



# Toronto Marlies vs. Rochester Americans

Friday, April 19, 2019 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL North Division Semifinals | Game 1

### TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

- The Rochester Americans and defending Calder Cup champion Toronto Marlies extend their rivalry into the postseason as the North Division rivals open the 2019 Calder Cup Playoffs tonight in Game 1 of their best-of-five North Division Semifinals at The Blue Cross Arena. Opening face-off is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester.

### CLOSING THE SEASON

- The Amerks closed out the regular season with a 4-2 win in Belleville, capping the year with a second-place finish in the North Division and third overall in the American Hockey League with a 46-23-5-2 record and 99 points. Only the Charlotte Checkers and Syracuse Crunch finished with more wins and points than the Amerks, who earned points in eight of their final 11 games while outscoring the opposition 254-218 for the year. The 46 wins were the most by an Amerks team since 2006-07.

### AMERKS PUNCH PLAYOFF TICKET

- The Amerks officially punched their ticket into the 2019 Calder Cup Playoffs, marking the 46<sup>th</sup> time in the 63-year history of the franchise that the Amerks have advanced to the postseason. It's also the sixth time in 10 years Rochester has qualified for the playoffs, clinching on the road by way of a 6-4 win over the Binghamton Devils on March 30. Following their 2-1 win over Cleveland on April 8, Rochester was guaranteed at least a second-place finish or better in the American Hockey League's North Division, securing the Amerks home ice for the best-of-five opening round series against the defending Calder Cup champs.

### AMERKS DRAW MARLIES TO OPEN POSTSEASON

- The opening round series against the Marlies will mark the third meeting in the postseason between the two teams since 2012. Toronto is 6-0 all-time in playoff games against Rochester after earning back-to-back first-round sweeps over the Amerks in the previous two get-togethers, the first of which resulted in a Calder Cup Finals appearance back for Toronto back in 2012.

### PLAYOFFS OVER THE YEARS

- The Amerks snapped a three-year absence from the postseason in 2017-18, and following last year's first-round departure, Rochester hasn't won a playoff series since

### 2019 CALDER CUP PLAYOFFS

	<b>TOTAL GOALS</b> <b>0-0</b>	
<b>0-0 (0 points)</b>		<b>0-0 (0 points)</b>

### AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	66	30	33	63	12	12
C.J. Smith	62	28	30	58	26	26
Zach Redmond	58	21	29	50	34	13

### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	48	28-14-2	2,712	1,195	.908 2.68
Adam Wilcox	28	13-8-5	1,531	618	.896 2.82
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	1	1-0-0	60:00	32	.941 2.00

### MARLIES OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Jeremy Bracco	75	22	57	79	16	1
Chris Mueller	60	33	32	65	32	8
Dmytro Timashov	72	14	35	49	3	-1

### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Michael Hutchinson*	31	16-8-5	1,745	826	.909 2.85
Kasimir Kaskisuo	30	12-9-5	1,624	712	.896 3.07
Eamon McAdam	19	9-5-4	1,084	469	.897 2.99

### SERIES SCHEDULE

**North Division Semifinals – Series “D” (best-of-five):**  
**2-Rochester Americans vs. 3-Toronto Marlies**

Date	Result	Series
<b>Game 1 – Apr. 19 vs. Toronto</b>		
<b>Game 2 – Apr. 21 vs. Toronto</b>		
Game 3 – Apr. 24 @ Toronto		
*Game 4 – Apr. 26 @ Toronto		
<b>*Game 5 – Apr. 28 vs. Toronto</b>		
<i>*If necessary</i>		



2005, a squad that featured current NHL stars like **Jason Pominville** and **Ryan Miller** as well as Buffalo Sabres general manager **Jason Botterill** and current Amerks head coach **Chris Taylor**, when they swept Hamilton to advance to the second round. Rochester has been a part of 83 playoff series over the years, in which it has compiled a 212-202 record in 414 games during that time. The Amerks are looking their first playoff series win since the 2005 postseason when they swept the Hamilton Bulldogs in four games before dropping a five-game series to Manitoba in the second round. Since then, the Amerks have only made six playoff appearances, losing first-round matchups to Hamilton in 2007, Abbotsford in 2010, Toronto in 2012 and 2013, Chicago in 2014 and Syracuse in 2018.

