



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

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TONIGHT'S GAME: Cleveland vs. Rochester

Remi Elie finding fresh start with Amerks after being waived by Sabres

Buffalo News

By: *Bill Hoppe*

It took Remi Elie a few outings to find a groove and generate confidence after the Sabres recently assigned the seldom-used winger to the Americans.

Elie, 23, hadn't earned regular action since last spring, when he played throughout the Texas Stars' run to the Calder Cup final.

After the Sabres claimed Elie on Oct. 2, he became their 13th forward, sometimes sitting out for weeks at a time. When they waived him earlier this month, he had played only 16 of the first 51 games, mustering just one assist.

"They expect a little bit better and bigger role from me here," Elie said after recording a goal and an assist in Sunday afternoon's 5-1 win against the Binghamton Devils.

After four months of collecting dust, Elie has started seizing his new opportunities in the American Hockey League and showcasing his scoring prowess.

"You're getting lots of minutes and you're getting confidence," Amerks coach Chris Taylor said in Blue Cross Arena.

Following three pointless outings, the 6-foot-1, 205-pound Elie has compiled three goals and five points in the last four contests.

"I'm feeling good," Elie said. "It helps when you score your first goal and the confidence just builds up from there. The guys are really welcoming here."

Against Binghamton, Elie utilized his strength, one-timing center Taylor Leier's feed over goalie Mackenzie Blackwood from in close late in the second period.

"Not a lot of guys in this league can pick that up," Amerks defenseman Nathan Paetsch said of Leier's pass. "Leiersie fired it to him on his strong side and he was able to put it top shelf. That's really impressive."

Elie and his linemates, Leier and Andrew Oglevie, displayed strong chemistry throughout Sunday's game.

Leier set up Oglevie's second-period goal, sending him on a two-on-one beside Elie. Oglevie also assisted on Elie's score, the first helper of his 16-game AHL career.

"I liked their creativity in the offensive zone, I liked their speed, I liked their strength getting over pucks," Taylor said.

The trio looked like they had been skating together for weeks.

"We just kind of threw it together today," said Taylor, who inserted Oglevie after resting the rookie Saturday. "It worked out well."

Elie said: "We just all support each other around the ice and we were skating. We just built chemistry pretty fast."

Leier, who was acquired Jan. 17, understands what Elie has been experiencing.

After spending all of 2017-18 in the NHL, the Lehigh Valley Phantoms cast him in a much different role than the Philadelphia Flyers when he returned to the minors.

"When you're in the NHL, you usually start from the bottom of the totem pole and ... try to work your way up the ladder," Leier said. "When you get down here ... most guys get put into a scoring situation, you get put back on the power play.

You haven't played that position in months. ... Sometimes it just takes a little bit to get that feel back."

Leier said he didn't feel like himself again until about December.

Elie, a former second-round pick, played 72 games with Dallas last season before joining Texas for its playoff run.

"It's nice to be back in that routine and be a regular," Elie said.

Paetsch plays

On Saturday night, as the Amerks bused back from Syracuse following their 3-2 shootout win against the Crunch, Nathan Paetsch was home sleeping.

"I was able to stay home and get to bed at 10:30," Paetsch said.

The affable Paetsch, 35, has played sparingly this season, making just five appearances. Instead, he has mostly served as a mentor.

Still, the veteran knew coach Chris Taylor would likely insert a fresh body for Sunday afternoon's contest, the end of the Amerks' three-in-three set.

So Paetsch, who hadn't played since Jan. 2, grabbed a couple of extra hours of sleep.

"We haven't played a lot of three-in-three," Taylor said. "So for the young guys, it was good to have experience in the dressing room to help out with that as well.

It was just a guy instinct I went with and it worked out. I thought he played a great game. He was fabulous tonight."

Paetsch energized the Amerks by zooming around the ice and pumping a game-high five shots on goal.

"I should have fresh legs," Paetsch said. "Everybody just played two games in 48 hours. ... That's my job. If I get put in that situation, I have to be prepared."

Paetsch, of course, signed up for his 16th pro campaign knowing his action would be limited. He didn't play his first game until Dec. 1.

"I'm here to help the team in any way possible, so I'm ready when they need me, and if they don't, I'm here to help the young guys," Paetsch said. "I'm here to help the team out. That's my job and I love it.

"My whole reason for being here is to help the Rochester Americans win a Calder Cup. This is home for me and I want to do it for my city."

