



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

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Tonight's Game: Cleveland vs. Rochester

Sabres prospect Rasmus Asplund 'putting in the work'
Buffalo News
By: Bill Hoppe
Oct. 17, 2019

Forget about Rasmus Asplund's late-season scoring binge or that he centered one of the American Hockey League's top lines as a rookie.

Asplund's maturity has impressed Americans general manager Randy Sexton more than anything else.

"He's still very young but he's extremely mature," Sexton said of the Sabres prospect. "He's very focused, he's very coachable.

"When you sit with Rasmus and you talk to him, you can engage in a two-way conversation."

Those conversations helped Asplund, 21, adjust to the AHL and buoyed his development last season following his arrival from Sweden.

Asplund has morphed into one of the Sabres' best prospects. The two-way center just enjoyed a terrific training camp, making a strong case to stick in the NHL before the Sabres sent him down.

"When he got to Rochester, he embraced it. He knew that he still had work to do and he put the time in immediately," said assistant coach Toby Petersen, who's in charge of the Amerks' forwards.

Sexton and interim Amerks coach Gord Dineen both said Asplund is close to earning his first recall.

"From the maturity level that he's shown, leadership that he's shown in his peer group, that's there," Dineen said of Asplund's NHL readiness. "His game is so well-rounded, he's gotten better that way.

"It's just getting off to the start here where he punches a hole in the lineup up there."

Asplund said: "I just want to ride the wave I built up in training camp. I had a good training camp."

So far this season, Asplund, a former second-round pick, has compiled two assists in four games. A year ago, he recorded his first goal and second point in his 17th outing.

Asplund struggled offensively early in 2018-19 as he adjusted to North American hockey, mustering only two goals and 15 points in his first 46 games.

"No matter how smart or how high his hockey IQ is, it's going to take a little while for him to get used to the smaller ice surface and the frenetic pace that you sometimes see over here," Petersen said.

Other prospects might have panicked or started overhauling their game. But Amerks coach Chris Taylor kept telling Asplund he liked the way he was playing.

Taylor kept the 5-foot-11, 190-pound Asplund between Victor Olofsson and Danny O'Regan, his regular linemates.

"(Taylor would say), 'You're playing great, you're playing good,' and he kept me on the same line and gave me a lot of ice time and both PP and PK," Asplund said. "So my confidence was good."

Asplund, who played four years of pro in the Swedish Hockey League, said the confidence Taylor showed in him "was huge for me."

"He talked to me a lot and just let me know what he was thinking," he said. "We shared our thoughts there." Asplund shares his thoughts openly, according to Sexton.

"If he doesn't quite understand or he doesn't necessarily agree, he's comfortable stating his point of view, which is great, because as management and coaches, you want to be able to have that dialogue with your players," he said.

By February, Asplund started looking more comfortable. He began shooting the puck regularly and playing more aggressively. Asplund scored seven goals and 23 points in the final 22 regular-season games and finished with 10 goals and 41 points in 75 contests.

"The biggest thing for him was he just started to think more in the offensive way," Petersen said. "More often than not, (he's going to be) on the right side of the puck, he's going to have good stick position and (be) playing the game the way that we want him to play defensively."

Asplund said: "When you put in a lot of work, sometimes it's going to pay off."

As Asplund caught fire, his line became one of the AHL's best trios.

But Olofsson, a close friend Asplund said is like a "brother" to him, is now scoring goals for the Sabres. O'Regan, meanwhile, is playing for the Hartford Wolf Pack, the New York Rangers' AHL affiliate.

Asplund has been centering Remi Elie and prospect Tage Thompson this season.

"You're going to have new linemates pretty much every year," Asplund said. "I couldn't be more happy for Ollie being up in Buffalo and for Reegs to have had a great last year. I'm going to remember it for all my career."

"It was just a great year. I think we all helped each other out a lot."

Amerks notes

Dineen said the Amerks recalled goalie Michael Houser from the ECHL on Monday because starter Andrew Hammond is sick. Hammond, who has started three of the first four games, is improving. ... A "paperwork issue," according to Dineen, has prevented rookie forward Brett Murray, who's Canadian, from playing in the first four games. While Dineen declined to elaborate, that likely means Murray's work visa hasn't been finished. Murray signed a one-year AHL contract earlier this month. ... Dineen said forward Taylor Leier, who underwent unspecified offseason surgery, plans to join the Amerks soon. ... The Amerks host Cleveland on Friday and travel to Utica on Saturday.

Amerks Set To Face Division Rivals This Weekend

Amerks.com

By: Ryan J. Harr

Oct. 16, 2019

A LOOK AT THE WEEK AHEAD

Coming off a three-in-three weekend where they earned four of a possible six points on the road, the Rochester Americans (3-1-0-0) return to the ice for a pair of North Division games this coming weekend.

The Amerks welcome the Cleveland Monsters to The Blue Cross Arena for a 7:05 p.m. matchup on Friday, Oct. 18 before closing out the week with a 7:00 p.m. tilt against the Utica Comets at the Adirondack Bank Center on Saturday.

By winning six of eight games during last season's head-to-head series with the Monsters, Rochester holds a record of 26-7-2-3 over Cleveland since the start of the 2011-12 campaign. The Amerks opened the season-series with the Comets by claiming the first two contests by a combined score of 10-1 before closing out the 10-game series with three consecutive victories. Rochester showed a 7-3-0-0 record after just going 3-2-2-3 in 2017-18.

