



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

TONIGHT'S GAME: TORONTO VS. ROCHESTER

AMERKS TOP 10 TAKEAWAYS FROM NOVEMBER

Amerks.com

By: Suzie Cool

Dec. 3 2019

The month of November has come and gone, which means another 10 games to mark off of the calendar for the Rochester Americans this season. At the close of October, the Amerks seemed much more comfortable in their second month of play, combining for eight wins, two shutouts, four recalls to Buffalo and ending November on a 10-game point streak. Here are your top 10 takeaways from the Amerks second month of regular season play here in 2019-20.

1. TAYLOR IS BACK IN TOWN

On Nov. 25, Amerks head coach Chris Taylor made his way back to the Flower City after his abrupt call-up to Buffalo just three days before Opening Night at The Blue Cross Arena.

After countless nights of double-duty pulled, time away from his family and countless drives up and down the I-90, Taylor is now more than ready to be back in Rochester and to finally embrace taking on his third season as the Amerks head coach.

Coming in amidst a five-game win streak, Taylor's first game back behind the bench was this past Friday as the Amerks took on the North Division rival Toronto Marlies. Although Rochester lost in overtime, Taylor's team still took home a point for their ninth straight game. On Saturday, the Amerks would head on the road to face-off against the Cleveland Monsters, where an Andrew Oglevie hat trick would lift Rochester to another win to close out the month of November.

2. HATS OFF FOR OGLEVIE

After an injury-riddled rookie season limited him to just 28 games, Andrew Oglevie has certainly made up for lost time in his second season with the Amerks.

In just two months' time, Oglevie has already surpassed his goal (5), assist (5) and point (10) total from last season and now paces the Amerks with nine goals and 16 points while tied for third in assists. Oglevie, who's one of just three skaters to appear in all 20 games this season, enters the month of December riding a career-long seven-game point streak, including goals in five of six games over that span.

His best performance came this past Saturday when he recorded his first pro hat trick by scoring all three goals in Rochester's 3-2 road win at Cleveland. The second-year pro scored once in each period while single-handedly outscoring the Monsters. He's also netted the game-winning goal in three of his last six appearances.

3. NO REGULATION LOSSES

The Amerks have not seen a regulation loss since the month of October, having taken eight of their 10 tilts in November in winning fashion.

Rochester started off the month with back-to-back wins between the Binghamton Devils and Utica Comets. After almost a week of rest, the Devils would make their way back to The Blue Cross Arena on Nov. 8 when they would hand the Amerks their second shootout loss of the year. From then on, Rochester went on a five-game win streak from Nov. 13 to Nov. 23.

Upon the arrival of Taylor coming back to town, the Marlies made their way back to Rochester as well for the first time since the 2018-19 Calder Cup Playoffs. In the first of six matchups between the two clubs, the Marlies handed the Amerks their second loss of the month in overtime action.

Closing out November, Rochester headed to Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse where they took on the Monsters for the final showdown of the month. The Amerks headed back home happy with their eighth win, ending the month on a 10-game point streak.

4. AMERKS 10-GAME POINT STREAK

November saw a number of extended streaks ranging from individual performances to team accolades. Put those altogether and the Amerks picked up a point in each of their 10 games in November with an 8-0-1-1 overall record, the second-best mark in the league over that span behind only the Milwaukee Admirals.

If Rochester can add another point on Wednesday against the Marlies, the Amerks will push their point streak to 11 games, their first since Oct. 12 to Nov. 10 during the 2009-10 season. In each of the last three seasons, Rochester has posted three different 10-game point streaks, with two of the three coming prior to the Christmas break.

5. FIVE STRAIGHT WINS

Speaking of streaks, between Nov. 13 and Nov. 23, Rochester posted a season-long five-game win streak.

After posting points in their first three contests of the month between two wins and a shootout loss, the Amerks went on to defeat the Syracuse Crunch, Cleveland Monsters, Utica Comets, Hartford Wolf Pack and Binghamton Devils one by one. Three of the five contests took place right here at The Blue Cross Arena, and just one of the contests over this span saw overtime action.

The Amerks win streak was put to a stop when the Marlies made their way into town for the first regular season matchup between the two clubs this past Friday night.

