

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Wednesday | **May 4, 2022** | 7:05 PM ET | The Blue Cross Arena | North Division Play-In, Game 1 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester



GAME NOTES



TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans and Belleville Senators extend their rivalry into the postseason as the North Division rivals open the 2022 Calder Cup Playoffs tonight in Game 1 of their best-of-three first-round play-in 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.

CLOSING THE SEASON

The Amerks closed out the regular season with an 8-1 rout over first-place Utica, ultimately capping the year with a fifth-place finish in the AHL's North Division and eighth overall in the Eastern Conference with a 37-29-7-3 record and 84 points.

With the win over Utica in Friday's regular-season finale, Rochester closed out its 66th AHL season by earning points in 15 of its final 21 games overall as well as 20 wins on home ice.

AMERKS PUNCH PLAYOFF TICKET

The Amerks officially punched their ticket into the 2022 Calder Cup Playoffs, marking the 47th time in the 66-year history of the franchise that Rochester has advanced to the postseason. It's also the team's third straight playoff appearance dating back to the 2017-18 season.

It came down to the final day of the regular season, but the Amerks grabbed the last available playoff spot in the North Division following their 8-1 rout of Utica in Friday's season finale combined with a 5-2 Belleville win over Toronto on Saturday.

AMERKS DRAW BELLEVILLE TO BEGIN POSTSEASON

The opening round series against the Senators will mark the first meeting in the postseason between the two teams.

Rochester is 12-13-1 all-time against Belleville despite being outscored 94-89 through the first 26 meetings with the Senators. Three of the last six matchups between the two clubs have been decided beyond regulation.

The Senators are heading to the Calder Cup Playoffs for the first time since joining the American Hockey League prior to the 2017-18 season.

PLAYOFFS OVER THE YEARS

Rochester hasn't won a playoff series since 2005, a squad that featured former NHL stars like **Jason Pominville** and **Ryan Miller** as well as former Buffalo Sabres general manager **Jason Botterill** and previous Amerks head coach **Chris Taylor**, when they swept Hamilton to advance to the second round.

Rochester has been a part of 84 playoff series over the years, in which it has compiled a 212-205 record in 417 games during that time. The Amerks are looking for their first playoff series win since the 2005 postseason when they swept the Hamilton Bulldogs in four games before dropping a five-game series to Manitoba in the second round.

Since then, the Amerks have only made seven playoff appearances, losing first-round matchups to Hamilton in 2007, Abbotsford in 2010, Toronto in 2012 and 2013, Chicago in 2014, Syracuse in 2018 and the Marlies in 2019.

2021-22 AMERKS PLAYOFF SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
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GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
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2021-22 BELLEVILLE PLAYOFF SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
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GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
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SERIES SCHEDULE - NORTH DIVISION "SERIES C" BEST-OF-THREE

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
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Game 1 - May 4

Game 2 - May 6

Game 3 - May 8*

*If necessary

AMERKS CALDER CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

1995-96 vs. Portland

1986-87 vs. Sherbrooke

1982-83 vs. Maine

1967-68 vs. Quebec

1965-66 vs. Cleveland

1964-65 vs. Hershey



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HEAD-TO-HEAD SERIES SNAPSHOT

With tonight's playoff opener marking the ninth meeting overall in 2021-22, the Amerks and Senators have been fairly acquainted all season long. The Amerks finished with a 3-3-1-1 record against Belleville, claiming points in five of the eight matchups.

After allowing six first-period goals versus Belleville in the first four games, the Amerks allowed four in the final four opening periods. The Amerks scored 13 times in the last 20 minutes of regulation, which included markers seven of the eight games this season.

In the three contests that went beyond regulation, both teams registered eight shots apiece. During Belleville's 4-3 shootout win on Jan. 14, the Amerks recorded three shots in overtime while the Senators produced six.

Forward **Jack Quinn** (8+4) posted 12 points in the eight games against the Senators this season. Quinn, who notched a pair of four-point games this season, logged a career-high four-goal night - including his first-career hat trick, in the final seconds of regulation and had a team-high seven shots in Rochester's 6-5 overtime loss versus Belleville on Jan. 15.

Goaltender **Aaron Dell** manned the pipes for three games opposite Belleville this season, posting a perfect 3-0-0 record with a 2.27 goals-against average and a .926 save percentage.