HEROICS IN HARTFORD

The Amerks concluded their first three-in-three weekend of the season in dramatic fashion as they erased a two-goal, third-period deficit Sunday afternoon and completed the come-from-behind victory with a 3-2 shootout win over the Hartford Wolf Pack at the XL Center. Rochester has now won three straight games in Hartford, including two comeback victories dating back to last season.

"It's tough from playing one game to having seven days off then playing three games in three days," said Amerks interim head coach Gord Dineen. "The mindset changes very quickly and it comes at you just as quick."

"I was very happy with our guys," continued Dineen. "They were smart and played gritty at spots when they needed to. With the time off, they came out in Springfield and had a great first period and the last period in Hartford, I think that was our best period."

EARNING POINTS EARLY ON

Rochester earned four of a possible six points this past weekend and have claimed six points overall through its first four games of the 2019-20 campaign. All four contests have been one-goal games, including a pair of wins beyond regulation. The Amerks are just six teams in the AHL this season to earn a win in the extra session but are the only club to take the extra point in both games.

"We won two of three on road," said Zach Redmond, who scored the game-tying goal on Sunday with 13 seconds left in regulation. "The first handful games of the year, everyone is trying get a feel for one another."

"Getting those games in now is good because it always gives us something to work on and clean up leading to the weekend's games."

THOMPSON TORMENTING THE OPPOSITION

Despite being held off the scoresheet Saturday night against the Bruins for the first time this season, Tage Thompson has totaled 16 points (10+6) over his last 15 games with the Amerks dating back to last season, including the two goals he scored in the first round of the 2019 Calder Cup Playoffs against the Toronto Marlies.

More impressively, Thompson has scored eight goals in just 12 career regular-season games with Rochester, matching the total he set over a 30-game stint with the San Antonio Rampage during his rookie season in 2017-18. The third-year pro leads the Amerks with five points (2+3) and enters the week tied for sixth among the AHL's top point-getters. He's also tied for 14th in assists (3) and sixth in the league in shots (16).

RED-HOT REMOND: THE SEQUEL

Veteran defenseman Zach Redmond is tied for third amongst all AHL defensemen in scoring after averaging a point-per-game through his first four games of the season, including the game-tying goal with 13 seconds remaining in Sunday's shootout win at Hartford. The reigning Eddie Shore Award winner has collected five points (1+4) in his last eight games dating back to last season. His three assists tie him for sixth-most in the league among blueliners.

HAMMOND AMONG LEAGUE'S BEST

In his first three appearances as an Amerk, netminder Andrew Hammond shows a perfect 3-0-0 record to go along with a 1.60 goals-against average and a .941 save percentage. His three wins are tied for most in the league while his save percentage and goals-against average rank seventh and ninth, respectively, among his fellow goaltenders who have played in more than two games this season. Hammond, who stopped all three shooters he faced in the shootout on Sunday, also begins the week third in minutes (187) and fifth in the AHL with 80 saves.

TUNE IN

All of the action this Friday and Saturday night as well as every game this season will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Bryson Learning The Pro Game In Stride

Amerks.com

By: Suzie Cool

Oct. 15, 2019

Let's set the stage.

Morning skate has just ended, and the guys are hitting the showers, grabbing lunch and heading home before they make their trek back to The Blue Cross Arena for their first Friday night face-off of the year. It's opening night in the Flower City and the Rochester Americans are gearing up to take on the Syracuse Crunch for the first of 12 matchups between the North Division rivals during the 2019-20 season.

Some Amerks have done this a time or two, and for others, it's a completely new chapter being added to their story.

Being a rookie in the American Hockey League is no joke. A lot of 'rooks' in the AHL have a professional game or two under their belt in the ECHL, but for some, they're fresh out of college and being thrown into a game with much bigger and faster competitors. The expectations are at an all-time high and the stakes are greater than ever before in their hockey careers. Sounds intimidating, right?

One may think that a rookie in the AHL would have pregame jitters before their first professional game, maybe a little anxiety and a ton of built-up excitement right before one of arguably the biggest moments in their life. For one rookie on the Amerks opening day roster, though, it was clearly different. Like a seasoned veteran, Jacob Bryson took the first game of the season in stride as if he had his professional debut 10 years prior.

Following morning skate back on Oct. 4, Bryson mentioned how his first professional game happening later that evening would be like any other in his career.

"It's definitely exciting, but you can't let the emotions get the best of you, and in my opinion, it's just another game."
Spoken like a true professional.

For the last three years, Bryson attended Providence College, where he made his mark recording 73 points in his 121 collegiate competitions. During his junior season, Bryson served as the Friars' team captain while setting career-highs in both assists (24) and points (28). Following his last collegiate campaign just last year, Bryson received the Hockey East's Len Ceglarski Sportsmanship Award for the second straight season – an award given to one player in the league who had consistently demonstrated superior conduct and sportsmanship on the ice throughout the year.

After appearing in every single game the last three seasons at Providence College, it's no surprise that Bryson has seen playing time in every contest with the Amerks since signing his three-year, entry-level National Hockey League contract with the Buffalo Sabres just this past April. In his first four games as a pro, Bryson has experienced a number of firsts from his first pro game, first pro point and even his first three-in-three weekend, which included a day back in his college town of Providence, Rhode Island.

Although a short trip to the New England area, Bryson commented on how it was nice to meet up with a few former college teammates, including a visit from current teammate Tage Thompson's younger brother, Tyce.

"They had a game at Providence against Holy Cross that night so I didn't think anyone would be there, but actually Tage's little brother, Tyce – he plays at Providence and I played with him last year – he came down to the dressing room after so I got to see him which was nice. I saw a few other teammates during the day since they had a game that night. They came over to my hotel just to say hi. I wish I could've seen all of them, but it was a nice little surprise."

