



ROCHESTER AMERICANS

DAILY PRESS CLIPS

Friday, December 6, 2019

TONIGHT'S GAME: CHARLOTTE VS. ROCHESTER

Oglevie Making Up For Lost Time This Season

Amerks.com

By: Suzie Cool

Dec. 5, 2019

Step one: An immediate or on-ice assessment needs to be made that consists of checking for any red flags, looking for obvious observable signs, going through the memory assessment Maddocks questions, an examination of the Glasgow Coma Scale, a cervical spine assessment and doing an off-ice assessment on the athlete's concussion background.

Step two: It's time for a symptom evaluation where the athlete rates their symptoms based on how they feel post-injury. On a scale that ranges from none to severe, the athlete will give a rating on neck pain, dizziness, confusion and more in order for the doctor to correctly diagnose the situation at hand.

Step three: A cognitive screening evaluates the brain's processing and thinking function after a head injury. This screening ranges from figuring out if the athlete knows exactly where they are at, immediate memory capability and concentration when trying to repeat phrases and digits given to them to remember at that point in time.

Step four: Neurological screenings test the patient's ability to read aloud and follow instructions without difficulty, being able to look side-to-side or up-and-down with double-vision or moving their head and neck or having the patient perform the finger nose coordination test normally along with a balance examination.

Step five: The doctor will have the patient go back to step three and ask some of the same questions that were asked during the cognitive screening. This delayed recall should be performed five minutes after the initial immediate recall section.

Step six: It's time for the doctor to evaluate each section of the test and decide on the athlete's symptoms that have been presented to them.

So, let's take some time and imagine each step of this process after taking a big hit during a hockey game. You're led off the ice, taken to a small examination room in the back hallway and thrown into a series of tests that are going to dictate whether or not you'll be back out on the ice playing the game that you love any time soon. A process you had to endure not once, not twice, but three times while embarking on your first season in the pros.

The best way to describe Andrew Oglevie's rookie campaign last year? Exhausting.

Just nine days after making his professional debut with the Rochester Americans on Oct. 5, the rookie forward was sidelined for the next six games with his first concussion of the 2018-19 season. Upon his return to the lineup on Nov. 2, Oglevie would then see time in the next 10 tilts before suffering his second concussion of the year.

"This was the first time I had ever been out for an extended period of time, especially with a concussion. I've had previous concussions, but I haven't had them consecutively like that in such a short period of time," said Ogelvie.

After his second concussion of last year's campaign, Oglevie was out for an even more extended period of time, missing 29 games from Dec. 1 to Feb. 12. Following his second recovery, Oglevie got back into the Rochester lineup with a purpose, notching nine points (4+5) in his last 14 outings of the year with three multi-point efforts over that time.

Having only appeared in 28 games last year, Oglevie found himself missing the last 11 games of the 2018-19 regular season as well as the Calder Cup Playoffs due to suffering yet another concussion. Although an unfortunate way to end his first year in the pros, the Amerks forward finally had the summer to recover and find out how to prevent this ongoing issue by meeting with a concussion specialist in order to figure out the exact problem.

It was exactly what he needed for Oglevie to figure out how to prevent a rerun of his rookie year when preparing for his second season in the Flower City over the last summer.

"I was feeling good probably two weeks after the season ended. I was able to start skating right away and I didn't really take any time off. I did a lot of skating, lifting, lots of neck strengthening, lots of upper back and shoulder work just to make sure my neck and everything was stable so that I could take these hits and not be able to feel the symptoms."

Fast forward nearly eight months later and two months down in the Amerks current campaign and this second-year forward is putting in work and making himself known here in Rochester, easily becoming a fan favorite. Currently, Oglevie is one of just three skaters on the Amerks roster that has appeared in all 21 games so far this season. In those 21 games, Oglevie has made up for lost time, surpassing his goal (5), assist (5) and point (10) total from last season while leading the team with nine goals and 16 points.

Entering this week, Oglevie was riding a career-long seven-game point streak, which included goals in five of six games over that span. But on top of his previous point streak, skating in every game and surpassing his statistics from last year, the Amerks forward notched his first professional hat trick, lifting the team to a 3-2 victory over the Cleveland Monsters on Nov. 30 and being the first to achieve this feat for the club this year.

