

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Friday | **April 1, 2022** | 7:00 PM ET | Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse | Game 959 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester



# GAME NOTES



## TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (31-24-5-3) embark on a five-game road swing to open the final month of the regular season tonight with the first of back-to-back meetings against the Cleveland Monsters (23-27-8-4) at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse. The North Division matchup gets underway at 7:00 and will be carried live on The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV.

Rochester snapped its three-game winless skid on Sunday, giving them points in seven of its last eight, going 4-1-2-1 over that span. The Monsters have lost three of their last four and are 3-5-2-0 in their last 10 contests.

## HEAD-TO-HEAD SERIES SNAPSHOT

Rochester holds a record of 35-13-4-4 against Cleveland over the last 10 years dating back to the start of the 2011-12 campaign and has earned a point in 13 of the last 19 games between the two teams.

The Amerks have scored 14 power-play goals in their last 16 games against Cleveland dating back to the start of the 2019-20 season, going 14-for-62 (22.6%) with the man-advantage over that span. Rochester's penalty kill unit has been successful in 57-of-70 shorthanded situations (81.4%) as well.

In the previous 12 games with Cleveland, the winning club has scored at least four goals. In six of the last seven head-to-head matchups with the Monsters, the Amerks have tallied at least once in the first 20 minutes of play, which includes five of the six games this season.

## AMERKS BOLSTER BLUELINE AT AHL TRADE DEADLINE

The Amerks made only one move ahead of the AHL's trade deadline earlier this week, but it was one that will undoubtedly positively impact the team in its pursuit of clinching a playoff spot for the second time in four years.

Rochester acquired veteran defenseman **Mark Alt** from the San Jose Barracuda in exchange for forward **Mason Jobst**.

Prior to making his Amerks debut Wednesday againsts Utica, Alt, 30, appeared in 46 games with the Barracuda this season, tallying eight points (5+3).

A native of St. Paul, Minn., Alt is a veteran of 452 American Hockey League games with San Jose, Ontario, Colorado, Lehigh Valley/Adirondack and now Rochester, totaling 125 points (33+92) while also appearing in 20 NHL contests with Los Angeles, Colorado and Philadelphia.

Prior to turning pro, the 6-foot-4, 201-pound blueliner played three seasons at the University of Minnesota, where he amassed 39 points (7+32) in 117 career games with the Gophers.

Alt was a second-round selection (53rd overall) of the Carolina Hurricanes in the 2010 NHL Draft.

## POWER-PLAY PROFICIENCY

Rochester's power-play has gone 54-for-225 with a 24.0% conversion rate that is currently third-best in the AHL. The Amerks' 54 goals on the man-advantage are most among all North Division teams and are five shy of the AHL lead behind Ontario.

The Amerks have scored at least one power-play goal in 35 of their first 63 games this season and have registered multiple power-play tallies in 13 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	57	17	35	52	24	-12
Jack Quinn	32	23	25	48	17	-11
Michael Mersch	52	23	23	46	29	-2
Arttu Ruotsalainen	44	16	26	42	24	-11
Ethan Prow	57	9	31	40	6	-5

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Michael Houser	11	5-4-0	261	.900	2.98
Aaron Dell	17	10-5-1	473	.906	3.01
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	26	11-11-4	758	.896	3.45
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	52	11	30	41	31	-8
Justin Scott	62	14	16	30	44	-3
Tyler Angle	61	8	22	30	32	-4
Brendan Gaunce*	39	16	12	28	28	-8
Tyler Sikura	62	11	16	27	35	-3

\* = Currently on recall with Columbus

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Jet Greaves	26	11-10-2	661	.910	2.77
Cam Johnson	11	3-4-2	221	.877	3.10
Jean-Francois Berube*	19	4-10-5	474	.879	3.65

## 2021-22 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Cleveland Monsters	Rochester Americans
23-27-8-4.....	<b>Record</b> .....31-24-5-3
10-15-4-1.....	<b>Home Record</b> .....16-11-3-2
13-12-4-3.....	<b>Road Record</b> .....15-13-2-1
3-5-2-0.....	<b>Last 10 Games</b> .....4-3-2-1
15-4-3-1.....	<b>Record When Scoring First</b> .....19-7-3-1
2.76 (T-26th).....	<b>Goals-For Per Game</b> .....3.35 (8th)
3.42 (28th).....	<b>Goals-Against Per Game</b> .....3.70 (29th)
16.0% (27th).....	<b>Power-Play</b> .....24.0% (3rd)
77.4% (26th).....	<b>Penalty Kill</b> .....81.4% (12th)
4-2 L vs. CLE.....	<b>Last Game</b> .....4-3 W vs. UTI
Apr. 2 vs. ROC.....	<b>Next Game</b> .....Apr. 2 @ CLE



## ROCHESTER AMERICANS | MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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## PETERKA FLOURISHING IN SECOND HALF

Coming off his two-goal outing against Cleveland on March 18, 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 32 points (13+19) in 34 games to begin 2022, including goals in back-to-back games on four different occasions over that span.