With a couple of games finally knocked off the schedule, it seems as if Bryson is being paired up with a strong veteran presence on defense. Arguably one of the best defensemen on the team and in the league, veteran Zach Redmond has just happened to be Bryson's other half in the last couple of tilts with both tacking on a pair of points during their first weekend road trip to New England.

After being paired up on the back-end in two of three games this past weekend, Redmond commented on what teaming up with the new-age defenseman was like.

"He skates well, and he's got that calm demeanor," said Redmond, who was named the AHL's top defenseman for the 2018-19 season. "You see a lot of first-year guys coming out and working their butt off, and maybe working a little too hard at times and getting out of position. He seems to kind of have that calmness about him and at the same time he can skate his way out of trouble."

Despite the average hockey defenseman sizing up to be 6-foot-1 and 205 pounds, Bryson finds himself on the smaller side of the spectrum. Standing at only 5-foot-9 and weighing in at 179 pounds, Bryson has got to play the game with more than just his physical attributes. The mental game that Bryson can bring to the ice is what sets him apart from other defensemen that may have physical size in their favor, but his veteran-like mindset is what puts him on the coaching staff's initial radar.

Amerks interim head coach Gord Dineen touched on Bryson's mental game and how it has translated perfectly when hitting the professional level.

"The mental game for a guy who is as young as he is, he's very mature and steady. He rolls with however the game is going and is consistent as far as his efforts and the way he thinks. His learning curve is really impressive, as far as going into the pro game and how it translates very well to the pro game."

Although the pressure is on to impress and succeed, Bryson seems to be meshing just fine with the Sabres physical playing style and mental mindset. Not only has Bryson seen ample playing time in the first four tilts of the new season with the Amerks, but he's already grown in the fact that he has come to terms with overcoming obstacles on his way to the top.

Following practice last week, Bryson showed his maturity when commenting on how you have to remain calm and have a short memory in order to be successful at the American Hockey League level.

"That's a big mindset that the coaches have taught us, that mistakes are going to happen. The game isn't perfect, you can't be a perfect player and you got to know that it's going to happen. You've got to know that you can walk away from a mistake, come out the next shift and kind of forget about it and move on. That's the most important part if you want to be successful." Once again, spoken like a true professional.

Only four games in and already Bryson looks to be someone to keep an eye on throughout the Rochester's 64th AHL campaign. Because when the lights come on and he hits the line, it'll be no surprise when Bryson continues to rack up his time on ice while looking like a seasoned vet during his rookie campaign in the Flower City.

Another chapter in his book, just waiting to be written.

Taco night at the Ullmarks: How Sabres' Swedes support each other off ice
Buffalo News
By: Lance Lysowski
Oct. 13, 2019

Linus Ullmark remembers feeling isolated. He and his wife, Moa, left their home country, Sweden, for the United States in 2015, so he could pursue his dream of playing in the National Hockey League.

Ullmark, now a 26-year-old goalie for the Buffalo Sabres, did not have a fellow Swede on the Rochester Americans' roster that season. When he and the Amerks were playing games on the road, Moa was alone at their home on the outskirts of the city, nearly 3,800 miles away from family and friends.

"That whole year was a messed up kind of year," Linus Ullmark said. "It was good, those experiences, but I would rather that year just disappear."

Upon arriving in North America, Swedes must adapt to smaller ice rinks and the subtle differences in hockey culture, particularly a more physical style of game. The transition off the ice is far more difficult. That's one of the reasons why Linus and Moa started taco night at the Ullmarks.

"All the Swedes here are great guys," Rasmus Dahlin, a 19-year-old native of Lidköping, said. "It's something that's comfortable. They're always there to talk to. It's really good to have them here because if there's something I really need, I can talk to them. We're doing this together. When you just want to say something or whatever you can go to the Swedes. It's good to be able to do that. You can say what you want to say."

On the eve of the past two training camps, the Ullmarks invited the team's Swedes — seven this season — over for a night of conversation and tacos, a popular food in their home country. In addition to meeting new teammate Marcus Johansson, Ullmark hoped a break from hockey would provide young players Victor Olofsson and Rasmus Asplund the type of support he didn't have during that difficult season in Rochester. Ullmark has continued to invite Olofsson and other Swedes over for dinner since the season began.

Ullmark's first year in North America was difficult for a number of reasons. Since he and his wife were unfamiliar with Rochester, they chose to live 15 to 20 minutes from Blue Cross Arena, far away from his teammates. Additionally, an injury to Robin Lehner forced Ullmark into the Sabres' net for 20 games that season. He welcomed the opportunity but the unexpected NHL debut made it difficult for the couple to become comfortable.

With Lehner, a native of Gothenburg, on long-term injured reserve, Ullmark spent more time with another fellow Swede, Johan Larsson, who arrived in Buffalo the previous season. It wasn't until two years later that Ullmark felt completely comfortable in his surroundings, though Rochester's roster included only two other Swedes: Alexander Nylander, who was born in Calgary, and Daniel Muzito-Bagenda.

The Swedish Sabres said there are few noticeable cultural differences, but there is a certain level of comfort speaking to a countryman in their native language, Ullmark explained. Though he speaks English fluently and has a strong grasp of the language, Ullmark finds it easier to converse with his Swedish teammates who often share similar interests.

"It's an awful lot easier," Ullmark, a native of Lugnvik, a municipality near the country's east coast with only 349 inhabitants according to the latest census, said. "It's easier to start a conversation because you always have something in common and that's Sweden. Everything that you might have liked or whatever, what you like to do, you can talk about. The Swedish culture and American culture is different when it comes to those sort of things."

