

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Saturday | **January 22, 2022** | 1:00 PM ET | Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse | Game 565 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester



# GAME NOTES



## TODAY'S GAME OVERVIEW

Following a quick turnaround, the Rochester Americans (20-11-2-1) look to complete the weekend sweep today in the second game of back-to-back meetings against the North Division rival Cleveland Monsters (12-12-4-3) at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse. Game time is slated for a 1:00 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 Amerks have earned points in 15 of their last 21 games dating back to Nov. 19 while the club shows a 4-3-2-1 over their previous 10 games.

## HEAD-TO-HEAD SERIES SNAPSHOT

Rochester holds a record of 33-12-4-4 against Cleveland over the last 10 years dating back to the start of the 2011-12 campaign and has earned a point in 11 of the last 16 games.

The Amerks have scored 11 power-play goals in their last 13 games against Cleveland dating back to the start of the 2019-20 season, going 11-for-53 (20.8%) with the man-advantage over that span. Conversely, Rochester's penalty kill unit has been successful in 53-of-64 shorthanded opportunities (82.8%) against.

## AMERKS LEADING THE WAY

The Amerks own two of the league's top five point-getters in rookie forward **Jack Quinn** and veteran forward **Michael Mersch**. They're both tied for fourth in the AHL in scoring with 35 points each, while Quinn, despite currently being on recall with the parent Buffalo Sabres, is tied for the league lead in goals with Chicago's Andrew Poturalski and Stefan Noesen.

Quinn scored his team-leading 18th goal of the season early in the second period Wednesday against Syracuse, giving him seven goals and 11 points in his first seven games since returning to the lineup on Jan. 5. Quinn paces all AHL rookies in both goals (18) and points (35) while his team-high six power-play goals are also second-most among all first-year players.

Mersch extended his current point streak to five games with an assist on MacInnis' third-period goal last night. He also has points in six of his last seven games as he inches closer to the 300-point mark for his AHL career.

With five players currently performing at or just below a point-per-game pace, Rochester once again has the AHL's top-producing. Averaging just under four goals per game, the Amerks have scored the most goals in the AHL with 129. Rochester has scored four goals or more in each of its 20 wins this season dating back to its 5-3 home-opening victory over Syracuse.

## POWER-PLAY PROFICIENCY

Now 34 games into the season, Rochester's power-play has gone 33-for-126 with a 26.2% conversion rate that is currently tops in the AHL. The Amerks' 33 goals on the man-advantage are most among all North Division teams and are one shy of the AHL lead behind only the Springfield Thunderbirds.

The Amerks have scored at least one power-play goal in 21 of their first 34 games this season and have registered multiple power-play tallies in eight 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	+/-
Jack Quinn*	24	18	17	35	15	-6
Michael Mersch	34	17	18	35	14	3
JJ Peterka	28	7	20	27	8	3
Oskari Laaksonen	30	3	20	23	18	-5
Sean Malone	23	9	13	22	16	1

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	7	4-1-2	191	.868	4.25
Charles Williams	1	0-1-1	29	.829	6.13

\* = Currently on recall with Buffalo

## 2021-22 MONSTERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Brendan Gaunce	31	11	11	22	20	-6
Jake Christiansen	25	5	15	20	17	2
Tyler Angle	30	4	15	19	10	4
Kevin Stenlund	24	5	13	18	12	-5
Liam Foudy*	24	6	11	17	6	5

\* = Currently on recall with Columbus

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Cam Johnson	3	1-0-1	68	.932	1.89
Jean-Francois Berube	13	4-6-3	356	.904	3.02

## 2021-22 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Cleveland Monsters	Rochester Americans
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12-12-4-3 ..... **Record** ..... 20-11-2-1

4-7-1-1 ..... **Home Record** ..... 10-4-2-1

8-5-3-2 ..... **Road Record** ..... 10-7-0-0

2-6-2-0 ..... **Last 10 Games** ..... 4-3-2-1

8-2-3-1 ..... **Record When Scoring First** ..... 14-4-1-0

2.93 (T-17th) ..... **Goals-For Per Game** ..... 3.79 (T-1st)

