

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Sunday | **April 24, 2022** | 3:00 PM ET | Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse | Game 1111 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester



GAME NOTES



TODAY'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (36-28-7-3) put the finishing touches on their final three-in-three of the 2021-22 regular season today as the home-and-home series shifts to Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse for a rematch with the Cleveland Monsters (26-34-8-5). The 3:00 p.m. matinee will be the 10th and final meeting between the two teams this season and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV.

With only two games remaining, the Amerks come into the today's contest against Cleveland in need of seven points to clinch a playoff spot for the third straight year dating back to 2018. The Toronto Marlies, who sit just ahead of the Amerks (.554) with a .559 points percentage, currently occupy the fifth and final playoff spot in the AHL's North Division standings.

HEAD-TO-HEAD SERIES SNAPSHOT

Rochester boasts a 36-15-4-4 record against Cleveland over the last 10 years dating back to the start of the 2011-12 campaign and has earned at least one point in 14 of the last 22 games.

In the previous 15 games with Cleveland, the winning club has scored at least four goals. In nine of the 10 meetings this season with the Monsters, the Amerks have tallied at least once in the first 20 minutes of play, which includes two goals in each of three previous first periods.

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 64 and 59 points, respectively.

With 12 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 first AHL rookie to reach the 60-point mark. Should Quinn also reach 60 points, it will mark the first time in franchise history the Amerks had two rookies reach the benchmark in the same season.

Quinn, meanwhile, who has recorded 15 points (4+11) in his last 13 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 15-1-2-0 when Quinn produces at least two points and 13-3-0-0 when Peterka does so.

POWER-PLAY PROFICIENCY

Rochester's power-play has gone 64-for-270 with a 23.7% conversion rate that is currently fourth-best in the AHL. The Amerks' 64 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 40 of their first 74 games this season and have registered multiple power-play tallies in 16 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	68	25	39	64	28	-7
Jack Quinn	43	25	34	59	23	-10
Michael Mersch	63	26	27	53	37	-3
Arttu Ruotsalainen	55	18	33	51	24	-9
Ethan Prow	68	10	38	48	6	-6

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	34	14-14-6	992	.899	3.30
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	59	13	30	43	33	-12
Tyler Angle	70	10	26	36	32	-6
Tyler Sikura	72	14	19	33	45	-4
Justin Scott	73	16	16	32	89	-12
Trey Fix-Wolansky	50	14	16	30	55	-8

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Jet Greaves	27	11-11-2	684	.906	2.90
Cam Johnson	20	6-9-3	458	.882	3.27
Jean-Francois Berube*	19	4-10-5	474	.879	3.65

* = Currently on recall with Columbus

2021-22 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Cleveland Monsters	Rochester Americans
26-34-8-5.....	Record36-28-7-3
13-19-4-1.....	Home Record19-13-3-2
13-15-4-4.....	Road Record17-15-4-1
2-7-0-1.....	Last 10 Games5-3-2-0
16-5-3-2.....	Record When Scoring First24-9-4-1
2.70 (28th).....	Goals-For Per Game3.32 (10th)
3.51 (28th).....	Goals-Against Per Game3.61 (29th)
17.2% (26th).....	Power-Play23.7% (4th)
79.8% (21st).....	Penalty Kill79.6% (23rd)
4-2 W @ ROC.....	Last Game4-2 L vs. CLE
Apr. 27 vs. LHV.....	Next GameApr. 29 vs UTI



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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 44 points (21+23) in 45 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 ranks fifth in the AHL with 215 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 18 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 64 points (25+39) through 68 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 tied for 11th in the AHL with 39 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.

Entering this weekend, he was on pace to 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 47-43-13 in 103 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 11 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 **Sean Malone** (19) **Arttu Ruotsalainen** (18) and **Brett Murray** (15) are all closing in on the milestone as well.

AMERKS-MONSTERS 2021-22 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
JJ Peterka	9	10	6	16	8	8
Jack Quinn	7	4	7	11	2	4
Michael Mersch	9	4	3	7	4	-1
Arttu Ruotsalainen	7	4	3	7	4	-1

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Mat Robson	1	1-0-0	1	.972	1.00
Aaron Dell	2	2-0-0	6	.918	3.00
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	5	2-3-0	17	.902	3.40
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	5	4	2	6	4	2
Cole Cassels	9	2	3	5	8	-8
Jake Christiansen	7	2	3	5	0	1

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Cam Johnson	2	2-0-0	6	.921	3.00
Jean-Francois Berube	3	0-2-1	13	.822	4.27
Jet Greaves	3	1-2-0	14	.835	4.72

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	L	5-4	42-34	0-4	1-3
Apr. 2	W	6-2	29-38	0-4	5-6
Apr. 23	L	4-2	34-26	1-4	1-2
Apr. 24					



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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+38) and **Oskari Laaksonen** (5+29), who enter the weekend third and tied for 19th in scoring amongst all blueliners, respectively.

Prow, who reached the 40-point mark for the second time in his AHL career, is also tied for third with 38 assists, which are nine more than Laaksonen. His 10 goals are tied for eighth-most by a defenseman this season and only three off the league lead. Following his first-period assist last night, Prow has recorded 30 points (6+24) over his last 38 games. Additionally, Prow, who is riding a season-long six-game point streak, has totaled 129 points (37+92) over his last 183 AHL contests dating back to the 2018-19 campaign.

Laaksonen, who shows eight points (1+7) over his last 18 games coming into tonight, ranks fourth among defensemen with 23 power-play assists, as all but six of his 29 assists this season have come on the man-advantage. Equally as impressive, 27 of his 34 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 199 points (76+123) through Rochester's first 74 games this season.

Peterka's torrid start to the second half of the year has him leading all rookies in points (64), second in assists (39) and tied for third in goals (25) in 68 games this season.

Quinn, the Buffalo Sabres' eighth overall pick in 2020, is tied for third among all first-year players with 25 goals and ranks third in points (59) despite only appearing in 43 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 four points (2+2) in six games since in his return to the lineup last Wednesday, Biro is tied for 12th in scoring amongst all rookies with 40 points (11+29) in 46 games. With his 40th point on the season last night, Biro became the third different Amerks rookie this season to reach the mark, joining Peterka and Quinn, and sixth overall.

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. The duo could also become the first pair of Amerks rookies in franchise history to record 60 or more points should Quinn get one point over the final two games.

MALONE MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME

After an injury-riddled season has limited him to just 37 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 19 goals and 36 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 entered last Friday 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.

Back on April 9 at Belleville, Malone appeared in his 200th game as an Amerk and reached the century mark for points with his third-period goal this past Tuesday. He is the 59th forward in team history to skate in 200 or more games in his career. In 206 career games, Malone has registered 47 goals and 54 assists for 101 points since the start of the 2017-18 season.

WORKING OVERTIME

The 3-2 overtime loss Friday night against Utica was Rochester's 20th game this season -- and 13th since Feb. 11 -- that went beyond regulation for the Amerks.

The Amerks are 7-7 in overtime but show an even 3-3 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, 20 have scored a goal and 22 have produced a point.

Over his last 49 games since the turn of the New Year, Amerks forward **Arttu Ruotsalainen** has tallied 49 points on 18 goals and 31 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 19 of his last 25 outings since Feb. 27.

He was named the **AHL's Player of the Month** for March after scoring eight goals and adding 10 assists for 18 points in 13 games during the month.

Rochester is the only AHL team this season with four players who have 50 or more points. Additionally, the Amerks are the only team to have four different rookies with at least 10 goals, 20 assists and 30 points in Biro, Peterka, Quinn and Weissbach.



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