



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

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TONIGHT'S GAME: Springfield @ Rochester

Amerks' Andrew Oglevie eager to get back on the ice
Buffalo News
By: *Bill Hoppe*

Five months ago, Andrew Oglevie's pro career started almost perfectly.

Following a summer spent training with the Sabres' staff, the Notre Dame product enjoyed an impressive preseason, scoring two goals in NHL exhibition action. His ability to get to the net caught coach Phil Housley's attention.

"It was just the confidence I had gained from college," said Oglevie. "I knew that I was ready to take the next step, I think. So I was just eager to show everyone in Buffalo what I can bring to the team, make them happy they were able to get me in free agency."

It seemed like 5-foot-10, 180-pound Oglevie, a winger the Sabres assigned to the Rochester Americans, could quickly earn a recall from the American Hockey League.

Then he suffered two concussions this season. The first, in mid-October, quickly stymied Oglevie's rookie season. The prospect has played only 14 games, the last coming Nov. 30. He has missed the last 26 contests.

"It was a setback, but it's the game and these things happen," said Oglevie, who has scored one goal for the Amerks. "I'm glad that I'm healthy now. I think this makes me even more eager to get back out there and contribute, because I know that I had a really good offseason and I was playing well before the injury happened."

Oglevie, 23, said he has never experienced such a long recovery from an injury.

"It's been a change for me, but I think the staff here has done a wonderful job with me," Oglevie said. "We've been patient, we've been working really hard behind closed doors, so I feel really confident right now."

Oglevie started practicing in a noncontact role this week. He said he could be ready to play in about two weeks.

"I've had two (concussions) this year, that's why this one is taking a little longer," Oglevie said. "So we're just being extra careful just because of the nature of the injury, obviously. I've been symptom-free for a while now."

Oglevie quietly morphed into a pro prospect over his final two NCAA seasons, compiling 36 goals and 80 points in 79 games as the Fighting Irish roared to two Frozen Four appearances.

He signed a two-year, entry-level contract just days after Notre Dame lost the national championship game in April.

"He's very mature for his age," Amerks coach Chris Taylor said. "He's one of those guys (who) knows that this is his job and you can tell he's focused on what he's doing."

He added: "You can tell his hockey sense is right there. He adapted very well coming out of school to pro right away."

Oglevie, a native of Fullerton, Calif., said he struggled earlier in this career. After joining the junior United States Hockey League's Cedar Rapids RoughRiders at age 16 in 2011-12, he said he questioned his decision.

"It made me a . . . more well-rounded person because of the time I got to spend struggling," Oglevie said. "Looking back, I guess I wouldn't have it any other way, just because of what I was able to do with it."

Thanks to a breakout 21-goal, 41-point sophomore campaign, Oglevie started generating interest from pro scouts.

Oglevie said he chose the Sabres, in part, because his friend and Notre Dame teammate Dennis Gilbert, a Williamsville native and Chicago Blackhawks defense prospect, spoke highly of the area when he told him Buffalo was at the top of his list.

"I liked the management a lot, I liked what they had to say," Oglevie said. "I thought they understood me as a player. I like the opportunity that Buffalo presented, and then I came here and I fell in love with it."

Winger Remi Elie, who cleared waivers Sunday, played his first game with the Amerks on Wednesday, skating on the fourth line beside Yannick Veilleux and Dalton Smith.

"Nothing changes here," Elie said following a 2-1 loss to the Syracuse Crunch in Blue Cross Arena. "I have a little bit more time. It's a little bit more slower (in the AHL)."

Elie, 23, played sparingly as the Sabres' 13th forward, appearing in only 16 games after they nabbed him off waivers from the Dallas Stars before the season.

"It's one of the hardest jobs in the NHL, to be that kind of player out there in that situation," Elie said of sitting out as a healthy scratch. "It's all mental. You just have to stay positive. My dad and my family and my agent helped me with it."

