

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Friday | **April 29, 2022** | 7:05 PM ET | The Blue Cross Arena | Game 407 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester, CW Rochester



# GAME NOTES



## TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (36-29-7-3) wrap up the 2021-22 regular season on home ice tonight against the intrastate rival Utica Comets (42-19-8-1) in one final showdown 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. The regular-season finale will also be televised on tape delay on CW Rochester for airing on Saturday at noon.

Arguably the biggest game of the season, tonight is a must-win for the Amerks, whose playoff hopes hang in the balance following Toronto's 5-4 overtime loss to Laval last night. Rochester needs a win tonight as well as a Marlies regulation loss against Belleville on Saturday in order to clinch the last remaining playoff spot in the North Division.

## HEAD-TO-HEAD SERIES SNAPSHOT

The intrastate rivals have alternated wins throughout the first 11 games of the season series with the Comets prevailing in the most recent matchup by way of a 3-2 overtime win last Friday night. It was Rochester's second game against Utica and 20th overall this season decided beyond regulation.

The Amerks were the first team to hand the Comets their first regulation loss of the season after posting an AHL-best and franchise record 13-game win streak to begin the campaign.

## PETERKA AND QUINN NAMED TO ALL-ROOKIE TEAM

Rookie forwards **JJ Peterka** and **Jack Quinn** were among the three forwards named to the six-player 2021-22 AHL All-Rookie Team. They become the first set of Amerks rookies to earn the honors in the same season since former goaltender Mika Noronen and defenseman Dmitri Kalinin in 1999-2000. It's also the first time in team history two forwards were selected to the same All-Rookie Team.

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 in tonight's regular-season finale, needing just one more point to do so, it will mark the first time in franchise history the Amerks had two rookies reach the benchmark in the same season.

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-274 with a 23.4% 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 75 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	69	25	39	64	28	-8
Jack Quinn	44	25	34	59	23	-10
Michael Mersch	64	26	27	53	37	-3
Arttu Ruotsalainen	56	18	33	51	26	-9
Ethan Prow	69	10	38	48	6	-7

  

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Aaron Dell	21	12-7-1	589	.908	2.97
Michael Houser	11	5-4-0	261	.900	2.98
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	34	14-14-6	992	.899	3.30
Mat Robson	10	5-3-2	265	.877	3.78

## 2021-22 COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Chase De Leo	53	18	35	53	18	-3
Fabian Zetterlund*	58	24	28	52	8	5
Alexander Holtz*	52	26	25	51	10	-3
A.J. Greer	52	22	29	51	78	12
Reilly Walsh*	69	9	34	43	16	11

  

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Akira Schmid	37	22-8-5	949	.913	2.54
Nico Daws	19	13-3-2	506	.918	2.39
Mareks Mitens	17	7-8-2	422	.888	3.31

\* = Currently on recall with New Jersey

## 2021-22 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Utica Comets	Rochester Americans
42-19-8-1.....	<b>Record</b> .....36-29-7-3
23-8-4-1.....	<b>Home Record</b> .....19-13-3-2
19-11-4-0.....	<b>Road Record</b> .....17-16-4-1
4-4-2-0.....	<b>Last 10 Games</b> .....4-4-2-0
27-7-8-0.....	<b>Record When Scoring First</b> .....24-9-4-1
3.44 (5th).....	<b>Goals-For Per Game</b> .....3.28 (10th)
2.80 (6th).....	<b>Goals-Against Per Game</b> .....3.59 (29th)
21.6% (5th).....	<b>Power-Play</b> .....23.4% (4th)
81.8% (9th).....	<b>Penalty Kill</b> .....79.4% (23rd)
3-2 OTW vs. ROC.....	<b>Last Game</b> .....2-0 L @ CLE
Apr. 30 @ PRO.....	<b>Next Game</b> .....



