

Friday | **April 15, 2022** | 7:05 PM ET | The Blue Cross Arena | Game 459 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester, CW Rochester



# GAME NOTES



## TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (34-26-6-3) continue their homestand tonight as they finish up their season series with the Belleville Senators (34-27-4-0) at The Blue Cross Arena. Game time is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV.

With four wins in their last seven games, the Amerks have earned points in 11 of their last 14 games. The Senators make their final trip to Rochester this season with a 5-4-1-0 mark in their previous 10 contests.

## HEAD-TO-HEAD SERIES SNAPSHOT

Rochester is 12-12-1 all-time against Belleville despite being outscored 92-88 through the first 25 meetings with the Senators. Three of the last five matchups between the two clubs have been decided beyond regulation.

Tonight is a crucial matchup as both teams are among a five-way battle for the final four playoff spots remaining in the AHL's North Division.

The Amerks show a 3-2-1-1 record through the first seven games this season with Belleville, which includes a 6-2 victory in the previous get-together last Saturday at CAA Arena. Rochester has scored two or more goals in 22 of the previous 25 matchups, which includes 15 games where they have produced four or more tallies.

## DYNAMIC DUO

Rookie forwards **JJ Peterka** and **Jack Quinn** continue to find the scoresheet on almost a nightly basis as the duo rank first and second on the team in scoring with 62 and 56 points, respectively.

With 10 points to start the final month of the regular season, which includes three multi-goal efforts, Peterka became the first Amerk this season and the lone AHL rookie to reach the 60-point mark.

Quinn, meanwhile, who has recorded 12 points (4+8) in his last eight games, became just the second Rochester skater and only the fourth AHL rookie to reach the 50-point plateau.

This season marks the first time in nearly 30 years the Amerks have had multiple rookies record more than 50 points in the same season since 1992-93 when the club had five: Todd Simon (93), Scott Thomas (59), Doug MacDonald (58), Jozef Cierny (54) and Mike McLaughlin (54).

Rochester is a perfect 7-0-0-0 this season when both players record multi-point outings in the same contest. The Amerks are 15-1-1-0 when Quinn produces at least two points and show a 13-3-0-0 record when Peterka has more than one point.

## POWER-PLAY PROFICIENCY

Rochester's power-play has gone 60-for-251 with a 23.9% conversion rate that is currently third-best in the AHL. The Amerks' 60 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 37 of their first 69 games this season and have registered multiple power-play tallies in 15 overall, including a season-high four goals in the 7-3 win over Hershey back on Nov. 26 and in the 6-2 victory against Belleville on April 9.

## 2021-22 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
JJ Peterka	63	24	38	62	28	-8
Jack Quinn	38	25	31	56	21	-10
Michael Mersch	58	24	27	51	33	-3
Arttu Ruotsalainen	50	18	31	49	24	-7
Ethan Prow	63	10	32	42	6	-7

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Michael Houser	11	5-4-0	261	.900	2.98
Aaron Dell	20	12-6-1	569	.907	3.02
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	29	12-12-5	854	.895	3.49
Mat Robson	10	5-3-2	265	.877	3.78

## 2021-22 SENATORS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Jake Lucchini	65	20	26	46	12	1
Egor Sokolov	57	18	25	43	20	8
Andrew Gozzino	59	18	17	35	53	-10
Zach Senyshyn	62	19	14	33	16	9
Roby Jarventie	63	11	22	33	36	-7

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Filip Gustavsson	17	8-6-1	393	.910	2.59
Mads Sogaard*	31	16-13-1	792	.906	2.87
Kevin Mandolese	17	9-5-0	417	.901	3.12

## 2021-22 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Belleville Senators	Rochester Americans
34-27-4-0.....	<b>Record</b> .....34-26-6-3
16-15-2-0.....	<b>Home Record</b> .....17-11-3-2
18-12-2-0.....	<b>Road Record</b> .....17-15-3-1
5-4-1-0.....	<b>Last 10 Games</b> .....4-3-2-1
23-6-2-0.....	<b>Record When Scoring First</b> .....22-8-3-1
3.00 (19th).....	<b>Goals-For Per Game</b> .....3.42 (6th)
3.08 (14th).....	<b>Goals-Against Per Game</b> .....3.70 (29th)
19.0% (19th).....	<b>Power-Play</b> .....23.9% (3rd)
82.9% (7th).....	<b>Penalty Kill</b> .....80.0% (19th)
1-0 W vs. HFD.....	<b>Last Game</b> .....4-3 OTW vs. LAV
Apr. 16 @ UTI.....	<b>Next Game</b> .....Apr. 16 vs. HFD



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# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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## PETERKA FLOURISHING IN SECOND HALF

Coming off his three-goal outing against Cleveland to kick-off the month of April, forward **JJ Peterka** became the third Amerk this season and just the seventh AHL rookie to reach the 20-goal mark.

After scoring just four times through the first three months of the season, Peterka has notched 42 points (20+22) in 40 games to begin 2022, including goals in back-to-back games on five 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 fifth in the AHL with 200 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 15 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 13-3-0-0 this season when Peterka registers a multi-point game, including 6-0-0-0 on home ice.

With a team-high 62 points (24+38) through 63 games, Peterka is the first Amerks rookie to reach the 60-point mark since Thomas Vanek had 68 points (42+26) in 74 games during the 2004-05 season. Peterka also leads the team and is ninth in the AHL with 38 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, **Seth Appert** became the sixth straight head coach to reach the 30-win mark in his first full season behind the bench.