On Jan. 23, Scott Wedgewood said he felt a pinch in his leg. The goalie played that night, backstopping the Amerks to a 7-5 win over the Binghamton Devils.

But an X-ray revealed a line forming. It turned out Wedgewood, 26, had a stress fracture in his fibula. The Amerks quickly shut him down so he could heal.

The rest, Wedgewood said, was "huge" for his injury.

"Either you keep pounding on it and it becomes a major issue or you take a little bit of time off and come back now ready to grind out the second half," Wedgewood said.

Wedgewood looked sharp Wednesday, stopping 31 shots.

"It might've been one of the best games that I played, just from a mental standpoint, a physical standpoint, feeling comfortable with rebounds and just kind of overall the chances-to-save ratio there," Wedgewood said. "I gave the guys a chance in my mind."

A lower-body injury forced Amerks winger Wayne Simpson to miss Saturday's 4-1 road win against the Hartford Wolf Pack, ending the AHL's longest active consecutive game streak at 231.

Simpson started the run Jan. 29, 2016, with the Portland Pirates.

"Even playing every game in one year is very tough to do," Taylor said. "He's done a great job taking care of himself." Simpson played Wednesday.

Amerks defenseman Zach Redmond has been skating on his own after suffering a lower-body injury Jan. 23, Taylor said. The veteran is day to day.

Hall of Famer Langdon fell in love with Amerks way before he got here
Democrat & Chronicle
By: *Leo Roth*

Before Steve Langdon became a Rochester American, he was a Rochester Americans fan.

Langdon, who will be inducted into the Amerks Hall of Fame Friday with Doug Janik, grew up in Toronto during the 1960s, an era when the Maple Leafs were Rochester's parent club.

A golden era when Punch Imlach's Toronto clubs won four Stanley Cups and Joe Crozier's Rochester teams won three Calder Cups. "I had everybody's player cards; I was a huge Leafs fan," Langdon said. "But if you lived in Toronto, you couldn't get tickets to games unless you were rich or whatever."

But in the spring of 1966, there was a great option.

The Amerks, bounced from their arena by the American Bowling Congress tournament, finished out their season and playoffs at Maple Leaf Gardens. One of those was the first professional hockey game that a 12-year-old Steve Langdon attended. "I remember Al Arbour because of his signature eyeglasses," he said.

Imagine the thrill Langdon felt eight years later when he pulled on an Amerks sweater as a member of the team. He was a fourth-round pick of the Boston Bruins and the Bruins were now Rochester's parent club. Talk about a kid's dreams coming true.

"It's almost like I've been a Rochester American almost my whole life," said Langdon, 65, who came to town at 20 and never left.

Now, as a member of the Amerks Hall of Fame, his connection with his adopted hometown and its storied hockey club is even more deeply felt.

Langdon played five seasons, totaling 184 points on 97 goals and 87 assists. He helped Rochester reach the playoffs four times, including a run to the Calder Cup finals in 1977 under coach Duane Rupp. He joins Doug Gibson, Ron Garwasiuk, Gordie Clark, Barry Merrell and Rupp as members of that team to enter the Amerks Hall.

"It's an unbelievable feeling," Langdon said. "If you look at the stats, the numbers are OK, but they aren't necessarily Hall of Fame statistics. Bottom line, I'm very surprised and very honored."

He's also too humble.

Langdon was a Horatio Alger type in his day, a player who succeeded on pure hard work and perseverance. He scored 30 goals and then 25 goals his final two seasons.

And while his ranking of 35th in career scoring among franchise forwards may not force Jody Gage to give up his title of "Mr. Amerk," Steve Langdon is every bit a Hall of Famer for the example he set on the ice and the one he set off it.

Like retiring as a player when he had more to give in order to give his young wife and new son a stable life. He and Karla Kyle, an Irondequoit girl, raised six children.

Like establishing a business with his brother-in-law that became Precision Packaging Products.