### HOW THE SERIES SHAPES UP

- The first-round series brings an all-too familiar foe in the Marlies, who are certainly no stranger to postseason play as they make their eighth straight appearance. Toronto claimed its first Calder Cup championship last season with a 4-3 series win against the Texas Stars. More impressively, Toronto has advanced to the Calder Cup Playoffs 11 times in its 14-year existence and has failed to reach the Division Finals just three times, including just once in the last eight years. The Amerks and Marlies have only met twice before in the playoffs and Toronto eliminated Rochester 3-0 in both series while outscoring the Amerks 22-11 during that time. Over the last three seasons between the two clubs, Rochester owns an overall record of 15-8-0-1 which features five-plus goal games since the start of the 2016-17 campaign. During the 2016-17 season, the Amerks posted a near perfect 4-0-0-1 record at The Blue Cross Arena.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD

- With tonight's playoff opener marking the seventh meeting overall in 2018-19, the Amerks and Marlies have been fairly acquainted all season long. Rochester finished the regular-season with a 5-1-0-0 record, including a perfect 3-0-0-0 mark north of the border. In the six games this season between the two clubs, the winning team has scored five goals while notching the game's first goal of the contest. Forwards **Danny O'Regan** (5+5) and **Victor Olofsson** (3+7) each posted 10 points in the six games against the Marlies this season. **C.J. Smith** tied a career-high with a four-point night (3+1) – including his second-career hat trick – and had a team-high seven shots in Rochester's 5-1 win at Toronto on Jan. 12. Smith also netted the game-winner while single-handedly outscoring the Marlies in his return to the Amerks lineup after joining the team after a stint with the Buffalo Sabres. Goaltender **Scott Wedgewood** manned the pipes for six games opposite Toronto, posting a 4-1-0 record with a 2.95 goals-against average and a .899 save percentage.

## PLAYOFFS BY THE NUMBERS

### ALL-TIME PLAYOFF NOTES

83 Series:	44 wins	39 losses
414 Games Played:	212 wins	202 losses
206 Home Games:	126 wins	80 losses
208 Away Games:	88 wins	120 losses
69 Overtime Games:	29 wins	40 losses
32 Home Overtime Games:	18 wins	14 losses
37 Away Overtime Games:	11 wins	26 losses

### Goal-Scoring

1,380 goals for	1,309 goals-against
Home: 760 goals-for	625 goals-against
Away: 620 goals-for	684 goals-against

## AMERKS CALDER CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

1995-96 vs. Portland  
 1986-87 vs. Sherbrooke  
 1982-83 vs. Maine  
 1967-68 vs. Quebec  
 1965-66 vs. Cleveland  
 1964-65 vs. Hershey



## AMERKS ALL-TIME PLAYOFF SCORING LEADERS

### POINTS

1	JODY GAGE	79
2	DOMENIC PITTIS	70
3	DAN FRAWLEY	46

### GOALS

1	JODY GAGE	36
2	JIM PAPPIN	21
3	RAY SHEPPARD	20

### ASSISTS

1	DOMENIC PITTIS	54
2	JODY GAGE	43
3	JIM WIEMER	34

### GAMES PLAYED

1	JODY GAGE	81
2	DAN FRAWLEY	80
3	RANDY CUNNEYWORTH	67

### GOALIE WINS

1	BOBBY PERREAULT	25
2	DARCY WAKALUK	21
	JACQUES CLOUTIER	21
4	STEVE SHIELDS	15

## AMERKS REGULAR-SEASON IN REVIEW

- By way of a 5-2 victory over the Marlies on March 23, which snapped a three-game losing skid, Rochester became the third different AHL team this season to reach the 40-win mark. Amerks head coach **Chris Taylor** also became the first bench boss to lead his team to the 40-win mark since Benoit Groulx (44) in the 2009-10 season. Earlier this season, Taylor reached the 30-win mark for the second straight year, becoming the first Amerks head coach to lead his team to 30 or more wins in each of his first two seasons behind the bench since Hall of Famer **Randy Cunneyworth**, the all-time winningest coach in franchise history.