## ROCHESTER AMERICANS | MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

@AMERKSPR | @AMERKSHOCKEY

**Warren Kosel** | Senior Director of Public & Media Relations | 1.585.286.9928

**Ryan Harr** | Public & Media Relations Coordinator | 1.585.286.9940

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Friday | **April 29, 2022** | 7:05 PM ET | The Blue Cross Arena | Game 407 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester, CW Rochester



# GAME NOTES



## PETERKA FLOURISHING IN SECOND HALF

Following 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 46 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, enters the final week of the regular season leading all rookies in scoring with 64 points in 69 games. He also ranks first among rookies and fifth overall with 219 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 Player of the Week** for the period ending Jan. 2, 2022.

Peterka has been held scoreless just 19 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 69 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, who is one of only five AHL rookies currently leading his team in scoring, ranks third among all first-year player in goals (25) and assists (39).

## 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 the final week of the season, 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 47-44-13 in 104 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 five 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) and **Arttu Ruotsalainen** (18) are both within reach of the milestone as well.

## AMERKS-COMETS 2021-22 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Jack Quinn	7	3	9	12	8	-3
Sean Malone	7	4	6	10	2	-2
Oskari Laaksonen	10	0	8	8	2	-1
Michael Mersch	10	4	3	7	13	-1

### GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Michael Houser	1	0-0-0	1	.900	1.92
Aaron Dell	1	1-0-0	2	.943	2.00
Mat Robson	3	2-1-0	12	.867	3.94
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	6	2-4-0	21	.856	3.91

### UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
A.J. Greer	10	7	7	14	19	3
Reilly Walsh	11	2	10	12	4	7
Ryan Schmelzer	11	5	3	7	2	3
Fabian Zetterlund	7	4	4	8	0	0

### GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Nico Daws	6	4-1-0	13	.916	2.25
Akira Schmid	5	2-2-1	14	.878	3.31
Mareks Mitens	1	0-1-0	7	.750	7.17

## 2021-22 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 17	L	6-2	27-24	0-5	2-3
Nov. 17	L	3-2	27-12	1-6	3-4
Nov. 20	L	5-3	37-29	1-5	2-4
Nov. 24	W	4-2	23-29	1-3	2-2
Dec. 8	OTW	4-3	28-35	2-2	2-2
Jan. 12	W	7-6	28-29	3-6	2-3
Jan. 29	L	4-2	30-27	0-1	4-6
Feb. 18	L	4-2	28-30	0-6	4-5
Mar. 12	W	3-2	19-35	0-2	4-4
Mar. 30	W	4-3	23-33	2-3	2-3
Apr. 22	OTL	3-2	28-35	0-3	2-3
Apr. 29					



## ROCHESTER AMERICANS | MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

@AMERKSPR | @AMERKSHOCKEY

**Warren Kosel** | Senior Director of Public & Media Relations | 1.585.286.9928

**Ryan Harr** | Public & Media Relations Coordinator | 1.585.286.9940



Friday | **April 29, 2022** | 7:05 PM ET | The Blue Cross Arena | Game 407 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester, CW Rochester



# GAME NOTES



## 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 final weekend third and tied for 22nd 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 ninth-most by a defenseman this season and only three off the league lead. Prow has recorded 30 points (6+24) over his last 39 games despite seeing his season-long six-game point streak halted last Sunday in Cleveland. He has totaled 129 points (37+92) over his last 184 AHL contests dating back to the 2018-19 campaign.

Laaksonen, who shows eight points (1+7) over his last 19 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 75 games this season.

Peterka's torrid start to the second half of the year has him leading all rookies in points (64), third in assists (39) and tied for third in goals (25) in 69 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 fourth in points (59) despite only appearing in 44 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 seven 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 47 games. With his 40th point on the season last Saturday against Cleveland, 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 tonight.

## MALONE MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME

After an injury-riddled season has limited him to just 38 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 against Springfield on April 19. He is the 59th forward in team history to skate in 200 or more games. In 207 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 last 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 50 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 26 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.



**ROCHESTER AMERICANS** | MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT  
@AMERKSPR | @AMERKSHOCKEY

**Warren Kosel** | Senior Director of Public & Media Relations | 1.585.286.9928  
**Ryan Harr** | Public & Media Relations Coordinator | 1.585.286.9940