



Rochester Americans @ Charlotte Checkers

Saturday, March 16, 2019 @ Bojangles' Coliseum | AHL Regular Season Game No. 957

TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

- The Rochester Americans (39-19-3-2) and Charlotte Checkers (40-15-6-1) clash for the second time in as many nights tonight as the interconference rivals close out their weekend set at Bojangles Coliseum. The Amerks look to avoid the season sweep at the hands of the Checkers, who have won all three meetings so far this season. Game time is slated for a 6:00 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

LAST TIME OUT

- In a game that featured the top two teams in the American Hockey League, the Amerks' bid for a fifth straight win came up short as they fell 4-1 last night to the Checkers in the first of back-to-back meetings at Bojangles Coliseum.
- The loss dropped the Amerks a point behind the Syracuse Crunch for the North Division lead despite having collected 37 out of a possible 52 points in their last 26 games. The regulation loss was just the seventh for the Amerks outside the Flower City, which are fewest in the league this season.
- Rookie forward **Rasmus Asplund** helped the Amerks avoid their third shutout of the season as he scored his seventh goal of the campaign late in the third period to extend his point streak to a career-long five games while goaltender **Scott Wedgewood** (25-11-2) was tagged with the loss as he made 18 saves. Over his last 22 appearances, the sixth-year netminder shows an impressive 16-5-1 record dating back to Dec. 26.

ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

- The Amerks return to action for the second-to-last three-in-three of the 2018-19 campaign beginning on Friday, March 22 as they close out the home portion of their schedule with the Cleveland Monsters. Following the 7:05 p.m. matchup from The Blue Cross Arena, the Amerks wrap up their season series north of the border with back-to-back matchups against the rival Toronto Marlies at Coca-Cola Coliseum. All three 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 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
204-210



40-15-6-1 (87 points)

39-19-3-2 (83 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	60	24	29	53	12	6
C.J. Smith	50	22	28	50	22	19
Zach Redmond	52	21	27	48	34	13

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	40	25-11-2	2,284	1,027	.915	2.50
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. 22	vs. Cleveland	7:05 p.m.
Mar. 23	@ Toronto	5:00 p.m.
Mar. 24	@ Toronto	5:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Mar. 15	Charlotte	L 4-1	29-22	1-7	4-5
Mar. 13	Utica	W 3-0	26-30	1-8	4-4
Mar. 10	Binghamton	W 5-1	32-19	2-3	5-6

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	20-12-0-1	111	89	41
AWAY	19-7-3-1	99	86	42
TOTALS	39-19-3-2	210	175	83

CHECKERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Andrew Poturalski	62	21	37	58	34	7
Alexi Saarela	57	21	21	42	8	6
Janne Kuokkanen	48	12	26	38	16	8

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA	
Alex Nedeljkovic	43	29-7-4	2,441	1,007	.914	2.34
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 against Utica, forward **Victor Olofsson** continues to lead the club in all offensive categories, including goals (24), assists (29) and points (53) in 60 games this season while being one of just four 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 last Saturday. Olofsson, who earned CCM/AHL Player of the Month honors for October, is also tied for 20th 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 eight games, are second-most in the AHL behind only teammate **Zach Redmond**.

RED HOT 'REDS'

• With 18 points (5+13) over his last 15 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 184 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 10 and 16 of his last 22 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 25-11-2 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 14 starts, stopping 351 of 375 shots he faced. Over that span, he's earned an 8-4-1 record with a 1.71 goals-against average and a .936 save percentage. He comes into weekend tied for second among all AHL goaltenders in shutouts (5) while his career-high 25 wins are four off the league lead. He also ranks fifth in saves (1,027), ninth with a 2.50 goals-against average and 12th with a .915 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 29 games dating back to Dec. 5, having been held scoreless just seven 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	3	1	1	2	2	-1
Alexander Nylander	2	0	2	2	0	0
Rasmus Asplund	3	1	0	1	0	-1

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	3	0-3-0	174:29	13	.859	4.47

CHARLOTTE						
SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Nicolas Roy	3	4	2	6	0	3
Andrew Poturalski	3	2	4	6	0	0
Trevor Carrick	3	0	6	6	6	1

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Alex Nedeljkovic	3	3-0-0	180:00	5	.944	1.67

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	L	4-1	29-22	1-5	6-7
Mar. 16					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. CHARLOTTE: 2-5-0

SERIES NOTABLES

- Tonight is just the eighth all-time meeting between the Amerks and Checkers. The Amerks have earned one point in three of the last seven 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.
- The Amerks show a 19-7-3-1 record outside the Flower City while the Checkers own a home record of 19-6-4-0.
- Each of the two clubs have won at least 39 games this season and enter the weekend first and third in the entire AHL with 87 and 83 points, respectively.
- The Amerk have the top-ranked power-play percentage (26.4 %) while on the road while the Checkers hold the second-best penalty kill unit on home ice in the Eastern Conference with a success rate of 85.6 %.