6. BATTLE FOR THE TOP SPOT

Luckily for Rochester, redemption against Toronto comes as soon as the first face-off of the brand-new calendar month.

On Wednesday, the Marlies make a return trip into town for the second of six regular season matchups. Rochester enters the week just three points behind Toronto for the top spot in the AHL's North Division standings.

7. ROAD SUCCESS

So far this season, the Amerks have had 10 road contests and are sporting a 7-2-1-0 record when away from home ice.

While notching points in each of their 10 games in the month of November, the Amerks didn't spend much time away from home. With just four games spent on the road for Rochester last month, each game ended in winning fashion for the red, white and blue.

On Nov. 2, the Amerks got redemption in Utica, notching their first shutout of the 2019-20 season. A week later, Rochester found themselves back against the Comets, outscoring the opposition 4-3 without having to outshoot them for just the second time this season.

Following Military Appreciation Night, the Amerks made their way to Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena to face-off against the Devils for the third time of the month on Saturday, Nov. 23. And for the third time in November, Rochester walked away with points against Binghamton, recording their second regulation win over New Jersey's affiliate.

The Amerks final road win of the month came just this past Saturday against the Cleveland Monsters. Andrew Oglevie helped lift his team to a 3-2 victory over the Monsters with his first professional hat trick.

8. ADDITION OF GILMOUR

What's better than having the reigning Eddie Shore Award winner and two-time AHL All-Star leading your defense? Having two of the AHL's top three point-producing defensemen from last season on the same blueline.

After being reassigned by the Sabres on Nov. 23, defenseman John Gilmour made an immediate impact on the scoresheet in his Amerks debut against the Devils, earning the secondary assist on Eric Cornel's game-winning goal.

Last season, Gilmour led the Harford Wolf Pack with a career-high 34 assists and 54 points in 70 games. Gilmour's 54 points were four better than Redmond's while Zach Redmond led all AHL blueliners with a franchise-record 21 goals.

9. FINDING COMFORT IN THE CREESE

Along with a 10-game point streak came a comfort level that all the players on Rochester's roster could get behind – more specifically, the Amerks backstops.

Andrew Hammond posted his best month of the season thus far, going 4-0-1 with four straight wins to open the month, including a pair of shutouts. The veteran netminder finished the month with a 1.59 goals-against average and a .943 save percentage.

Alternatively, goaltender Jonas Johansson (6-2-2) pushed his win streak to four games as of this past Saturday night against Cleveland, as he made 24 saves while also earning his career-best sixth win of the season for Rochester.

10. BUFFALO CAME CALLING

Injuries are bound to happen throughout a season, and the Buffalo Sabres seemed to be hit hard in the month of November. In turn, the organization was forced to bring up four forwards from the Amerks during their time of need.

Rasmus Asplund, Jean-Sebastien Dea, Curtis Lazar and Tage Thompson all got the call-up to the show last month. Asplund made his National Hockey League debut on Nov. 16 against the Ottawa Senators and notched his first NHL point with an assist against the Calgary Flames. In the same game as Asplund's first NHL point, Dea got his first nod in the blue and gold.

Over his last 27 games as an Amerk dating back to last season, Thompson, who's currently out injured, has totaled 23 points (14+9), making it no question as to why he would be the first of many mainstay recalls for the Sabres.

Lazar finally made his way back to the show mid-November, debuting for Buffalo against the Carolina Hurricanes. Lazar would go on to score his first goal a Sabre – and first since Feb. 15 of the 2017-18 season as a member of the Calgary Flames – in Buffalo's 5-4 overtime loss to Carolina.

Sabres assign Curtis Lazar to the Amerks
Buffalo News
By: Staff Report
Dec. 3 2019

The Sabres have assigned forward Curtis Lazar to the Rochester Americans of the AHL, the team announced Tuesday.

Lazar had been with the Sabres since mid-November and has been a healthy scratch in the last three games after playing in five games since his recall.

He has a goal in six NHL games this season. He has nine points (four goals, five assists) in 11 AHL games.

Sabres' Rasmus Asplund thrilled to score first goal with parents watching
Buffalo Hockey Beat
By: Bill Hoppe
Dec. 3, 2019

After the Sabres recalled center Rasmus Asplund last month, his parents traveled from Sweden to catch some of his first NHL games.