One thing Oglevie can admit to is that he came into this year with a chip on his shoulder, wanting to prove to people what exactly he could do when coming into a season healthy and feeling better than before.

"I think I said it once earlier this season, but I do want to prove that I'm still here just because people might have forgotten, or people might not have seen me play a whole lot last year. The 'still here' campaign is going on for me right now and I'm just happy to be contributing to the team."

Well Andrew Oglevie, you most certainly have our attention.

Aquin Scores First AHL Goal
Journal Pioneer
By: Staff Report
Dec. 5, 2019

Former Charlottetown Islanders left-winger Pascal Aquin scored his first AHL goal Wednesday.

He scored 3:15 into the first period as the host Rochester Americans defeated the Toronto Marlies 4-0.

The 22-year-old Le Gardeur, Que., native has a goal and two assists in eight games with the Americans this season after playing one game with them last season. He had 27 goals and 32 assists for 59 points and 81 penalty minutes in 68 games with the ECHL's Cincinnati Cyclones in 2018-19, his first year of pro hockey.

Aquin played two seasons with the Islanders, helping them make it to the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League semifinal both years.

Amerks blank Marlies 4-0 on home ice
Rochester First
By: Staff Report
Dec. 5, 2019

Two first period goals and a strong outing from goaltender Andrew Hammond helped the Rochester Amerks on their way to a 4-0 victory over the Toronto Marlies Wednesday night at the Blue Cross Arena.

The win pushed Rochester's point streak to 11 games, their first such streak since the 09-10 season. Furthermore, the Amerks have now picked up 16 points in their last 18 outings — good for second place in the north division and fourth in the whole AHL with 32 points.

Curtis Lazar and Casey Fitzgerald both recorded their second and third multi-point games of the season, respectively, with a goal and an assist each. Zach Redmond opened the scoring on the night with his third of the year while second-year forward Pascal Aquin netted his first career AHL goal.

Hammond (8-1-2), who appeared in his 200th pro game, picked up his first point as an Amerk while earning his third shutout of the season. In his last seven starts, Hammond has posted five wins, three shutouts, a 1.32 goals-against average and a .950 save percentage.

The Amerks continue their four-game homestand on Friday, Dec. 6 when they host the defending Calder Cup champion Charlotte Checkers at 7:05 p.m. in the first of back-to-back meetings at The Blue Cross Arena.

The Saturday night game against the Checkers is also Star Wars night at the Blue Cross Arena.

Rochester Americans: An Inside Look
The Hockey Writers
By: Daniel Kuter
Dec. 5, 2019

Get familiar with some of the young faces down in the minors, as the American Hockey League's Rochester Americans have some talented players that Buffalo Sabres fans may get to know down the road.

The Well-Known Name: Tage Thompson

For Sabres fans, Tage Thompson is the most familiar name due to the fact that he spent the majority of last season with Buffalo. He was a part of the Ryan O'Reilly deal, coming over from a St. Louis Blues team that couldn't quite figure out what to do with him.

The same can be said for Buffalo, who has sent Thompson bouncing around in the lineup, and even down to Rochester for the end of last season and beginning of this season. While in St. Louis, he played 41 games for the Blues, and 30 with the San Antonio Rampage in the minors.

Thompson was a stud at the University of Connecticut, compiling 64 points over his two collegiate campaigns. He was a highly-touted sniper, ultimately leading the Blues to spend a first-round draft pick on him. He stands at a towering 6-foot-6 and has characteristics of being a star in the making. It's safe to say this possibility is still a far ways away, but the shot release and size of him alone give him the potential to become elite someday.

From extensive analysis of Thompson over the past few years, I have come to find that he has gotten the short end of the stick. What I mean by this is that he has not been given an ample opportunity to play with elite players. He spent the majority of last season on the third or fourth line. I see him as a goal scorer, hence his need to play with playmakers, which has been a rare commodity for him.

