



## Utica Comets vs. Rochester Americans

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 943

### TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

• The Rochester Americans (38-18-3-2) are gunning for their fourth straight win tonight as they conclude their season-series against the Utica Comets (30-25-5-2) with a 7:05 p.m. North Division showdown. The contest from The Blue Cross Arena will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

### LAST TIME OUT

- With his third multi-point effort in the last three games, **Rasmus Asplund** led the Amerks to a 6-1 thrashing over the Binghamton Devils Sunday afternoon at The Blue Cross Arena, putting the finishing touches on a perfect three-win weekend for the Amerks.
- Along with the win, the Amerks regained the top spot in the AHL's North Division standings over the Syracuse Crunch, despite the Crunch having a game in hand. Rochester has now collected 35 out of a possible 48 points in its last 24 games. The victory also gave Rochester points in 13 of the last 17 games against the Devils dating back to the start of the 2017-18 season. The Amerks show a 10-4-2-1 record during that span.
- While Asplund added three points (1+2), **Taylor Leier** and **Remi Elie** each recorded a goal and an assist. **Matt Tennyson**, **Lawrence Pilut** and **C.J. Smith** all completed the scoring while goaltender **Scott Wedgewood** improved to 24-10-2 on the season as he stopped 18 of 19 shots. The sixth-year pro boasts an impressive 15-4-1 record in his last 20 appearances dating back to Dec. 26.

### ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

• The Amerks look to avenge their back-to-back Opening Weekend losses to the league-leading Charlotte Checkers as they hit road for a weekend set in North Carolina for the final two games of the season series. The AHL's top two teams kick-off their weekend series on Friday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. before one final get-together on Saturday for a 6:00 p.m. face-off. All the action from the Bojangles' Coliseum in Charlotte 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 or more by the season's end. Defenseman **Zach Redmond** and forwards **Victor Olofsson** and **C.J. Smith** all have reached the mark while **Wayne Simpson** is on the brink having scored a career-high 19 goal this season. Not far behind is both **Danny O'Regan** and **Taylor Leier**, who each have 18 coming into the week. The last time the Amerks had five 20-goal scorers in the same season was in 2000-01. The Amerks are one of four teams this season (Springfield, Syracuse and Utica) to have three different players with 20 or more goals.

### 2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS  
192-206



30-25-5-2 (67 points)

38-18-3-2 (81 points)

### AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	58	23	28	51	12	6
C.J. Smith	48	21	27	48	22	18
Zach Redmond	50	21	27	47	32	14

  

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	38	24-10-2	2,166	979	.914	2.55
Adam Wilcox	22	10-7-3	1,242	521	.897	2.90
Jonas Johansson	5	4-1-0	265:52	126	.926	2.26

### NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Mar. 15	@ Charlotte	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 16	@ Charlotte	6:00 p.m.
Mar. 22	vs. Cleveland	7:05 p.m.

### LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Mar. 3	Binghamton	W 5-1	32-19	2-3	5-6
Mar. 9	Binghamton	W 5-3	30-33	1-5	4-5
Mar. 8	Bridgeport	W 5-0	39-27	1-4	4-4

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	19-12-0-1	106	89	39
AWAY	19-6-3-1	98	82	42
TOTALS	38-18-3-2	206	171	81

### COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Reid Boucher	48	27	28	55	14	-3
Tanner Kero	56	21	28	49	28	-6
Zack MacEwen	55	20	27	47	51	-10

  

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Marek Mazanec	22	7-10-4	1,273	578	.902	2.97
Michael Leighton	15	8-6-0	882:54	396	.896	3.13



# UTICA COMETS GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERICANS



## OLOFSSON HITS THE 50-POINT MARK

• Coming off his eighth game-winning goal last Saturday night in Binghamton, which is second-most in the league behind only **Zach Redmond**, forward **Victor Olofsson** continues to lead the club in all offensive categories, including goals (23), assists (28) and points (51) in 58 games this season while being one of just three Rochester skaters to surpass the 40-point mark. A year after pacing the SHL with 27 goals, Olofsson became the first Amerk to reach the 50-point mark since Cole Schneider during the 2016-17 campaign with his second of two goals in Binghamton this past Saturday. Olofsson, who earned CCM/AHL Player of the Month honors for October, is also tied for 14<sup>th</sup> in the AHL in power-play assists (15) while ranking 18<sup>th</sup> among the league's top point-getters in overall scoring. He hasn't gone more than four straight games without a point all season.

## RED HOT 'REDS'

• With 18 points (5+13) over his last 13 games, which includes six multi-point efforts during that span, Redmond has scored a career-high 21 goals through 50 games, including 10 on the power-play, good enough for 10<sup>th</sup> in the league in that category. Redmond, who is currently averaging just under a point-per-game and had an AHL-best nine-game point streak to end the month of October, continues to lead all AHL defensemen with 48 points while his 21 goals and 177 shots are also the most by an AHL blueliner this season. In addition, his nine game-winning goals are tops in the AHL.

## A WEDGE-WALL BETWEEN THE PIPES

• **Scott Wedgewood**, who has won seven of his last eight and 15 of his last 20 games, posted his 24<sup>th</sup> win of the season Sunday afternoon with an 18-save effort against Binghamton. With his 24<sup>th</sup> victory, Wedgewood established a new pro career-high in wins as he boasts a 24-10-2 record in 38 games for Rochester this season. The sixth-year netminder, who's also fresh off his second five-game win streak of the season, has allowed one goal-against or less in seven of his last 12 starts, stopping 303 of 324 shots he faced. Over that span, he's earned a 7-3-1 record with a 1.74 goals-against average and a .935 save percentage. He comes into week tied for third among all AHL goaltenders in shutouts (4) while his career-high 24 wins are four off the league lead coming into week.

## SMITH PILING UP THE POINTS

• **C.J. Smith** has been piling up the points on an absolute torrid pace. With another assist Friday night against Bridgeport and his 21<sup>st</sup> goal of the season Sunday afternoon versus Binghamton, the second-year pro has amassed a whopping 31 points (15+16) over his last 27 games dating back to Dec. 5, having been held scoreless just six times over that span. He also posted a season-long nine-game point streak in that time. Smith is just one of three Amerks skaters to reach the 40-point plateau this season having already established career-highs in both goals (21) and points (48) while tying a personal-best 27 assists in 10 fewer games (46) from his rookie campaign a year ago.

## AMERKS-COMETS 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	9	6	6	12	0	0
Wayne Simpson	8	4	4	8	4	4
C.J. Smith	7	3	5	8	2	3

### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	4	4-0-0	239:53	5	.947	1.25
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	6	7	3	10	0	53
Zack MacEwen	8	2	6	8	9	-4
Tanner Kero	8	1	4	5	8	4

### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Michael Leighton	2	1-1-0	117:14	5	.915	2.56
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	W	3-1	32-31	1-3	3-4
<b>Mar. 13</b>					

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

## SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester has collected at least one point in 14 of the last 17 games against Utica dating back to the start of the 2017-18 campaign, going 9-3-2-3 over that span.
- Eleven of the last 17 games between the two teams have been decided by one goal.
- Wedgewood enters tonight's game with a 4-0-0 record and 1.25 goals-against average against Utica.