Oglevie's return

Oglevie, 24, missed 29 games after suffering his second concussion this season Nov. 30. The Notre Dame product returned for Friday's 1-0 home loss to Syracuse before Taylor rested him Saturday.

"I've never been out that long before in my career," Oglevie said. "I was definitely anxious to get back. It kept dragging on and on and on, it felt like."

Oglevie hadn't scored since Nov. 9.

Bailey's status

Former Sabres prospect Justin Bailey, who was traded for Leier, scored five goals in 10 games with the Phantoms before the Flyers promoted him last week.

Phantoms coach Kerry Huffman said the change of scenery helped ignite Bailey, a Williamsville native.

"It's almost like him being there, from that area, sort of being in that situation for a long time, sometimes to grow you need new opportunities and challenges and push yourself and challenge yourself," Huffman said before the Flyers recalled the speedy winger. "I think that's the way he's approaching it."

So far, Bailey, 23, is pointless in two games with the Flyers.

Oglevie had goal, assist in second game back with Amerks
Buffalo News
By: *Staff Report*

Andrew Oglevie scored a goal and had an assist in his second game back from injury and the Rochester Americans killed off a double-minor in the opening period in a 5-1 rout of the Binghamton Devils Sunday at Blue Cross Arena in Rochester.

The victory before 5,874 fans kept the Amerks in first place in the North Division of the American Hockey League.

Oglevie had been out of the lineup since suffering the second concussion of his rookie season on Nov. 30. He celebrated his 24th birthday on Saturday.

Wayne Simpson, Yannick Veilleux, Remi Elie and Andrew MacWilliam also scored for Rochester (31-16-5), which increased its lead over second-place Syracuse (30-15-4) to three points.

Simpson opened the scoring at 3:55 of the first period not long after Brandon Baddock of the Devils and Dalton Smith each received 5-minute fighting majors. William Borgen and Brendan Guhle assisted on the Simpson goal.

Veilleux made it 2-0 with his fourth goal of the season from Eric Cornel and Dalton Smith at 11:17. Twenty-five seconds later, Veilleux picked up a double minor for high sticking, but the Amerks and goalie Scott Wedgewood killed off the penalties.

Colby Sissons scored Binghamton's goal at 3:16 of the second period, but Oglevie answered with his second of the season then assisted on an Elie's goal with 2:16 left in the second.

Elie picked up his second point of the game and his third in the last two games when he assisted on MacWilliams's goal at 8:47 of the third period.

Wedgewood (18-9-2) had 27 saves in the victory. Mackenzie Blackwood of the Devils had 32 saves in his 48:45 in goal. Evan Cormier played the other 11:13 for the Devils.

Binghamton was 0 for 5 with the man advantage. Rochester had no power-play opportunities in the game.

The Amerks play again at 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday when Cleveland comes to Blue Cross Arena.

Sabres recall Casey Nelson from AHL conditioning assignment

Buffalo Hockey Beat

By: *Bill Hoppe*

The Buffalo Sabres recalled defenseman Casey Nelson today from his AHL conditioning assignment with the Rochester Americans.

Nelson, 26, played five games with the Amerks, compiling one assist and four penalty minutes. He hasn't played with the Sabres since suffering an upper-body injury Dec. 4.

He could play in tonight's road tilt against the Devils. Defenseman Marco Scandella suffered an undisclosed injury in Friday's 6-2 loss to the New York Rangers and didn't accompany the Sabres to New Jersey.

Update: Coach Phil Housley told reporters this afternoon in New Jersey Nelson will meet the Sabres in Florida, where they play two games later this week.

Nelson has scored one goal and five points in 22 games with the Sabres this season.

Your Sunday Big Ditch Six Pack: Paetsch, Oglevie lead Rochester Amerks
Pickin' Splinters
By: *Kevin Oklobzija*

Now in the twilight of his career and playing for a team with a stable of young defensemen, Nathan Paetsch doesn't get on the ice very often anymore with the Rochester Americans.

Andrew Oglevie also hadn't played much lately, although his time at suite level was due to injury, not a coach's decision.

Both, however, made big contributions to Sunday afternoon's 5-1 victory over the Binghamton Devils at Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial.

Here's your Sunday Big Ditch Brewing Amerks Six Pack:

1. Critical goal and assist for Oglevie

The rookie forward had missed 29 games with a concussion until returning to the lineup Friday night, and he was very good against the Devils on Sunday.

An undrafted free agent out of Notre Dame, Oglevie scored his second pro goal to give the Amerks a 3-1 lead at 10:36 of the second period, then assisted on a goal by linemate Remi Elie 7:08 later for a 4-1 lead.

