



# ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

*Wednesday, February 6, 2019*

*TONIGHT'S GAME: Syracuse @ Rochester*

## Guhle Relishes All-Star Experience

*Amerks.com*

By: *Ryan J. Harr*

Sitting at home while watching television with his girlfriend, Victoria, Rochester Americans defenseman Brendan Guhle received a rather unexpected call from head coach Chris Taylor informing him he was headed to Springfield to represent the Amerks at the upcoming AHL All-Star Classic.

"Tayls (Taylor) called me Thursday evening and said I would be going to Springfield since Reds (Zach Redmond) was unable to go because of his injury the night before," said Gulhe.

"Victoria was sitting there beside me and we both were very excited obviously, but I did have to cancel a trip Orlando," said Guhle with a smirk. "I thought there was a possibility I would go when Reds went down, but you obviously never want to see a player and teammate suffer an injury. He definitely deserved to go after the year he was having and setting the record."

After sharing the news with his mom, Guhle, a 21-year-old blueliner from Edmonton, Alberta, went on with his night knowing he was going to attend his first midseason showcase alongside the league's top players. The excitement was building up, but so too was the expectations leading up to the event.

New to the event, Guhle in his second full season, sought out fellow second-year teammate C.J. Smith, who was named MVP of last year's AHL All-Star Challenge, about what to take, dress code for certain events and general advice when it came participating in the Skills Competition.

But despite the uncertainty of everything, Guhle also viewed the event as an opportunity to rekindle relationships with players from around the league. He especially looked forward to catching up with forward John Quenneville of the Binghamton Devils, whom Guhle knows well from his offseason training back home.

"I work out together with John during the summer, so it was cool to share the experience with him. The other players on the North Division roster were great and to chat with them in a relaxed, laidback setting was great. It was nice to be able to get to know the guys you're normally battling against every night on a more personal level," said Guhle.

Once landing in Springfield, Guhle was excited to do the Skills Competition, something he has never done before, and participate in the All-Star Challenge. The blueliner found out he was going to partake in the CCM Fastest Skater as well as the CCM Hardest Shot events based off a tweet notification from the Amerks twitter, but he was not sure what to expect with the outcomes.

"The events are pretty self-explanatory, but I had no idea what to expect on how hard I could shoot the puck. I never had a shot measured like that before and never really been timed as a skater. I was a bit surprised on the speed of the shot (99.4 mph was his hardest attempt) but with the skate, I was really happy with the result (13.648, the third-fastest time in the event and sixth-fastest in league history)."

Following the Skills Competition, Guhle and the rest of the All-Stars signed autographs for the fans inside the MassMutual Center in downtown Springfield.

Following the night where the Western Conference came away with a slim 17-14 victory, the league's All-Stars were on hand to witness John Anderson, Don Cherry, Murray Eaves and Brad Smyth be honored for their outstanding achievements and contributions in the American Hockey League as they foursome was inducted in to the American Hockey League Hall of Fame.

"It was a neat experience to hear each of their stories and achievements that got them into the Hall of Fame," said Guhle. "I talked with John Anderson a little bit and found out that he and Gordo (Amerks assistant coach Gord Dineen) go way back. That was pretty cool to find out."

The All-Star Challenge, where the four divisions would play in round-robin style tournament, was on the docket upon the completion of the ceremony, which means it was just another game-day routine for Guhle. Quick nap followed by a pregame meal and it was off to the rink.

After dropping the first game, 4-2, to the Pacific, the North Division recorded a pair of victories to advance to the championship game, where they defeated the Atlantic 1-0 in a wildly entertaining four-round shootout.

"The games were laid back, relaxed and had little strategy, but as it went along and we realized we were able to make the Finals, we wanted to win, and it definitely got much more competitive. It was fun. It was nothing major, but as a player, any time you win a tournament, it's exciting."

While the 2019 AHL All-Star Classic was an experience Guhle will never forget, he's thankful for the opportunity to represent Rochester – and by extension the AHL – in a world-class event.

"The overall experience was very cool. It was an awesome experience. I did not have any family there, but it was on television and they were able to follow along. They reached out and said how proud they were of me. It was a lot of fun and now it's time to get back to work.

New comer Taylor Leier welcomes chance with Sabres organization

*Buffalo News*

By: *Bill Hoppe*

As much as Americans newcomer Taylor Leier enjoyed sticking with the Philadelphia Flyers for a full season, he only played in 39 games last season.

