.

Eric Tangradi took advantage of a loose puck after a melee involving Michael McLeod and Wedgewood as the two got tangled with near the crease. Then things got dicey as the next two goals were scored nine seconds apart. Brandon Gignac used his speed and raced to a breakaway goal with a rip that went top shelf from outside the hash marks followed by Bastian's second of the game.

Rochester would regain the lead with two quick goals of their own on defensive breakdowns. A power-play goal scored by F Danny O'Regan (15) with two players bearing down on Schneider and an inexcusable two on nothing breakaway with D Zach Redmond (19) being awarded that made it 6-4 after forty.

Devils' would creep back to within one on a tip-in from Nick Saracino off a shot by Egor Yakovlev from inside the blueline with 15:42 remaining. But an empty netter by F Wayne Simpson (13) sealed the deal with Schneider on the bench for the extra attacker.

- JQ served a 1 game suspension after an elbowing incident that took place on Monday's game in Syracuse. F Kurtis Gabriel is still on recall for New Jersey. G Evan Cormier sent to Adirondack of the ECHL earlier in the day to help eliminate the logjam in net for Binghamton.
- Schneider 1-3-1-0 3.23 GAA, 0.877 SV% in 5 appearances this season in Binghamton and will most likely play one more on Friday at home vs Hartford to close out this recent three-game conditioning stint. I'm not suggesting by any means Cory is past his prime but the numbers don't lie, especially in this league, porous defense included.

- Bastian continues to shine as he finished with 2 goals on a game-high 6 shots with a +3 as his development is really moving along this season. I suppose being teamed up with his bud McLeod (3a) at center certainly hasn't hurt the least bit.
- Only 4 penalties called even up at 2 each as O'Regan for Rochester scored the lone PP tally in the middle frame.
- Another Amerks breakaway was provided by the Devils at the end of the 2nd period but Schneider denied Olofsson as the horn blew. I thought he would be shut down for the final 20 minutes to put an end to this fiasco in favor of Mackenzie Blackwood but Schneider rebounded with 11 saves in the period.
- The two rivals heading in opposite directions as Rochester (25-13-2-1, 53 pts) has been on top of the North Division for the majority of the season while Binghamton (19-23-4-8, 42 pts) sinks further down in the same division.

Devils fall on the road to Americans 7-5

Binghamton Homepage

By: *Cam Lavlallee*

The Binghamton Devils were on the road.

They faced off with the Rochester Americans.

This one was a good old-fashioned barn burner.

The team's exchanged 4 goals in the 1st period, and then 6 in the 2nd.

The BDevs saw three players finish with multi-point evenings, including a three-assist night from Mike McLeod.

Cory Schneider far from sharp in this one, letting in 6 goals as the Americans beat Binghamton, 7-5.

The Devils are back home on Friday when they welcome in the Hartford Wolf Pack for a 7:05 pm puck drop.

Schneider's struggles continue as B-Devils drop fourth straight

WBNG

By: *Staff Report*

New Jersey Devils goalie Cory Schneider, on a conditioning loan in Binghamton, allowed six goals on 29 shots on net Wednesday night in Rochester as the Americans handed the B-Devils their fourth straight loss, 7-5. The Binghamton Devils have not won since Evan Cormier last started in net on January 12.

In a wild game that featured 12 goals, Rochester scored the first three in the first period before Nathan Bastian found the back of the net for his 11th goal of the season. In the second, the Amerks increased the lead back to three before Binghamton scored three in a row to tied the game at four. Eric Tangradi (5), Brandon Gignac (8) and Bastian (12) all scored in the second for the B-Devils. Rochester quickly retook the lead in the second with the final two goals in the period.

Nick Saracino's third of the season brought Binghamton within one in the third period, but Rochester sealed the game with an empty-netter with 29 seconds left.

Binghamton is back at home Friday night when Hartford visits the Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena. Puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

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."

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."

