



BELLEVILLE SENATORS

GAME NOTES

ROCHESTER AMERICANS



Rochester Americans @ Belleville Senators

Friday, January 3, 2020 @ CAA Arena | AHL Regular Season Game No. 512

TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

- The Rochester Americans (20-8-2-2) head north of the border for their first game of the New Year tonight when they take on the Belleville Senators (19-12-1-1) at 7:00 p.m. at CAA Arena. The contest will be the second of the six-game season series after Rochester claimed the first meeting between the two teams by way of a 4-3 score back on Dec. 27. Tonight's game will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

LAST TIME OUT

- After scoring a power-play goal to tie the game midway through the third period, the Amerks saw the Utica Comets regain the lead with a power-play goal of their own before holding on for a 3-2 win Tuesday at Adirondack Bank Center. The Amerks attempted to stage a late third-period comeback but fell short and were defeated in back-to-back games in regulation for the first time all season.
- Despite the setback, however, the Amerks show a 15-5-1-1 record over their last 22 games dating back to Nov. 1, earning points in 17 games over that span, and share the top spot in the AHL's North Division standings with Utica going into the New Year. Additionally, Rochester has picked up points in 22 of the last 29 contests overall, going 18-7-2-2, while also earning 44 out of a possible 64 points through its first 32 contests of the season.
- For the second time this season, **Taylor Leier** tallied a pair of goals against Utica while blueliner **Casey Nelson**, who had a game-high five shots last Saturday, registered seven shots on net. Goaltender **Andrew Hammond** (10-6-2) stopped 15 of 18 shots he faced but suffered his fourth consecutive loss.

ROAD AHEAD FOR ROCHESTER

- Following tonight's contest with Belleville, Rochester makes its first trip back to Coca-Cola Coliseum since Game 3 of the 2019 Calder Cup Playoffs for another go-around with the Toronto Marlies at 4:00 p.m. The North Division matchup will be carried live on The Sports Leader AM 950/95.7 FM ESPN Rochester as well as AHLTV.

DALTON SMITH EARNS TWO-WAY CONTRACT WITH SABRES

- The Buffalo Sabres announced Monday the team signed forward **Dalton Smith** to a one-year two-way contract for the remainder of the 2019-20 season. Smith, 27, a former second-round pick of the Columbus Blue Jackets (34th overall) in the 2010 NHL Draft, has four points (1+3) in 21 games in his third season with Rochester and has totaled 14 points (4+10) over 114 games for the Amerks since joining the organization in 2017-18. In all, Smith has appeared in 340 career AHL games with Rochester, Lehigh Valley, Providence, Syracuse and Springfield. The Oshawa, Ontario, native made his NHL debut Tuesday when the Buffalo Sabres hosted the Tampa Bay Lightning.

2019-20 REGULAR SEASON



TOTAL GOALS
122-101



19-12-1-1 (40 points)

20-8-2-2 (44 points)

AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	GF	GA	PTS	+/-	PIM
Jean-Sebastien Dea	30	10	11	21	8	12
Zach Redmond	29	5	16	21	13	16
Lawrence Pilut	27	4	16	20	10	12

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Jonas Johansson	15	10-2-2	809:17	377	.933	2.00
Andrew Hammond	19	10-6-2	1,124	448	.911	2.34

NEXT THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 4	@ Toronto	4:00 p.m.
Jan. 8	vs. Binghamton	7:05 p.m.
Jan. 10	vs. Belleville	7:05 p.m.

LAST THREE GAMES

Date	Opponent	Result	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 31	UTI	L 3-2	35-18	1-6	4-6
Dec. 28	BNG	L 2-0	32-29	0-3	2-2
Dec. 27	BEL	W 4-3	31-36	2-5	3-4

YEARLY	RECORD	GF	GA	POINTS
HOME	11-3-1-2	57	37	25
AWAY	9-5-1-0	44	37	19
TOTALS	20-8-2-2	101	74	44

SENATORS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Drake Batherson	32	12	28	40	19	22
Josh Norris	32	16	13	29	2	10
Vitaly Abramov	24	14	13	27	10	16

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	MIN	SVS	SV%	GAA
Marcus Hogberg	15	7-6-0	825:21	366	.897	3.05
Filip Gustavsson	13	7-5-1	726:53	318	.874	3.80



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TEAM AND LEAGUE LEADERS

- **Jean-Sebastien Dea** shares the Amerks team lead in both points (21) and goals (10) in 30 games this season. Dea has four points (1+3) in his last seven games heading into Rochester's first game of the calendar year.