For about a week, they watched their son, one of the Sabres' top prospects, grow more and more comfortable.

Asplund recorded his first NHL point, a short-handed assist, Wednesday. He nearly scored on a penalty shot Friday.

"I knew it was close," Asplund said of his first NHL goal.

But his parents planned to leave town following Monday's game against the New Jersey Devils.

"It was my last chance to score with them in the stands," said Asplund, who one-timed Casey Mittelstadt's pass in from high in the left circle 19:02 into the game.

Naturally, watching their son score in the Sabres' entertaining 7-1 win made his parents emotional.

"This is big, like we're living in a dream," Asplund said following his 10th NHL game. "I think none of us have realized how big this is and how much work we put in to get to this point."

In other news, Sabres forward Evan Rodrigues, out the last five games with a lower-body injury, practiced this morning inside KeyBank Center.

Rodrigues said he would like to return from his "little tweak" Thursday against the Calgary Flames, the start of a three-game road trip.

Following a slow start, Rodrigues was starting to find a groove before leaving the Sabres' 5-2 road win over the Florida Panthers on Nov. 24.

"I felt like I had my feet back under me, I was using my speed a lot, handling the puck," Rodrigues said. "I just have a lot of confidence. Obviously, it wasn't great timing, but it healed up pretty quick, which was nice, better than thought."

At the end of today's practice, the Zamboni doors opened and someone wearing a Buffalo Bills helmet and sandals drove a snowmobile on the ice.

It was Sabres defenseman Zach Bogosian, who presented the machine to assistant equipment manager George Babcock on behalf of the players for his 2,000th NHL game.

Sabres logos and "2,000" adorn the side.

After running out to hug the players and posing for a picture, Babcock took the machine for a spin on the ice.

Bogosian had a maintenance day from practice.

Amerks to host 'Star Wars Night' Saturday at the Blue Cross Arena
Rochester First
By: Staff Report
Dec. 2 2019

The Rochester Americans announced Monday that the team will host Star Wars Night on Saturday December 7 when they host the defending Calder Cup Champion Charlotte Checkers at the Blue Cross Arena.

As part of the event, The Amerks players will wear special edition Star Wars-themed jerseys, along with matching socks. Those jerseys will be available for purchase through an in-game silent auction. Following the game, winners of the auction will be able to take to the ice to be presented with jerseys "off the backs" of Amerks players. A portion of silent auction proceeds will benefit Golisano Children's Hospital. No word yet on if Baby Yoda will be making an appearance.

Additionally, after Saturday's game, Amerks players will be stopping by The Distillery on Mount Hope Avenue for the team's first official post-game party of the seasons in which fans are invited to attend.

The Amerks are coming off a split weekend, with an overtime loss to the Toronto Marlies and a 3-2 road win against the Cleveland Monsters. The team is currently in second place in the North Division and tied for fourth in the whole league with 30 points.

Oglevie's hat trick lifts Amerks past Cleveland
Buffalo News
By: Staff Report
Dec. 1, 2019

Andrew Oglevie notched his first career hat trick Saturday night as Rochester took down Cleveland, 3-2, at the Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in Cleveland.

Oglevie scored in each period for the Americans. They improved their points streak to 10 games and have not suffered a regulation loss since Oct. 30.

Oglevie has seven goals and three assists in his past seven games. He leads the team with nine scores.

His linemates are doing just as well. Kevin Porter has a seven-game point streak of his own while Brett Murray is on a five-game streak.

Rochester improved to 13-3-2-2 and is just one point behind first-place Toronto in the North Division.

Cleveland (11-9-1-1) drew first blood in the opening period. Kevin Stenlund scored for the Monsters, but Oglevie notched his first goal of the night on a power play minutes later.

The 24-year-old repeated the feat 32 seconds into the second period. He scored on another power play after the Monsters were charged with hooking.

Dillon Sampson tied the game once more for Cleveland on a breakaway through the slot.

The game turned into a defensive struggle for the rest of the second period. Oglevie's game-winner was tapped in off a rebound 4:49 into the third.

Rochester returns home on Dec. 4 and will host Toronto at the Blue Cross Arena at 7:05 p.m.