"All of us speak pretty good English, but it's another thing with small talk," Rochester goalie Jonas Johansson, 24, said following a recent practice at Blue Cross Arena. "It's hard. You almost have to think before you speak when you're with North American guys. It's easy to feel like you're sort of on the outside. You can understand what they say, but you don't say anything because you have to think first. When you're with your countrymen, you can enjoy the small talk a little better, that's what I feel at least."

The presence of Swedes on the Sabres' roster is one of the reasons the team was chosen to participate in the 2019 NHL Global Series, a weeklong event in Stockholm that will be capped by Buffalo facing the Tampa Bay Lightning for back-to-back games on Nov. 8-9.

Entering Friday, the Sabres, Vancouver Canucks and Anaheim Ducks led the NHL with five Swedes. In addition to Dahlin, who has quickly become one of the NHL's top young talents, the Sabres have Ullmark, Larsson (Lau), Olofsson (Ornskoldsvik) and Marcus Johansson (Landskrona). Additionally, the team had Jonas Johansson (Gavle), Asplund (Filipstad) and Lawrence Pilut (Tingsryd) on its training camp roster, all of whom were invited to the Ullmarks for tacos.

The Sabres had 11 Swedes participate in their development camp in June and have drafted seven over the past three years. They also have a coach who has experience working with players from countries around the globe. Ralph Krueger coached Switzerland's National Team for three Winter Olympics and 12 IIHF World Championships, as well as Team Europe at the 2016 World Cup of Hockey. He also played professionally in Germany for 10 seasons.

"There's no question after 18 world championships or Olympics, you get used to other nationalities," Krueger explained. "First of all, you're working against them and playing against them and all their different systems that they have. ... But more than anything, the psychology of the different countries. Every country in Europe has their own personality."

"You can really see it often in the way they play and the way the players function within the team structure. That helps me here with all the nationalities we have. Understanding, first of all, the individual and the way to bring them into the team."

Reaching North America is often a Swede's first major milestone in his hockey journey and, in some ways, Swedes are better prepared to handle life as a professional than players who played in North American junior leagues or the NCAA.

All of the aforementioned Swedish Sabres played professionally in their home country prior to being drafted or signed by Buffalo. Many left home as teenagers, an experience that forced them to learn how to cook, clean, do their own laundry, and they learned English. Most don't have billet families to complete those tasks for them.

Those responsibilities prepared Dahlin for his move to Buffalo in July 2018. Though his mother, Asa, joined him in Western New York for the first two months, he had few questions about how to take care of himself. His roommate, Casey Mittelstadt, also helped with the transition.

Life away from home wasn't easy the first time around, though. Dahlin, who was drafted first overall in 2018, recalled being home sick upon leaving Lidköping at 15 years old to begin his junior hockey career with Frolunda. Though Dahlin lived with a

few teammates, he remembers lying awake at night missing his home. He joked that he called home "five times a day" to ask his parents how to prepare meals or perform other household chores.

"It's way different in Sweden," Dahlin explained. "Here, most people don't move away from their parents until they go to college. I lived on my own when I was 15. There were a couple of us that lived together and cooked and did all that stuff. ... It was so much more difficult when I first move away. I remember my first night in my own bed, in my own apartment. I was sad. ... Now I don't call home that often."

Like Ullmark, Asplund was unsure where to live upon moving to Rochester last fall. There were also a myriad of responsibilities he had to take care of, such as opening a bank account and purchasing a cellphone plan.

Asplund, though, shared the experience with Olofsson. The two lived in the same apartment building and often cooked meals together, mostly pasta. Each credits the other for making the transition seamless on and off the ice. Comfort away from the rink allowed both to excel during their first year in North America, Asplund said.

"It's pretty tough," Asplund, 21, said. "Everything is in a different language. You have to set up a new place to live at, bank accounts, phones. It takes some time. You have to get adjusted to that. It takes energy from you. You have to be patient and know it's going to be tough at the start. Once you get adjusted, it's pretty good. It was huge to have Oly here. He became like a brother to me last year."

During taco night, Jonas Johansson and Olofsson asked veterans questions about life in the NHL, on and off the ice. The night of bonding gave them an opportunity to gain some perspective about what's next and calmed their nerves entering training camp under a new head coach.

Marcus Johansson has been an important resource for Olofsson, in particular. Their locker stalls are close to each other inside KeyBank Center and they skated together on a line for the first half of training camp. Johansson, 29, has played 593 regular-season and 94 playoff games over eight years in the NHL. However, he too was overwhelmed upon coming to the United States and joining the Washington Capitals in 2010.

Johansson quickly found himself a mentor in fellow Swede Nicklas Backstrom. Although Backstrom was only three years older, he helped Johansson assimilate in a new dressing room and routinely checked on Johansson following practices or games. There were invites away from the rink, much like Ullmark has done for his teammates.

Johansson, who was named one of the Sabres' two alternate captains this season, hopes to make a similar impact on his teammates.

"If I could do that for half the younger guys now that he did for me, I'll be proud of that," Johansson said of Backstrom. "It's a different country. Everything is new. It's a different language. You go to a grocery store and the stuff is not the same. There's a lot that happens when you come over at first. It's important to have someone there to help you out and support you. Be there with any type of questions and anything you're wondering."

Sabres recall forward Curtis Lazar from Rochester
Buffalo News
By: Lance Lysowski
Oct. 13, 2019

The Buffalo Sabres recalled forward Curtis Lazar from Rochester on Sunday ahead of a three-game road trip to the West Coast.