"It was a good team win and I'm just excited I got to contribute a little bit," he said.

His goal came off a two-on-one fast break, after Taylor Leier won a puck battle on the wall near but the blue line in the Amerks zone to spring Oglevie and Elie.

Oglevie looked to pass but instead fired a perfect shot high on the short side.

It was a back-breaker for the Devils, who just 55 seconds earlier had their own two-on-one but Michael McLeod was denied by Amerks goalie Scott Wedgewood.

2. Paetsch full of energy

Even with Lawrence Pilut on recall to the Buffalo Sabres, the Amerks still have eight defensemen on the roster, so Paetsch, at age 35, plays only sporadically.

Sunday was just his fifth game, and first since Jan. 2. He looked like he has played every night, though, firing a team-high five shots on goal (on eight attempts) while providing efficient defensive-zone coverage and smarts.

"I was a little rusty in the first period, there were a couple reads I didn't make properly, but then I felt fine," he said. "I thought the forwards did a great job tracking back and made it easy on the D standing up in the neutral zone."

Considering most of the players on both teams were playing for the third time in 44 hours, Paetsch figured he had an advantage.

"I should have fresh legs — everybody just played two games in 48 hours," he said.

"I was able to stay home (instead of making Saturday's trip to Syracuse) and go to bed at 10:30."

While playing is fun, Paetsch says he relishes the role of big brother and unofficial coach.

"I'm here to help the team in any way possible," he said. "That's my job and I love it. My whole reason for being here is to help the Rochester Americans win a Calder Cup."

3. Elie starting to dominate

The fourth-year left winger arrived in Rochester on Feb. 3 after clearing waivers. He went three games without a point but now has 3-2-5 in the past four.

His goal came off a perfect cross-the-slot feed from Leier, but it was far from run of the mill, Paetsch said.

"What he did on his goal isn't easy," Paetsch said. "Leier-sie fired it to him, on his strong side, and he went top shelf. That's impressive."

4. Quite a makeshift line

Leier, Elie and Oglevie had never played together until Sunday. They looked like they'd been together all season.

"Sometimes it clicks," Leier said.

Said coach Chris Taylor: "I liked their speed, their creativity, their strength."

And the three goals they produced (Andrew MacWilliam scored the other when the line was on the ice).

5. Three-in-three fun

Both teams were playing their third game in three nights, which is always a physical as well as mental test. The NHL doesn't allow teams to play on three consecutive nights but the AHL must in order to capitalize on weekend attendance spikes.

"A veteran (Chris Conner) told me (early in his career in the Philadelphia Flyers organization) that the best players in the league know how to play well on Sundays (in the third weekend game), because nobody wants to be playing," Leier said.

"You pretty much get undressed (on Saturday) and then you're right back at the rink."

He obviously persevered because he was always making something happen. In 11 games since being traded to the Sabres organization for Justin Bailey, Leier has 2-4-6 as well as two winning goals in shootouts.

6. Back on top

The Amerks (31-16-3-2) dropped out of first place by percentage points with Friday's 1-0 loss to Syracuse but now have a three-point cushion on the Crunch, 67-64.

The Crunch have played two fewer games (one of those games in hand will be played Monday at Toronto).

Utica is third at 62, Toronto fourth at 60 and Belleville fifth at 58.

"You see how tight the standings are getting; the top five teams are bunching up," Paetsch said. "We have to find a way to separate ourselves."

Bonus: no more in-Buffalo game

The Amerks have scrapped the annual game in Buffalo and will play all 38 regular-season home games in downtown Rochester in 2019-20.

Since the Sabres returned as the parent team in 2011-12, the Amerks have made the short trip down the Thruway for a game at KeyBank Center to showcase prospects to the Buffalo fans.

The event, however, has run its course and the popularity has waned greatly. While the crowd at KeyBank Center for the Nov. 7 game against Cleveland was announced at 15,965 the actual crowd was well under 4,000, according to persons at the game. The inflated attendance is because the game is included in Sabres season-ticket packages.

Vet blueliner, new line key the Amerks to victory
C&C Worldwide
By: *Craig Potter*

With a third game in three nights, Rochester Americans coach Chris Taylor laid a couple of hunches as the moves paid off with a 5-1 victory over the Binghamton Devils on Sunday afternoon before 5,874 fans at the Blue Cross Arena.