Justin Bailey felt a trade was coming before Flyers acquired him

Courier Post

By: *Dave Isaac*

Justin Bailey is quite familiar with the feeling that a lot of his teammates with the Lehigh Valley Phantoms have now.

There was a new general manager in town and it's not the one who drafted him. Did he have a future with the Buffalo Sabres, who drafted him in the second round in 2013? Bailey, a 23-year-old winger from suburban Buffalo, figured he might get moved and last week he did when the Flyers traded Taylor Leier to acquire him.

"I knew was a possibility as we got closer to the trade deadline," Bailey said. "It was something I was prepared for and something I was looking forward to, getting to an organization that hopefully has plans to see me play games in the NHL and earn my way to that opportunity.

"I was drafted by (Darcy) Regier in '13 and I think he got let go the year after. It went to Tim Murray and Tim Murray was the one that signed me, so I made a pretty decent impression on Tim there and I think I played the most amount of my NHL games in my second year. Then he was gone, and they bring in Jason Botterill and last year they had me up early in the season and unfortunately due to injuries and stuff like that early on I wasn't able to stay up there for as long as I would have liked. This year a change of scenery was definitely needed and was a good thing for me."

The 6-foot-4, 214-pound winger would be one of the bigger Flyers if he were on the NHL roster. He'll have to prove he's worthy first and so far, early impressions are good. He had two assists in his first three games.

Phantoms interim coach Kerry Huffman plans on using Bailey as a key player in all three facets of the game. Leier left a large void, but Bailey is the kind of player that can be effective in all those roles.

"It's only been a couple games, but he's been a big part of getting four out of the six points," Huffman said Tuesday. "If we didn't have him, I'm not sure how we would have done. That line with him, (Mikhail) Vorobyev and (Colin McDonald) were playing together they were real good for us, real good. He's played hard. He's skated. That's what he has to do. He's a big body so everyone assumes he has to be a physical presence, but he skates so fast, that's his asset. I think he is no different than a lot of big-bodied young players. When their feet aren't moving they're not effective. When he has that consistency in his game, he's a good player. He's hard to play against."

Some of the early returns might be the adrenaline of coming to a new team via trade or finally knowing that, yes, the team he's playing for sees potential.

Bailey said that when Flyers general manager Chuck Fletcher called him it felt a bit like draft day when he heard tangible evidence that the team wanted him. The big winger said he doesn't want to be given anything other than an opportunity to earn a spot in the NHL.

What's keeping him from being up there, anyway?

"I think being my size, I definitely need to bring that physical presence night in and night out," Bailey said. "I think I show flashes of being physical but being able to do that more consistently. For me, my game, obviously I have the speed and I have

the size and I need to make sure I'm bringing those two components every game and the other team's defense and even my team notices the way I'm playing with speed and size."

He got that out of the way against his old team pretty quickly.

Only two days after Leier and Bailey were traded for one another, they faced each other at the Phantoms' home rink, PPL Center.

Bailey had played the night before in a 6-5 Phantoms' overtime loss to Hartford. Leier didn't immediately go to his new team, instead staying in Allentown to gather his belongings so he could leave with the Rochester Americans when the game was over.

"It's a guy that has... I don't know if he's been here the longest or one of the longest," McDonald, the Phantoms' captain, said of Leier. "A fan favorite and significant time with the Flyers. It was an awkward situation. It was weird. It was the first time in my career and some of these guys might never see that type of situation happen again. That said, you wish him nothing but the best. He was so well-liked, well respected."

In time, Bailey may earn that level of respect as well. He's developing some familiarity with his new teammates and had already played with Phantoms Connor Bunnaman and Frank Hora in junior hockey. He knew the Phantoms had top notch facilities when he came to town for the 2017 All-Star Classic.

Of course, like everyone else on the Phantoms' roster, the goal is to be in Philadelphia.

"When I go up there I want to make sure it's not just because and then I get sent back down," Bailey said. "I want to go up there and play my best hockey, doing all the right little things and that when I go up there hopefully it's to stay."