



Cleveland Monsters vs. Rochester Americans

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 811

TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

• The first-place Rochester Americans (31-16-3-2) welcome the Cleveland Monsters (24-22-6-1) back to Western New York for a 7:05 p.m. matchup tonight at The Blue Cross Arena. The contest will be the fifth of eighth meetings between the two clubs this season and second in the last eight days. The game will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

LAST TIME OUT

- On the strength of a pair of goals in each of the first two periods of Sunday afternoon's game at The Blue Cross Arena, the Amerks closed out their three-in-three weekend with a dominating 5-1 victory over the intrastate rival Binghamton Devils.
- With the four-goal win, the Amerks have collected 21 out of a possible 30 points in their last 15 games and have recorded at least one point in 11 of the last 15 contests with the Devils. Rochester has also notched 29 points in its last 22 games dating back to a 4-0 shutout win in Cleveland on Dec. 26..
- The line trio of **Remi Elie** (1+1), **Andrew Oglevie** (1+1) and **Taylor Leier** (0+2) combined for six points while **Yannick Veilleux**, **Wayne Simpson** and **Andrew MacWilliam** rounded out the scoring for the Amerks, who closed out the weekend with back-to-back wins. Goaltender **Scott Wedgewood** earned his 10th win in the last 13 games and improved to 18-7-2 on the season as he stopped 27 shots on the afternoon.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

• The Amerks conclude the final full week of the month on Friday, Feb. 22 when they visit the Utica Comets at 7:00 p.m. before hosting the Belleville Senators at 7:05 p.m. on Saturday on home ice. Both of the North Division matchups will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

RACE TO 20

• After failing to produce a 20-goal scorer last season for just the second time in franchise history, the Amerks have five different players on pace to reach the mark in 2018-19. **Victor Olofsson** needs one more goal to eclipse the mark for the second straight season while veteran defenseman **Zach Redmond** will continue his record-setting season by becoming the first defenseman in team history to score 20 or more goals. **C.J. Smith**, currently on recall with the Buffalo Sabres, established a new career-high with his 18th of the season prior to earning his second call-up to the big club earlier this month while **Wayne Simpson** and **Danny O'Regan** each have 17 coming into the week. The last time Rochester had five different 20-goal scorers in the same season was during the 2000-01 campaign, which also included current Amerks head coach **Chris Taylor**.

2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
149-165



24-22-6-1 (55 points)

31-16-3-2 (67 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	49	19	24	43	10	4
C.J. Smith*	41	18	23	41	12	13
Zach Redmond	41	19	20	39	26	5

* Currently on NHL recall with Buffalo

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	31	18-9-2	1,748	813	.911	2.71
Adam Wilcox	20	9-6-3	1,124	470	.899	2.83
Jonas Johansson	5	4-1-0	265:52	126	.926	2.26

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 22	@ Utica	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 23	vs. Belleville	7:05 p.m.
Feb. 27	@ Utica	7:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Feb. 17	Binghamton	W 5-1	28-39	0-0	5-5
Feb. 16	Syracuse	SOW 3-2	40-31	1-3	3-3
Feb. 15	Syracuse	L 1-0	32-32	0-3	2-2

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	16-10-0-1	89	77	33
AWAY	15-6-3-1	81	72	34
TOTALS	31-16-3-2	170	149	67

MONSTERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Nathan Gerbe	41	10	22	32	40	-1
Zac Dalpe	33	15	14	29	31	0
Alex Broadhurst	48	8	21	29	10	-8

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Jean-Francois Berube	36	16-15-5	2,055	881	.894	3.04
Matiss Kivlenieks	14	4-4-1	710:54	303	.873	3.71



//// CLEVELAND MONSTERS //// GAME NOTES //// ROCHESTER AMERKS ////



OLOFSSON LEADING THE WAY

- On the strength of his second four-point effort of the season back on Feb. 8, **Victor Olofsson** leads the club with 43 points (19+24) in 49 games this season and remains one of just two Rochester skaters to surpass the 40-point mark. A year after pacing the SHL with 27 goals, Olofsson has been averaging nearly a point-per-game, leading the team with 24 assists while sharing the team lead in goals (19). Olofsson, who earned CCM/AHL Player of the Month honors for October, is also tied for third in the AHL in game-winning goals (6) and 16th in power-play assists (13) while ranking 19th among the league's top point-getters in overall scoring.