After earning regular action early, Leier, 24, morphed into a spare part as the Flyers' season fell apart, dressing for only nine of the final 43 games. Leier said he was injured for three contests, meaning the Flyers scratched him a whopping 40 times. So while Leier, a winger the Sabres acquired for Justin Bailey on Jan. 17, said he learned a lot in the NHL, he has embraced returning to the American Hockey League.

"Honest to God, as much as I wanted to be in the NHL this year, I think it was really good for me to get my confidence back when I played back down in Lehigh (Valley)," Leier said.

It took time, however, to generate confidence. Leier said the Lehigh Valley Phantoms "kind of eased" him into his fourth AHL season. He didn't, for example, play on the power play until around the 15-game mark.

But by mid-December, Leier said he started feeling like his old self.

"It went from at the beginning of the year, trying to figure my game out again, to now, where I want the puck on my stick all the time, and I want to make plays every time I have the puck," Leier said.

"It's a funny feeling you get as a player when you don't have your confidence. But when you have your confidence ... you want to make plays and have no fear with the puck. I think I'm very happy to be back doing that."

Leier said leaving the only organization he had known — the Flyers drafted him in the fourth round in 2012, 117th overall — was different. He became a fan favorite in the AHL, playing 226 games, and was known for his work in the community.

During Leier's first game with Amerks, which was in Lehigh Valley, the Phantoms honored him with a video.

"He's just a very special kid," Amerks coach Chris Taylor said. "He meant a lot to that community over there. They gave a nice tribute to him when we played them, very nice. He did a lot of charitable things for the organization."

The 5-foot-11, 180-pound Leier doesn't know many people in the Sabres organization. He briefly played with Amerks winger Dalton Smith three years ago and was teammates with Sabres winger Sam Reinhart with Team Canada at the 2014 World Junior Championship.

"I'm happy to come to an organization like this where the guys get treated very well," said Leier, whose younger brother, Keaton, is a professional dancer with the Atlanta Ballet.

The Saskatchewan native added: "I'm hoping I can be a big piece of the puzzle here with the Sabres."

Despite all the Flyers' recent upheaval, the trade caught Leier by surprise. Their rough start cost General Manager Ron Hextall and coach Dave Hakstol their jobs. The Flyers promoted Scott Gordon from the AHL as their interim coach.

New GM Chuck Fletcher has started putting his stamp on the Flyers.

"I was in the NHL the whole year last year and I thought I had a really good training camp this year and things didn't work out," said Leier, who signed a one-year, one-way contract worth \$720,000 before the season. "So, honestly, I did not know it was going to happen. It's a business."

Leier has acclimated to the Amerks quickly, scoring one goal in four games. He also netted the shootout winner in Friday's 3-2 victory against the Utica Comets.

"I'll have one of the biggest hearts on the ice, night in, night out," Leier said. "You won't see a difference in my effort, compete, in the offensive zone, defensive zone."

So far, Taylor has mostly utilized Leier as a fourth-liner.

"He hasn't complained, he hasn't asked what line he's going to be on," Taylor said.

**O'Regan is consistent**

Sabres prospect Danny O'Regan has showcased strong consistency — he hasn't gone more than two games without registering a point — while scoring 17 goals and 29 points in 43 contests this season.

"He's had one of the more consistent years of anybody," Taylor said. "I think continually he keeps getting better, scores big goals for us, he's really good on the wall, penalty killing, blocking shots, taking faceoffs. You name it, he does it. He just keeps getting better."

Stability has buoyed some of O'Regan's success. The former AHL Rookie of the Year has skated at right wing beside center Rasmus Asplund and Victor Olofsson virtually the entire campaign.

O'Regan, who has scored five goals and seven points in the last seven contests, said he has never lasted so long on a line as a pro.

"Usually there's a lot of changes in the lineups, whether guys up and down or just in the locker room, just line changes because there's a little bit of staleness," O'Regan said. "But I think we've been solid the whole year and we've been talking, we keep getting better and better, I think. Our chemistry's definitely there."

**Up next**

The Amerks play Friday in Binghamton in their first game since the All-Star break and then visit Hartford on Saturday.