Should the Amerks win six of their remaining seven 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 45-41-12 in 98 career games leading the Amerks dating back to the start of the 2020-21 season.

## 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 joined the group on April 1 against Cleveland while **Arttu Ruotsalainen** (18), **Sean Malone** (17), **Brett Murray** (15) are all closing in on the milestone as well.

## AMERKS-ROCKET 2021-22 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Jack Quinn	7	8	4	12	4	-8
Michael Mersch	5	3	4	7	4	-1
JJ Peterka	4	2	5	7	2	-4
Arttu Ruotsalainen	5	2	5	7	2	-1

### GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Aaron Dell	3	3-0-0	7	.926	2.27
Mat Robson	1	0-0-1	3	.914	2.77
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	2	0-2-0	12	.803	6.10
Charles Williams	1	0-0-1	6	.829	6.13

### BELLEVILLE

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Cole Reinhardt	7	5	4	9	4	4
Jake Lucchini	7	3	6	9	2	2
Egor Sokolov	7	4	3	7	2	2
Michael Del Zotto	4	2	4	6	6	3

### GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Mads Sogaard	2	1-1-0	7	.854	3.39
Filip Gustavsson	3	1-1-1	12	.789	4.86
Michael McNiven	1	0-0-0	2	.857	3.35
Kevin Mandolese	2	2-0-0	8	.869	4.00

## 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. 14	SOL	4-3	24-36	0-6	3-3
Jan. 15	OTL	6-5	26-35	2-3	1-2
Mar. 4	OTW	3-2	21-33	0-6	5-5
Mar. 5	L	6-5	28-32	2-6	3-4
Apr. 9	W	6-2	24-32	4-7	3-3



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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** (10+32) and **Oskari Laaksonen** (5+27), who enter the weekend tied for third and tied for 20th in scoring amongst all blueliners, respectively.

Prow, who reached the 40-point mark for the second time in his AHL career, is also fourth with 32 assists, which are five more than Laaksonen. His 10 goals are tied for sixth-most by a defenseman this season and only two off the league lead. With the overtime-winning goal Wednesday against Laval, Prow has recorded 24 points (6+18) over his last 33 games. Additionally, he has totaled 123 points (37+86) over his last 178 AHL contests dating back to the 2018-19 campaign.

Laaksonen, who shows six points (1+5) over his last 13 games coming into tonight, also ranks fourth among defensemen with 21 power-play assists, as all but six of his 27 assists this season have come on the man-advantage. Equally as impressive, 25 of his 32 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 191 points (73+118) through Rochester's first 69 games this season.

Peterka's torrid start to the second half of the year has him leading all rookies in points (62), tied for second in assists (38) and third in goals (24) in 63 games this season.

Quinn, the Buffalo Sabres' eighth overall pick in 2020, is second among all first-year players with 25 goals and ranks third in points (56) despite only appearing in 38 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.

After recording an assist in his return to the lineup on Wednesday, Biro ranks 17th in scoring amongst all rookies with 37 points (9+28) in 41 games.

Weissbach has notched 16 points (6+10) in his last 26 games. He finished 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 and Quinn are the first pair of Amerks rookies taken from the same Draft class (2020) to record 50 or more points in the same season since Scott Thomas and Doug MacDonald (1989) did so in 1992-93.

## MALONE MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME

After an injury-riddled season has limited him to just 32 games, **Sean Malone** has certainly made up for lost time in the back half of the season with the Amerks.

In just the short amount of time he's been in the lineup, Malone has already shattered his offensive total from the 2019-20 season with Rochester. The fifth-year forward has recorded 17 goals and 34 points, both career-highs, while his 17 assists are just one away from equaling his best.

More impressively, he surpassed the 30-point mark in 30 fewer games from 2019-20 and remains on pace to score 20 goals for the first time in his pro career.

He enters tonight riding a career-long 11-game point streak dating back to Dec. 18 -- the longest of any Amerk this season -- totaling nine goals and five assists for 14 points over that span. Malone is the first Amerk to produce a point in 11 straight games since Milan Bartovic tallied an 11-game point streak (10+5) from Dec. 27 to Feb. 6 during the 2003-04 campaign.

Last Saturday against Belleville, Malone appeared in his 200th game as an Amerk and needs just one more point to reach the century mark in the red, white and blue. He is the 59th forward in team history to skate in 200 or more games in his career. In 201 games, the Malone has registered 45 goals and 54 assists for 99 points since the start of the 2017-18 season.

## WORKING OVERTIME

The 4-3 overtime win this past Wednesday against Laval was Rochester's 18th game this season - and 11th since Feb. 11 - that went beyond regulation for the Amerks.

The Amerks are 7-6 in overtime but show just a 2-3 mark in shootouts.

Only three 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, 15 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 44 games since the turn of the New Year, Amerks forward **Arttu Ruotsalainen** has tallied 47 points on 18 goals and 29 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 13 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 17 of his last 20 outings since Feb. 27.

He was named the AHL's Player of the Month for March has scored 10 goals and added 15 assists for 25 points in 19 games since the start of March.

Rochester is one of two teams in the Eastern Conference this season with three players who have 50 or more points. Additionally, the Amerks are the only team in the league to have three different rookies with at least 15 goals, 20 assists and 30 points in Peterka, Quinn and Weissbach.



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