



## Rochester Americans @ Utica Comets

Wednesday, February 27, 2019 @ Adirondack Bank Center | AHL Regular Season Game No. 855

### TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

- The Rochester Americans (33-17-3-2) bring the month of February to a close with a return trip back to Adirondack Bank Center tonight as the Amerks and intrastate rival Utica Comets (29-20-5-2) are set to exchange pleasantries for the second time in less than a week. The 7:00 p.m. North Division matchup will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

### LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks' bid for a fifth straight win came up short as the red-hot Belleville Senators overcame a pair of one-goal deficits and handed the Amerks a 5-3 loss Saturday at The Blue Cross Arena.
- Despite the loss, however, the Amerks have collected 25 out of a possible 36 points in their last 18 games and have earned at least one point in seven of their 11 meetings with the Senators dating back to last season. Rochester has also notched 33 points in its last 25 games dating back to a 4-0 shutout win in Cleveland on Dec. 26 and are tied with the Syracuse Crunch for the top spot in the AHL's North Division standings heading into the final week of February.
- With his second two-point outing in the last four games since returning from a three-month absence due to injury, rookie forward **Andrew Oglevie** scored a goal and later added an assist in the third period. Buffalo native **Sean Malone**, who appeared in his 100<sup>th</sup> professional game, opened the scoring with his third of the season while former Senator **Tyler Randell** also added his third goal of the slate. Goaltender **Adam Wilcox** stopped 21 of the 25 shots he faced but took the defeat.

### ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks begin the final full month of the 2018-19 campaign with a home-and-home set against the Syracuse Crunch beginning on Saturday, March 2 at the War Memorial Arena in Syracuse. Following the 7:00 p.m. meeting, the series will shift to The Blue Cross Arena in downtown Rochester on Sunday for a 3:05 p.m. matinee. 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. **Zach Redmond** continued his record-setting season by becoming the first defenseman in team history to score 20 goals last Wednesday, while **Victor Olofsson** eclipsed the mark for the second straight season on Friday. **Wayne Simpson** has a career-high of 19 while **C.J. Smith** and **Danny O'Regan** each have 18 coming into the week. The last time Rochester had five different 20-goal scorers in the same season was during the 2000-01 campaign.

### 2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



**TOTAL GOALS**  
181-181



**29-20-5-2 (65 points)**

**33-17-3-2 (71 points)**

### AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	51	20	26	46	12	2
Zach Redmond	43	21	23	44	30	5
C.J. Smith	41	18	23	41	12	13
GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	33	20-9-2	1,868	858	.911	2.70
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
Mar. 2	@ Syracuse	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 3	vs. Syracuse	3:05 p.m.
Mar. 8	vs. Bridgeport	7:05 p.m.

### LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Feb. 23	Belleville	L 5-3	35-26	0-3	4-4
Feb. 22	Utica	OTW 4-3	36-19	3-5	3-3
Feb. 20	Cleveland	W 4-2	33-31	1-6	4-6

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
<b>HOME</b>	17-11-0-1	96	84	35
<b>AWAY</b>	16-6-3-1	85	75	36
<b>TOTALS</b>	33-17-3-2	181	159	71

### COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	44	24	26	50	14	-2
Tanner Kero	53	21	27	48	26	-2
Zack MacEwen	49	17	25	42	49	-6
GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Ivan Kulbakov	24	10-8-6	1,348	663	.892	3.56
Michael Leighton	11	7-3-0	648:21	306	.903	3.05



### 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 46 points (20+26) in 52 games this season and is one of just three Rochester skaters to surpass the 40-point mark. A year after pacing the SHL with 27 goals, Olofsson also leads the team with 26 assists and ranks second in goals (20) as he reached the 20-goal plateau for the second straight season. 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 14<sup>th</sup> in power-play assists (15) while ranking 19<sup>th</sup> among the league's top point-getters.

### RED HOT 'REDS'

• With 15 points (5+10) over his last seven games, which includes nine (3+6) in the last four outings, Redmond has scored a team and career-high 21 goals through 44 games, including 10 on the power-play, good enough for 10<sup>th</sup> in the league in that category. Redmond, who is nearly averaging a point-per-game and had an AHL-best nine-game point streak to end the month of October, enters the week leading all AHL defenseman with 45 points while his 21 goals and 157 shots are also the most by an AHL blueliner this season. His nine game-winning goals are tops in the AHL.

### SPECIAL TEAMS ROLLING

• Since the start of 2019, the Amerks shorthanded unit has killed off 70 of 76 penalties in the last 22 games, which also includes only three power-play goals scored by the opposition since Jan. 12, a span of 17 games. Additionally, Rochester has the league's fifth-best power-play percentage (21.5%) while going 27-for-95 over the last 25 games. The Amerks also have the top power-play unit on the road (27.8%).

### A WEDGE-WALL BETWEEN THE PIPES

• Goaltender **Scott Wedgewood**, whose won 12 of his last 15 games, earned his 20<sup>th</sup> win of the season Friday night as he made 16 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 seven starts during the month of February, stopping 153 of 162 shots he faced. Over that span, he's posted a 4-2-1 record with a 1.83 goals-against average and a .933 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 20 wins are tied for second.

### ROAD WARRIORS

• At 16-6-3-1 (36 points) Rochester has the second-best road record in the AHL and have the third-most regulation wins away from home with 16. The Amerks also have the fewest regulation road losses in the AHL this season with six, having collected at least one point in 20 of their 26 contests away from The Blue Cross Arena. Coming into this week, the Amerks have won 10 of their last 16 road contests while also outscoring the opposition 50-41 over that span.

### AMERKS-COMETS 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

#### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	8	5	6	11	0	-1
Wayne Simpson	8	4	4	8	4	4
Danny O'Regan	6	4	3	7	6	1

#### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	3	3-0-0	179:56	4	.938	1.33
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	5	6	3	9	0	5
Zack MacEwen	7	2	5	7	9	-2
Tanner Kero	8	1	4	5	8	4

#### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Michael Leighton	1	1-0-0	59:34	2	.926	2.01
Ivan Kulbakov	2	0-0-2	125:38	6	.930	2.87
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
<b>Oct. 26</b>	W	4-0	24-20	1-4	0-5
<b>Nov. 23</b>	L	5-4	47-23	1-6	3-5
<b>Dec. 5</b>	W	5-2	27-27	0-2	3-3
Dec. 29	L	4-3	36-35	2-5	6-8
<b>Jan. 25</b>	SOW	3-2	51-37	0-3	4-4
Feb. 9	L	5-2	27-35	1-3	3-4
Feb. 22	OTW	4-3	36-19	3-5	3-3
Feb. 27					
<b>Mar. 13</b>					

### AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. UTICA: 24-25-5

#### SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester has collected at least one point in 13 of the last 16 games against Utica dating back to the start of the 2017-18 campaign, going 8-3-2-3 over that span.
- Eleven of the last 16 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.