Amerks lose To Toronto in OT
Buffalo News
By: Staff Report
Dec. 1, 2019

Rochester had a five-game winning streak snapped as the Americans fell in overtime, 3-2, to visiting Toronto on Friday night at the Blue Cross Arena. Pontus Aberg had the game-winner for Toronto. He took a pass out of the corner and fired over goalie Andrew Hammond's shoulder for the score and the win.

The Marlies tied the game with five minutes to spare in the third period on a goal from Darren Archibald.

The Amerks dropped to 12-3-2-2. It was the team's eighth overtime game in its past 19 contests.

Rochester scored first in the opening period. Brett Murray knocked in his third goal of the season, fed from the left side by Kevin Porter.

Tanner McMaster tied the game early in the second period, but Rochester got the lead back quickly on Scott Wilson's sixth tally of the season.

Rochester will travel to Cleveland for a 7 p.m. game Saturday with the Monsters.

Sabres rookie Victor Olofsson quickly develops into all-around presence
Buffalo Hockey Beat
By: Staff Report
Dec. 1, 2019

Victor Olofsson's ability to quickly adapt and evolve has helped him morph from an unheralded Sabres prospect into one of the NHL's top rookies.

Just weeks after beginning his North American career last season, Olofsson established himself as one of the AHL's top scorers with the Rochester Americans.

Following his terrific 30-goal, 63-point campaign, the Swedish winger graduated to Buffalo, scoring six times in the first seven games this year.

But Olofsson, who possesses a lethal shot he often utilizes from the circle, was too one-dimensional earlier in his rookie season.

Olofsson, 24, registered his first eight goals — he scored twice during a six-game recall late in 2018-19 — on the power play, an NHL record.

"I feel like it took me a little time before I felt like I belong here, like I'm a full-time NHL player," Olofsson said prior to Saturday's 2-1 overtime loss in Toronto. "I feel like I'm starting to find myself like I usually do if you look back at my career."

In the past six weeks, Olofsson has started producing at even strength goals and become one of Sabres coach Ralph Krueger's most trusted forwards.

Olofsson has compiled 10 goals and 20 points in 27 games entering Monday's contest against the New Jersey Devils, numbers that trail only Sabres captain Jack Eichel, his center most of the season.

Right now, Olofsson is a legitimate Calder Trophy candidate. He leads all rookies in goals and ranks third in points. His 68 shots are also tied for first. At his current pace, he would score 30 goals and 60 points over an 82-game slate.

The former seventh-round pick could enjoy one of the greatest rookie seasons in franchise history.

How rare are 30-goal rookie campaigns? The Sabres have had four in their 50-year history: Gilbert Perreault (38 goals in 1970-71), Rick Martin (44 in 1971-72), Ray Sheppard (38 in 1987-88) and Donald Audette (31 in 1991-92).

A Sabres rookie hasn't hit the 60-point mark since Sheppard recorded 65.

While Olofsson's six-game point streak ended Saturday, he was one of the best players on the ice, skating just over 22 minutes, his second-highest total this season.

In overtime, he nearly converted two prime scoring chances.

"I feel better and better every game and feel more and more confident with the puck just in every situation out there, and I think that helps a lot when you do get that scoring chance, to be a little bit calmer maybe," Olofsson said of his five-on-five play. "In the beginning, I felt like I was maybe sometimes holding my stick a little bit too tight. I wasn't as relaxed as I usually am.

"It's the best league in the world, right? So I think it takes time to kind of get used to everything and get settled in." The biggest change in Olofsson's five-on-five play, Krueger said, has been the confidence he displays at left wing beside Eichel and Sam Reinhart on the No. 1 line.

"The power-play goals early, they came quite easily, actually, and then the challenge was to find the spaces," Krueger said. "He's just such a smart player, and what I like about Victor is no matter what we get the defensive consistency from him. His patience has allowed him to find those spaces and holes."

"It's an exciting thing to watch how that line in general has developed their five-on-five game, which was not that strong early in the season, but they're a threat against anybody."

As Olofsson's even-strength play improved, the Sabres' power play imploded. They converted one of their 37 chances over 14 games in November. Olofsson hasn't scored a power-play goal since Oct. 16.