Like helping grow hockey in Rochester as a successful coach and administrator with Rochester Youth Hockey for more than 20 years. Like giving back to others through myriad charitable causes through his work with the Amerks Alumni Association.

After his playing days, Langdon quickly transitioned from hockey player to hockey dad. He coached all four of his sons — Kyle, Mark, Brett and Derek — at some level while serving as RYH travel director, among other roles.

Kyle played on the famed Greece Lightning 1995-96 state championship team and at the State University College at Geneseo, while Mark made it to the top level of junior hockey with the Barrie Colts of the Ontario Hockey League. Both advanced to the minor pro level.

It's all a whirlwind now to Steve and Karla.

"I have six kids, a '79, '80, '83, '86, '87, '91. How am I doing? Sounds like a hockey coach talking, right?" Langdon said. Yeah, that's a hockey thing, identifying kids by their birth years (daughter Michelle is the '80 and Jillian is the '87 and they never even played).

There was also another Langdon child, an '89.

Stephanie was born without a trachea and struggled to breathe. There were no surgical options and she lived just two days in September of that year.

A year later, Steve founded a hockey school in her memory that featured Amerks and NHL players working with kids ages 7-15. Over a five-year period, the school raised more than \$30,000 for Strong children's hospital.

"That's part of the beauty of hockey," Steve Langdon said. "The teams and the friends that help out. There's that community bond, and I liken that to Amerks fans in general, and that's my one big takeaway. My kids get tired of hearing it but a phrase I learned in pro hockey here was 'It's all on the wheel.' Do good things, good things happen. Sacrifice for the team and good things happen. It goes for the community, too."

That's where the Amerks Alumni Association comes in.

A brotherhood of men with hearts as big as their checks and slap shots were. Who give back to a city and its fans who were so good to them in their playing days.

Langdon has taken a lead role in recent years with the alumni.

Their work includes a scholarship for a Section V player of high character named for a former Amerks owner, Thomas Nichols; an annual golf tournament that supports numerous charities; events with Veterans Outreach Center and Finger Lakes Donor Recovery; even a learn-to-skate program for wounded veterans through Oasis Adaptive Sports.

Equipment and instruction are provided to veterans faced with physical or emotional challenges. A team called Roc Warriors has sprung from the program.

"It's been a great community program that continues to build," Langdon said. "Out of charity there are often are unintentional consequences, and it's wonderful to watch things grow."

Just as so many friendships did during his years in hockey.

His Rochester teammates inspired him with their talents, made him laugh until his sides hurt with their antics on the ice and off.

Colorful characters from a time long past. Names like John Wensink, Harry Shaw, Ray Maluta and Jim "Seaweed" Pettie.

"As I come into this Hall of Fame thing, I'm not sure I can remember on one hand any of those 97 goals with any detail," Langdon said. "What I do remember are the teammates and the stories, the good things that happened, and the bad.

"It's the life lessons you learn by putting your kids in team sports and hockey ranks right up there. In the right environment, with the right coach, there are a lot of lessons there. You make friends and contacts and I guess that's the nice thing about it, you become part of something. It's really why the Amerks and this community are so special to me."

Amerks prepare for upcoming game against Springfield Thunderbirds

WHEC

By: *Staff Report*

The Amerks are playing great hockey.

They're first in the North Division and are ahead of Syracuse by two points, but on Wednesday night they had a problem playing a great 60 minutes of hockey.

They hosted the Crunch on Wednesday and went into the third with a one-nothing lead but unfortunately, they were outshot in the final frame 10 to 1, and Syracuse would go on to win in a shootout.

On Thursday, the Amerks took time to fix their mistakes in preparation for this weekend.

"I think we need to be better prepared, in between periods, before games, even before practices," said Amerks Captain Kevin Porter. "I think we truly just need to be better prepared."