Barring another injury, the roster move will give the Sabres 13 forwards when they face the Anaheim Ducks, Los Angeles Kings and San Jose Sharks on the road. Winger Conor Sheary remains "week to week" with an upper-body injury.

Lazar, who signed with the Sabres as an unrestricted free agent in July, had one assist in three games with the Amerks. The former first-round draft pick scored 20 goals among 41 points in 57 games last season for the Calgary Flames' American Hockey Affiliate, Stockton.

Lazar has scored 15 goals among 51 points in 246 career regular-season games between the Flames and Ottawa Senators. He was drafted 17th overall by the latter in 2013.

Tage Thompson's Shootout goal lifts Amerks to victory

Buffalo News

By: Staff Report

Oct. 13, 2019

Playing in the rink where he starred as a college player, Tage Thompson had two assists in regulation then scored the lone goal in the shootout to give the Rochester Americans a 3-2 win over the Hartford Wolf Pack on Sunday at the Hartford Civic Center.

After losing on a last-minute goal at Providence on Saturday, Rochester tied the game with just 13 seconds left in regulation Sunday when defenseman Zach Redmond scored with an extra attacker on the ice.

The Amerks came from two goals down to tie the game in the third period on scores by Remi Elie and Redmond. Elie picked up his first of the season at 4:42 and added an assist on Redmond's tying goal.

Hartford took its 2-0 lead on second-period goals by Filip Chytil and Boo Nieves. Former Amerk Danny O'Regan assisted on Chytil's goal.

Chytil failed to score to open the shootout. Then Thompson, who played two seasons at the University of Connecticut, beat Wolf Pack goalie Adam Huska. That turned out to be the winner after Vinni Lettieri and Phil DiGiuseppe failed to convert for Hartford.

Andrew Hammond made 33 saves for Rochester. Huska had 35 for Hartford. Each team went 0 for 3 on the power play.

The Amerks (3-1-0) and Toronto Marlies (3-0-0) are tied with six points each for first place in the AHL's North Division after winning two of three weekend games in New England. The Amerks defeated Bridgeport Sound Tigers on Friday before losing on Oskar Steen's goal with 57 seconds left in Providence.

Next for Rochester will be a North Division game against the Cleveland Monsters on Friday at Blue Cross Arena in Rochester. The Amerks will play another division game at the Utica Comets on Saturday.

Oskar Steen's goal in final minute beats Amerks
Buffalo News
By: Staff Report
Oct. 12, 2019

Oskar Steen scored with 57 seconds left in regulation to give the Providence Bruins a 3-2 triumph over the Rochester Americans in their American Hockey League home opener Saturday night before 9,722 at Dunkin' Donuts Center in Rhode Island.

It was the first loss in three games for the Amerks (2-1-0). Providence is 3-0.

Steen scored the only goal in the third period after C.J. Smith had tied the game for the Amerks at 7:40 of the second.

Jean-Sebastien Dea gave Rochester a 1-0 lead with a power-play goal at 17:55 of the opening period. The score came while Paul Carey of the Bruins was serving a holding penalty.

Providence took the lead in the second.

First, Jakub Lauko tied it at 4:36 before Anders Bjork put his team ahead at 6:36 with a power-play goal just seven seconds before a high-sticking penalty against Scott Wilson of the Amerks was to expire.

Jonas Johansson stopped 27 of the 30 shots he faced in goal for Rochester. Max Lagace made 30 saves for the Bruins.

It will be a quick turnaround for the Amerks, who will play the Wolfpack in Hartford, Conn. at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

The Amerks' next home game will be Friday night against the Cleveland Monsters before playing at Utica on Saturday night.

Amerks top Springfield on road
Buffalo News
By: Staff Report
Oct. 12, 2019

Rochester used a dominant third period to outmuscle Springfield en route to a 2-1 victory Friday night at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass.

The Amerks (2-0-0) outshot the Thunderbirds (1-2-0) 18-5 in the final period and broke a 1-1 tie. Andrew Oglevie notched the game-winner on his second goal of the season.

Kevin Porter got Rochester on the board in the second period. Andrew Hammond made 20 saves and earned his second victory in net for the Americans.

Springfield's Sebastian Repo had the home team's only tally of the night. Thunderbirds goalie Chris Driedger made 38 saves but earned his second loss of the season.

The Thunderbirds had a great chance to tie the game at the end after Will Borgen drew an interference penalty but were unable to capitalize on the man-advantage.

Rochester's road trip continues Saturday at the Dunkin' Donuts Center in Providence, R.I., and a game against the Bruins.

Sabres recall Curtis Lazar from Amerks
Buffalo News
By: Bill Hoppe
Oct. 13, 2019

The Sabres recalled forward Curtis Lazar from the Rochester Americans this afternoon.

Lazar, 24, will likely accompany the Sabres on their three-game western road trip that begins Wednesday to serve as their extra forward.

The Amerks scratched Lazar from today's road game against the Hartford Wolf Pack.

The Sabres have had only 12 healthy forwards since winger Conor Sheary suffered an upper-body injury last week. Sheary skated on his own today.

Lazar signed a one-year, one-way contract worth \$700,000 on July 1. The former first-round pick recorded one assist in his first three games with the Amerks.

The 6-foot, 211-pound Lazar has compiled 15 goals and 51 points in 246 career NHL games.

The Sabres host the Dallas Stars on Monday afternoon.

Amerks hand Hartford its first loss with a shootout win
C&C Worldwide
By: Staff Report
Oct. 13, 2019

By scoring twice in the final period of regulation, the Rochester Americans (3-1-0-0) closed out their three-in-three weekend with an incredible come-from-behind shootout victory over the Hartford Wolf Pack (3-0-0-1) Sunday afternoon at the XL Center.