"The thing that made us so, so successful in the beginning," Olofsson said, "I felt like we moved the puck really quick, and I feel like every guy on the power play was a threat, they couldn't really just cover one guy, defend us that way."

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The Sabres will celebrate "Founders Night" on Monday at KeyBank Center on the 50th anniversary — Dec. 2, 1969 — of the NHL awarding Seymour and Northrup Knox an expansion team.

Members of the Knox family will be on the ice for a pregame ceremony and video presentation. The Sabres will also recognize the members of the team's original board of directors of their families during the game.

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Popular former Sabres defenseman and analyst Mike Robitaille will be on Monday's MSG pregame show and join play-by-play man Rick Jeanneret in the broadcast booth for the second period.

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A lower-body injury will keep New Jersey center Jack Hughes, the first overall pick in June, out of Monday's game.

Oglevie's hat trick lifts Amerks over Cleveland
Pickin' Splinters
By: Staff Report
Dec. 1, 2019

Andrew Oglevie scored all three goals for his first professional hat trick on his way to leading the Rochester Americans (13-3-2) to a thrilling 3-2 victory over the Cleveland Monsters (11-9-1-1) Saturday night at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse.

With the win, the Amerks closed out the month of November on a 10-game point streak (8-0-1-1) while also earning 30 out of a possible 40 points through their first 20 contests of the campaign. Additionally, Rochester has picked up points in 15 of the last 17 contests overall, going 11-2-2-2 over that span.

In addition to Oglevie turning in a three-goal outing, his linemates Brett Murray and Kevin Porter also finished with multi-point nights for the Amerks, who climbed back to within one point of first place in the AHL's North Division standings. Both Oglevie (7+3) and Porter (2+7) extended their point streaks to seven games for the Amerks, who show a record of 28-7-3-3 since the start of the 2011-12 seasons against Cleveland. Goaltender Jonas Johansson (6-2-2) pushed his win streak to four games as he made 24 saves while also earning his career-best sixth win of the season for Rochester.

Kevin Stenlund and Dillon Simpson each scored for Cleveland as netminder Veini Vehvilainen (4-6-0) stopped 24 of 27 shots but suffered the loss.

With the contest tied at two goals apiece to start the third period of play, Murray was handed a pass from Porter to the right of the Cleveland goaltender. While out in front of the goal-mouth, Murray fired a shot before Oglevie stuffed in the rebound to complete the hat trick at the 4:49 mark.

The game remained a one-goal affair for the final 15:11, and despite pulling their netminder for the last 75 seconds of the tilt, Cleveland was unable to tie the contest.

Cleveland opened the scoring just 25 seconds into the game as Stenlund tucked in his fourth of the campaign, but Oglevie tied the game with 12:02 to go in the first period. The Amerks then began the second stanza with a carry-over power-play, and again Oglevie capitalized on the man-advantage 32 seconds into the middle period.

The Monsters countered back to even the game at two five minutes later as Simpson, Markus Hannikainen and Ryan MacInnis exchanged passes entering the zone before Simpson beat Johansson.

The two clubs exchanged several chances over the final 14 minutes of the period, as well as heavy hits, but both went into the dressing rooms knotted up at two. After the intermission break, Oglevie finished off the scoring and hat trick with his team-leading ninth of the slate 4:49 into the third.

The Amerks open the final month of the calendar year on Wednesday, Dec. 4 when they return back to The Blue Cross Arena for a rematch with the Toronto Marlies. The matchup will be the first of a season-long four-game homestand and second between Rochester and Toronto in a five-day span. Game time is slated for a 7:00 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Your Amerks six pack from Friday's OT loss
Pickin' Splinters
By: Kevin Oklobzija
Dec. 1, 2019

Sometimes you don't play all that well but manage to win. Sometimes you play quite well and lose.

The latter was true for the Rochester Americans on Friday. Despite a multitude of scoring chances, the Amerks lost 3-2 in overtime to the Toronto Marlies after giving up a goal to Pontus Aberg.

Boy, doesn't that sound familiar. Play well, pile up scoring chances, but fail to score. That was pretty much the theme of the playoff series against the Marlies last spring, when the Amerks did pretty much everything necessary except score enough goals and were swept out of the first round.