"I thought the guys worked really hard today and we watched a lot of video and we realized some of the things we did wrong," adds Amerks head coach Chris Taylor. "I think they realized they had a better third and got the jump on us. We have to take care of these things at home and especially when we're up by a goal."

With about eight weeks left to go in the regular season, the team knows how crucial playing a full 60 minutes will be going into the playoffs.

"In playoffs, it's such a small margin of error," says Amerks defenseman Brandon Hickey. "Playoffs are decided with one goal all the time so when you have a lead in the third, you have to make sure you're keeping it. You can't be going into overtime and whatnot because that can really shift the momentum of a series and in turn change the outcome of the season."

The Amerks will host the Springfield Thunderbirds Friday night. It's also Hall of Fame night.

Doug Janik and Steve Langdon will be going into the Hall of Fame, and the Amerks will be in their trademark throwback jerseys. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

Your no corn syrup Wednesday Amerks 6 pack
Pickin' Splinters
By: *Kevin Oklobzija*

Should the Rochester Americans and Syracuse Crunch end up facing off in the Calder Cup playoffs, this much is certain:

The Crunch will never be concerned if they're trailing going into the third period.

They've schooled the Amerks in the third period in the past two meetings, a men-against-boys differential that has cost Rochester a pair of victories and, if they're not careful, their lead in the AHL's North Division.

Here's your Amerks 6 pack from Wednesday's 2-1 shootout loss on home ice:

1. The Amerks played a dreadful 3rd period

How dreadful? They were outscored 1-0 and outshot 10-1. Their one shot? A just-glad-to-clear-the-puck bank off the side boards in the Amerks zone by Dalton Smith that just happened to slide 120 feet and right on goal in the 17th minute of the period.

"We didn't come out with much energy and I don't know why," Amerks coach Chris Taylor said. "They won every 50/50 battle."

The third-period collapse was reminiscent of the Jan. 26 game in Syracuse, when the Crunch turned a 2-1, two-period deficit into a 4-3 overtime win, largely because of the 20-4 shot domination in the third period.

2. The Amerks weren't much better in overtime

Goalie Scott Wedgewood was forced to make a terrific blocker save on Carter Verhaeghe 1:35 into the extra period after the Crunch attacked two-on-one.

Then, despite a power play for a full two minutes, the Amerks couldn't capitalize.

"We couldn't even get anything going on the power play in overtime; it's unacceptable," captain Kevin Porter said. "It starts with the older guys, the leadership group, and we have to be better."

3. This loss hurt in the standings

The Amerks came into the game leading the Crunch by three points, 60-57, but Syracuse had played two fewer games. Now the lead is two, and the Crunch still have the two games in hand.

"There's still a lot of season left and we have them seven more times," Porter said. "It's not the end of the world, but it's definitely disappointing."

4. Wedgewood was terrific in return from injury

The Amerks No. 1 goalie had been out since Jan. 24, a day after X-rays revealed a stress fracture in his fibula.

For a guy who hadn't played in a game for two weeks and hadn't even skated for 11 days, he was exceptionally sharp in stopping 32 of 33 shots before going 0-for-2 in the shootout.

"He was really good for us," Taylor said. "He got us a point."

Wedgewood was also pleased with his performance, saying it might have been one of, if not the, best game he has played all year "from a mental standpoint, a physical standpoint, for rebound control, and giving the guys a chance."

His injury was revealed after he felt a pinching feeling in his leg going into the Jan. 23 game against Binghamton (7-5 win, 20 saves) and then again afterward.

The stress fracture was apparently slow in forming but it was decided to give him time off, rather than risk it becoming something serious.

He said the injury has healed.

5. Solid debut for Elie

After clearing waivers over the weekend, winger Remi Elie made his Amerks debut and played well on a line with Yannick Veilleux and Dalton Smith.

They may very well have been the Amerks most productive and consistent line all night.

Elie had played in just 16 games with the Sabres, producing one assist, since being claimed on waivers from the Dallas Stars as the season started.