Tage Thompson picked up his second multi-point effort of the season with two assists to lead Rochester to its first shootout win of the campaign. Remi Elie also turned in a two-point (1+1) performance, igniting the comeback early in the third period while also setting up Zach Redmond's game-tying goal with 13 seconds remaining. Goaltender Andrew Hammond improved to 3-0-0 on the year while making 33 saves and stopping all three Hartford skaters in the skills competition.

Hartford extended its point streak to begin the 2019-20 season as Filip Chytil and Boo Nieves each scored during regulation. Netminder Adam Huska stopped 35 of 37 shots on goal before the Amerks sent the contest beyond regulation.

Heading into the third period, the Amerks trailed 2-0 before the comeback began. Elie found the back of the net first for Rochester 4:42 into the final frame, cutting Hartford's lead in half. Andrew MacWilliam was credited with the secondary assist, while Thompson picked up his first helper of the afternoon.

With 1:48 left, Amerks interim head coach Gord Dineen used his lone timeout and pulled Hammond as the face-off was to the left of the Wolf Pack net. Rochester pressed for the equalizer on several occasions before Redmond rifled an Elie rebound past Huska, tying the matchup with just 13 seconds to go.

The game remained tied at two goals apiece after the five-minute overtime period, forcing the first shootout contest for the Amerks this year.

Hartford elected to go first in the skills competition and missed on all three attempts, while Thompson was the lone Amerk to capitalize in the shootout.

The Wolf Pack opened the scoring midway through the second stanza as former Amerk Danny O'Regan cut to the top of the goal crease and set up Chytil at the 9:47 mark. Later in the same period, Hartford upped the score once more on a breakaway goal by Nieves with 3:16, taking a 2-0 lead into the final 20 minutes of play.

The Amerks return to the Flower City for a 7:05 pm puck drop against the Cleveland Monsters on Friday, Oct. 18 at the Blue Cross Arena. All of the action can be heard live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Amerks come up short in 3-2 loss in Providence
C&C Worldwide
By: Staff Report
Oct. 13, 2019

A late goal by the Providence Bruins (3-0-0-0) in the final minute of regulation ultimately proved to be the difference as the Rochester Americans (2-1-0-0) came up short in suffering their first loss of the 2019-20 season Saturday at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

Amerks forward Jean-Sebastien Dea scored his first goal of the season and as an Amerk while C.J. Smith also tallied his first of the campaign. Goaltender Jonas Johansson stopped 27 of 30 shots in his season debut but was dealt the loss.

Along with Oskar Steen, who provided the late-game heroics for Providence, Jakub Lauko lit the lamp for the first time of the young season while Anders Bjork rounded the scoring for the Bruins, who improved to 8-1-0-0 in the last 9 meetings against Rochester. Netminder Max Lagace made 30 saves in the Bruins crease and pushed his record to 2-0-0 in his second appearance with the club.

It seemed the contest between Rochester and Providence was going to be decided beyond regulation with the score even at two goals apiece as the third-period clock was nearing all zeroes. However, Steen made his way in-between the face-off dots in the Amerks zone and beat Johansson with a shot with just 56 seconds remaining in regulation.

Rochester attempted to force overtime as they pulled Johansson in favor of the extra attacker, but the final push came up short as the Amerks dropped their first tilt of the season, 3-2.

Things started well for Rochester as they capitalized on their first power-play chance of the contest late in the opening period. Dea was sprung into the offensive zone from a Jacob Bryson outlet pass and gathered the puck at the blueline before tucking a shot under the crossbar with 2:05 left in the first frame.

The power-play marker from Bryson and Scott Wilson was Dea's 200th professional point and first as an Amerk.

Despite trailing after the first 20 minutes of play, Providence quickly turned the one-goal deficit into a 2-1 lead as they tallied a pair of goals exactly two minutes apart as Lauko and Bjork found the back of the net prior to the 7:00 mark.

The scoring in the second period continued on the ensuing shift after Bjork's goal as Curtis Lazar won a face-off to Smith to the right of Lagace. Gathering the puck near the hash marks in the Providence zone, Smith rifled in his first goal of the season to knot the score at 2-2 at the 12:20 mark.

The matchup remained tied until the final minute of regulation when Steen took a pass from Ryan Fitzgerald and gave Providence the victory.

The Amerks put the finishing touches on their first 3-in-3 of the season on Sunday at XL Center when they meet the Hartford Wolf Pack in the final stop of their weekend trek through the Atlantic Division. Sunday's 3 pm matinee can be heard live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Amerks start road trip with win in Springfield
C&C Worldwide
By: Staff Report
Oct. 12, 2019

On the heels of a dominating third-period performance where the Rochester Americans (2-0-0-0) outshot the Springfield Thunderbirds (1-2-0-0) 18-5, the Amerks opened the first game of their three-in-three weekend with a 2-1 victory Friday night at the MassMutual Center.

Amerks forward Kevin Porter scored his first goal of the season midway through the second period while Andrew Oglevie tallied his second in as many games, which served as the game-winning goal, helping Rochester to its second straight win of the young campaign. Goaltender Andrew Hammond stopped 20 of 21 shots he faced to improve to 2-0-0.

Second-year forward Sebastian Repo scored the lone Springfield goal as netminder Chris Driedger fell to 1-2-0 on the season despite making 38 saves in the loss.

Entering the final period with the score even at one goal apiece, the Amerks tested the Springfield netminder early and often over the course of the final 20 minutes of play.