RED HOT 'REDS'

- Despite missing the last 10 games due to injury, **Zach Redmond** has scored a team and career-high 19 goals through 41 games, including nine on the power-play, good enough for 10th in the league in that category. Redmond, who had an AHL-best nine-game point streak to end the month of October, enters the week ranked second among all AHL defensemen with 39 points, while his eight game-winning goals are tops in the AHL. His 19 goals and 138 shots are also the most by an AHL blueliner this season.

TAYLOR JOINS ELITE COMPANY

- Rochester picked up its 30th win of the season by virtue of a 3-2 shootout victory over the Syracuse Crunch on Saturday, reaching the 30-win mark for the second straight season under head coach **Chris Taylor**. Taylor becomes the first Amerks head coach to lead his team to 30 or more wins in each of his first two seasons behind the bench since Hall of Famer **Randy Cunneynworth**, the all-time winningest coach in franchise history.

A WEDGE-WALL BETWEEN THE PIPES

- Goaltender **Scott Wedgewood**, whose won 10 of his last 13 games, established a new AHL career-high with his 18th win of the season on Sunday afternoon as he stopped 27 of the 28 shots he faced. In four of his last five starts during the month of February, the sixth-year netminder, who won a season-long five straight to close out the month of October, has stopped 108 of 112 shots he faced and allowed one goal. Over that span, he's posted a 2-2-1 record with a 1.58 goals-against average and a .945 save percentage to help the Amerks remain in first place in the AHL's North Division. He comes into the week tied for third among all AHL goaltenders in shutouts (3) while his career-high 18 wins are tied for fifth.

SPECIAL TEAMS ROLLING

- Since the turn of New Year, the Amerks shorthanded unit has killed off 59 of 62 penalties in the last 19 games, which also includes only one power-play goal scored by the opposition since Jan. 12, a span of 15 games.
- Additionally, Rochester has the league's sixth-best power-play percentage (21.0%) while going 23-for-81 over the last 22 games.

AMERKS-MONSTERS 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Wayne Simpson	5	5	1	6	0	0
C.J. Smith	4	3	3	6	2	6
Danny O'Regan	5	1	2	3	4	1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	4	3-1-0	238:49	7	.947	1.76
Adam Wilcox	1	1-0-0	63:32	1	.968	0.94

CLEVELAND

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Nathan Gerbe	4	2	2	4	2	-2
Adam Clendening	4	1	2	3	6	-1
Vitaly Abramov	5	2	0	2	4	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Jean-Francois Berube	4	1-2-1	182:05	10	.896	3.30
Matiss Kivlenieks	2	0-1-0	118:48	5	.928	2.53

2018-19 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Nov. 7	W	5-2	39-26	0-1	2-2
Dec. 14	W	3-1	26-42	0-4	4-5
Dec. 15	OTW	2-1	42-31	1-6	2-3
Dec. 26	W	4-0	31-31	3-6	0-4
Feb. 12	L	5-2	28-34	0-4	3-3
Feb. 20					
Mar. 22					
Apr. 8					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. CLEVELAND: 34-22-6

SERIES NOTABLES

- Amerks assistant coach **Toby Petersen** spent the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons behind the bench with the Monsters. Petersen helped the team earn its first Calder Cup in 2016.
- Tonight is just the sixth game between the Amerks and Monsters since the 2015-16 season. Rochester holds a record of 24-6-2-3 over Cleveland since the start of the 2011-12 campaign.
- Monsters captain Nathan Gerbe spent five seasons in the Buffalo Sabres organization from 2008-12 and was named the AHL's Rookie of the Year in 2008-09 after leading all first-year players with 56 points (30+26) in 57 games for the Portland Pirates.