I tend to wonder if Thompson will ever work out in Buffalo, as he is still in the minors and has not been dominant by any means.

The Other Familiar Face: Lawrence Pilut

Lawrence Pilut is another player that spent extensive time with Buffalo last season. He essentially came out of nowhere, which tends to be the case with undrafted players. With a depleted defense corps, he stepped up and showed some serious potential to eventually become a full-time pro.

By process of elimination, it was clear that Pilut would be starting this season in Rochester. With that being said, I have gotten the chance to see him play in person a few times this season and have been quite impressed. The game has clearly slowed down for Pilut, who seemed overwhelmed at times last season. Now, I understand the AHL is a completely different animal, but I will give credit where credit is due.

Pilut is a smart puck mover and walks the blue line with supreme confidence. His head never looks down at the puck and he rarely has point shots blocked, which is an essential factor for whether a young defenseman survives at the pro level. On top of this, he is responsible in his own end, with an emphasis put on making the easy read.

If Buffalo decides to move on from some of their defensemen, or they become plagued with injuries, I can see Pilut being an option for the Sabres.

Ascending Forwards: Andrew Oglevie & Brett Murray

Both Oglevie and Murray have found success in Rochester this season, in part because of the chemistry the two have developed from playing on the same line.

Oglevie is a former Notre Dame Fighting Irish, with whom he racked up 41 and 39 points, respectively, in his last two seasons at the Big Ten school. He plays with pace and has a nice wrist shot to accompany his slick playmaking skills.

Murray, on the other hand, is a 6-foot-4 winger who found success in the United States Hockey League after two lackluster seasons at Penn State. He possesses a unique blend of skill and physicality, with a willingness to hunt down the puck. This aspect of his game is what impresses me the most, as he uses his size to his advantage to strip players of the puck and create offensive chances off of the turnovers.

From a small sample size, I believe Murray has a bright future to eventually become a regular in the NHL. He already possesses the necessary size, and will only continue to become stronger and faster with his skating. The skill is clearly there with him, and I think his ceiling is quite high.

Will Borgen

The main reason I even bring Borgen's name up is the fact that he offers a tough, bruising element that the Sabres sorely lack. Borgen is one tough customer. He is not an overly large defenseman, but he plays with an edge that is hard to come by. He has dropped the gloves in two of the three Americans games I have attended.

With the Rasmus Dahlin hit still fresh in our minds I think it's fair to say that Buffalo would love to add a "Ryan Reaves" to their lineup. Now I'm not saying Borgen is Reaves by any stretch of the imagination, but I do think the Sabres can take something from what they have seen from him.

I don't expect Borgen to be called up anytime soon, I rather think he simply serves as a reminder of what Buffalo lacks.

As a whole, the Sabres farm team has some high potential players on their roster, and I would suggest familiarizing yourself with them before they one day wear the blue and gold.

Sabres' Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen named ECHL goalie of month
Buffalo Hockey Beat
By: Bill Hoppe
Dec. 4, 2019

Buffalo Sabres prospect Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen has been named ECHL Goaltender of the Month for November after compiling a 6-2-1-0 record with a 1.88 goals-against average, a .925 save percentage and two shutouts with the Cincinnati Cyclones.

After undergoing hip surgery in late April, the Sabres sent Luukkonen, 20, to the Cyclones last month to begin his pro career.

The Sabres drafted the Finn, the Ontario Hockey League's MVP and top goalie last season, in the second round in 2017, 54th overall.

In other prospect news, goalie Erik Portillo has been named to Team Sweden's squad for the upcoming World Junior Championship.

Portillo has compiled a 10-2-1 mark with 2.13 goals-against average and a .910 save percentage in 13 games with the junior United States Hockey League's Dubuque Fighting Saints this season.

The Sabres drafted Portillo, 19, in the third round this year, 67th overall.

Amerks' point streak reaches 11
Buffalo News
By: Staff Report
Dec. 5, 2019

Extending their point streak to 11 games, the Rochester Americans shut out the Toronto Marlies, 4-0, Wednesday before 2,872 at Blue Cross Arena in Rochester.

