



## Lehigh Valley Phantoms vs. Rochester Americans

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 1022

### TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

- The Rochester Americans (41-21-3-2) can potentially punch their ticket to the postseason tonight as they begin a busy stretch of three games in four nights when they host the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (32-27-4-3) at The Blue Cross Arena for the only time this season. The 7:05 p.m. matchup will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

### LAST TIME OUT

- After scoring three goals in the final 20 minutes of regulation to overcome a 4-1 deficit and force overtime in Sunday's rematch at Coca-Cola Coliseum, **Danny O'Regan** delivered the game-winner just 17 seconds into the extra period to cap a thrilling 5-4 come-from-behind win for the Amerks over the Toronto Marlies.
- The victory, which gave Rochester a perfect 3-0-0-0 record in the three games against the Marlies in Toronto this season, moved the Amerks to within three points of the Syracuse Crunch for the AHL's North Division lead. The team has also earned 41 out of a possible 60 points in its last 30 games following the weekend sweep of the defending Calder Cup champion Marlies.
- The high-scoring line trio of O'Regan, **Rasmus Asplund** and **Victor Olofsson** combined for 10 of the Amerks' 14 points on the night to give the club its fifth win of the season against the Marlies. As Olofsson added a career-high four assists, Asplund recorded his second two-goal night to go with a helper while O'Regan posted his first three-point effort (1+2) of the season. **C.J. Smith** and **Kyle Criscuolo** rounded out the scoring while **Adam Wilcox** (11-8-3) was awarded the win as he stopped all seven shots he faced after replacing **Scott Wedgewood** just 38 seconds into the third period.

### ROAD AHEAD FOR ROCHESTER

- The Amerks close out the home portion of the month as they host the Laval Rocket at The Blue Cross Arena before closing out March on Saturday against the Binghamton Devils at the Floyd L. Maines Veterans Arena. Both of the 7:05 p.m. contests 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**, **Taylor Leier** and **Danny O'Regan** are all on the brink having scored 19 goals this season. The last time Rochester had five 20-goal scorers in the same season was 2000-01.
- Rochester's well-balanced offense has already produced two 50-point getters so far in 2018-19 in Olofsson (60) and Smith (54).

### 2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS  
203-223



32-27-4-3 (71 points)

41-21-3-2 (87 points)

### AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	64	27	33	60	12	10
C.J. Smith	54	25	29	54	24	21
Zach Redmond	53	21	28	49	34	13

  

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	43	26-12-2	2,440	1,082	.912	2.56
Adam Wilcox	24	11-8-3	1,317	550	.897	2.87
Jonas Johansson	5	4-1-0	265:52	126	.926	2.26

### NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Mar. 29	vs. Laval	7:05 p.m.
Mar. 30	@ Binghamton	5:00 p.m.
Apr. 5	vs. Syracuse	7:05 p.m.

### LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Mar. 24	Toronto	OTW 5-4	39-24	0-1	2-2
Mar. 23	Toronto	W 5-2	32-25	0-3	5-5
Mar. 22	Cleveland	L 5-2	37-27	1-6	2-4

YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	20-13-0-1	113	94	41
AWAY	21-8-3-1	110	95	46
TOTALS	41-21-3-2	223	189	87

### PHANTOMS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Greg Carey	64	27	30	57	20	-10
Chris Conner	62	14	29	43	16	-6
T.J. Brennan	55	8	32	40	64	-18

  

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Alex Lyon	32	14-15-3	1,912	917	.918	2.57
Mike McKenna	13	7-6-0	772:31	390	.886	3.38



### OLOFSSON LEADING THE WAY

• On the heels of his team-leading 16<sup>th</sup> multi-point game and the first four-assist effort of his career on Sunday night in Toronto, Olofsson continues to lead the club in all offensive categories, including goals (27), assists (33) and points (60) through 64 games this season. A year after pacing the SHL with 27 goals, Olofsson is on pace to become the first Amerk to score 30 goals since Thomas Vanek (42) and Jason Pominville (30) both reached the mark during the 2004-05 campaign. Olofsson, who earned CCM/AHL Player of the Month honors for October, is currently tied for fifth in the AHL in points while also sharing the 10<sup>th</sup> spot among the league's top goal-scorers. Additionally, he ranks among the league leaders with 15 power-play assists while his nine game-winning goals, three of which have come in his last 12 games, are also tied with teammate **Zach Redmond** for most in the AHL.