Here's your Friday Amerks six pack.

1. Building chemistry as a line

The trio of center Kevin Porter, right winger Andrew Oglevie and left winger Brett Murray fired 11 of the Amerks' 35 shots on goal — and had a few of the misses of the net as well.

They also produced the game's first goal, with the hustle of Oglevie, vision and passing of Porter, and quick roof-it shot of Murray providing a 1-0 lead at 13:24 of the first period.

"They all have different things in their game that add value to the line," said coach Chris Taylor, whose Amerks are 12-3-2-2.

2. Murray continues to blossom

The 6-foot-5, 235-pound rookie winger was drafted by the Buffalo Sabres in the fourth round of 2016 but didn't sign a contract until two days before the season began.

He was good in development camp in the summer and then showed promise in training camp.

He didn't make his pro debut until Oct. 19 but is one of the steadiest forwards now.

On Friday he had his season high for shots on goal with six. Overall he has produced 3 goals, 9 assists and 12 points in 14 games. That includes points in four straight, and 1-6-7 in his past six games.

"From development camp to now, he's lost some weight, he's put some muscle on and he's taking care of his body," Taylor said. "He wants to be a pro."

3. The coach returns

Taylor was running the bench for the first time since training camp. He spent the first eight weeks on "recall" to the Sabres as an assistant coach, filling in after assistant Don Granato was hospitalized by pneumonia.

"Just the way the guys competed was great," Taylor said. "I thought we outplayed them, we had a lot of chances to win it."

Amerks assistant coach Gord Dineen filled in as interim coach in Taylor's absence.

4. Free hockey ... and more free hockey

When is a 60-minute hockey game 62 minutes and change?

When the officiating crew somehow doesn't see a puck shot into a virtually wide open net from 10 feet.

Toronto's Darren Archibald hammered home a rebound on a power play after a Teemu Kivihalme's shot hit the post, apparently tying the game 2-2 at 8:43 of the third period.

The puck ricocheted back out off the netting almost instantaneously.

Referee Brandon Biggers, standing maybe 10 feet from the net, somehow didn't see it go in, and the remainder of the officiating crew didn't stop play either.

So they continued to play for another two-plus minutes — which is proper procedure. That was long enough for the Amerks to kill off the power play and take another penalty.

On the next stoppage of play, the referees went to video, realized Archibald had scored, counted the goal, assessed the penalty and reset the clock to 8:43.

All of that was done according to the rules.

What baffled Taylor was that the entire officiating crew never saw it go in.

"I was thinking maybe I saw it wrong if all four of them missed it," he said.

5. Extra hockey was the last thing the Amerks needed

Injuries and recalls have taken six of the Amerks top 12 forwards out of the lineup, so defensemen Nathan Paetsch and Casey Fitzgerald again played at forward.

The added time played because of the no-goal/yes-it's-a-goal wasn't necessarily appreciated.

"We had to play an extra 2 1/2 minutes and then kill another penalty, too," Taylor said.

6. That's points in nine straight

The loss snapped the Amerks six-game winning streak but it did extend their points-earned streak to nine games (7-0-1-1), which is every game in November.

They remain in second place in the North Division with 28 points, three behind Toronto.

Through 19 games, the Amerks have lost just three times in regulation. Only the Marlies, at 14-2-2-1, have lost fewer regulation games in the 31-team AHL.

Amerks hold off Cleveland
C&C Worldwide
By: Staff Report
Dec. 1, 2019

Andrew Oglevie scored all three goals for his first professional hat trick on his way to leading the Rochester Americans (13-3-2) to a thrilling 3-2 victory over the Cleveland Monsters (11-9-1-1) Saturday night at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse.

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Amerks fall in OT in Coach Taylor's return
C&C Worldwide
By: Staff Report
Nov. 30, 2019

While the Rochester Americans (12-3-2-2) extended their point streak to a season-long nine games (7-0-1-1), it was the Toronto Marlies (14-2-2-1) who took the extra point as they left The Blue Cross Arena Friday night with a 3-2 overtime win.