Goalie Andrew Hammond, the game's first star, stopped 20 shots to gain his third shutout of the season. Curtis Lazar and Casey Fitzgerald, who had a goal and assist each, were the second and third stars.

Zach Redmond scored on the power play at 1:01 of the opening period after Adam Brooks of the Marlies drew a hooking minor just 43 seconds into the game. Pascal Aquin scored his first of the season to make it 2-0 in the first. Lazar scored in the second and assist on Fitzgerald's goal in the third.

Rochester (14-3-2-2, 32 points) trails Toronto (15-4-2-1, 33) by a point in the North Division of the American Hockey League. Last time the Amerks failed to earn a point was a 4-3 loss to the Providence Bruins on Oct. 30.

Even without the A-team, the Amerks keep winning
Pickin' Splinters
By: Kevin Oklobzija
Dec. 4, 2019

Two of their top six forwards remain on recall, another three of their top nine are injured and a defenseman is playing forward.

And yet the Rochester Americans just keep winning.

Andrew Hammond stopped 20 shots and Zach Redmond, Pascal Aquin, Curtis Lazar and Casey Fitzgerald scored goals as the Amerks blitzed the visiting Toronto Marlies 4-0 on Wednesday night.

With the victory, the Amerks (14-3-2-2) moved within a point of the first-place Marlies in the American Hockey League's North Division. They have points in 11 straight (9-0-1-1) and haven't lost in regulation since a 4-3 setback at Providence on Oct. 30.

Their .762 points-earned percentage is second only to Milwaukee (17-4-1-2, .771) in the 31-team AHL.

Not bad considering the talent that is out of the lineup. But whoever fills in excels. On Wednesday the Amerks got goals from a guy up who played the first six weeks of the season in the ECHL, Aquin, and a defenseman-turned-forward, Fitzgerald.

"We have that next-man-up mentality," said Fitzgerald, a rookie out of Boston College who has 2 goals, 5 assists and 7 points in 16 games. "Guys are going to step up and do what they can for their team."

Some would say the adjustment from D-zone to forward shouldn't be that difficult for Fitzgerald. His father, Tom, played 17 pro seasons up front and brother, Ryan, is in his fourth pro season on the wing.

"My first game at forward I was pretty lost," he said. "I've been a defenseman my whole life."

Yet while his future surely is on defense, he has worked hard to learn to be an effective forward, Amerks coach Chris Taylor said.

"I always like that guys are sometimes playing different positions," Taylor said. "Fitzzy's done a great job."

Aquin also did on Wednesday. A free-agent signee before the 2018-19 season, he produced 27-32-59 in 68 games for ECHL Cincinnati last year and had a one-game call-up to the Amerks as well.

But he went without a goal in his first 10 games for the Cyclones this season, and hadn't scored in his first seven with the Amerks until 3:15 of the first period on Wednesday.

"It was a good feeling," he said. "I struggled a little with it in Cincinnati, just trying to do too much. Normally I keep it simple; straight line."

He was back to that style of play on Wednesday, often using his speed to disrupt the Marlies in their own zone.

"I thought this was one of his best games," Taylor said. "He was all over the puck and his forechecking was really good."

Aquin started on a line with Fitzgerald and Brady Vail but ended up with Jean-Sebastien Dea and Lazar after Scott Wilson suffered an upper body injury. Taylor had no update on the severity.

Of course, it never hurts to have a reliable goalie just in case their are breakdowns. Hammond wasn't required to do much in the first period when the Amerks built a 2-0 lead, but was tested on occasion over the final 40 minutes.

The shutout was his third of the season, all in his past six starts, and sixth in his past 22 starts dating back to last year with the Iowa Wild.

On Wednesday, however, he gave most of the credit to the players in front of him.

"More than anything this was a team shutout," said Hammond, who lowered his goals-against average to 2.44, 12th-best in the AHL. "The guys are giving up so little and when they do, you want to be there for them."

In case you were wondering ...

Remember the odd play from the third period on Friday night, where Toronto scored a power-play goal but play continued and then Amerks winger Pascal Aquin took a penalty?