Sabres recall C.J. Smith from Rochester  
*Buffalo News*  
By: *Jason Wolf*

The Sabres recalled forward C.J. Smith, their top scoring prospect, from the Rochester Americans on Monday and will give him another chance to make an impact in the NHL.

"He deserves a shot to get back and an opportunity," Sabres coach Phil Housley said. "I like what he brings, the spark and the speed and the skill. Obviously, he's going to get an opportunity."

Smith, 24, skated on the Sabres' third line alongside center Evan Rodrigues and forward Sam Reinhart during practice Monday, in advance of Tuesday's game against the Minnesota Wild at KeyBank Center.

Smith is leading the Amerks in scoring with 41 points (18 goals, 23 assists) in 41 games.

He has appeared in four games with the Sabres this season.

Smith scored his first career NHL goal in a 5-1 victory against New Jersey on Jan. 9, before being sent back to the AHL two days later, when Jack Eichel returned from an injury.

"It was kind of just a numbers game at the time," Smith said. "They said they liked how I played when I was here and just stick with it and obviously I'm back up here and getting another opportunity."

Smith returned to Rochester with a positive mindset, recording a hat trick in a 5-1 victory at the Toronto Marlies in his first game back.

He racked up 12 points (five goals, seven assists) in eight games before being recalled.

"I just went back with a lot of confidence," Smith said. "I think it kind of showed in my game down there, too. Obviously playing up here, it's a little different pace and a little different level. I just wanted to go back down there and work hard and work for the guys down there in Rochester."

Smith takes the roster spot of Remi Elie, who cleared waivers Sunday and was assigned to the Amerks.

#### **Injury updates**

Center Johan Larsson was an extra skater Monday and remains day-to-day with an upper body injury, Housley said. Larsson missed the Sabres' 7-3 loss to Chicago on Friday.

Defenseman Matt Hunwick, who last played in the Sabres' 5-4 victory at Columbus on Jan. 29 and has been dealing with a lower body injury, skated with Nathan Beaulieu as the team's fourth defensive pairing.

Sabres reward C.J. Smith with promotion from Amerks  
*Buffalo Hockey Beat*  
By: *Bill Hoppe*

Following a recent four-game look with the Sabres, winger C.J. Smith returned to the AHL and promptly went on a tear, scoring a hat trick in his first outing.

Smith, 24, performed splendidly, recording five goals and 12 points in eight games after the Sabres sent him to the Rochester Americans.

"He got the right message," coach Phil Housley said Monday after the Sabres recalled Smith again.

Smith, who has compiled 18 goals and a team-high 41 points in 41 AHL games this season, said it's not in his nature to pout.

"That's just not the type of person I am," Smith said. "I'm not going to sulk on anything or quit on anything, especially the guys down in Rochester, too. I'm really close with them and really like the coaching staff, so it wasn't going to affect who I am or my personality at all."

Housley said Smith "deserves a shot to get back."

"I like what he brings — the spark and the speed and the skill," Housley said.

Smith, who practiced at left wing Monday beside center Evan Rodrigues and Sam Reinhart, basically forced his way up by becoming an elite AHL scorer.

Hours after waiving winger Remi Elie on Saturday to create a roster spot, Smith scored two goals and three points in the Amerks' 4-1 road win against the Hartford Wolf Pack.

"I just went back with a lot of confidence," Smith said of Rochester. "I think it kind of showed in my game down there, too."

Smith also looked confident during his last recall, showcasing his speed and scoring his first NHL goal.

"They said they liked how I played when I was here and just stick with it," Smith said.

The Sabres host the Minnesota Wild tonight at KeyBank Center.

The Sabres recall C.J. Smith

*WGR 550*

By: *Paul Hamilton*

With Remi Elie being sent to Rochester on Sunday, the Sabres have called up C.J. Smith from the Amerks.

This will be Smith's second stint in Buffalo this season. He netted one goal in four games. In six total NHL games, Smith has a goal and an assist.

Smith did not pout when he was sent back to the AHL in mid-January as he leads Rochester with 18 goals and 23 assists for 41 points in 41 games. Since being sent back down, Smith scored five goals and seven assists for 12 points. The winger had points in seven of the eight games he played.

In two seasons, Smith has played in 98 AHL games, scoring 35 goals and 50 assists for 85 points.

The Sabres host Minnesota on Tuesday.