Six minutes after Driedger denied C.J Smith and Curtis Lazar's odd-man rush, Oglevie and Porter entered the Thunderbirds zone on a two-on-one chance just under the 9:00 mark. Oglevie received a pass from rookie Jacob Bryson and snapped a shot over the glove of the Springfield netminder to give the Amerks their first lead of the night with 8:53 left in the contest.

With the lone helper, Bryson was credited with his first professional point. Springfield trailed in the game but did not go away quietly as they earned a power-play in the final three minutes. Despite pulling Driedger for the extra attacker, Rochester hung on for the one-goal win.

As the opening frame was nearing its end, the Amerks were whistled for a late cross-checking penalty at the 18:39 mark and it would prove costly. Springfield capitalized on the ensuing man-advantage as Repo slipped a shot over the left pad of Hammond with only 11 seconds remaining to put the Thunderbirds up 1-0.

Rochester soon answer, however. After being denied twice in the early stages of the second period, including a breakaway chance, Tage Thompson carried the puck to the right of the Thunderbirds' net and below the goal line. Before circling around the net, Thompson centered a pass to Porter, who picked the upper corner from in-between the face-off dots to even the game with 7:32 left in the period.

The assist gives Thompson 14 points (10+4) over his last 13 games with the Amerks dating back to last season.

Zach Redmond, the reigning Eddie Shore Award winner who has recorded four assists in his last six outings dating back to last season, picked up the secondary helper on the power-play goal. The assist was Redmond's 200th point in the American Hockey League and 100th point as an Amerk.

Oglevie delivered the eventual game-winner at 11:07 of the third period with the teams skating at 4-on-4.

The Amerks continue the road swing through New England as they meet up with the Providence Bruins on Saturday night at 7:05 p.m. at the Dunkin' Donuts Center before concluding the weekend at the XL Center with a 3 pm matinee versus the Harford 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.

**NOTES* — The world's largest festival in Bavaria makes its way back to Rochester for the return of "Hocktoberfest," presented by Rohrbach Brewing Company, on Friday, Oct. 18 when the Amerks play host to the Cleveland Monsters at 7:05 pm at the Blue Cross Arena. In true Hocktoberfest fashion, the night will be highlighted by German-themed food and drink specials, live music from the Krazy Firemen, and a custom Rohrbach/Amerks stein giveaway to the first 500 fans, aged 21 and older, courtesy of Rohrbach Brewing Company.

Amerks rally in 3rd, w in shootout at Hartford
Rochester First
By: Staff Report
Oct. 14, 2019

The Rochester Amerks earned their 6th point of the season with a shootout win on the road Sunday night against the Hartford Wolf Pack.

The Amerks trailed 2-0 heading into the third period, but goals by Remi Elie and Zach Redmond pushed the game into overtime.

The game remained tied 2-2 at the end of the five minute overtime period, pushing the Amerks into their first shootout of the season.

Hartford elected to go first but missed on all three of their shootout attempts. Amerks' Tage Thompson scored the lone Amerk goal in the skills competition to secure the victory — Thompson also chipped in two assists.

The Amerks return to Rochester for a home game against the Cleveland Monsters Friday, October 18 — puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

Amerks lose first game of the season to Bruins
Rochester First
By: Staff Report
Oct. 12, 2019

A late goal by the Providence Bruins (3-0-0-0) in the final minute of regulation ultimately proved to be the difference as the Rochester Americans (2-1-0-0) came up short in suffering their first loss of the 2019-20 season Saturday at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

Amerks forward Jean-Sebastien Dea scored his first goal of the season and as an Amerk while C.J. Smith also tallied his first of the campaign. Goaltender Jonas Johansson stopped 27 of 30 shots in his season debut but was dealt the loss.

Along with Oskar Steen, who provided the late-game heroics for Providence, Jakub Lauko lit the lamp for the first time of the young season while Anders Bjork rounded the scoring for the Bruins, who improved to 8-1-0-0 in the last nine meetings against Rochester. Netminder Max Lagace made 30 saves in the Bruins crease and pushed his record to 2-0-0 in his second appearance with the club.

It seemed the contest between Rochester and Providence was going to be decided beyond regulation with the score even at two goals apiece as the third-period clock was nearing all zeroes. However, Steen made his way in-between the face-off dots in the Amerks zone and beat Johansson with a shot with just 56 seconds remaining in regulation.

Rochester attempted to force overtime as they pulled Johansson in favor of the extra attacker, but the final push came up short as the Amerks dropped their first tilt of the season, 3-2.

Things started well for Rochester as they capitalized on their first power-play chance of the contest late in the opening period. Dea was sprung into the offensive zone from a Jacob Bryson outlet pass and gathered the puck at the blueline before tucking a shot under the crossbar with 2:05 left in the first frame.

The power-play marker from Bryson and Scott Wilson was Dea's 200th professional point and first as an Amerk.

Despite trailing after the first 20 minutes of play, Providence quickly turned the one-goal deficit into a 2-1 lead as they tallied a pair of goals exactly two minutes apart as Lauko and Bjork found the back of the net prior to the 7:00 mark.

The scoring in the second period continued on the ensuing shift after Bjork's goal as Curtis Lazar won a face-off to Smith to the right of Lagace. Gathering the puck near the hash marks in the Providence zone, Smith rifled in his first goal of the season to knot the score at 2-2 at the 12:20 mark.

The matchup remained tied until the final minute of regulation when Steen took a pass from Ryan Fitzgerald and gave Providence the victory.