While all four officials somehow missed a puck shot into the middle of an open net, they did make the proper rulings in the aftermath.

When an apparent goal is missed, play continues until the next whistle. The officials then review video to determine if the puck entered the net. In this case, it did, so the goal is awarded, and the clock is wound back to the time the puck entered the net.

In this case, the goal came at 8:43, while the Amerks were short-handed. Because the clock is wound back, that ensuing penalty officially is recorded at that same time. That means the original penalty is wiped out by the goal, but the delayed penalty is enforced because the Amerks "officially" were short-handed at the time.

Amerks blank division leading Marlies
C&C Worldwide
By: Craig Potter
Dec. 4, 2019

Andrew Hammond posted his third shutout in his last 7 starts and Pascal Aquin notched his first AHL goal in leading the Rochester Americans to a 4-0 victory over the North Division leading Toronto Marlies on Wednesday night before a paid crowd of 2,872 fans at the Blue Cross Arena.

Hammond, playing in his 200th professional game, also recorded an assist as he made 20 saves in blanking the Marlies.

"I don't want to sound cliché, but I think it's the way we have played lately," said Hammond. "My approach lately is just making the key saves over the course of the game and my other routines have not changed.

"Tonight was a total team shutout. The guys played great in front of me. "They did not give up much, but even when they did, I wanted to be there for them."

The victory enabled the Amerks (14-3-2-2, 32 points) to pull within 1 point of Toronto (15-4-3-2, 33 points) for the North Division lead. Rochester also has 1 game in hand on the Marlies.

"Everyone played really well tonight," said Amerks head coach Chris Taylor. "It's obviously a team win, but I thought Hammond made some big saves whenever he needed to. We were a little sloppy in the second and third period as we allowed some chances that we normally do not give up, but Hammond came up big for us."

The Amerks jumped out to an early 2-0 advantage they scored on a power play just 61 seconds into the contest. Defenseman Zack Redmond fired home the shot with assists going to Lawrence Pilut and Hammond.

Rookie Pascal Aquin tallied his first AHL goal 2:14 later off assists from Casey Fitzgerald and John Gilmour.

"It's a great feeling," said Aquin when talking about his goal. "It was great to get it (the goal) early in the game on the first shift. We were having a good shift in the offensive zone and I saw the puck and I just tried to bury it into the net."

Midway through the second period, Brett Murray thought he had a goal on a shot towards the vacated Toronto net, but goalie Joseph Woll dove to his left and made the incredible save.

Rochester did go up 3-0 about 3 minutes later when Curtis Lazar scored with an assist going to Jean-Sebastien Dea.

The Amerks concluded the scoring in the third period off a turnover in the Marlies end. Casey Fitzgerald scored as Brady Vail and Lazar received assists. Normally a defenseman, Fitzgerald has been playing forward for a fourth consecutive game due to a shortage of forwards.

"I just try to do whatever I can do to help the team win," said Fitzgerald. "I'm new to the position and I just try to give it everything I have whenever I get on the ice.

"Tonight, I got rewarded with a goal and an assist, but much of the credit goes to my linemates (Aquin and Vail) as they were working hard to set me up, but it does feel good to contribute offensively."

The Amerks continue their four-game homestand on Friday, Dec. 6 when they play host to the defending Calder Cup champion Charlotte Checkers at 7:05 pm at the Blue Cross Arena in the first of back-to-back meetings. The two teams will square off again Saturday night in Rochester to conclude the 2-game set.

**NOTES* — In his last 7 starts, Andrew Hammond has posted 5 wins, 3 shutouts, a 1.32 goals-against average and a .950 save percentage...The Marlies suffered their first shutout since Feb. 22 of last season. Amerks General Manager Randy Sexton announced on Tuesday that the team reassigned forward Shaw Boomhower to the Cincinnati Cyclones...The Cincinnati Cyclones, in conjunction with the ECHL, announced that goaltender Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen has been named the recipient of the Warrior Hockey / ECHL Goaltender of the Month for November. The rookie sensation posted a record of 6-2-1-0 along with a 1.88 goals-against average and a .925 save percentage.

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 CREASE

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.