

Saturday | **Jan. 15, 2022** | 5:05 PM ET | The Blue Cross Arena | Game 527 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester, CW Rochester



GAME NOTES



TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (19-11-0-1) look to rebound against the Belleville Senators (14-15-0-0) tonight at The Blue Cross Arena after dropping the first of a two-game set last night. Game time is slated for a 5:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV. The North Division matchup will also be televised locally on CW Rochester channel 16.

The Amerks have won 11 of their last 16 games and are 6-3-0-1 over their previous 10 games after suffering a 4-3 shootout loss to begin the weekend.

HEAD-TO-HEAD SERIES SNAPSHOT

Rochester is 10-10-1 all-time against Belleville while being outscored 75-69 through the first 21 meetings with the Senators. Last night's shootout loss was the Amerks' first loss of the season beyond regulation and the first in 21 all-time meetings between the North Division rivals dating back to the 2012-18 campaign. It was also the first shootout loss for Rochester on home ice since Feb. 26, 2020.

The Amerks boast a 3-4-1-1 home record through the first nine all-time meetings in the Flower City. Additionally, Rochester has scored two or more goals in 18 of the previous 21 get-togethers, which includes 12 games where they have produced four or more tallies.

AMERKS LEADING THE WAY

The Amerks own three of the league's top point-getters in veteran forward **Michael Mersch** and rookie forwards **Jack Quinn** and **JJ Peterka**. The veteran Mersch, who's closing in on 300 career AHL points, enters the weekend tied for the AHL lead in goals (17) and fifth in points (32) while Quinn remains at a close second having reached the 30-point mark on Wednesday with a goal and three assists. He ranks second among all league rookies in goals (13) and points (30) while his team-high five power-play goals are also tied for second-most among all first-year players.

Rochester has one of the top-scoring defenseman in the league in **Oskari Laaksonen**, who recorded a career-high four assists in Wednesday's 7-6 win over Utica, including three in the first period and three of which came on the power-play. He finished two assists shy of tying the franchise record for most in a single game. Following Wednesday's performance, Laaksonen, who boasts six points (1+5) in his last six games since the turn of the New Year, is second among all AHL defensemen in scoring with 21 points (3+18) in 29 games. He also paces the league with 16 power-play assists as all but two of his 18 assists this season have come on the man-advantage. Equally as impressive, 18 of Laaksonen's 21 points have been on the power-play.

POWER-PLAY PROFICIENCY

Now 31 games into the season, Rochester's power-play has gone 30-for-115 with a 26.1% conversion rate that is currently tops in the AHL. The Amerks' 30 goals on the man-advantage are most among all North Division teams and only two off the AHL lead behind only the Springfield Thunderbirds.

The Amerks have scored at least one power-play goal in 19 of their first 31 games this season and have registered multiple power-play tallies in seven overall, including a season-high four goals in the 7-3 win over Hershey back on Nov. 26.

Rochester scored a power-play in seven straight games between Nov. 17 and Dec. 8, the longest such streak in the AHL this season.

2021-22 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Michael Mersch	31	17	15	32	14	1
Jack Quinn	22	13	17	30	15	-5
JJ Peterka	27	6	19	25	8	2
Sean Malone	23	9	13	22	16	1
Oskari Laaksonen	29	3	18	21	18	-5

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Aaron Dell*	5	5-0-0	141	.910	2.76
Michael Houser*	11	5-4-0	261	.900	2.98
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen*	12	6-6-0	308	.888	3.42
Mat Robson	5	3-1-1	131	.840	5.20

* = Currently on recall with Buffalo

2021-22 BELLEVILLE OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Jake Lucchini	29	10	12	22	8	4
Egor Sokolov	25	8	12	20	8	6
Roby Jarventie	27	5	10	15	10	2
Andrew Agozzino	23	9	4	13	35	-1
Mark Kastelic	29	5	6	11	38	-3

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Mads Sogaard	15	8-6-0	372	.912	2.60
Kevin Mandolese	12	5-5-0	274	.895	3.19
Filip Gustavsson	2	0-2-0	55	.887	3.53

2021-22 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Belleville Senators Rochester Americans

14-15-0-0 **Record** 19-11-0-1

6-8-0-0 **Home Record** 10-4-0-1

8-7-0-0 **Road Record** 9-7-0-0

5-5-0-0 **Last 10 Games** 6-3-0-1

11-4-0-0 **Record When Scoring First** 13-4-0-0

2.97 (18th) **Goals-For Per Game** 3.81 (2nd)

3.07 (16th) **Goals-Against Per Game** 3.65 (29th)

16.1% (T-26th) **Power-Play** 26.1% (1st)

82.4% (13th) **Penalty Kill** 80.9% (23rd)

4-3 SOW @ ROC **Last Game** 4-3 SOL vs. BEL

Jan. 17 @ SYR **Next Game** Jan. 19 vs. SYR



ROCHESTER AMERICANS | MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
@AMERKSPR | @AMERKSHOCKEY

Warren Kosel | Senior Director of Public & Media Relations | 1.585.286.9928
Ryan Harr | Public & Media Relations Coordinator | 1.585.286.9940

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

SIX-TIME CALDER CUP CHAMPIONS 1965 | 1966 | 1968 | 1983 | 1987 | 1996

Saturday | **Jan. 15, 2022** | 5:05 PM ET | The Blue Cross Arena | Game 527 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester, CW Rochester



GAME NOTES



MERSCH LEADING BY EXAMPLE

With an assist on Jan. 7 against Hartford, Mersch became the first Amerk this season and just the fourth player in the AHL to reach the 30-point mark. He's now reached the mark six times in his eight-year pro career.