Sabres assign Remi Elie to Amerks

*Buffalo Hockey Beat*

By: *Bill Hoppe*

The Buffalo Sabres assigned winger Remi Elie to the Rochester Americans today after he cleared waivers.

Elie, 23, compiled one assist in 16 games after the Sabres claimed him off waivers from the Dallas Stars in October.

The former second-round pick hasn't played in the AHL since last season, when he compiled three goals and 10 points in 25 total games with the Texas Stars. He has scored 16 goals and 46 points in 121 career AHL regular-season contests.

Coach Phil Housley said Saturday the Sabres could make a corresponding move today or Monday.

Update: The Sabres recalled C.J. Smith from the Amerks on Monday morning, the second time they have summoned the winger this season.

Smith, 24, has compiled 18 goals and 41 points in 41 AHL games this season. He scored one goal in four contests with the Sabres.

Smith compiled two goals and three points in Saturday's 4-1 road win against the Hartford Wolf Pack.

Elie clears waivers, assigned to Rochester  
*WGR550*

By: *Brayton Wilson*

On Saturday, the Buffalo Sabres placed forward Remi Elie on waivers. Elie cleared waivers on Sunday, and was assigned to the Rochester Americans in the American Hockey League.

The 23-year-old was claimed by the Sabres off waivers from the Dallas Stars before the season started on October 2. In just 16 games this season in Buffalo, Elie has just one assist, nine shots on goal, and a minus-3 rating playing, primarily, as a third or fourth line depth role.

Any team in the NHL had the right to claim Elie, with the Stars having first rights to claim him since he was their property at the time he was claimed by Buffalo.

Elie was not on the ice for practice on Saturday with his teammates. The team is off from practice on Sunday.

Sabres head coach Phil Housley said that the team will make a decision on the roster spot left open by Elie either on Sunday or Monday.

In 106 games in his NHL career with the Sabres and Stars, Elie has scored seven goals and registered 22 points. Elie was a former second round pick (40th overall) of the Stars in the 2013 NHL Draft.

Smith, Cornel each score twice; Amerks defeat Hartford  
*Pickin' Splinters*  
By: *Staff Report/Amerks.com*

C.J. Smith and Eric Cornel each scored twice and Jonas Johansson stopped all but one of the 35 shots he faced as the Rochester Americans (28-13-3-1) closed out their three-game road swing with a convincing 4-1 victory over the Hartford Wolf Pack (19-23-3-2) at XL Center on Saturday night.

Along with the win, which gave Rochester the weekend sweep, the Amerks have collected 14 out of a possible 16 points during their current eight-game point streak and maintain their first-place lead atop the AHL's North Division standings coming out of the All-Star break. The team has also notched 22 points in its last 15 games dating back to a 4-0 shutout win in Cleveland on Dec. 26.

With a three-point (2+1) night, Smith took over the team scoring lead on the season as he scored his 17<sup>th</sup> and 18 goals of the campaign to go with an assist while Cornel also bagged a pair of goals in the win. Johansson (3-1-0) was less than three minutes shy of earning his first-career AHL shutout but instead turned in a solid 34-save effort to improve to 4-1-0 through five appearances with Rochester this season.

Forward Ville Meskanen scored his 10<sup>th</sup> marker of the slate for Hartford, which dropped to 0-6-1-0 in its last seven games, while netminder Dustin Tokarski stopped 24 of the 27 shots he faced but took the loss.

After serving an interference penalty in the early minutes of the contest, Smith collected a loose puck inside the center-ice circle and sprinted in all alone towards Tokarski. The second-year winger faked a shot to the left of the netminder before flipping in his first goal of the night four minutes into the opening stanza.

As the end of the first period was nearing, the Amerks doubled their lead as Cornel skated into the Wolf Pack zone on a 2-on-1 rush alongside Rasmus Asplund at the 15:21 mark. Cornel used Asplund as a decoy before snapping in his fifth goal of the campaign over the shoulder of the netminder.

The contest remained a two-goal game until Cornel netted his second of the tilt with 3:01 left regulation. Rochester pressured the Wolf Pack inside their own territory and while turning with the puck just inside the blueline, Smith flung it towards the net. Cornel, stationed in front of Tokarski, managed to redirect the offering from Smith through the pads of the Hartford netminder and watched as it slowly trickled its way past the goal-line, extending the Amerks lead to 3-0.

