

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Saturday | **March 19, 2022** | 6:05 PM ET | Blue Cross Arena | Game 892 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester



GAME NOTES



TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

Following a quick turnaround, the Rochester Americans (29-23-3-2) and Cleveland Monsters (21-24-7-4) close out their two-game series in a rematch tonight at The Blue Cross Arena. The North Division matchup gets underway at 6:05 p.m. and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV.

The Amerks have earned five out of a possible six points in their last three games while snapping a four-game skid in the process. The Monsters have points in seven of their last 10 games, going 5-3-1-1 in that span.

HEAD-TO-HEAD SERIES SNAPSHOT

Rochester holds a record of 34-13-4-4 against Cleveland over the last 10 years dating back to the start of the 2011-12 campaign and has earned a point in 12 of the last 18 games.

The Amerks have scored 13 power-play goals in their last 15 games against Cleveland dating back to the start of the 2019-20 season, going 13-for-58 (22.4%) with the man-advantage over that span. Rochester's penalty kill unit has been successful in 56-of-69 shorthanded situations (81.2%).

In the previous 11 games with Cleveland, the winning club has scored at least four goals. In five of the last six head-to-head matchups with the Monsters, the Amerks have tallied at least once in the first 20 minutes of play, which includes all four games this season prior to last night.

VIEW FROM ROCHESTER

Rochester remains in the thick of what is shaping up to be a very tight race to the finish among its fellow North Division opponents. The Amerks have played the most games (58) in the Division among any other team with some having as many as seven games in hand on Rochester entering this week. Cleveland currently has two games in hand on Rochester.

The Amerks presently sit in sixth place with 18 games remaining and the top five teams in the North Division are guaranteed to clinch a playoff spot.

Lukas Rousek and newcomer **Nate Knopeke** both made their American Hockey League debuts last against Cleveland with the latter becoming the 15th different defenseman to a play a game this season for Rochester.

Having returned to the lineup last night after missing the previous four games, **Jack Quinn** is third among all AHL rookies in goals (20) and seventh in points (41) while his team-high seven power-play goals are also tied for third-most among all rookies.

Rochester has the AHL's eighth-best offense. Averaging under four goals per game, the club have scored the third-most goals in the AHL with 193 and rank first in the North Division.

POWER-PLAY PROFICIENCY

Rochester's power-play has gone 48-for-208 with a 23.1% conversion rate that is currently fourth-best in the AHL. The Amerks' 48 goals on the man-advantage are most among all North Division teams and are eight shy of the AHL lead behind Ontario.

The Amerks have scored at least one power-play goal in 30 of their first 58 games this season and have registered multiple power-play tallies in 11 overall, including a season-high four goals in the 7-3 win over Hershey back on Nov. 26.

2021-22 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
JJ Peterka	52	16	34	50	22	-7
Jack Quinn	27	20	21	41	17	-6
Michael Mersch	47	20	21	41	27	-3
Brandon Biro	40	9	27	36	16	6
Ethan Prow	52	9	26	35	6	-4

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Aaron Dell	16	10-4-1	441	.907	2.94
Michael Houser	11	5-4-0	261	.900	2.98
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	22	9-11-2	627	.897	3.38
Mat Robson	10	5-3-2	265	.877	3.78

2021-22 MONSTERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Jake Christiansen	46	9	27	36	21	-4
Tyler Angle	55	7	22	29	20	0
Brendan Gaunce*	39	16	12	28	28	-8
Justin Scott	56	13	13	26	44	5
Tyler Sikura	56	11	14	25	35	2

* = Currently on recall with Columbus

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Jet Greaves	21	9-7-2	504	.908	2.72
Cam Johnson	10	3-4-2	210	.875	3.10
Jean-Francois Berube	18	4-10-4	456	.885	3.52

2021-22 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Cleveland Monsters	Rochester Americans
21-24-7-4	Record 29-23-4-2
9-13-4-1	Home Record 14-11-2-1
12-11-3-3	Road Record 15-12-2-1
5-3-1-1	Last 10 Games 4-5-1-0
13-4-3-1	Record When Scoring First 18-7-2-0
2.80 (25th)	Goals-For Per Game 3.33 (8th)
3.39 (28th)	Goals-Against Per Game 3.64 (29th)
16.5% (27th)	Power-Play 23.1% (4th)
76.2% (27th)	Penalty Kill 81.3% (13th)
5-4 L @ ROC	Last Game 5-4 W vs. CLE
Mar. 21 @ UTI	Next Game Mar. 25 vs. TOR



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PETERKA FLOURISHING IN SECOND HALF

With a two-goal outing last night against Cleveland, forward **JJ Peterka** became the first Amerk this season and just the third AHL rookie to reach the 50-point mark.

