



Rochester Americans @ Toronto Marlies

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 @ Coca-Cola Coliseum | AHL North Division Semifinals | Game 3

TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

- The Rochester Americans (0-2) hit the road for the first time of the 2019 Calder Cup Playoffs tonight as the Amerks look to stave off elimination in a must-win Game 3 of the North Division Semifinals against the Toronto Marlies (2-0) at Coca-Cola Coliseum. Opening puck drop is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. and can be heard live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV. MSG Network will also carry Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment's live broadcast of the matchup in Toronto with coverage available in both the Rochester and Buffalo markets. The Marlies currently leads the best-of-five first-round series 2-0 following a pair of wins over the Amerks in Games 1 and 2 of the series at The Blue Cross Arena.

SERIES NOTES

- The Amerks come into Game 3 in Toronto on the brink of elimination and in pursuit of their first of three straight wins in order to avoid a first-round departure at the hands of the defending Calder Cup champion Marlies. A loss tonight would mark the seventh straight playoff appearance that Rochester would be eliminated in the opening round of the postseason. A win, however, would force Game 4 in Toronto on Friday night.
- Game 2 on Sunday afternoon saw the Amerks storm out to a two-goal lead going into the third period only to see the Marlies score twice in less than two minutes before stealing a 3-2 overtime win just 2:20 into the extra frame.
- Forward **Wayne Simpson** notched an assist on each of **C.J. Smith** and **Kevin Porter's** second-period goals while netminder **Scott Wedgewood** made 20 saves but suffered the overtime loss in the Amerks crease.
- The loss dropped the Amerks to 27-19 all-time in Game 2 of a first-round series dating back to their 1-0 win over the Providence Reds in second game of the 1957 AHL Playoffs.
- The last time the Amerks dropped the first two games of a best-of-five series at home and came back to win the series was in the opening-round of the 1967 Playoffs. Rochester would go on to reach the Calder Cup Finals before eventually falling to Pittsburgh, marking the only time in a four-year span the Amerks failed to win the Calder Cup between 1965 and 1968.

2019 CALDER CUP PLAYOFFS

	TOTAL GOALS 7-3	
2-0 (4 points)		0-2 (0 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Wayne Simpson	2	0	2	2	0	0
Kevin Porter	2	1	0	1	7	0
C.J. Smith	2	1	0	1	0	-1

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Scott Wedgewood	2	0-2-0	121:45	39	.848	3.45

MARLIES OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Chris Mueller	2	3	2	5	0	2
Jeremy Bracco	2	2	2	4	0	3
Rasmus Sandin	2	0	4	4	2	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Kasimir Kaskisuo	2	2-0-0	121:51	69	.958	1.48

SERIES SCHEDULE

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

Date	Result	Series
Game 1 – Apr. 19 vs. Toronto	L 4-1	0-1
Game 2 – Apr. 21 vs. Toronto	OTL 3-2	0-2
Game 3 – Apr. 24 @ Toronto		
*Game 4 – Apr. 26 @ Toronto		
*Game 5 – Apr. 28 vs. Toronto		

**If necessary*



PLAYOFF LEADERS

- Toronto's Chris Mueller is tied for the AHL lead in goals (3) and points (5) through the series' first two games
- Marlies rookie defenseman Rasmus Sandin leads all AHL defensemen with four points and is tied for the AHL lead with a team-high four assists, three of which came in Game 1 on Friday in Rochester. Sandin also leads all AHL rookies in postseason scoring coming into tonight.
- Toronto goaltender Kasimir Kaskisuo is tied for the league lead with two wins while his .958 save percentage and 1.48 goals-against average rank him third and fourth among all goaltenders, respectively.

AMERKS PUNCH PLAYOFF TICKET

- The Amerks officially punched their ticket into the 2019 Calder Cup Playoffs, marking the 46th 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.

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 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 212-203 record in 415 games during that time.

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.