While Hartford avoided its second shutout of the season with Meskanen's marker at the 17:40 mark of the third period, Smith sealed the 4-1 victory as he deposited his 18<sup>th</sup> goal of the season into a vacant net with 1:48 left in regulation.

With two goals tonight, Smith, who saw his career-long nine-game point streak halted last night, established a new career-high in goals (18) in 16 fewer games this season and has also recorded 22 points (11+11) in his last 16 games dating back to Dec. 14.

Rochester's shorthanded unit went a perfect 2-for-2, and dating back to the turn of the New Year, has successfully killed off 31 of the 33 penalties in the last 12 games.

The Amerks return to action for a pair of home games beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 6 as they welcome the Syracuse Crunch to The Blue Cross Arena before hosting the Springfield Thunderbirds two nights later. Both of the 7:05 p.m. games can be heard live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Smith and Cornel score twice, Amerks win 4-1

*13 Wham*

By: *Staff Report/Amerks.com*

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Amerks complete weekend sweep with win over Hartford  
*C&C Worldwide*  
By: *Staff Report/Amerks.com*

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Rochester Americans 4, Hartford Wolf Pack 1

*Connecticut Plus.com*

By: *Staff Report*

A late third-period goal by Ville Meskanen prevented the Hartford Wolf Pack from being shut out by the Rochester Americans Saturday night at the XL Center, but Jonas Johansson stopped 34 other Wolf Pack tries in a 4-1 Rochester win.

C.J. Smith had two goals and an assist for the Americans, and Eric Cornel also scored twice.

"The big picture is that we're doing great things," Meskanen said. "Then there's like a small, careless pass and some guys are maybe sleeping, and it creates a scoring chance for the opponent. And that's just not what we needed right now."

Rochester jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period, opening the scoring at the four-minute mark on a goal by Smith. Smith came out of the penalty box, took a feed from Scott Wilson and got a step on the Wolf Pack defense. The puck slid off of Smith's stick as he tried to make a move, but it fooled Wolf Pack goaltender Dustin Tokarski (24 saves) and trickled into the net.

Cornel doubled the lead with 4:39 left in the period, with his fifth goal of the season. He broke into the Wolf Pack zone on a 2-on-1 with Victor Olofsson, and elected to take the shot. His drive from the right side went past Tokarski's catching glove.

That would be it for the scoring for better than two periods, with the Wolf Pack outshooting the Americans 10-4 in the second period but being unable to solve Johansson.

"I thought in the first period we looked understandably like a tentative team," Wolf Pack head coach Keith McCambridge said. "But I liked the compete level in the remainder of the game."

It remained 2-0 until the 16:59 mark of the third period, when Cornel netted his second of the night. Smith flung the puck at the net from high in the slot and Cornel re-directed it, causing it to slip through Tokarski's pads and just over the goal line.

Meskanen ended Johansson's shutout bid just 41 seconds later, though, at 17:40, with his tenth goal of the season. With Tokarski lifted for an extra attacker, John Gilmour sent a shot towards the net from the left side that was blocked, but the puck caromed right to Meskanen. He buried a shot past Johansson's catching glove from the right side of the slot.

The Wolf Pack got Tokarski back to the bench, but this time the Americans foiled the strategy, with Smith getting his second of the game at 18:12. Kevin Porter and Brendan Guhle combined to clear the puck out of the Americans' end up left wing, and Smith outraced Gilmour to knock it into the empty cage.

The win improved the North Division-leading Americans' record to 28-13-3-1 for 60 points, while the Wolf Pack fell to 19-23-3-2 (43 points).

"Their record is the way it is for a reason, they've got lots of speed up front," McCambridge said of Rochester. "But I can't fault the effort of our group, and we've just got to find ways to bury our chances."

The Wolf Pack's next action is back at the XL Center this Tuesday night, a 7:00 PM game vs. the Bridgeport Sound Tigers. Tickets

for all 2018-19 Wolf Pack home games are on sale now at the Agera Energy Ticket Office at the XL Center, on-line at [www.hartfordwolfpack.com](http://www.hartfordwolfpack.com) and by phone at (877) 522-8499. Tickets purchased in advance for kids 12 or younger start at just \$13 each, and all tickets will have a \$3 day-of-game increase.