After scoring just four times through the first three months of the season, Peterka has notched 30 points (12+18) in 29 games to begin 2022, including goals in back-to-back games on four different occasions over that span

More impressively, Peterka, who was taken 34th overall in the 2020 NHL Draft by the Sabres, leads the Amerks and is tied for sixth in the AHL with 161 shots on goal. He's only gone two games all season without registering at least one shot on goal.

Peterka made his highly anticipated NHL debut on Dec. 28 as Buffalo hosted New Jersey before visiting the New York Islanders the very next day. Following his return to the Amerks, he totaled five points on two goals and three assists in two games before being honored as the **AHL's Rookie of the Month of the Week** for the period ending Jan. 2, 2022.

Peterka has been held scoreless just nine times since Dec. 19 and hasn't gone more than two games without recording a point during that same span. More impressively, the Amerks are 11-2-0-0 this season when Peterka registers a multi-point game, including 6-0-0-0 on home ice.

With a team-high 50 points (16+34) through 52 games, Peterka is the first Amerks rookie to reach the 50-point mark since Phil Varone had 52 points (11+41) in 76 games during the 2011-12 season. Peterka also leads the team and is eighth in the AHL with 34 assists.

Coming into the weekend, he's one of only five AHL rookies currently leading his respective team in scoring.

A PRODUCTIVE STRETCH FOR MURRAY

After being held scoreless in four games in January, **Brett Murray** responded with his best offensive showing of the season in February, leading the Amerks with 12 points on seven goals and five assists while appearing in all 13 games during the month.

Murray has scored more than half of his 14 goals since the start of February. He opened the month with four goals in his first five games, including a season-best three straight games from Feb. 5 to Feb. 9.

He saw his career-long six-game point streak halted on Mar. 12 when he posted nine points (3+6), including a four-point effort at Toronto Feb. 27.

RACE TO 20

After the cancellation of the remainder of the 2019-20 season and a truncated 2020-21 campaign failed to produce a 20-goal scorer for just the fourth time in franchise history, the Amerks could potentially have several by season's end with eight players currently with 10 or more goals.

Michael Mersch, who also returned to the lineup last, and Quinn both reached the mark last night, despite Quinn appearing in 20 fewer games than Mersch. Peterka and Murray remain on pace with 16 and 15 goals, respectively, while **Arttu Ruotsalainen** and **Linus Weissbach** are right on their heels coming into the weekend.

AMERKS-MONSTERS 2021-22 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
JJ Peterka	5	5	4	9	4	3
Jack Quinn	3	3	3	6	0	2
Michael Mersch	5	3	2	5	0	0
Linus Weissbach	5	1	4	5	2	3

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
Aaron Dell	1	1-0-0	4	.886	4.00
Charles Williams	1	0-1-0	5	.800	5.10

CLEVELAND

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Brendan Gaunce	4	5	1	6	0	-1
Trey Fix-Wolansky	2	3	0	3	0	2
Dillon Simpson	5	3	0	3	13	0
Jake Christiansen	3	1	2	3	0	0

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Daniil Tarasov	1	1-0-0	3	.893	3.00
Jet Greaves	2	1-1-0	8	.857	4.07
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	L	7-3	34-27	1-3	1-2
Mar. 18	W	5-4	22-35	1-2	2-3
Mar. 19					
Apr. 1					
Apr. 2					



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THE BEST OFFENSE IS A GOOD DEFENSE

Rochester has two of the league's top point-producing defensemen in **Ethan Prow** (9+26) and **Oskari Laaksonen** (5+24), who enter the weekend tied for fifth and 14th in scoring amongst all blueliners, respectively.