PLAYOFFS BY THE NUMBERS

ALL-TIME PLAYOFF NOTES

83 Series:	44 wins	39 losses
416 Games Played:	212 wins	204 losses
208 Home Games:	126 wins	82 losses
208 Away Games:	88 wins	120 losses
70 Overtime Games:	29 wins	41 losses
33 Home Overtime Games:	18 wins	15 losses
37 Away Overtime Games:	11 wins	26 losses

Goal-Scoring

1,383 goals for	1,316 goals-against
Home: 763 goals-for	632 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

HEAD-TO-HEAD

- With Sunday's Game 2 marking the eighth meeting overall between the two teams this season, 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.

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 Cunneynworth**, 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.



2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
248-254



39-24-9-4 (91 points)

46-23-5-2 (99 points)

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

*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

- 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 14th among the league's top point-getters in overall scoring. Additionally, he ranked among the 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 10th 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



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' seventh-round selection (188th 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.



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 19th 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.

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 19th 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.



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**.



GAME 2 RECAP

- Toronto extended their series lead to 2-0 on Sunday when they visited the Blue Cross Arena for game two of the North Division semifinals. After going down 2-0 in the second period, the Marlies battled back with three unanswered goals to take game two by a final score of 3-2.
- From the drop of the puck, it was clear Rochester came ready to play as they looked to even the series. They tested Kasimir Kaskisuo early and often, but he stood tall between the pipes and made some key saves to keep the Amerks off the board. Rochester outshot the Marlies 18-7 in the opening frame.
- C.J. Smith potted the opening goal at 4:05 of the second period, assisted by Wayne Simpson. Late in the frame, Kevin Porter extended the home team's lead to 2-0, assisted by Simpson and Gosselin. Shots on goal in the second period were 12-5 in favor of the Rochester.
- Toronto saw an early opportunity on the power play in the third period as the Amerks were called for slashing. The Marlies capitalized on the man-advantage as Chris Mueller lifted the puck over Scott Wedgewood to get the visitors on the board. Jeremy Bracco and Rasmus Sandin picked up the assists. Less than a minute later, Bracco found the loose puck in the crease and buried it to even the score 2-2. Vincent LoVerde and Pierre Engvall assisted on Bracco's first of the postseason. The score stayed locked at 2-2 through the remainder of regulation, sending things to overtime.
- Bracco sealed the deal in overtime with an amazing display of patience to wait out the Amerks defense before finding the back of the open cage. Mueller and Dmytro Timashov recorded the assists on the goal.

GAME 1 RECAP

- The Marlies kicked off the North Division semifinals on the right foot with a convincing 4-1 win and took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five series.
- The opening minutes saw exciting back-and-forth action and it was obvious that emotions were running high as both teams looked to tilt the ice in their favor. The Amerks outshot Toronto 15-6 in the opening frame but neither team could find the back of the net as the game remained scoreless after 20 minutes of play.
- Nick Baptiste opened the scoring at 2:53 of the second period, burying a rebound from an awkward angle. Chris Mueller and Rasmus Sandin picked up the assists on the opening goal. At 14:31, Mueller extended the Marlies' lead to 2-0, tapping home a shot from Rasmus Sandin. Dmytro Timashov registered the secondary assist on the goal. The Marlies held a 2-0 lead through 40 minutes of play.
- At 10:50, Mueller found himself right on the doorstep on the power-play and potted his second of the night to give the Marlies a 3-0 cushion. Jeremy Bracco and Rasmus Sandin recorded the assists on Mueller's second of the night. At 14:45, Adam Brooks scored a beautiful shorthanded wrap-around goal to extend the Marlies lead to 4-0. Pierre Engvall had the lone assist on the goal.

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.
- Chris Mueller, who scored twice and added an assist in Friday's Game 1 win for Toronto, finished the regular season tied for third in the AHL with a team-high 33 goals in 60 games. He also ranked third among league leaders with 16 power-play tallies while placing ninth in the AHL in overall scoring.

