



SYRACUSE CRUNCH

GAME NOTES

ROCHESTER AMERICANS



Syracuse Crunch vs. Rochester Americans

Friday, October 4, 2019 @ The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 6

TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

- The Rochester Americans open their historic 64th season in the American Hockey League – and 38th as the primary affiliate of the Buffalo Sabres – tonight when they host the North Division rival Syracuse Crunch at The Blue Cross Arena. Game time 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 as well as AHLTV.

AMERKS PRESEASON WRAP-UP

- The Amerks begin the 2019-20 regular season after closing out their preseason schedule with a 4-3 win over the Toronto Marlies this past Sunday night at Ray Twinney Complex in Newmarket, Ontario. Rochester posted a 2-1-0-0 record during the preseason, which included a two-game sweep against the Marlies.
- Third-year winger **C.J. Smith** led all Amerk skaters with a pair of goals in two games while **Tobie Bisson** (0+2), **Pascal Aquin**, **Justin Baudry** and **Tyler Randell** each registered a multi-point effort (1+1) during the exhibition contests. Goaltenders **Andrew Hammond** and **Jonas Johansson** both recorded a win in Rochester's goal crease.

ROAD AHEAD FOR ROCHESTER

- Following tonight's matchup, the Amerks hit the road for a three-game trek through New England beginning on Friday, Oct. 11 against the Springfield Thunderbirds at the MassMutual Center. After the 7:05 p.m. tilt with the Thunderbirds, the Amerks will then face the Providence Bruins on Saturday night at 7:05 before concluding the weekend with a 3:00 p.m. matinee versus the Hartford Wolf Pack. All of the action will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

OPENING THE SEASON

- The Amerks enter the new campaign with a 38-19-6 all-time home-opening record and have outscored their opponents 260-201 dating back to when the puck first dropped on Rochester's inaugural season in 1956. Additionally, Rochester enters with a 32-24-7 all-time record in season-opening games, outscoring its opponents 237-217 over the past 63 years.
- Tonight's Home Opener is the eighth straight year the Amerks have opened the season on home ice. The Amerks have scored six or more goals in six of their last eight home-opening wins dating back to an 8-5 victory over Toronto to begin the 2005-06 season.

THE CAPTAIN

- Veteran forward **Kevin Porter** was named team captain for a third straight season and fourth time in his 12-year career. In 222 career games with the club, Porter has helped lead Rochester to four Calder Cup Playoff appearances while registering 161 points (61+100).

2018-19 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
250-237



45-20-4-3 (97 points)

43-22-4-2 (92 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	13	34

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	1,431	618	.896	2.82
Jonas Johansson	5	4-1-0	265:52	126	.926	2.26
U-P. Luukkonen	1	1-0-0	59:57	32	.941	2.00

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Oct. 11	@ Springfield	7:05 p.m.
Oct. 12	@ Providence	7:05 p.m.
Oct. 13	@ Hartford	3:00 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
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YEARLY RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS
HOME 21-14-1-1	124	110	45
AWAY 25-9-3-1	130	108	54
TOTALS 46-23-5-2	254	218	99

CRUNCH OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Carter Verhaeghe	76	34	48	82	34	26
Alex Barre-Boulet	74	34	34	68	18	16
Cory Conacher	70	22	42	64	95	13

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Eddie Pasquale	45	27-12-6	2,650	1137	.916	2.35
Connor Ingram	22	14-7-0	1,303	577	.922	2.26



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AMERKS BEGIN NEW SEASON UNDER DINEEN

- Earlier this week, Amerks assistant coach **Gord Dineen** was named Rochester's interim head coach. **Chris Taylor** joined the Buffalo Sabres coaching staff in the absence of Sabres assistant coach **Don Granato**, who took a medical leave from the team.

- Dineen enters his 18th season as an AHL coach and third with the Amerks in 2019-20. He becomes the 33rd head coach in franchise history and the very first to start the season behind the bench on an interim basis. Dineen begins his third stint as an AHL head coach having previously served in the same capacity with the Toronto Marlies in 2014-15 and as the first head coach of the Iowa Chops for their inaugural season in 2008-09. He holds a 73-64-19 all-time head coaching record, including a 40-win season with Toronto.