### A WEDGE-WALL BETWEEN THE PIPES

• **Scott Wedgewood**, who has won eight of his last 12 games, owns a career-best 26-12-2 record in 43 appearances this season with the Amerks. In addition to his 26 wins, which are five off the league lead coming into the week, the sixth-netminder has posted a career-best five shutouts, which are third-most in the AHL. Wedgewood, who previously won a season-long five straight to close out the month of October, has allowed two goals-against or less in 10 of his last 17 starts, stopping 406 of 439 shots he faced. Over that span, he boasts an 9-6-1 record with a 1.99 goals-against average and a .925 save percentage. He also ranks sixth in saves (1,082), 15<sup>th</sup> with a 2.56 goals-against average and 17<sup>th</sup> with a .912 save percentage. He's also on pace to become the first Amerks netminder to reach 30 wins in a season since former two-time MVP David Leggio posted 38 victories during the 2012-13 campaign.

### SMITH PILING UP THE POINTS

• **C.J. Smith** has been piling up the points on an absolute torrid pace. With his fifth goal in his last seven games, the second-year pro has amassed a whopping 37 points (19+18) over his last 33 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 is eyeing the 60-point plateau for the first time in his career and he has already established career-highs in goals (25), assists (29) and points (54). He also shares of the team-lead with a plus-21 on-ice rating in 54 games while playing at a point-per-game pace for the better part of the last three months for Rochester.

### PLAYOFF PICTURE

• Coming into tonight, Rochester's magic number to clinch a playoff spot stands at four, meaning the Amerks can potentially punch their ticket to the postseason with a win over Lehigh Valley coupled with a Belleville regulation loss to Syracuse. It would be the team's second straight playoff berth and the fifth in the last eight years since 2011.

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

#### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Kevin Porter	1	1	1	2	0	2
Wayne Simpson	1	0	2	2	0	2
Matt Tennyson	1	1	0	1	0	1

#### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Adam Wilcox	1	0-0-1	64:57	2	.917 1.85

#### LEHIGH VALLEY

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Conner Bunnaman	1	1	0	1	0	1
Greg Carey	1	1	0	1	0	-1
Chris Conner	1	0	1	1	0	0

#### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA
Alex Lyon	1	1-0-0	65:00	2	.961 1.85

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

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Jan. 19	SOL	3-2	51-25	0-7	2-2
Mar. 27					

### AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. LEHIGH VALLEY: 30-29-6

#### SERIES NOTABLES

- Lehigh Valley's roster includes a trio of former Amerks in two-time team MVP Phil Varone and Justin Bailey, both whom is currently on recall with the Philadelphia Flyers, and defenseman T.J. Brennan.
- The Buffalo Sabres traded Bailey earlier this season to the Flyers in exchange for forward **Taylor Leier**. Bailey began his career with the Amerks and totaled 118 points (62+54) in 196 games with Rochester in his first three and a half seasons from 2015 to 2019.
- Leier made his Amerks debut against his former team in the only earlier meeting this season after posting 136 points (56+80) in 226 games with the Phantoms to begin his professional career.
- Despite just going 1-3-0-0 during the 2016-17 season against the Phantoms, the Amerks are 6-6-0-1 in the last 13 meetings between the two teams dating back to the 2015-16 campaign.
- Brennan leads all Phantoms defensemen in scoring for the third straight season He has recorded 457 points (156+308) in 637 career games with Lehigh Valley, Toronto, Rockford, Rochester and Portland.