"After last night's game in Syracuse, I decided to play (defenseman Nathan) Paetsch today," Taylor said.

For the veteran blueliner, it was just his fifth game of the season, and first since Jan. 2.

"I was a little rusty in the first period, there were a couple reads I didn't make properly, but then I felt fine," he said. "I thought the forwards did a great job tracking back and made it easy on the D standing up in the neutral zone.

"I should have fresh legs — everybody just played two games in 48 hours. I was able to stay home (instead of making Saturday's trip to Syracuse) and go to bed at 10:30."

He added, "I'm here to help the team in any way possible. That's my job and I love it. My whole reason for being here is to help the Rochester Americans win a Calder Cup."

Paetsch captained the Grand Rapids Griffins to a Calder Cup Championship in the 2016-17 season.

Taylor also put together a new line of Andrew Oglevie, Taylor Leier, and Remi Elie.
"I liked their speed, their creativity, their strength," Taylor said.

The line combined for 6 points as Oglevie and Elie each had 1 goal and 1 assist as Leier contributed 2 assists.

Wayne Simpson gave the Amerks the early lead, just 33 seconds after teammate Dalton Smith fought the Devils most penalized player, Brandon Baddock. It was his 17th goal of the season, a career high, set-up by defensemen Will Borgen and Brendan Guhle.

Late in the opening stanza, Eric Cornel came around from behind the Binghamton goal and fired the puck toward a crowded crease where it hit Amerks linemate Yannick Veilleux and deflected past Devils netminder Mackenzie Blackwood for a 2-0 advantage.

The Devils got on the scoreboard early in the second period, but Oglevie and Elie answered later in the stanza for a 4-1 margin entering the third.

Oglevie's goal came off a two-on-one fast break, after Taylor Leier won a puck battle on the wall near but the blue line in the Amerks zone to spring Oglevie and Elie. Oglevie looked to pass but instead fired a perfect shot high on the short side.

"What he did on his goal isn't easy," Paetsch said. "Leier-sie fired it to him, on his strong side, and he went top shelf. That's impressive."

"It was a good team win and I'm just excited I got to contribute a little bit," said Oglevie, who recently returned to the lineup following an injury.

Defenseman Andrew MacWilliam closed out the scoring blast from the right point that chased Blackwood from the game.

Both teams were playing their third game of the weekend.

"A veteran (Chris Conner) told me (early in his career in the Philadelphia Flyers organization) that the best players in the league know how to play well on Sundays (in the third weekend game), because nobody wants to be playing," said Leier.

"You pretty much get undressed (on Saturday) and then you're right back at the rink."

Rochester goalie Scott Wedgewood made 27 saves to improve his record to 18-9-2-3 on the season.

**NOTES* — The Amerks have scrapped the annual game in Buffalo and will play all 38 regular-season home games in downtown Rochester in 2019-20. . . . The Sabres on Sunday announced defenseman Casey Nelson had completed his conditioning assignment and was recalled from the Amerks. Nelson (26, 6-foot-1, 185 lbs.) returned to the Sabres after completing a 5-game stint with treeeeeer-body injury. Nelson registered 5 points (1+4) and a plus-6 rating in 22 games for Buffalo this season. . . . The win gave Rochester a 3-point lead (67-64) over the Syracuse Crunch for first place in the North Division. However, the Crunch have 3 games in hand, one which will be played Monday in Toronto against the Marlies. . . . The Amerks are home Wednesday night to the Cleveland Monsters at 7:05 pm.

Amerks night is an underrated gem

Campus Times

By: *Micah Greenberg*

Though there aren't any major league sports teams in Rochester, there is still a vibrant sports scene in the city.

This past Friday was UR night for the Rochester Americans. The team, known colloquially as the Amerks, lost 1–0 to the Syracuse Crunch. The tickets were sold at discounted price for community members, and shuttle buses brought students to and from Blue Cross Arena.

The Amerks are a member of the American Hockey League, which is the main developmental league for the NHL. Each AHL team is an affiliate of an NHL team. For example, the Amerks are linked to the Buffalo Sabres, and the Crunch is linked to the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Although the Amerks led the Crunch at the top of the North Division, Rochester seemed completely outmatched at the beginning of the game. The Crunch outshot the Amerks in the first period 12–5. In an early two-on-one, a wrist shot by Crunch left wing Andy Andreoff found the net past Amerks goalie Scott Wedgewood.

The most exciting moment of the game came just eight seconds into the second period. Rochester defenseman Andrew MacWilliam had a huge hit on a Syracuse player. As a result, a fight broke out between Andreoff and MacWilliam.