RETURNERS READY TO ROC

- Rochester returns five of its top eight scorers from the 2018-19 season, including **Rasmus Asplund**, **Taylor Leier**, **Zach Redmond**, **Kevin Porter** and **C.J. Smith**.

- Redmond, who became just the third blueliner in team history to win the Eddie Shore Award as the AHL's outstanding defenseman for the 2018-19 campaign, returns for this third season with the club. Redmond led all AHL defensemen with a franchise-record 21 goals and 200 shots while ranking third with a career-high 50 points in 58 games. He was also named to the 2018-19 AHL First All-Star Team, becoming the first defenseman to earn AHL year-end honors in back-to-back seasons since Terry Hollinger (1995-96 and 1996-97).

- Porter, who returns for his fifth season in the Flower City and 12th overall, ranked eighth in points (39) and tied for fourth in assists (29) in 58 games last season.

- Smith finished second among all Amerks in both goals (28) and points (58) while his 31 assists finished third on the team in 62 games. The Des Moines, Iowa, native also skated in a career-high 11 games with the Buffalo Sabres and recorded a pair of goals, including his first-career goal at the NHL level.

- In his first stint in North America, **Rasmus Asplund**, who was named the team's Rookie of the Year and Most Improved Player last season, ranked second on the team with 31 assists in 75 contests.

NEW COMERS TO THE FLOWER CITY

- Among the incoming wave of newcomers for the Amerks this season includes a pair of veterans in **Jean-Sebastien Dea** and **Jarrett Burton**, both whom spent parts of last season with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

- Dea registered 22 points (6+16) in 26 contests with Wilkes-Barre/Scranton while Burton appeared in a career-high 66 games with the Penguins, adding six goals and 15 assists.

- New to the Amerks this season is forward **Curtis Lazar**, a sixth-year pro with close to 250 games of NHL experience under his belt. He played all last season with the AHL's Stockton Heat, scoring a career-high 20 goals with 21 assists for 41 points in just 57 appearances.

AMERKS-CRUNCH 2018-19 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Victor Olofsson	9	3	5	8	0	-4
Zach Redmond	8	3	5	8	4	2
C.J. Smith	9	3	5	8	4	5

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Scott Wedgewood	6	1-4-1	360:34	17	.901	2.83
Adam Wilcox	6	5-0-1	367:37	16	.907	2.61

SYRACUSE

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Carter Verhaeghe	12	5	8	13	2	5
Alex Barre-Boulet	12	3	7	10	0	2
Mitchell Stephens	7	5	3	8	2	2

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Connor Ingram	4	3-1-0	240:22	8	.926	2.00
Eddie Pasquale	5	1-2-2	304:11	19	.885	3.75

2018-19 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 10	W	6-3	33-33	3-4	7-8
Nov. 9	OTW	3-2	25-32	0-4	4-4
Dec. 8	W	4-3	33-28	1-3	3-4
Jan. 26	OTL	4-3	25-31	1-4	3-3
Feb. 6	SOL	2-1	18-33	0-1	5-5
Feb. 15	L	1-0	32-32	0-3	2-2
Feb. 16	SOW	3-2	40-31	0-3	3-4
Mar. 2	W	5-3	42-26	0-4	5-7
Mar. 3	L	4-1	37-27	0-5	5-8
Apr. 5	L	6-1	30-25	0-6	3-3
Apr. 6	W	5-2	35-17	1-5	3-3
Apr. 13	L	4-3	26-32	1-2	2-2

AMERKS ALL-TIME RECORD VS. CRUNCH: 136-115-18 SERIES NOTABLES

- The Amerks have scored a power-play goal in 11 of the last 22 games against Syracuse, going 15-for-94 (16.0%) with the man-advantage over that span.
- After going just 3-5-1-0 against the Crunch during the 2017-18 campaign, the Amerks posted a 6-3-1-0 against Syracuse last season.
- The Amerks are facing a familiar name in goaltender Scott Wedgewood tonight. Wedgewood went 28-16-1 with five shutouts in 48 games last season for Rochester, ranking second in the AHL in wins.