Season ticket information for the Wolf Pack's 2018-19 AHL season can be found on-line at [www.hartfordwolfpack.com](http://www.hartfordwolfpack.com). To speak with a representative about all of the Wolf Pack's many attractive ticketing options, call (855) 762-6451, or [click here](#) to request more info.

Amerks rally to edge Binghamton, 3-2

*C&C Worldwide*

By: *Staff Report/Amerks.com*

The Rochester Americans (27-13-3-1) trailed the Binghamton Devils (20-24-5-0) by a pair of goals early in the second period, but countered back with three straight unanswered tallies, including the game-winner from Victor Olofsson with 1:01 remaining in regulation, to come away with a 3-2 victory Friday night at Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena.

With the win, the Amerks have collected 12 out of a possible 14 points during their seven-game point streak and maintain their first-place lead atop the AHL's North Division standings coming out of the All-Star break. Additionally, the club has recorded 20 points in its last 14 games dating back to a 4-0 shutout win in Cleveland on Dec. 26.

Amerks defenseman Brendan Guhle, who took part in his first AHL All-Star Classic earlier this week, tallied a two-assist night to help the Amerks improve to 8-4-2-1 against Binghamton dating back to the start of last season. Forwards Yannick Veilleux and Tyler Randell each added a goal during the second period while Olofsson completed the scoring as he scored his 15th goal of the season in the final minute of regulation to secure the win for Rochester. Goaltender Adam Wilcox (8-5-3) made 16 saves and earned the win, snapping his career-long five-game winless skid.

John Quenneville and Eric Tangradi both found the back of the net for the Devils while netminder Cory Schneider was handed the loss after turning aside 31 of the 34 shots he faced. Schneider, who has appeared in four of Binghamton's last five games, has gone winless in his last five contests during his conditioning stint.

As the Devils took a 2-0 lead just 20 seconds into the middle frame, it appeared the Amerks' deficit was about to be widened as Binghamton drew its second infraction of the night with 7:16 left in the period.

Despite being shorthanded, Veilleux forced a turnover inside the defensive zone and raced in on a 2-on-1 rush alongside Eric Cornel. As Veilleux was eyeing a centering pass, he tucked a perfectly placed shot just under the crossbar to cut the Devils lead in half at the 14:10 mark.

Rochester rode the momentum following the shorthanded goal as Cornel and Veilleux won a puck battle to the right of Schneider as the period was nearing its end. As the puck made its way to the top of the zone, Guhle fired it towards the net from the left point. Prior to the shot reaching the netminder, Randell reached out his stick and tipped it into the cage to even the score with 2:05 left in the stanza.

The two North Division rivals went into the intermission deadlocked at 2-2 despite Rochester carrying a 24-12 lead in shots. During the final 20 minutes of play, the Amerks and Devils clamped down defensively and limited each other's scoring chances, but it was Rochester that drew its fifth penalty of the night with just 1:46 left in regulation.

The Amerks, who controlled the puck for much of the first-half of the high-sticking infraction, nearly broke the 2-2 tie as Danny O'Regan was stopped on the doorstep. The rebound attempt was poked to the right corner where Olofsson and Guhle exchanged a give-and-go near the right wing. As Olofsson gathered the return pass atop the right circle, he rifled a shot above the shoulder of Schneider, giving the Amerks their first lead of the night with just 61 seconds remaining in regulation.

The power-play goal pushed Olofsson's point streak (2+3) to four games while O'Regan also extended his point streak (3+2) to four.

Rochester's power-play unit has gone 17-for-59 in the last 14 games, whereas the penalty kill squad, which went a perfect 4-for-4 tonight, have successfully killed 29 of its last 31 infractions in the last 11 contests since the start of the calendar year. Binghamton made one final push following Olofsson's 15th goal of the season to tie the game as they pulled Schneider for the extra attacker. While Wilcox held on for the win, the Devils nearly forced overtime as Blake Pietila rang a shot off the crossbar with 22 seconds left.

The Amerks close out the first week of February as they conclude their season-series with the Hartford Wolf Pack on Saturday from the XL Center at 7 pm.

Amerks rally to beat Binghamton 3-2 on the road

*13 Wham*

By: *Staff/Amerks.com*

The Rochester Americans (27-13-3-1) trailed the Binghamton Devils (20-24-5-0) by a pair of goals early in the second period but countered back with three straight unanswered tallies, including the game-winner from Victor Olofsson with 1:01 remaining in regulation, to come away with a 3-2 victory Friday night at Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena.

