



# Cleveland Monsters vs. Rochester Americans

Friday, March 22, 2019 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 989

## TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

• The Rochester Americans (39-20-3-2) look to reverse their two-game slide tonight as they open another stretch of three games in three nights with the final visit of the season from the Cleveland Monsters (30-26-7-1). The 7:05 p.m. North Division showdown 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

• For just the second time this season, the Amerks dropped back-to-back regulation losses on the road as they come up short in a 3-1 penalty-filled matchup to the league-leading Charlotte Checkers Saturday at Bojangles Coliseum. The game was the second in as many nights and the final meeting of the four-game season series between the two teams.

• The pair of setbacks keeps the Amerks five points behind the Syracuse Crunch for the North Division lead despite having collected 37 out of a possible 54 points in their last 27 games. The regulation loss was just the eighth for the Amerks outside the Flower City, which are tied for fewest in the league this season.

• **Kevin Porter** put the Amerks on the scoreboard as he tallied his ninth of the season in the second period while goaltender **Scott Wedgewood** (25-12-2) was tagged with the loss, his second in as many nights, as he made 19 saves. Over his last 23 appearances, the sixth-year netminder shows an 16-6-1 record dating back to Dec. 26.

## ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERKS

• 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. Both of the 5:00 p.m. North Division matchups will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

## SHARING THE WEALTH

• 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**.

• Rochester's well-balanced offense has already produced two 50-point getters so far in 2018-19 in Olofsson (53) and Smith (51) with two more on the verge as Redmond has a career-high 49 points and O'Regan has 40 coming into this weekend's slate of games.

## 2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



**TOTAL GOALS**  
204-210



**30-26-7-1 (68 points)**

**39-20-3-2 (83 points)**

## AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	61	24	29	53	12	6
C.J. Smith	51	22	29	51	22	20
Zach Redmond	53	21	28	49	34	13

  

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	41	25-12-2	2,339	1,046	.914	2.51
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. 23	@ Toronto	5:00 p.m.
Mar. 24	@ Toronto	5:00 p.m.
Mar. 27	vs. Lehigh Valley	7:05 p.m.

## LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Mar. 16	Charlotte	L 3-1	34-22	0-9	2-3
Mar. 15	Charlotte	L 4-1	29-22	1-7	4-5
Mar. 13	Utica	W 3-0	26-30	1-8	4-4

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
<b>HOME</b>	20-12-0-1	111	89	41
<b>AWAY</b>	19-8-3-1	100	89	42
<b>TOTALS</b>	39-20-3-2	211	178	83

## MONSTERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Zac Dalpe	43	23	18	41	43	10
Mark Letesu	52	17	20	37	14	-5
Nathan Gerbe	41	10	22	32	40	-1

  

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Jean-Francois Berube	42	20-17-5	2,415	1,032	.894	3.03
Brad Thiessen	14	6-5-2	735:47	306	.903	2.69



### OLOFSSON LEADING THE WAY

• With his team-leading 14<sup>th</sup> multi-point (1+1) effort of the season against Utica back on March 13, **Victor Olofsson** continues to lead the club in goals (24) and points (53) while his 29 assists are tied for the team lead through 61 games this season. Olofsson is just 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 earlier this month. Olofsson, who earned CCM/AHL Player of the Month honors for October, is also tied for 21<sup>st</sup> in the AHL in power-play assists (15) while ranking 20<sup>th</sup> among the league's top point-getters in overall scoring. His eight game-winning goals, two of which have come in his last nine games, are second-most in the AHL behind **Zach Redmond**.

### RED HOT 'REDS'

• With 19 points (5+14) over his last 16 games, which includes six multi-point efforts during that span, Redmond has scored a career-high 21 goals through 53 games, including 10 on the power-play, good enough for 11<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, ranks second among all AHL defensemen with 49 points while his 21 goals and 186 shots are the most by an AHL blueliner this season. In addition to nearing the first 50-point season of his career, 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 10 and 15 of his last 22 games, owns a career-best 25-12-2 record in 41 games this season with the Amerks. In addition to his 25 wins, which are four off the league lead coming into the week, the sixth-netminder has a personal-high five shutouts, tying him for second-most in the AHL. Wedgewood, who previously won a season-long five straight to close out the month of October, has allowed one goal-against or less in eight of his last 15 starts, stopping 370 of 394 shots he faced. Over that span, he's earned an 8-6-1 record with a 1.81 goals-against average and a .931 save percentage. He also ranks fifth in saves (1,046), tied for 10<sup>th</sup> with a 2.51 goals-against average and 14<sup>th</sup> with a .914 save percentage coming into the second to last week of March.

### SMITH PILING UP THE POINTS

• **C.J. Smith** has been piling up the points on an absolute torrid pace. With three more points (1+2) last week, which included his 22<sup>nd</sup> goal of the season, the second-year pro has amassed a whopping 34 points (16+18) over his last 30 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 goals (22), assists (29) and points (51). He also leads all forwards with a plus-20 on-ice rating in 51 games.

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

#### ROCHESTER

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

#### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	5	4-1-0	298:41	9	.945	1.81
Adam Wilcox	1	1-0-0	63:32	1	.968	0.94

#### CLEVELAND

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Nathan Gerbe	4	2	2	4	2	-2
Paul Bittner	5	2	1	3	0	2
Adam Clendening	4	1	2	3	6	-1

#### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Jean-Francois Berube	5	1-3-1	239:59	13	.898	3.25
Matiss Kivlenieks	2	0-1-0	118:48	5	.928	2.53

### 2018-19 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
<b>Nov. 7</b>	W	5-2	39-26	0-1	2-2
<b>Dec. 14</b>	W	3-1	26-42	0-4	4-5
Dec. 15	OTW	2-1	42-31	1-6	2-3
Dec. 26	W	4-0	31-31	3-6	0-4
Feb. 12	L	5-2	28-34	0-4	3-3
<b>Feb. 20</b>	W	4-2	33-31	1-6	4-6
<b>Mar. 22</b>					
Apr. 8					

**AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. CLEVELAND: 35-22-6**

### SERIES NOTABLES

- Amerks assistant coach **Toby Petersen** spent the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons behind the bench with the Monsters. Petersen helped the team earn its first Calder Cup in 2016.
- Tonight is just the seventh game between the Amerks and Monsters since the 2015-16 season. Rochester holds a record of 25-6-2-3 over Cleveland since the start of the 2011-12 campaign.
- With a win tonight Rochester would complete a sweep over Cleveland while on home ice with a perfect 4-0-0-0 record. The Amerks have outscored the Monsters 12-5 in the three previous home games, including a 5-2 win in Buffalo on Nov. 7.