Though both players were given five-minute majors for fighting, Andreoff remained in the penalty box far longer for instigating.

Over the remainder of the game, the Amerks were able to create several scoring chances and draw penalties, but nothing got past Syracuse goalie Connor Ingram. Even when the Amerks pulled Wedgewood near the end of the game and brought on an extra attacker, they were unable to score.

Just because the AHL is a minor league does not mean it lacks good players.

Andreoff, Ingram, and Wedgewood are all former third-round picks in the NHL Entry Draft, and they have played in a combined 184 big-league games in the past five seasons. Though Andreoff's goal was the pivotal play in the game, Ingram and Wedgewood made many impressive saves and kept the score low.

Blue Cross Arena, the home of the Amerks, was an inviting stadium that exceeded my expectations. It was relatively clean, lacked sticky beer spills on the walkways surrounding the seats, and smelled like waffle cones.

The food was what is expected of stadium food: decent chicken fingers and fries, burgers, hot dogs, nachos, and pizza. There were some more adventurous options, though, including buffalo mac and cheese and poutine. And yes, the charge for water was an exorbitant four dollars.

I had an above-average soft pretzel as a snack. Later, I chose "Let's Dough Buffalo" ice cream, which had cookie dough bits in a chocolate-vanilla swirl. Dippin' Dots were also a popular dessert choice.

I don't know if it would be possible to assemble a better playlist than the one used by Blue Cross Arena during stoppages of play. Not only did the playlist have "Mr. Brightside," but also "Groove Is In the Heart," "Crazy Train," and "Welcome to the Jungle." Well done.

The atmosphere seemed generally family-oriented. It seemed that everywhere outside of the UR sections, a large amount of the attendees were children.

Compared to an NHL game, the crowd may have been small, quiet, and less often in the home-team gear, but the people also seemed nicer, or maybe drunker.

While the Amerks are just a minor league team, the game was played well and remained exciting throughout, and the stadium experience was quite good.

Enough for me to say that the Amerks are a hidden gem in the Rochester community.

Tired Amerks look impressive
Rochester First
By: *Thad Brown/Amerks.com*

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 Rochester Americans (31-16-3-2) closed out their three-in-three weekend with a dominating 5-1 victory against the intrastate rival Binghamton Devils (23-27-5-0).

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.

It was about as impressive as a team can look after getting off the ice from a shootout win in Syracuse that ended 17 hours earlier.

"The best players in this league know how to play on Sunday's because nobody wants to play on those days," Taylor Leier said. "Especially when you play on the road the night before. You pretty much wake up and comeback to the rink. It feels like you don't even get undressed, so it was a good effort by everyone tonight."

"We had a saying tonight, simple Sunday," Andrew Ogilvie said. "You play three games in a weekend. Your legs aren't exactly going to be the best, so you just try and stay simple. Make the plays that are there, but if they're not there, make the smart play. I thought we did a really good job of that tonight."

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 set a new career-high with his 18th overall on the season while improving to 18-7-2 on the season as he stopped 27 shots on the afternoon.

Binghamton, which dropped its third straight decision of the weekend, avoided the shutout as Colby Sissons tallied his second goal of the slate. Netminder Mackenzie Blackwood made 32 saves in 49 minutes of action before being replaced by Evan Cormier for the final 11 minutes.

Just 35 seconds following a spirited fight between Dalton Smith and Brandon Baddock that energized the home crowd early in the matchup, Simpson raced in with the puck behind a Devils defender and picked the top left corner of the net to give the Amerks a 1-0 lead 3:55 into the contest.

The marker, Simpson's 17th of the season, which established a new-career high in 25 fewer games, was set-up by defensemen Will Borgen and Brendan Guhle.

Nearly eight minutes after Simpson's tally, Veilleux was credited with his fourth goal of the slate on a net-front redirection at the 11:27 mark to double Rochester's lead. With bodies crashing towards Blackwood, Eric Cornel wrapped around the net with the puck and flung it into the net. The shot glanced off the pants of Veilleux on its way into the net.

While Binghamton made it a one-goal game 3:16 into the second period, Rochester scored twice to take a 4-1 lead into the final frame of regulation.

Midway through the stanza, Oglevie notched his second goal of the slate while Elie booked his third goal in the last four games at the 17:44 mark.

Rochester finished off the scoring as MacWilliam connected on a one-time feed from fellow blueliner Matt Tennyson8:47 into the final period. Elie was awarded the secondary helper on MacWilliam's second marker of the campaign.