Peterka, who was taken 34th overall in the 2020 NHL Draft by the Sabres, leads all AHL rookies and is tied for sixth in the AHL with 178 shots on goal. He's only gone two games all season without recording 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 12 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 52 points (17+35) through 57 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 ninth in the AHL with 35 assists.

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

## APPERT JOINS ELITE COMPANY

By way of a 6-5 overtime victory over the Cleveland Monsters on March 19, which pushed the team's point streak to four games, **Seth Appert** became Rochester's sixth straight head coach to reach the 30-win mark in his first full season behind the bench.

Should the Amerks win nine of their remaining 13 games this season, Appert will become the first bench boss to lead his team to 40 wins in his first full season at the helm since Hall of Famer Randy Cunneynworth, who in nine seasons went on to become the winningest coach in franchise history.

Appert is 42-39-11 in 92 career games with the Amerks since 2020-21.

## 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** and Quinn, who both returned to the lineup on March 18 against Cleveland, both reached the mark in their first game back, despite Quinn appearing in 20 fewer games than Mersch. Peterka and **Arttu Ruotsalainen** remain on pace with 17 and 16 goals, respectively, while **Brett Murray** (15) **Linus Weissbach** (13) are closing in on the milestone as well.

## AMERKS-MONSTERS 2021-22 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
JJ Peterka	6	5	5	10	6	2
Jack Quinn	4	4	5	9	0	2
Michael Mersch	6	4	2	6	0	0
Mark Jankowski	4	2	3	5	4	0

### GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Mat Robson	1	1-0-0	1	.972	1.00
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	3	2-1-0	9	.921	2.95
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	3	3	1	4	2	3
Jake Christiansen	4	1	3	4	0	1
Justin Scott	6	0	4	4	2	-2

### 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	3	0-2-1	13	.882	4.27

## 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	OTW	6-5	24-39	1-4	1-1
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+31) and **Oskari Laaksonen** (5+25), who enter the weekend fifth and tied for 15th in scoring amongst all blueliners, respectively.

Prow, who reached the 40-point mark for the second time in his AHL career with an assist on Wednesday, is also tied for fourth with 31 assists, which are just six more than Laaksonen. His nine goals are tied for sixth-most by a defenseman this season and only three off the league lead. With an assist this past Wednesday against Utica, Prow has recorded 22 points (5+17) over his last 27 games. Additionally, he has totaled 121 points (36+85) over his last 173 AHL contests dating back to the 2018-19 campaign.

Laaksonen, who shows four points (1+3) over his last seven games coming into tonight, also ranks second among defensemen with 20 power-play assists, as all but five of his 25 assists this season have come on the man-advantage. Equally as impressive, 25 of his 30 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.

## 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 170 points (62+108) through Rochester's first 63 games this season.

Peterka's torrid start to the second half of the year has him third among all rookies in points (52), third in assists (35) and tied for 10th in goals (17).

Quinn, the Buffalo Sabres' eighth overall pick in 2020, is second among all first-year players with a team-high 23 goals and ranks fourth in points (48) despite only appearing in 32 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.

Despite missing the last 14 games due to injury, Biro is still tied for 12th in scoring amongst all rookies with 36 points (9+27) in 40 games.

With a third-period goal this past Sunday against Bridgeport, Weissbach has notched 14 points (4+10) in his last 20 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.

With Peterka already at 52 points and Quinn at 48 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.

## THE ROAD TO BUFFALO LEADS THROUGH ROCHESTER

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

## WORKING OVERTIME

Rochester's 6-5 overtime loss to Bridgeport on Sunday was the 16th game this season - and ninth since Feb. 11 - that went beyond regulation for the Amerks.

The Amerks are 6-5 in overtime but show just a 2-3 mark in shootouts.

Only five more teams have played more overtime games than the Amerks.

Rochester tied an AHL record with 29 overtime games in 2017-18.

## OTHER AMERKS NOTABLES

Of the 16 different defensemen the Amerks have used this season, 14 have notched at least one point while 11 have recorded at least one goal. Additionally, of the 26 different forwards to appear in one game for Rochester, 19 have scored a goal and 22 have produced a point.

Over his last 38 games since the turn of the New Year, Amerks forward **Arttu Ruotsalainen** has tallied 40 points on 16 goals and 24 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 11 games over that same span, an impressive run highlighted by three consecutive two-goal games for the first time in his AHL career. He's recorded at least one point in 12 of his last 14 outings since Feb. 27.

This past Sunday, Ruotsalainen became the fourth different Amerk to reach the 40-point mark, joining Peterka, Quinn and Mersch. It is the first time in his North American career he has reached the mark and third time as a pro.

Rochester is only team in the AHL this season to have three different rookies with at least 10 goals, 20 assists and 30 points in Peterka (17+35=52), Quinn (22+23=45) and Weissbach (13+21=34).



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