3.32 (23rd) ..... **Goals-Against Per Game** ..... 3.61 (29th)

16.8% (27th) ..... **Power-Play** ..... 26.2% (1st)

77.9% (25th) ..... **Penalty Kill** ..... 80.5% (20th)

4-1 L vs. ROC ..... **Last Game** ..... 4-1 W @ CLE

Jan. 24 @ WBS ..... **Next Game** ..... Jan. 28 vs. SYR



## ROCHESTER AMERICANS | MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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## QUINN-TESSENTIAL QUALITIES

Quinn became the first AHL player this season and just the 17th player in Amerks franchise history to score four goals in a game in the 6-5 overtime loss to Belleville on Jan. 15. More impressively, he scored all four goals consecutively, including the game-tying tally with 3.3 seconds remaining in regulation.

He's the first Amerk to have a four-goal game since Rochester native Derek Whitmore single-handedly outscored Hamilton on Nov. 25, 2011 (5-2 W).

With 18 goals through his first 24 games, he's on pace to become the first Amerk to score 20 goals in the fewest number of games since Luke Adam reached the mark in 31 games during the 2013-14 campaign.

He was named the **AHL's Rookie of the Month for October** after leading all first-year players with 10 points (5+5) through the first month of the regular season. In just six games to begin the season, Quinn surpassed his offensive output from his truncated 2020-21 campaign, and became the first AHL player to reach the 10-point mark this season.

Quinn has been held scoreless just four times all season and hasn't gone more than one game without recording a point. He comes into the weekend having recorded 11 multi-point performances this year. More impressively, the Amerks are a near-perfect 10-0-1-0 this season when Quinn registers a multi-point game, including 6-0-1-0 on home ice.

On Nov. 12, Quinn became the first AHL rookie since Frank Vatrano in 2015-16 to score eight goals through his first 10 games of the season.

His 1.46 points per game is third-best among all AHL players with at least 20 games.

## 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 22 points (10+12) and four multi-point efforts over his last 20 games dating back to Nov. 24. He's been held scoreless just five times over that span to move into a fourth-place tie in the AHL in scoring with 35 points (17+18) 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 in 2015.

With 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.

Mersch has appeared in all but one of Rochester's 63 games dating back to last season, including the lone player to appear in all 34 contests in 2021-22.

## AMERKS-MONSTERS 2021-22 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
JJ Peterka	3	2	2	4	2	4
Jack Quinn	2	2	1	3	0	0
Brandon Biro	2	0	3	3	0	3
Mattias Samuelsson	2	0	3	3	2	2

### GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Mat Robson	1	1-0-0	1	.972	1.00
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	2	1-1-0	4	.947	2.02

### CLEVELAND

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Brendan Gaunce	3	2	1	3	0	-3
Justin Danforth	2	1	0	1	0	-1
Carson Meyer	3	1	0	1	11	-3
Tristan Mullin	3	1	0	1	0	-1

### GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Daniil Tarasov	1	1-0-0	3	.893	3.00
Jean-Francois Berube	2	0-2-0	7	.857	3.56

## 2021-22 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Nov. 12	L	4-3	43-28	0-4	2-3
Nov. 27	W	4-0	25-32	0-2	4-4
Jan. 21	W	4-1	25-36	1-5	4-5
Jan. 22					
Mar. 18					
Mar. 19					
Apr. 1					
Apr. 2					



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## THE BEST OFFENSE IS A GOOD DEFENSE

Rochester has one of the top-scoring defenseman in the AHL in **Oskari Laaksonen**, who recorded a career-high four assists in the 7-6 win over Utica back on Jan. 12, 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.

Laaksonen, who boasts eight points (1+7) in his last seven games since the turn of the New Year, leads all Rochester blueliners and is tied for second among all AHL defensemen in scoring with 23 points (3+20) in 30 games. He also paces the league with 17 power-play assists as all but three of his 20 assists this season have come on the man-advantage. Equally as impressive, 19 of Laaksonen's 23 points have come on the power-play.