DYNAMIC DUO IN THE CREASE

- Anchored by the elite goaltending tandem of veteran **Andrew Hammond** and third-year pro **Jonas Johansson**, the Amerks own the top defense in the league, having allowed only 74 goals through the first 32 games of the season, the fewest in the AHL coming into the weekend. The duo has also combined for six shutouts and are tied for 11th among all AHL goaltenders with 10 wins each on the season.

- Hammond (10-6-2) comes into the matchup second among all netminders after notching his fourth shutout of the season on Dec. 14 in a 5-0 win over Laval, a new career-high. In his last 13 games, Hammond boasts a 7-5-1 record with four shutouts, a 1.74 goals-against average and a .940 save percentage. With four shutouts through just 19 games this season, he's on pace to match the franchise record for most shutouts in a season (8) set by **Ryan Miller** during the 2004-05 campaign.

- Having won eight straight appearances, Johansson shows an AHL career-best 10-2-2 record this season. Coming into the New Year, he has the second-best goal-against average in the league (2.00) and ranks second among all netminders with a .933 save percentage in 15 games. Dating back to Nov. 13, the third-year netminder boasts a perfect 8-0-0 record with two shutouts, a 1.74 goals-against average and a .946 save percentage while allowing just two goals or less in six consecutive starts over that span.

THE BEST OFFENSE IS A GOOD DEFENSE

- Rochester owns three of the AHL's top point-producing defensemen in **Zach Redmond**, **Lawrence Pilut** and **Casey Nelson**, all of whom have been mainstays on Rochester's blueline this season.

- The 2019-20 season is just a different chapter in the same story for the 31-year-old Redmond, who's averaged nearly a point-per-game through his first 29 games of the season. Redmond is currently tied for eighth in scoring among all defensemen with 21 points and ranks 10th with a team-high 16 assists. He's also tied for eighth in the AHL for goals by a defenseman with five.

- Coming off his third three-point outing of the season on Friday, plus another assist on Tuesday, Pilut enters tonight with 15 points (3+12) over his last 19 games dating back to Nov. 15 since returning from the Buffalo Sabres. The former SHL Defenseman of the Year has already matched his goal total from last season in three fewer games and is on pace to set a new career-high in points. His 16 assists are tied with Redmond for the most on the team.

- Nelson shows a team-best plus-16 on-ice rating through 30 games, tied for third among all active blueliners and fifth overall in the AHL.

AMERKS-SENATORS 2019-20 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Lawrence Pilut	1	1	2	3	2	1
Eric Cornel	1	1	0	1	0	0
Taylor Leier	1	1	0	1	0	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Jonas Johansson	1	1-0-0	60:00	3	.917	3.00

BELLEVILLE

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Vitaly Abramov	1	1	0	1	0	-1
Joseph LaBate	1	1	0	1	0	1
Jordan Murray	1	1	0	1	4	0

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	MIN	GA	SV%	GAA	
Filip Gustavsson	1	0-1-0	59:44	4	.871	4.02

2019-20 SEASON SERIES GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 27	W	4-3	31-36	2-5	3-4
Jan. 3					
Jan. 10					
Feb. 19					
Mar. 6					
Mar. 7					

QUICK HITS

- Rookie defenseman **Jacob Bryson** is second in the AHL for all first-year players with a plus-15 on-ice rating while being the only Amerk to appear in all 32 games this season.
- The Amerks have claimed at least one point in nine of the first 13 meetings with the Senators dating back to the 2017-18 season. Rochester holds a record of 5-0-2-0 in the all-time road portion of the head-to-head series.
- Tonight is just the 14th all-time meeting between the North Division rivals. In eight of the first 13 contests, the team who has scored the first goal of the game has gone on to come away with the victory.
- The Senators lineup features two former Amerk defensemen in Jack Dougherty and Stuart Percy.
- Belleville's Drake Batherson comes into tonight tied for the league lead with a team-high 40 points while pacing the AHL with 28 assists through 32 games.