Despite the loss in overtime, Rochester has earned 28 out of a possible 38 points through its first 19 games of the campaign and has picked up points in 14 of the last 16 contests overall, going 10-2-2-2 over that span, including earning at least one point in every game in November.

Forwards Scott Wilson and Brett Murray each recorded their sixth and fourth goals of the season, respectively, while netminder Andrew Hammond (7-1-2) stopped 28 shots but was dealt the overtime loss. Kevin Porter earned primary assist on Murray's goal during the first period, pushing his current point streak to six games while skating in his 500th career American Hockey League contest.

Pontus Aberg, who entered the contest leading the Marlies in points, turned in a three-point effort (1+2) to push Toronto's win streak to seven games. Darren Archibald and Tanner MacMaster rounded out the scoring as goaltender Kasimir Kaskisuo made 33 saves to improve to 7-1-1 on the campaign.

The Marlies faced a 2-1 deficit near the midway point of the final period of play but drew their third penalty of the night to gather an extra skater. During the man-advantage, Teemu Kivihalme darted into the offensive zone with the puck and fired a shot from the left of Hammond. The initial shot clanked off the right post before Archibald bunted it into the net to even the score at the 8:43 mark.

"They have a good power-play," said Porter. "We have to do a better job of staying out of the penalty box while also getting in front of their goaltender. We have to play a simpler game and not turn so many pucks over."

In the final 10 seconds of regulation, Rochester entered the Toronto zone with a 3-on-1 odd-man rush, but Dalton Smith just missed the potential game-winner and the overtime period followed.

During the first 30 seconds of the extra session, Porter and Lawrence Pilut nearly teamed up for another potential game-winning-goal, but the blueliner's shot rang off the outside of the crossbar.

"We had a lot of Grade-A chances," said Nathan Paetsch. "We did a lot of things right and the only time we did run into trouble is when we overhandled pucks and did not get them as deep a few times. I thought we played a really solid game overall, though."

Later in the frame, the puck made its way to the left corner inside the Amerks end of the ice before Aberg stepped out into the slot. The forward wasted little time and quickly fired in his 10th goal of the season to give the Marlies a 3-2 win with 3:24 left in overtime.

"It was a really good game," said Amerks head coach Chris Taylor, who returned to the Rochester bench after spending the first two months of the season with the Buffalo Sabres. "I thought we had a lot of good chances to win the game but we missed four or five good scoring chances."

Rochester opened the scoring for the third consecutive game as Porter scooped up his own rebound and traded a give-and-go with Andrew Oglevie at the 13:24 mark of the first period. After getting the return pass, Porter centered the puck to Murray in-between the face-off dots for the rookie's third of the season.

"They understand where everybody is (on the ice)," described Taylor of the chemistry between Porter, Oglevie and Murray. "They have played a long time together and that's what we want as guys get that continuity. The three guys read off each other and they all three bring something different to add value to the line."

"Ports' and 'Ogs' made a great play getting on the forecheck," explained Murray, who entered the contest tied for 14th in the AHL in scoring amongst rookies with 11 points (2+9) in 13 games. "I was lucky enough to enter the zone and 'Ports' had great vision getting me the puck in the slot."

The Amerks carried the one-goal lead into the locker room after the first period of play. In the middle stanza, the North Division rivals traded tallies less than three minutes apart to enter the final frame with a 2-1 score.

Toronto tied the game at two goals apiece before Aberg sealed the comeback win just 96 second into the overtime period.

The Amerks bring the month to a close on Saturday at 7 pm when they make their first trip of the season to Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse for a North Division showdown against the Cleveland Monsters. The matchup will be the third meeting of the season between the two teams with each side having earned a win beyond regulation, the most recent of which came on Nov. 15 in Rochester.

