



Rochester Americans @ Charlotte Checkers

Friday, March 15, 2019 @ Bojangles' Coliseum | AHL Regular Season Game No. 945

TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

• The Rochester Americans (39-18-3-2) are gunning for their fifth straight win tonight as they open a crucial weekend series against the league-leading Charlotte Checkers (39-15-6-1) with a 7:00 p.m. showdown between the league's top two teams. The contest from the Bojangles Coliseum will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

LAST TIME OUT

• After being locked in a scoreless affair entering the third period of Wednesday night's game at The Blue Cross Arena against the Utica Comets, the Amerks tallied three unanswered goals during the final frame to come out with a 3-0 victory. The shutout win by **Scott Wedgewood** was his second in his last three appearances and fifth overall of the season, which set a new career-high.

• Along with the win, the fourth consecutive for Rochester, the Amerks remain atop the AHL's North Division standings with a one-point lead over the Syracuse Crunch, despite the Crunch having a game in hand. Rochester has now collected 37 out of a possible 50 points in its last 25 games. The victory also gave Rochester at least one point in 15 of the last 18 games against Utica dating back to the start of the 2017-18 campaign, going 10-3-2-3 over that span.

• **Victor Olofsson** turned in his 14th multi-point effort of the season as he tallied a team-leading 24th goal of the season to go with an assist while **C.J. Smith** reached the 50-point mark for the first time in his career as he notched a two-point (1+1) night, including the game-winner. **Taylor Leier** extended his goal-scoring streak to tie a career-long three games while **Rasmus Asplund** pushed his point streak to a personal-best four games with his helper on Smith's 22nd goal of the season.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

• After a quick turnaround, the Amerks and Checkers close out their weekend series on Saturday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m. 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** and **Taylor Leier** are both on the brink having scored 19 goals this season. Not far behind is **Danny O'Regan**, who has found the net 18 times coming into the weekend. The last time the Amerks had five 20-goal scorers in the same season was in 2000-01, which also included current Amerks head coach **Chris Taylor**.

2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
200-209



39-15-6-1 (85 points)

39-18-3-2 (83 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	59	24	29	53	12	7
C.J. Smith	49	22	28	50	22	19
Zach Redmond	51	21	27	48	34	14

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	39	25-10-2	2,226	1,009	.916	2.48
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. 16	@ Charlotte	6:00 p.m.
Mar. 22	vs. Cleveland	7:05 p.m.
Mar. 23	@ Toronto	5:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Mar. 13	Utica	W 3-0	26-30	1-8	4-4
Mar. 10	Binghamton	W 5-1	32-19	2-3	5-6
Mar. 9	Binghamton	W 5-3	30-33	1-5	4-5

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	20-12-0-1	111	89	41
AWAY	19-6-3-1	98	82	42
TOTALS	39-18-3-2	209	171	83

CHECKERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Andrew Poturalski	61	21	36	57	34	7
Alexi Saarela	56	20	21	41	8	6
Janne Kuokkanen	48	12	26	38	16	8

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Alex Nedeljkovic	42	28-7-4	2,381	979	.912	2.37
Dustin Tokarski	22	11-6-2	1,200	554	.902	3.00



OLOFSSON LEADING THE WAY

• With his team-leading 14th multi-point (1+1) effort Wednesday night, forward **Victor Olofsson** continues to lead the club in all offensive categories, including goals (24), assists (29) and points (53) in 59 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 16th in the AHL in power-play assists (15) while ranking 17th among the league's top point-getters in overall scoring. His eight game-winning goals, two of which have come in his last seven games, are second-most in the AHL behind only teammate **Zach Redmond**.

RED HOT 'REDS'

• With 18 points (5+13) over his last 14 games, which includes six multi-point efforts during that span, Redmond has scored a career-high 21 goals through 51 games, including 10 on the power-play, good enough for 10th 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, ranks second among all AHL defensemen with 48 points while his 21 goals and 181 shots are 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 eight of his last nine and 16 of his last 21 games, posted his 25th win of the season Wednesday night with a 30-save effort against Utica. With his 25th victory, Wedgewood established a new pro career-high in wins as he boasts a 25-10-2 and five shutouts. 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 eight of his last 13 starts, stopping 333 of 354 shots he faced. Over that span, he's earned an 8-3-1 record with a 1.61 goals-against average and a .940 save percentage. He comes into weekend tied for second among all AHL goaltenders in shutouts (5) while his career-high 25 wins are three off the league lead coming into weekend series with the Checkers. He also ranks 10th with a 2.48 goals-against average and a .916 save percentage.

SMITH PILING UP THE POINTS

• **C.J. Smith** has been piling up the points on an absolute torrid pace. With another two-point (1+1) night against Utica on Wednesday, which included his 22nd goal of the season, the second-year pro has amassed a whopping 33 points (16+17) over his last 28 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 reached the 50-point plateau for the first time in his career and he has already established career-highs in both goals (22) and points (50) while setting a personal-best 28 assists.

AMERKS-CHECKERS 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER						
SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Lawrence Pilut	2	1	1	2	0	0
Alexander Nylander	2	0	2	2	0	0
Eric Cornel	2	1	0	1	0	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	2	0-2-0	116:26	10	.859	5.15

CHARLOTTE						
SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Nicolas Roy	2	4	2	6	0	3
Andrew Poturalski	2	2	3	5	0	0
Janne Kuokkanen	2	2	2	4	0	2

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Alex Nedeljkovic	2	2-0-0	120:00	4	.933	2.00

2018-19 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 5	L	6-2	24-39	1-3	1-3
Oct. 6	L	4-2	36-32	0-5	2-4
Mar. 15					
Mar. 16					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. CHARLOTTE: 2-4-0

SERIES NOTABLES

- Tonight is just the seventh all-time meeting between the Amerks and Checkers. The Amerks have earned one point in three of the last six contests, including a pair of wins.
- The Amerks led the AHL with 29 games that were decided beyond regulation last season, while the Checkers had a league-low seven contests that went to the extra session.
- Each of the two clubs have won 39 games this season and enter the weekend first and second in the entire AHL with 85 and 83 points, respectively.
- The Amerks show a 19-6-3-1 record outside the Flower City while the Checkers own a home record of 18-6-4-0.
- The Amerk have the top-ranked power-play percentage (26.7 %) while on the road while the Checkers hold the second-best penalty kill unit on home ice with a success rate of 85.8 %.