Rookie defenseman **Mattias Samuelsson**, who's currently on recall with the Buffalo Sabres, recorded two assists in last Saturday's overtime loss to Belleville, giving him 15 points (2+13) in 20 games. He produced multi-point efforts in back-to-back outings for the first time in his pro career on Dec. 8 and Dec. 10. Samuelsson ranks sixth in scoring among all AHL rookie defensemen while his 13 assists are fifth-most.

He made his Sabres season debut at Ottawa on Tuesday, becoming the 13th different player to appear in a game for both Buffalo and Rochester.

Coming off his first three-point outing since the 2019-20 season, **Ethan Prow** is tied for 13th amongst blueliners in assists (14) and 11th in points (18).

The veteran defenseman has totaled exactly 100 points (31+69) over his last 146 American Hockey League games dating back to the 2018-19 campaign.

## 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 103 points (34+69) through the first 34 games this season.

Coming off his first four-goal game this past Saturday, Quinn, Buffalo's eighth overall pick in 2020, is back atop the AHL rookie scoring lead, pacing all first-year players in both goals (18) and points (35) in 24 games. Quinn became the 101st AHL player this season to make his NHL debut when he took the ice against the Tampa Bay Lightning on Jan. 11. He finished with team-highs in shots (3) and shot attempts (6) while earning 16:30 of total ice time. He then returned to the Sabres a day after scoring his team-leading 18th goal for Rochester and was rewarded with his first two NHL points, including a goal against Vezina Trophy winner and Stanley Cup champion Braden Holtby in the Sabres' 5-4 loss to the Dallas Stars on Jan 20.

Peterka is tied for fourth in rookie scoring with 27 points (7+20) after returning to the lineup on Friday night. He is second among all first-year players with a team-high 20 assists. He and Quinn, taken just 26 picks apart from one another by Buffalo in the 2020 NHL Draft, currently make up one of only three rookie duos across the entire AHL to rank inside the top three on their respective team in scoring.

Biro has 17 points (5+12) over his last 16 games dating back to Nov. 27. He also has five multi-point efforts in 12 games over that span, which includes a season-high three-point (1+2) performance on Jan. 12 against Utica. He comes into the weekend showing one goal and six assists over his last five games.

## MOVIN' ON UP

Players that have appeared in at least one game this season for both Rochester and Buffalo:

### FORWARDS (7)

Mark Jankowski  
Ryan MacInnis  
Brett Murray  
Arttu Ruotsalainen  
Peyton Krebs  
Jack Quinn\*  
JJ Peterka\*

### DEFENSEMEN (3)

Casey Fitzgerald\*  
Ethan Prow\*  
Mattias Samuelsson

### GOALTENDERS (3)

Aaron Dell  
Michael Houser  
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen

\* = Made NHL debut

## SERIES NOTABLES

Of the 14 different defensemen the Amerks have used this season, 13 have notched at least one point while eight have recorded one goal. Additionally, of the 20 different forwards to appear in one game for Rochester, 18 have scored a goal and 19 have produced a point.

Rochester enters tonight as the only team in the AHL to have scored at least 40 goals in all three periods this season. Additionally, the Amerks have scored the most first-and third-period goals among any other team and have outscored the opposition 42-30 through the opening 20 minutes.

During the 2019-20 season, all seven games between Cleveland and Rochester were decided by one goal, including five that went beyond regulation. Over that same span, Rochester posted a 4-0-1-2 record.

In the previous nine games with Cleveland dating back to the start of the 2020-21 slate, the winning club has scored at least four goals. In each of the last four head-to-head matchups with the Monsters, the Amerks have tallied at least once in the first 20 minutes of play, which includes all three tilts this season.

Amerks forward **Ryan MacInnis** is set to face his former team for the fourth time and returns to Cleveland for the first time after appearing in 121 career games for the Monsters over the last three seasons, including a brief five-game stint in 2020-21. The sixth-year pro posted his best season with Cleveland during the 2019-20 campaign when he established then career-highs in all offensive categories, including goals (7), assists (23) and points (30) to finish second on the team in scoring.

Forward Justin Danforth, currently on NHL recall with Columbus, appeared in 20 games with the Amerks over parts of two different seasons from 2016-18. He was named the ECHL Rookie of the Year with Cincinnati in 2017-18.



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