The Amerks shorthanded unit successfully killed off all five penalties in the contest and dating back to the start of the New Year, the Amerks have cleared 59 of the 62 infractions during that span.

The Amerks are back in action on Wednesday, Feb. 20 when they host the Cleveland Monsters at The Blue Cross Arena. Game time is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start.

Amerks host annual Kids Day Game

Rochester First

By: Staff Report

The Rochester Americans held the annual Kids Day Game on Sunday during a home game against the Binghamton Devils at the Blue Cross Arena. NY's 529 College Savings Program presented the event.

The day's family-friendly festivities included a bounce house, balloon animals, a face-painting station, and other activities for children.

The first 5,000 kids through The Blue Cross Arena doors received a drawstring backpack, courtesy of NY's 529 College Savings Program.

The Amerks' mascot, The Moose, celebrated his birthday during the game and invited many of his mascot friends to join him, including Billy Buffalo, Spikes, Rex the Rhino, R Thunder, Otto the Orange, Fidelusaurus Elmo, and others.

Fans got to take pictures with the mascots.

Rochester's Kids Day game coincides with the launch of USA Hockey's annual Hockey Week Across America campaign.

As part of Hockey Day in America, the Amerks are offering all registered USA Hockey members one free ticket to Sunday's game with additional tickets for family and friends starting at \$14.

USA Hockey created Hockey Week Across America in 2008 to engage the hockey community in celebrating the sport of hockey at all levels and exposing the sport to new audiences.

Amerks thump Devils 5-1, push lead in North Division to three
13 WHAM

By: *Tobias Motyka/Amerks.com*

The weekend didn't start well for Rochester, but it ended with a resounding victory.

After opening a three game in three day stretch on Friday with a 1-0 loss to Syracuse, the Amerks followed Saturday's big 3-2 shootout win against the Crunch with an impressive 5-1 win over Binghamton.

Five different players scored for the Amerks, including Andrew Oglevie, playing in just his second game back after a two-and-a-half-month absence.

The win gave the Amerks a three-point cushion over Syracuse in the North Division, though it's worth noting the Crunch have three games in hand on Rochester. Still, at the very least, the Amerks are keeping the pressure on their division rivals to win if they want to take control of the division.

A busy stretch for Rochester continues Wednesday at home against Cleveland. Puck drop is at 7:05 pm.

NHL Farm Report: Feb. 17 Binghamton bows to Rochester
Times Herald-Record
By: *Staff Report*

Colby Sissons scored in his return to the lineup, but the Amerks proved too much for the Devils to overcome, as Binghamton fell 5-1 at Blue Cross Arena in Rochester on Sunday evening.

Rochester got on the board 3:55 into the opening period to take a 1-0 lead.

Brendan Guhle and Will Borgen won a battle in their own defensive zone and pushed the puck ahead to Wayne Simpson. Simpson surged down the wing into the Devils zone and rifled the puck by Mackenzie Blackwood.

Despite a handful of stellar saves by Blackwood — including a remarkable stop on an Amerks 2-on-1 — Rochester added to the lead at 9:33. After making a glove save on Jack Dougherty's point shot, Blackwood could not corral the rebound and was taken out of his net in the ensuing scramble. Eric Cornel gathered the puck, circled the net, and fired a quick shot into the open cage. Rochester would take a 2-0 lead into the second period.

After Blackwood held off an early second period surge by the Amerks, the Devils cut the Rochester lead in half. Colby Sissons' wrist shot found the net through traffic, making it a 2-1 game 3:33 into the period. Brandon Baddock and Nick Saracino earned assists on Sissons' second of the year.

The Amerks soon got their two-goal lead back with 9:24 left in the second. Andrew Oglevie entered the Devils zone on a three-on-one and fired a wrist shot over Blackwood's shoulder and under the bar.

Rochester added another goal with 2:16 remaining in the middle frame, as Taylor Leier found an uncovered Remi Elie at the side of the net. Elie lifted the puck past a sprawling Blackwood, giving Rochester a 4-1 lead at intermission.

Andrew MacWilliam scored on a slapshot 8:47 into the final period to give Rochester a four-goal lead, and an eventual 5-1 win. Following the goal, Evan Cormier came in to replace Blackwood in net for the rest of the game.

The Binghamton Devils return home Friday against Belleville for DIFD Night and Saturday against Utica for Mascot Mania presented by McDonald's.