Playing sporadically for four months isn't easy, but he didn't display much rust on Wednesday.

"I think it's one of the hardest jobs in the NHL," Elie said of being a part-time player but full-time practice participant. "It's all mental.

"I just have to work on my game and get back to playing and get back to my routine."

6. Nylander on the injured list

Winger Alex Nylander didn't play because of a lower body injury, which he suffered when he was hit in practice by defenseman Will Borgen.

Taylor didn't have a timetable for a return.

Defenseman Zach Redmond, hurt on Jan. 23, did skate Wednesday morning and will be evaluated over the next two days to determine if he's ready to return.

Sabres prospect Alexander Nylander is day to day following injury

Buffalo News

By: *Bill Hoppe*

Sabres prospect Alexander Nylander is day to day after suffering a lower-body injury in Tuesday's practice, Americans coach Chris Taylor said.

Nylander, 20, missed Wednesday's 2-1 shootout loss to the Syracuse Crunch in Blue Cross Arena.

According to LetsGoAmers.com, defenseman Will Borgen knocked Nylander to the ice before he got tangled with defenseman Matt Tennyson later in the session and fell.

Nylander, the eighth overall pick in 2016, has scored eight goals and 24 points in 42 American Hockey League games this season.

Following a strong start, the Swedish winger has tailed off, scoring zero goals in his last 10 contests and just two in his past 23 outings.

Amerks fall in shootout to Syracuse

C&C WorldWide

By: *Staff Report*

Despite the Rochester Americans (28-13-3-2) scoring the first goal of Wednesday night's contest and extending their point streak to tie a season-long nine straight games, the Syracuse Crunch (28-13-2-1) stole the extra point as they came back for a 2-1 shootout win at The Blue Cross Arena.

While the Amerks fell in the skills competition, they have collected 15 out of a possible 17 points during their current nine-game point streak, going 6-0-1-2 over that span, and maintain their first-place lead atop the AHL's North Division standings. The team has also notched 23 points in its last 16 games dating back to a 4-0 shutout win in Cleveland on Dec. 26.

Forward Taylor Leier tallied his second goal with the Amerks and 12th overall of the season in the defeat while goaltender Scott Wedgewood (16-7-2), who missed the last four games due to injury, stopped 31 of 32 but was handed the shootout loss. Over his last 12 games, Wedgewood shows a record of 8-3-1 going back to the game after Christmas.

The Crunch, who built a seven-game winning streak with the win, were paced by Cory Conacher's 16th goal of the season as well as his shootout marker while Alexander Volkov also found the back of the net in the skills competition. Netminder Connor Ingram extended his winning streak to five games as he made 17 saves.

Facing a one-goal deficit after 40 minutes of play, the Crunch emerged from the intermission break and tied the game at 1-1 near the midway point of the stanza while outshooting Rochester 10-1 during the period.

While hemming the Amerks inside their own zone for the first 7:30 of the frame, Conacher spotted a loose rebound to the right of Wedgewood and forced overtime as the game was tied at 1-1.

"I liked our penalty kill, as they were really good, but I did not like our third period at all," said Amerks head coach Chris Taylor. "Syracuse came out with a lot of energy and we just didn't match it. I thought Wedgewood made some big saves to get us a point, but it was not enough tonight."

While Rochester drew its only power-play of the night with 1:50 left in the extra period, the two teams went to the shootout as the Amerks were unable to convert on the man-advantage.

The Amerks elected to shoot first in the skills competition, but both Victor Olofsson and Leier were stopped by Ingram. Conacher and Volkov beat Wedgewood to give the Crunch the extra point.

"I thought we played well the first two periods," said Amerks captain Kevin Porter. "For whatever reason, we came in the third and just were flat. Syracuse came out and dominated, and then we couldn't get anything going in overtime period on the power-play."

"It's unacceptable, and it starts with the older guys, myself included, and the leadership group, and we have to be better," added Porter.