- The American Hockey League named Amerks defenseman **Zach Redmond** the winner of the Eddie Shore Award as the AHL's outstanding defenseman for the 2018-19 season. Redmond finished the 2018-19 regular season with career-best totals of 21 goals (tops among all AHL defensemen) and 50 points, along with a plus-13 rating in just 58 games for the Americans, who finished with the fourth-best record in the AHL. He tied for the overall league lead with nine game-winning tallies and ranked first among blueliners with 10 power-play goals (tied) and 200 shots on goal. Redmond, who broke a 46-year-old franchise record for goals by a defenseman in a single season, was also voted a First Team AHL All-Star this season following a Second Team selection in 2017-18. He joins AHL Hall of Famer **Steve Kraftcheck** (1959) and Hockey Hall of Famer **Al Arbour** (1965) as the only Amerks ever to receive the Eddie Shore Award.

- An eighth-year pro from Traverse City, Mich., Redmond has totaled 65 goals and 132 assists for 197 points in 314 career AHL games, as well as nine goals and 29 assists in 133 NHL contests with Buffalo, Montreal, Colorado and Winnipeg. Redmond, who has successfully resumed his career following a potentially life-threatening laceration to his femoral artery in 2013, was drafted by the Atlanta Thrashers in 2008 and was acquired by Buffalo in a trade with Montreal on Oct. 4, 2017.

- Victor Olofsson** took his first season in North America by storm, leading the AHL in scoring through October before finishing the season as Rochester's leader in goals (30), assists (33) and points (66) through 66 games with the Amerks. A seventh-round pick of the Buffalo Sabres in 2014, Olofsson scored twice in a 4-3 loss at Syracuse on April 13, becoming the first Amerks skater to score 30 goals in a season since **Thomas Vanek** and **Jason Pominville** both reached the mark during the 2004-05 campaign. Olofsson, who earned CCM/AHL Player of the Month honors for October, finished tied for eighth in the AHL in goals and 14<sup>th</sup> among the league's top point-getters in overall scoring. Additionally, he ranked among the

## 2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



**TOTAL GOALS**  
248-254



**39-24-9-4 (91 points)**

**46-23-5-2 (99 points)**

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\*Currently on NHL recall with Toronto

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

#### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Danny O'Regan	6	5	5	10	4	8
Victor Olofsson	6	3	7	10	2	7
C.J. Smith	5	5	3	8	2	4

### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Adam Wilcox	1	1-0-0	17:57	0	1.000	0.00
Scott Wedgewood	6	4-1-0	345:34	17	.899	2.95

#### TORONTO

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Dmytro Timashov	6	2	4	6	0	-1
Michael Carcone	8	3	2	5	27	-5
Sam Gagner	4	1	4	5	2	1

### GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Michael Hutchinson	1	0-1-0	59:40	5	.871	4.02
Eamon McAdam	2	1-1-0	119:13	6	.895	3.02
Jeff Glass	1	0-0-1	63:51	4	.900	3.76

league leaders with 15 power-play assists while his nine game-winning goals, three of which have come in his last 14 games, tied for most in the AHL. Olofsson was rewarded with a late-season recall to the Buffalo Sabres, where he added four points on two goals and two assists in six games with the big club.

- **C.J. Smith** assembled a career-year for himself in 2018-19, setting career-highs in goals (28), assists (30) and points (58) through 62 games to finish second on the team in scoring as one of only three skates to surpass the 50-point mark. With an assist at Cleveland on April 8, Smith closed out the season having amassed 41 points (22+19) over his last 41 games dating back to Dec. 5, having been held scoreless just 12 times over that span. He also posted a season-long nine-game point streak in that time. He also finished with a plus-26 on-ice rating, good enough for 10<sup>th</sup> in the league, while playing at nearly a point-per-game pace for the better part of the last three months for Rochester.

