



Rochester Americans @ Utica Comets

Friday, February 22, 2019 @ Adirondack Bank Center | AHL Regular Season Game No. 827

TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

• The first-place Rochester Americans (32-16-3-2) seek their fourth straight win tonight as they travel to face the intrastate rival Utica Comets (29-19-4-2) in a North Division showdown at the Adirondack Bank Center. Game time is slated for a 7:00 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester.

LAST TIME OUT

- With three straight unanswered goals over the final 22 minutes of regulation, the Amerks flipped a 2-1 deficit into a 4-2 victory over the Cleveland Monsters Wednesday night at The Blue Cross Arena.
- With the two-goal win, the Amerks have collected 23 out of a possible 32 points in their last 16 games and have improved to 25-6-2-3 against Cleveland since the start of the 2011-12 campaign, which includes a 5-1-0-0 mark this season. Rochester has also notched 31 points in its last 23 games dating back to a 4-0 shutout win in Cleveland on Dec. 26 and maintain a three-point lead atop the AHL's North Division standings heading into this weekend's slate of games.
- **Zach Redmond**, who returned to the lineup after missing the previous 11 games, became the first blueliner in team history to reach the 20-goal mark before adding an assist later in the contest, while **Wayne Simpson** and **Danny O'Regan** each recorded their 18th goals of the season. **Taylor Leier** booked his 13th tally of campaign to complete the scoring for Rochester, which picked up its third straight win. Goaltender **Scott Wedgewood** earned his 11th win in the last 14 games and improved to 19-7-2 on the season as he stopped 29 shots on the night to pick up the 100th win of his pro career.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

• The Amerks host the Belleville Senators on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 7:05 p.m. before bringing the month of February to a close with a return trip back to Utica on Wednesday, Feb. 27 to exchange pleasantries with the Comets for the second time in six days. Both 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 could potentially have five by the season's end. Redmond continued his record-setting season by becoming the first defenseman in team history to score 20 goals on Wednesday, while **Victor Olofsson** needs one more goal to eclipse the mark for the second straight season. **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 forwards **Wayne Simpson** and **Danny O'Regan** each have 18 coming into the weekend.

2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
177-174



29-19-4-2 (64 points)

32-16-3-2 (69 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	50	19	25	44	12	4
Zach Redmond	42	20	21	41	28	7
C.J. Smith*	41	18	23	41	12	13

* Currently on NHL recall with Buffalo

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	32	19-9-2	1,808	842	.912	2.69
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. 23	vs. Belleville	7:05 p.m.
Feb. 27	@ Utica	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 2	@ Syracuse	7:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Feb. 20	Cleveland	W 4-2	33-31	1-6	4-6
Feb. 17	Binghamton	W 5-1	28-39	0-0	5-5
Feb. 16	Syracuse	SOW 3-2	40-31	1-3	3-3

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	17-10-0-1	93	79	35
AWAY	15-6-3-1	81	72	34
TOTALS	32-16-3-2	174	151	69

COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	42	24	25	49	14	-1
Tanner Kero	52	20	27	47	26	-2
Zack MacEwen	49	17	25	42	49	-6

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Ivan Kulbakov	23	10-8-5	1,287	707	.893	3.54
Michael Leighton	10	7-2-0	588:32	267	.899	3.06



UTICA COMETS GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERKS



OLOFSSON LEADING THE WAY

• With another assist on Wednesday night, **Victor Olofsson** leads the club with 44 points (19+25) in 50 games this season and remains one of just three 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, while also leading the team with 25 assists. 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 12th in power-play assists (14) while ranking 19th among the league's top point-getters in overall scoring.

RED HOT 'REDS'

• After returning to the lineup following an 11-game injury absence, **Zach Redmond** has scored a team and career-high 20 goals through 42 games, including nine on the power-play, good enough for 12th in the league in that category. Redmond, who had an AHL-best nine-game point streak to end the month of October, enters the weekend ranked second among all AHL defensemen with 41 points, while his eight game-winning goals are tops in the AHL. His 20 goals and 146 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 11 of his last 14 games, earned his 100th career professional victory on Wednesday night as he made 29 saves. The sixth-year netminder, who won a season-long five straight to close out the month of October, has allowed one goal-against in four of his last six starts during the month of February, stopping 137 of 143 shots he faced. Over that span, he's posted a 3-2-1 record with a 1.65 goals-against average and a .943 save percentage to help the Amerks remain in first place in the AHL's North Division. He comes into the weekend tied for third among all AHL goaltenders in shutouts (3) while his career-high 19 wins are also tied for third.

SPECIAL TEAMS ROLLING

• Since the turn of New Year, the Amerks shorthanded unit has killed off 63 of 68 penalties in the last 20 games, which also includes only three power-play goals scored by the opposition since Jan. 12, a span of 16 games.

• Additionally, Rochester has the league's sixth-best power-play percentage (20.9%) while going 24-for-87 over the last 23 games. The Amerks also have the second-best power-play unit on the road.

AMERKS-COMETES 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	7	4	5	9	0	1
C.J. Smith	6	2	5	7	2	3
Danny O'Regan	7	5	1	6	2	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	2	2-0-0	119:18	1	.978	0.50
Jonas Johansson	2	2-0-0	124:19	4	.938	1.93
Adam Wilcox	3	0-3-0	175:52	12	.868	4.09

UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	4	6	2	8	0	5
Zack MacEwen	7	2	5	7	9	-2
Jonathan Dahlen	7	3	1	4	2	4

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Ivan Kulbakov	1	0-0-1	65:00	2	.960	1.85
Michael Leighton	1	1-0-0	59:34	2	.926	2.01
Thatcher Demko	2	1-1-0	115:53	6	.902	3.11
Richard Bachman	3	1-2-0	179:51	14	.861	4.67

2018-19 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 17	W	6-1	32-17	4-5	2-3
Oct. 26	W	4-0	24-20	1-4	0-5
Nov. 23	L	5-4	47-23	1-6	3-5
Dec. 5	W	5-2	27-27	0-2	3-3
Dec. 29	L	4-3	36-35	2-5	6-8
Jan. 25	SOW	3-2	51-37	0-3	4-4
Feb. 9	L	5-2	27-35	1-3	3-4
Feb. 22					
Feb. 27					
Mar. 13					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 23-25-5

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester has collected at least one point in 12 of the last 15 games against Utica dating back to the start of the 2017-18 campaign, going 7-3-2-3 over that span.
- Ten of the last 15 games between the two teams have been decided by one goal.
- Vancouver recently signed former Amerk goaltender **Michael Leighton** to an NHL contract for the remainder of the 2018-19 season.