**NOTES* — Chris Taylor resumed head coaching duties of the Amerks earlier this week, making his official return to Rochester after spending the previous 2 months assisting the Buffalo Sabres coaching staff. Taylor filled in for Sabres assistant coach Don Granato, who was forced to take an extended medical leave while he recovered from illness. Amerks assistant coach Gord Dineen took over in the interim, leading the Amerks to a 12-3-1-2 record, including the team's current 5-game win streak. Taylor's last game behind Rochester's bench was Game 3 in Toronto during the 2019 Calder Cup Playoffs... With Jean-Sebastien Dea and Tage Thompson both on recall with the Sabres, the Amerks come into the weekend without the services of their top 2 point-getters. And Thompson sustained an injury in Buffalo and currently is sidelined... With 6 assists and a pair of multi-point efforts over his last 5 games, first-year forward Brett Murray is tied for 14th in scoring among all AHL rookies with 11 points (2+9) in 13 games... The Amerks come into the weekend owning three of the AHL's top point-producing defensemen in Zach Redmond, Casey Nelson, and Lawrence Pilut, all of whom have been mainstays on Rochester's blueline this season... After being reassigned by the Sabres last Saturday, defenseman John Gilmour made an immediate impact on the scoresheet in his Amerks debut, earning the secondary assist on Eric Cornel's game-winning goal.

Cleveland Monsters unable to stop Andrew Oglevie and the Rochester Americans
SB Nation The Cannon
By: Elaine Shircliff
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The Cleveland Monsters fell to the Rochester Americans, 3-2, on Saturday night. Andrew Oglevie scored all three of the Americans' goals. While, Veini Vehvilainen stopped 24 of the 27 shots he saw.

The Monsters started the game on the right note with a top shelf snipe from Kevin Stenlund 25 seconds into the first period. A minute later, the Monsters almost scored another goal. Jonas Johansson, the Americans' netminder, proved to be a much tougher opponent than the Monsters initially thought.

Two back-to-back penalties by the Monsters gave the Americans the chance to tie the game at one. The Monsters successfully killed the first penalty with ease. While, the second penalty lasted a mere nine seconds before Andrew Oglevie tipped Lawrence Pilut's shot into the net for the equalizer goal.

The Americans' power play goal was only the third shot of the night Veini Vehvilainen had seen in the first 11 minutes of the game. Most of this was due to Anton Karlsson throwing his body in front of shots and clogging up the scoring lanes.

A penalty by Sam Vigneault towards the end of the first period carried into the start of the second. As time was running out on the Monsters' penalty, Oglevie scored his second goal of the night to give the Americans the 2-1 lead.

The Americans worked hard to make this goal happen. Brett Murray fired the puck behind Vehvilainen. In a twist of fate, the shot bounced off the post. Kevin Porter picked up the rebound and quickly fired the puck towards the net. Without hesitation, both Justin Scott and Dillon Simpson kept in front of the puck causing it to bounce off of one of their sticks. Oglevie picked up the rebound and launched it at the net. Vehvilainen got in front of the puck before it flew past him. However, the puck ended up bouncing off of his body into the net.

These early penalties hurt the Monsters energy last night. Coach Eaves reflected on the early penalties stating they weren't "able to get into a rhythm" due being down a man constantly. He also explained that "it hurts your team because then you have guys sitting on the bench." The longer you sit on the bench, the less likely you will be able to shake the rust off of your skates.

The Monsters were able to tie the game 5:57 into the period due to a series of great passes starting with Ryan MacInnis. For the rest of the second period, the Monsters and Americans traded momentum, scoring chances, and breakaways. None of which led to the tie breaker.

Oglevie broke the tie for the Americans scoring a hattrick 4:49 into the third period. Andrew Peeke did his best to help Vehvilainen by mirroring him in the crease but it didn't work out like planned.

Cleveland spent the rest of the game trying to match the intensity and energy of the Americans. Unfortunately, for the Monsters, it wasn't their cleanest period of play this season. They had three turnovers from missed passes, three missed rebounds, two pucks stolen from them while on a breakaway, and faceoff losses that led to the scoring chances for the Americans. Coach Eaves touched on this lack of puck control in the game. "I don't think we were as good as we have been with the puck. That kind of

hurt us when we're trying to get a goal," he explained, "You need to make good plays with the puck and tonight we just didn't do that enough."

In the end, the Monsters couldn't come up with any good plays and fell to the Americans, 3-2.

The Monsters head out on an extensive road trip where they won't return home until Friday December 13th. Coach Eaves made sure to point out the fact being on the road so long can be helpful for team bonding. Especially when you are winning games. "One thing about being on the road is it's not easy but when you have success on the road it's really fun to do that type of thing together," Coach Eaves explained, "I'm hoping we can do that".