With the win, the Amerks have collected 12 out of a possible 14 points during their seven-game point streak and maintain their first-place lead atop the AHL's North Division standings coming out of the All-Star break. Additionally, the club has recorded 20 points in its last 14 games dating back to a 4-0 shutout win in Cleveland on Dec. 26.

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The Amerks close out the first week of February as they conclude their season-series with the Hartford Wolf Pack on Saturday, Feb. 2. The opening face-off from the XL Center is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. The Eastern Conference matchup can be heard live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Cory Schneider Sharp Despite 3-2 Loss to Rochester  
*All About The Jersey*  
By: *Jeff Ulmer*

The Binghamton Devils seemed headed to certain overtime for the third consecutive game before the officials had other intentions of their own it appeared.

Binghamton forward John Quenneville was called for a late high stick with 1:46 left in the third period with the game knotted up at two. Rochester then capitalized on the power play as Victor Olofsson (15) rifled a wrister that beat Devils' netminder Cory Schneider short side and ended up the game-winner at 1:01 and just like that, the Amerks beat the Devils 3-2 at The Floyd on Friday.

This outcome is not the result of a questionable call near center ice, but missed opportunities that would haunt the home team throughout the night. Binghamton was in control for the first half of the contest before it shifted towards Rochester the latter portions as the game wore on.

In the opening period, the BDevils jumped to an early lead with JQ's backhander that eluded Americans' goalie Adam Wilcox off a botched play behind the cage as Blake Pietila recorded the primary assist. Schneider stopped all nine shots he saw and looked good and that would be the theme the rest of the way.

Just 20 seconds into the middle frame, Michael McLeod found Eric Tangradi across the slot and sent a softy in by Wilcox for his sixth of the season. It was a pretty play that caught the Amerks by surprise however, that would be all the scoring the BDevils would manage as Rochester then took over.

With D Andrew MacWilliam in the box, Amerks would score shorthanded with a nice individual effort by Yannick Veilleux (3) as he beat Brandon Gignac along the wall and skated his way down into the offensive zone. Veilleux created some space with newly acquired defenseman Ryan Murphy back and took aim over Schneider's shoulder from the circle to cut the deficit in half.

Rochester tied it at two when Tyler Randell (2) deflected a shot in front off a floater from the blueline by Brendan Guhle that would end the second period but more importantly, momentum for the Amerks heading into the third.

It was an unfortunate late penalty called against the Devils but they would turn up the pressure after the go-ahead goal with Schneider pulled in the final minute. Several close opportunities would develop capped with Pietila hitting the crossbar, but it came crashing down with the final blow of the horn.

Shots ended up 34-18 Rochester.

#### Post Game Notes

- Schneider played in his 4th of a current 5 game conditioning stint. A pair of defenseman swaps took place on Thursday as D Michael Kapla was sent to Minnesota in exchange for D Ryan Murphy. F Kevin Rooney and D Eric Gryba are up in NJ and G Mackenzie Blackwood switched spots with G Cam Johnson as well for the Devils.
- Devils had this going their way as they have the Amerks number this season with 2 goals on 6 shots early on. Just didn't have the offense clicking after that and let the Amerks back in it.

- Schneider played well and kept it simple while minimizing his rebounds. Probably his best performance of the season and has one more remaining in this conditioning stint before heading back to NJ.
- In his debut, Murphy was ok, looked to have plenty of composure and good puck mover. Reminds me of Patrick Mullen when he was a late acquisition back in the Senators' era. Small, but a veteran presence that seems to fill the shoes of Brian Strait who remains out with concussion-like symptoms.

B-Devils squander lead, fall to Rochester

*WBNG*

By: *Staff Report*

The Rochester Americans scored three unanswered goals to knock off the B-Devils, 3-2. The Americans scored the game winning goal with just 1:01 left in regulation.

Coming off an all star game appearance, John Quenneville, got the scoring started for Binghamton. Eric Tangradi would give the Devils a two goal cushion just 20 seconds into the second period.

Rochester would get on the board later in the period on a shorthanded goal and the Americans would later tie the game at two going into the third period.

After a quiet period, Rochester scored on the power play with just a 1:01 to go in the game to hand Binghamton a crushing loss. Binghamton was out shot 34-18 on the night.