Prow, who reached the 30-point mark for the third straight year in the AHL, is also ninth with 26 assists, which are just two more than Laaksonen. His nine goals trail only San Diego's Nikolas Brouillard, Grand Rapids' Ryan Murphy and Belleville's Michael Del Zotto for most by a defenseman this season. With an assist last Friday night, Prow has recorded 17 points (5+12) over his last 22 games. Additionally he has totaled 116 points (36+80) over his last 168 AHL contests dating back to the 2018-19 campaign.

Laaksonen, who boasts 14 points (3+11) in his last 30 games since the turn of the New Year, also ranks second among defensemen with 19 power-play assists, trailing only Ontario's Jordan Spence in that category, as all but five of his 24 assists this season have come on the man-advantage. Equally as impressive, 23 of his 29 points have come on the power-play.

His best performance of the season came back on Jan. 12 when he recorded a career-high four assists in the 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.

Prior to earning his second recall of the season to the Buffalo Sabres, rookie defenseman **Mattias Samuelsson** recorded two assists in the overtime loss to Belleville on Jan. 15, giving him 15 points (2+13) in 22 games. Samuelsson is tied for 19th in scoring among AHL rookie defensemen while his 13 assists are 15th-most.

FANTASTIC FOUR

The Amerks currently own four of the AHL's top scoring rookies in **JJ Peterka**, **Jack Quinn**, **Brandon Biro** and **Linus Weissbach**, all of whom have combined for 160 points (57+103) through Rochester's first 58 games this season.

Quinn, the Buffalo Sabres' eighth overall pick in 2020, ranks third among all first-year players in goals (20) and is seventh in points (41) despite only appearing in 27 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 18th goal of the season 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.

With his assist last night in the second period, Weissbach has notched 10 points (2+8) in his last 15 games. He finished the month of February with 11 points (1+10) in 13 contests, including a season-high three-assist effort on Feb. 27 at Toronto to bring the month to a close.

Peterka's torrid start to the second half of the year has him second among all rookies in points (50), third in assists (34) and seventh in goals (16).

With Peterka already at 50 points and Quinn at 41 points, it marks the first time since the 2006-07 season the club will finish the regular season with multiple rookies with 40 or more points.

MOVIN' ON UP

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

FORWARDS (8)

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

DEFENSEMEN (3)

Casey Fitzgerald*
Ethan Prow*
Mattias Samuelsson

GOALTENDERS (3)

Aaron Dell
Michael Houser
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen

* = Made NHL debut

WINNING BY NUMBERS

Rochester enters tonight as one of only three AHL teams to have scored at least 58 goals in all three periods this season. Additionally, the Amerks have scored the fourth-most first and third-period goals among any other team and have outscored the opposition 58-55 through the opening 20 minutes.

The Amerks have scored four or more goals in all but six of their 29 wins this season, two of which have come on home ice. Additionally, 13 of Rochester's 15 road victories have come with three or more goals despite being outscored 114-98 through their first 30 road games.

OTHER AMERKS NOTABLES

Of the 15 different defensemen the Amerks have used this season, 13 have notched at least one point while 10 have recorded at least one goal. Additionally, of the 25 different forwards to appear in one game for Rochester, 19 have scored a goal and 22 have produced a point.

Over his last 33 games since the turn of the New Year, Amerks forward **Arttu Ruotsalainen** has tallied 33 points on 13 goals and 20 assists, a stretch which began with a three-point effort versus Hartford on Jan. 2. Ruotsalainen has also turned in a multi-point effort in nine games over that same span, including four over his recent season-long five-game point streak which was highlighted by three consecutive two-goal games for the first time in his AHL career.

Rochester is one of just four teams to have three different rookies (Quinn, Peterka, Weissbach) reach the 10-goal mark, joining the Charlotte Checkers, Springfield Thunderbirds and Toronto Marlies.

The Amerks are also one of eight teams in the AHL to have at least eight different players in double digits in goals, which includes Bakersfield, Charlotte, Providence, San Jose, Springfield, Stockton and Utica.



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