Mersch has totaled 19 points (10+9) and four multi-point efforts over his last 17 games dating back to Nov. 24. He's been held scoreless just five times over that span to move into fifth in the AHL in scoring with 32 points (17+15) on the season. The Amerks captain began that stretch with a five-game goal-scoring streak, the longest of his career and the longest in the AHL this season, while his five-game point streak marked his longest since posting a career-best seven-game point streak back in 2015.

With a league-leading 17 goals this season, Mersch has doubled his output from the previous season in three fewer games and is on pace to reach the 20-goal mark for the fifth time in eight years and the first time since the 2018-19 season as a member of the Texas Stars.

He's also on pace to reach the 20-goal mark in the fewest amount of games since 2015-16 when he scored 20 in 35 games with the Ontario Reign. He finished that season with 24 goals in only 52 appearances while also appearing in 17 games with the Los Angeles Kings.

Coming into Friday's matchup, Mersch has an opportunity to become the first Amerk to score 20 goals in the fastest amount of games since **Luke Adam** reached the mark in 31 games during the 2013-14 season.

Mersch has appeared in all but one of Rochester's 59 games dating back to last season, including the lone player to appear in all 31 contests in 2021-22.

FANTASTIC FOUR

The Amerks currently own four of the AHL's top scoring rookies in **Jack Quinn**, **JJ Peterka**, **Peyton Krebs** and **Brandon Biro**, all of whom have combined for 93 points (28+65) through the first 31 games this season.

Coming off a career-high four-point effort over Utica, on Wednesday, Quinn, Buffalo's eighth overall pick in 2020, is back to within one point of the AHL rookie scoring lead. With a goal and three assists, Quinn became the second Amerk this season to reach the 30-point mark. He enters the weekend second among all AHL rookies in both goals (13) and points (30) in 22 games. Quinn became the 101st AHL player this season to make his NHL debut when he took the ice in Buffalo's 6-1 loss to the Tampa Bay Lightning Tuesday night. He finished with team-highs in shots (3) and shot attempts (6) while earning 16:30 of total ice time. He also became Buffalo's eighth player taken within the first two rounds of the NHL Draft under the age of 25 to appear in a game with the Sabres this season.

Peterka is tied for fourth in rookie scoring despite missing each of the last three contests due to COVID-19 protocols. He is second among all first-year players with a team-high 19 assists while his .93 points per game is seventh-best among rookies that have played 20 or more games. He and Quinn, taken just 26 picks apart from one another by the Buffalo Sabres in the 2020 NHL Draft, currently make up one of only four rookie duos across the entire AHL to rank inside the top three on their respective team in scoring.

Biro has 14 points (5+9) over his last 13 games dating back to Nov. 27. He also has four multi-point efforts in nine games over that span, which includes a season-high three-point (1+2) performance on Wednesday against Utica.

AMERKS-SENATORS 2021-22 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Michael Mersch	3	2	1	4	0	-1
Brandon Biro	3	0	3	3	4	1
Lukas Craggs	3	1	1	2	4	1
Mason Jobst	2	1	1	2	5	-1

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Mat Robson	1	0-0-1	3	.914	2.77
Aaron Dell	1	1-0-0	3	.900	3.00
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	1	0-1-0	6	.793	6.01

BELLEVILLE

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Egor Sokolov	3	3	3	6	0	3
Jake Lucchini	3	2	3	5	0	1
Cole Reinhardt	3	1	3	4	4	3
Mark Kastelic	3	2	1	3	7	3

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Kevin Mandolese	1	1-0-0	3	.909	3.00
Mads Sogaard	2	1-1-0	7	.854	3.39

2021-22 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 27	L	7-3	33-30	1-6	2-2
Nov. 3	W	4-3	24-30	2-5	2-4
Jan. 15	SOL	4-3	24-36	0-6	3-3

SERIES NOTABLES

Of the 14 different defensemen the Amerks have used this season, 12 have notched at least one point while eight have recorded at least one goal.

Coming off their second seven-goal outing of the season on Wednesday against Utica, the Amerks have the AHL's second-best offense and are currently averaging just under four goals per game. Rochester leads the league with 118 goals scored and are one of only eight teams this season to surpass the 100-goal mark so far in 2021-22.

Tonight's contest features five players selected in the 2020 NHL Draft, which includes Belleville's Egor Sokolov, Roby Javentie and Cole Reinhardt and Rochester's **Jack Quinn** and **JJ Peterka**.

Amerks forward **Ryan Scarfo** had a brief six-game stint with the Senators during the 2018-19 season.

Belleville enters tonight's rematch set fueled by forward Jake Lucchini. The fifth-year forward shows a team-best 22 points on 10 goals and 12 assists while being one of two Senators to appear in all 29 games this season.



ROCHESTER AMERICANS | MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

@AMERKSPR | @AMERKSHOCKEY

Warren Kosel | Senior Director of Public & Media Relations | 1.585.286.9928

Ryan Harr | Public & Media Relations Coordinator | 1.585.286.9940