- With 30 and 28 goals on the season, respectively, forwards **Victor Olofsson** and **C.J. Smith** nearly became the first set of Amerks to score 30 in the same season since **Thomas Vanek** (42) and **Jason Pominville** (30) both reached the mark during the 2004-05 campaign when Rochester finished the year with an AHL-best 51-19-6-4 record, winning the Macgregor Kilpatrick Trophy as regular-season champions. The Amerks would set several single-season franchise records for the most points (112) and the longest home winning streak which saw Rochester win 17 consecutive home games between Dec. 17 and Mar. 4 while Vanek would go on to tie the single-season franchise marks for most goals by a rookie (42) and most power-play goals (25).

- **Scott Wedgewood**, who won 10 of his last 17 games, posted a career-best 28-14-2 record in 48 appearances this season. In addition to his 28 wins, which put him six off the league lead to end the regular season, the sixth-netminder recorded the third-most shutouts in the AHL with five, two of which came over a three-game span. Wedgewood, who previously won a season-long five straight to close out the month of October, also finished sixth in saves (1,195) while his 2.68 goals-against average and .908 save percentage both tied for 19<sup>th</sup> in the AHL, respectively. He became the first Amerks netminder to post five shutouts in a season since **Ryan Miller** had eight in 2004-05 and concluded the season just two wins shy of reaching the 30-win mark, a feat last accomplished by former two-time MVP **David Leggio**, who posted 38 victories during the 2012-13 campaign.



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

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 19	SOW	5-4	41-42	0-4	2-4
Dec. 28	W	5-1	27-36	2-5	7-8
Jan. 11	L	5-1	30-22	1-4	3-4
Jan. 12	W	5-1	34-27	3-7	3-3
Mar. 23	W	5-2	32-25	0-3	5-5
Mar. 24	OTW	5-4	39-24	0-1	2-2

**AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. TORONTO: 49-68-4**

## SERIES NOTABLES

- In 14 of the last 18 meetings dating back to the 2016-17 season, the team that scored first has gone on to come away with the victory.
- The two teams have combined to go just 13-for-90 in the previous 14 games while on the power-play. Conversely, the Amerks' penalty kill has successfully killed off 43 of the 48 penalties against the Marlies dating back to last season.
- After dropping three straight games against the Marlies, the Amerks have come away with the victory in eight of the last nine meetings in the head-to-head series, while outscoring Toronto 43-24 over that span.
- In each of the six meetings this season, the winning team has scored five goals, and in five of the six games, the team has added a goal in the second period.
- Defenseman **Andrew MacWilliam**, who was the Toronto Maple Leafs' seven-round selection (188<sup>th</sup> overall) in the 2008 NHL Draft, began his professional career with the Marlies. In 117 career games with the Marlies from 2012 to 2015, the Calgary, Alberta native notched 16 points (3+13) and 143 PIM.
- Amerks assistant coach **Gord Dineen** spent eight seasons with the Marlies, which included a year as head coach in 2014-15. Dineen has appeared in playoffs as a coach eight times including the last seven seasons.
- Former Amerk Nick Baptiste is set to return to the Flower City for the first time since being traded in exchange for **Jack Dougherty**. In three seasons with the Amerks from 2015 to 2018, Baptiste, who made his pro debut with Rochester, amassed 97 points (55+42) in 157 contests.



