



LAVAL ROCKET GAME NOTES ROCHESTER AMERICANS



Laval Rocket vs. Rochester Americans

Friday, March 29, 2019 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 1032

TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

• The Rochester Americans (41-21-4-2) can potentially punch their ticket to the postseason tonight as they close out the home portion of March with one final get-together against the Laval Rocket (28-28-6-6) at The Blue Cross Arena. The 7:05 p.m. North Division matchup will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

LAST TIME OUT

- The Amerks erased a two-goal deficit and tied Wednesday night's game against Lehigh Valley Phantoms before falling 4-3 in overtime at The Blue Cross Arena.
- Despite the overtime loss, which gave Rochester a 6-6-1-0 record in its last 14 meetings with the Phantoms, the Amerks remain just three points behind the Syracuse Crunch for the AHL's North Division lead. The team has also earned 42 out of a possible 62 points in its last 31 games going into the final two games of March.
- Forward and Amerks team captain **Kevin Porter** notched his fifth two-point game of the season as he tallied his 10th goal of the season to go with an assist while **Eric Cornel** and former Phantom **Taylor Leier** each found the back of the net. **Adam Wilcox** (11-8-3) suffered the overtime loss despite making 13 saves in 30 minutes after replacing **Scott Wedgewood** with 7:33 left in the second period.

ROAD AHEAD FOR ROCHESTER

• The Amerks bring the month of March to a close on Saturday, March 30 as they make their way to the southern tier for a North Division showdown against the Binghamton Devils at Floyd L. Maines Veterans Arena. The 7:05 p.m. contest 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 **Danny O'Regan** are all on the brink having scored 19 goals this season. **Taylor Leier** joined the 20-goal club for the first time since the 2015-16 season as a member of the Lehigh Valley Phantoms with his first-period tally against his former club on Wednesday. The last time Rochester had five 20-goal scorers in the same season was 2000-01, which included head coach **Chris Taylor**.
- The Amerks are just one of three teams in the AHL (Syracuse and Texas) this season to have four players with 20 or more goals.
- Rochester's well-balanced offense has already produced two 50-point getters so far in 2018-19 in Olofsson (60) and Smith (54) while **Zach Redmond** (49) and **Danny O'Regan** (45) are both on the verge.

2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
180-226



28-28-6-6 (68 points)

41-21-4-2 (88 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson*	64	27	33	60	12	10
C.J. Smith	55	25	29	54	24	21
Zach Redmond	53	21	28	49	34	13

*Currently on NHL recall with Buffalo

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	44	26-12-2	2,472	1,096	.911	2.60
Adam Wilcox	25	11-8-4	1,347	563	.898	2.85
Jonas Johansson	5	4-1-0	265:52	126	.926	2.26

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Mar. 30	@ Binghamton	7:05 p.m.
Apr. 5	vs. Syracuse	7:05 p.m.
Apr. 6	@ Syracuse	7:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Mar. 27	LV	OTL 4-3	43-31	1-3	0-0
Mar. 24	TOR	OTW 5-4	39-24	0-1	2-2
Mar. 23	TOR	W 5-2	32-25	0-3	5-5

YEARLY RECORD

	GF	GA	POINTS	
HOME	20-13-1-1	116	98	42
AWAY	21-8-3-1	110	95	46
TOTALS	41-21-4-2	226	193	88

ROCKET OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Alex Belzile	66	15	35	50	72	-9
Jake Evans	64	13	30	43	22	-9
Daniel Audette	63	14	22	36	49	-1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA	
Michael McNiven	25	10-9-3	1,342	517	.904	2.46
Connor LaCouvee	13	6-3-2	763:41	309	.914	2.28



OLOFSSON LEADING THE WAY

• After notching his team-leading 16th multi-point game and the first four-assist effort of his career on Sunday in Toronto, Olofsson earned his first recall to the Buffalo Sabres Wednesday. The Swedish forward, who leads the Amerks in all offensive categories, including goals (27), assists (33) and points (60) through 64 games this season, made his NHL debut last night against Detroit, recording an assist on Jack Eichel's 100th career NHL goal while also posting a team-high five shots on goal over 16:25 of ice time. 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 10th 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 13 games, including a season-long five straight, boasts a career-best 26-12-2 record in 44 appearances this season. In addition to his 26 wins, which are six off the league lead coming into the weekend, 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, also ranks sixth among all goaltenders in saves (1,096) while his .911 save percentage and 2.60 goals-against average are 16th and 17th in the AHL, respectively. 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 eight games, the second-year pro has amassed a whopping 37 points (19+18) over his last 34 games dating back to Dec. 5, having been held scoreless just eight 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 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 55 games while playing at nearly 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 three, meaning the Amerks can potentially punch their ticket to the postseason for the second straight year with a win over Laval coupled with a Cleveland regulation loss to Lehigh Valley. It would also be the team's fifth playoff appearance since 2012.

AMERKS-ROCKET 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Zach Redmond	3	2	1	3	0	1
Alexander Nylander	3	1	0	1	0	0
Judd Peterson	2	1	0	1	2	1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	2	2-0-0	123:20	4	.937	1.95
Adam Wilcox	1	0-1-0	58:19	2	.867	2.06

LAVAL

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Byron Froese	3	0	3	3	2	0
Daniel Audette	3	1	1	2	2	2
Alex Belzile	3	1	1	2	2	-1

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Connor LaCouvee	1	1-0-0	60:00	1	.966	1.00
Michael McNiven	1	0-0-1	64:47	2	.941	1.85
Charlie Lindgren	1	0-1-0	57:49	3	.880	3.11

2018-19 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 27	W	3-2	25-39	0-6	10-12
Jan. 4	SOW	3-2	35-24	1-2	2-3
Jan. 5	L	2-1	29-15	1-5	2-2
Mar. 29					

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. LAVAL: 8-3-0

SERIES NOTABLES

- Rochester enters tonight's matchup with an all-time record of 8-3-0 against Laval and winners of four of the last five games dating back to last season.
- The Rocket have used four different goaltenders this season while Michael McNiven has handled much of the time in the blue crease for the second straight season. McNiven shows a record of 10-9-3 in 25 games while the other three goaltenders show a combined record of 18-21-3 in 43 games.
- The Rochester power-play and shorthanded units ranks fourth (20.1%) and sixth (82.4%) in the Eastern Conference, respectively, while Laval is 11th in the conference with a 17.7% success rate on the power-play and 13th in penalty kill (78.7%).
- Rocket forward Daniel Audette is the son of former Amerk and Sabre Donald Audette.