Prior to a scoreless second period and after successfully killing off the first penalty of the night, Leier and Porter stole the puck off a Crunch skater and exchanged a give-and-go to exit the Amerks zone. As Porter entered the Syracuse zone with the puck, he left it atop the right face-off dot and drove towards the net. Leier scooped up the puck and used Porter as a screen to give the home squad a 1-0 lead at the 13:14 mark of the first period.

For the ninth straight game, the Amerks penalty kill did not surrender a power-play goal, which included a full five-minute major and a 5-on-3 disadvantage for 1:28. Since the turn of the New Year, Rochester's shorthanded unit has successfully killed 36 of 38 penalties in the last 13 games.

"The penalty kill was huge tonight, but we just couldn't get much going, especially in the third period," said Wedgewood. "The guys on the shorthanded unit kept them off the scoresheet but I have to make a save during the third period."

The Amerks close out their brief two-game homestand on Friday, Feb. 8 as they welcome the Springfield Thunderbirds to The Blue Cross Arena. The club will induct Doug Janik and Steve Langdon into the Amerks Hall of Fame prior to the 7:05 p.m. matchup, in addition to wearing special throwback jerseys and matching socks. All the action will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Amerks fall to rival Syracuse in shootout

WHEC-TV

By: *Staff Report*

In a battle of top teams in the AHL's North Division, the first place Amerks hosted the second place Syracuse Crunch in a showdown of the hottest teams in the league.

The Amerks had recorded at least a point in eight straight games, but the Crunch had been undefeated in their last six. With eight of the last 31 games remaining set to feature these teams, they will be seeing each other a lot the rest of their schedules.

Rochester would be the first to strike, with Kevin Porter dropping it back to Taylor Leier in the first period to make it 1-0.

Syracuse would tie it up in the third with a Cory Conacher goal to send it into overtime, however, and there the Amerks fell in the shootout.

Crunch wins 7th straight with shootout decision over Rochester

Syracuse.com

By: *Staff Report/ syracusecrunch.com*

After Cory Conacher forced overtime in the third period, he scored the game-winner in the first round of the shootout as the Syracuse Crunch came back to defeat the Rochester Americans, 2-1, Wednesday at the Blue Cross Arena.

Alex Volkov scored in the second round to secure a Crunch win, while goaltender Connor Ingram stopped both attempts. The victory builds a seven-game winning streak and moves the team to 28-13-2-1 on the season. The Crunch is now 2-2-1-0 in the 12-game series with the Amerks.

Ingram turned aside 17-of-18 shots before blocking both shootout attempts. Amerks netminder Scott Wedgewood made 31 saves, but went 0-for-2 in the shootout. Syracuse was unable to convert on five power play opportunities, but stopped Rochester's one man-advantage.

Rochester opened scoring 13:14 into the first period. Kevin Porter skated the puck into the zone and dropped it in the right circle for Taylor Leier to send home as he followed behind the play.

Syracuse evened the score 11:47 into the final frame. Jan Rutta's right-wing shot was stopped, but Conacher was able to clean up the rebound as he cut across the slot. Volkov recorded the secondary helper.

After a scoreless overtime frame, the game went to a shootout where Conacher and Volkov scored in the first two rounds.

Crunch come back to top Amerks 2-1 in shootout

Local SYR.com

By: *Staff Report*

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Rochester opened scoring 13:14 into the first period. Kevin Porter skated the puck into the zone and dropped it in the right circle for Taylor Leier to send home as he followed behind the play.

Syracuse evened the score 11:47 into the final frame to eventually force overtime. Jan Rutta's right-wing shot was stopped, but Conacher was able to clean up the rebound as he cut across the slot. Volkov recorded the secondary helper.

After a scoreless overtime frame, the game went to a shootout where Conacher and Volkov scored in the first two rounds. The Crunch travel to face the Hartford Wolf Pack on Friday at 7:15 p.m.