## RECORD BELONGS TO REDMOND

- Veteran defenseman **Zach Redmond** broke the 46-year-old single-season franchise record back on Jan. 23, scoring his team-leading 19<sup>th</sup> goal of the season in a 7-5 win over the Binghamton Devils at The Blue Cross Arena. Redmond surpassed Amerks Hall of Famer **Rick Pagnutti**, who set the original mark with 18 goals during the 1972-73 campaign. He also became the first defenseman in the 63-history of the franchise to reach the 20-goal mark, scoring just 2:45 into the first period in his first game back from an 11-game injury absence. Earlier this season, he became the fastest Amerks defenseman to score 10 goals in the fewest amount of games to begin the season since Amerks Hall of Famer **Don McSween** reached the mark in his first 21 games during the 1989-90 campaign. Redmond bested the mark, needing only 14 games.

## SHARING THE WEALTH

- After failing to produce a 20-goal scorer last season for just the second time in franchise history, the Amerks had six different players to have reached the mark by the season's end, something Rochester hasn't done since the 1996-97 campaign when the team had seven. **Zach Redmond** continued his record-setting season by becoming the first defenseman in team history to reach the 20-goal mark back on Feb. 20 against Cleveland while **Victor Olofsson** followed suit just two nights later against Utica, eclipsing the mark with his second-straight 27-goal season. Since then, forwards **C.J. Smith**, **Taylor Leier**, **Danny O'Regan** and **Wayne Simpson** have all joined the club, with Simpson scoring twice in a 5-2 win at Syracuse on April 6 to surpass the mark for the first time in his AHL career. Rochester finished the regular season as the only AHL team with six different 20-goal scorers.

## MARLIES REGULAR-SEASON IN REVIEW

- After claiming the Macgregor Kilpatrick Trophy as winners of the regular season and claiming the 2018 Calder Cup last season, the Marlies finished 2018-19 with a 39-24-9-4 record, good enough for third place in the North Division.
- With a 2-1 victory on the road in Utica on April 5, the Marlies locked up a postseason berth for their eighth consecutive season.
- Second-year forward Jeremy Bracco closed out the regular season with a career-high 79 points in 75 games with the Marlies. The 22-year-native from Freeport, New York, finished just three points behind the league lead while chipping in 22 goals and a franchise-best 57 assists to lead all Toronto point-getters. The second-year pro notched 22 multi-point efforts, which included a personal-best four-point outing on Dec. 14.



## AMERKS 2018-19 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

### ROAD WARRIORS

- At 25-9-3-1, the Amerks concluded the season with the best road record in the AHL, finishing one point ahead of the league-leading Charlotte Checkers thanks to a .711 points percentage. Rochester's 25 road wins this season tied a franchise record originally set during the 1998-99 season. The team also finished with the fewest regulation road losses with nine, having collected at least one point in 29 of their 38 contests away from The Blue Cross Arena. The Amerks won 11 of their last 14 on the road, including five straight from March 23 to April 8.

### BY THE NUMBERS

- The Amerks finished the regular season boasting a 35-15-3-1 (74 points) record against North Division rivals and went 11-8-2-1 (25 points) versus non-divisional foes. Rochester outscored the opposition 124-110 on home ice and 130-108 on the road, in addition to dominating the third period all season long with a 92-74 goal differential. The Amerks scored the first goal in 44 of the 76 regular-season games, showing a 33-6-4-1 record when doing so, including an 18-2-2-1 mark at home. Rochester was also 30-1-3-1 when leading after two periods, a streak that also came with a near-perfect 16-1-0-1 mark at home. Most impressively, though, Rochester led the league with eight wins when trailing after two periods.

### AMERKS SPECIAL TEAMS BREAKDOWN

- After going 6-for-18 on the man-advantage over their final five games, the Amerks finished with the league's eighth-best power-play unit, converting on 61 of 299 chances for an 20.4% success rate. Rochester also owned the second-best power-play on the road with 39 goals on 156 man-advantage situations. On the penalty kill, Rochester successfully killed off 254 of 311 (81.7%) shorthanded situations, including 122 of 146 on the road for an 83.6% efficiency rate. As a team, Rochester allowed a league-low three shorthanded goals against, with all of them coming on home ice. The Amerks also scored 11 shorthanded goals this season, including two each from **C.J. Smith** and **Wayne Simpson**.