Americans Top Wolf Pack In Shootout
Hartford Courant
By: Staff Report
Oct. 12, 2019

The Rochester Americans battled back from a two-goal third-period deficit to defeat the Hartford Wolf Pack 3-2 in a shootout Sunday at the XL Center in Hartford, denying the Wolf Pack a fourth straight win to start the season.

Zach Redmond scored with 12.6 seconds left in regulation to tie the score for the Americans, and Tage Thompson, who assisted on both Rochester goals, scored the only goal of the shootout. Filip Chytil and Boo Nieves scored for the Wolf Pack, both in the second period.

"There are going to be some growing pains. Everything won't be easy," Wolf Pack coach Kris Knoblauch said. "The lesson tonight was, we have to keep pressing even though we have the lead. We have to play smart and keep putting the pressure on.

"We played a good game. Unfortunately, we just couldn't score in overtime."

The first period saw a large number of shots but no goals. The Wolf Pack's Adam Huska stopped all 12 shots he faced in the period. Across the ice, Andrew Hammond was also perfect, stopping all 10 of the Wolf Pack's shots.

The second period looked like it would be more of the same, but Chytil banged in a shot from up close for his second goal of the year at 9:47. Chytil has now scored in two consecutive games. Danny O'Regan got the assist on the goal.

The Pack struck a second time with just under four minutes left in the period. Nieves scored his first goal of the year on a breakaway, slapping in his own rebound. Matt Beleskey and Vitali Kravtsov got the assists.

"I thought that Nieves' goal was a good team play," Knoblauch said. "Both Beleskey and Kravtsov made impressive passes on the breakout to make it happen."

The Americans jumped onto the board with 15:18 left in the third, when Remi Elie scored his first of the season. Thompson got the assist, bringing Rochester to within one.

In the dying minutes of the period, momentum had fully swung to the Americans' side. Rochester pulled Hammond in the final two minutes and were able to pin the Wolf Pack in their own zone, setting the stage for Redmond's tying tally. Elie and Thompson both assisted on the goal.

Steen's goal wins it for P-Bruins
The Providence Journal
By: Staff Report
Oct. 12, 2019

Oskar Steen's third-period goal helped the Providence Bruins win their home opener, 3-2, over the Rochester Americans on Saturday night at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

Providence also got scores from Jakub Lauko and Anders Bjork both in the second period, and 30 saves from Max Lagace, to notch their third win in a row.

"It was a slower start and a fast finish," said Jay Leach, P-Bruins head coach. [Lagace] made huge saves in the third for us when we needed it. Whether it's off his knob, whether it's a two-pad stack — he's making saves. You're not going to win without goaltending like that. He was huge for us. He's been great."

Through two games, Lagace has recorded two wins and made 58 saves on 60 shots for a .967 save percentage and a 1.00 goals against average.

Rochester's Jean-Sebastien Dea opened the scoring with a first-period power-play goal, before Providence took the lead in the second on Lauko's, then Bjork's goals. The Americans tied it up midway through the second when C.J. Smith scored to knot the game at 2-2. Steen's game-winner came at 19:03 into the third period.

"It feels like we're a strong team. It's hard to score against us," Steen said. "We have two good goalies and good defense. It feels like we're a good winning team that can win even if we don't play our best game."

Through two games, Lagace has recorded two wins and made 58 saves on 60 shots for a .967 save percentage and a 1.00 goals against average.

The P-Bruins host the Springfield Thunderbirds Sunday at 3:05 p.m.

Chris Driedger's 38 saves not enough, Springfield Thunderbirds fall to Rochester, 2-1

MassLive.com

By: Staff Report

Oct. 11, 2019

The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-2-0-0) fell in a closely contested defensive battle against the Rochester Americans (2-0-0-0) by a final score of 2-1 on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center.

After the two clubs scored a combined 21 goals in two meetings last season, the Thunderbirds and Americans were much more defensive-minded in the opening minutes of the game. Chris Driedger earned his third straight start and was at his best with 13 saves in the first, including a point-blank stop on former teammate Jean-Sebastien Dea.

After the two clubs traded abbreviated, unsuccessful power plays early in the period, Springfield earned the first full power play chance with less than two minutes to go in the frame. With time winding down on the first, Sebastian Repo took matters into his own hands and powered his way down the left wing, around a defender and goaltender Andrew Hammond, before stuffing a forehand shot home for the T-Birds' second power play marker of the year. The individual effort made it 1-0 at the 19:49 mark.

Rochester turned the tables on Springfield in the second period, drawing four power play chances and finally cashing in at the 12:27 mark. After Tage Thompson carried the puck to the right wing goal line, he twisted a pass into the slot to waiting Americans captain Kevin Porter. With Driedger out challenging the shot, Porter wristed it over the T-Birds goalie's glove hand to get the game tied up, 1-1.

The Americans continued to threaten into the final minute of the period and even carried their fifth man advantage into the final period. Driedger continued to be a difference for the T-Birds, on his way to a 38-save night. Among his best work was a 2-on-0 save on reigning 28-goal scorer C.J. Smith and a sprawling left pad save on Thompson.

At the other end, though, Hammond stopped what he needed to in making 20 saves on 21 shots for his second straight win. Andrew Oglevie picked up the game-winning tally with the teams skating 4-on-4 at the 11:07 mark of the third.

After picking up the puck in center, Oglevie moved in on an odd-man rush and snapped a shot under the crossbar from the left circle to give Rochester the victory.

Springfield gets a quick turnaround on Saturday as they take to the road for the first time this season against the Hartford Wolf Pack. Puck drop from the XL Center is slated for 7:30 p.m.