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 became 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 16 points to close out the final month of the regular season, which included four multi-goal efforts, Peterka became the first Amerk this season and the first AHL rookie to reach the 60-point mark. With Quinn adding two points in the 8-1 in over Utica, it marked the first time in franchise history the Amerks had two rookies reach the benchmark in the same season.

This season also marked 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 was a perfect 8-0-0-0 this season when both players record multi-point outings in the same contest. The Amerks were 16-1-2-0 when Quinn produces at least two points and 14-3-0-0 when Peterka does so.

POWER-PLAY PROFICIENCY

Rochester's power-play went 65-for-277 with a 23.5% conversion rate that was third-best in the AHL. The Amerks' 65 goals on the man-advantage were most among all North Division teams and finished seven shy of the AHL lead behind Ontario.

The Amerks scored at least one power-play goal in 41 of their 76 games this season and 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 REGULAR SEASON LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
JJ Peterka	70	28	40	68	28	-3
Jack Quinn	45	26	35	61	23	-6
Michael Mersch	65	26	28	54	39	-3
Arttu Ruotsalainen	57	18	33	51	26	-9
Ethan Prow	70	10	39	49	6	-5

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Aaron Dell	22	12-7-1	612	.909	2.91
Michael Houser	11	5-4-0	261	.900	2.98
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	35	15-14-6	997	.900	3.28
Mat Robson	10	5-3-2	265	.877	3.78

2021-22 BELLEVILLE REGULAR SEASON LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Jake Lucchini	72	20	31	51	14	3
Egor Sokolov	64	19	31	50	22	10
Andrew Agozzino	66	20	23	43	61	-5
Logan Shaw	53	15	20	35	20	-3
Zach Senyshyn	67	19	15	34	20	-8

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Filip Gustavsson	20	11-6-1	485	.915	2.50
Mads Sogaard	35	19-14-1	907	.908	2.86
Kevin Mandolese	17	9-5-0	417	.901	3.12

2021-22 HEAD-TO-HEAD REGULAR SEASON BREAKDOWN

Belleville Senators vs **Rochester Americans**

40-28-4-0	Record	37-29-7-3
19-15-2-0	Home Record	20-13-3-2
21-13-2-0	Road Record	17-16-4-1
7-3-0-0	Last 10 Games	5-3-2-0
27-6-2-0	Record When Scoring First	25-9-4-1
3.04 (T-18th)	Goals-For Per Game	3.34 (9th)
3.03 (16th)	Goals-Against Per Game	3.55 (29th)
19.0% (19th)	Power-Play	23.5% (3rd)
82.8% (6th)	Penalty Kill	79.5% (22nd)
5-2 W vs. TOR	Last Game	8-1 W vs. UTI



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PETERKA FLOURISHED IN SECOND HALF

After scoring just four times through the first three months of the season, Peterka notched 48 points (24+24) in 47 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, closed out the regular season leading all rookies in scoring with 68 points in 70 games. He also ranked first among rookies and fifth overall with 223 shots on goal. He only went 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 was held scoreless just 19 times since Dec. 19 and had not gone more than two games without recording a point during that same span. More impressively, the Amerks were 14-3-0-0 this season when Peterka registers a multi-point game, including 7-0-0-0 on home ice.

With a team-high 68 points (28+40) through 70 games, Peterka was 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 was one of only five AHL rookies led his team in scoring, also led all rookies in goals (28) and finished third in assists (40).

QUINN-TESSANTIAL QUALITIES

In addition to being one of two Amerks named to this year's AHL All-Rookie Team, Quinn was tabbed the winner of the **Dudley (Red) Garrett Memorial Award as the AHL's outstanding rookie** for the 2021-22 season. He becomes the first Amerk player to earn Rookie of the Year honors since **Mika Noronen** in 1999-2000.

Quinn became the first AHL player this season and just the 17th player in Amerks franchise history to score four goals in a game in the 6-5 overtime loss to Belleville on Jan. 15. More impressively, he scored all four goals consecutively, including the game-tying tally with 3.3 seconds remaining in regulation. He's the first Amerk to have a four-goal game since Rochester native Derek Whitmore single-handedly outscored Hamilton on Nov. 25, 2011 (5-2 W).

Playing in just his 27th game of the season (March 18 against Cleveland), Quinn became the first Amerk to score 20 goals in the fewest number of games since Luke Adam reached the mark in 31 games during the 2013-14 campaign.

He was named the **AHL's Rookie of the Month for October** after leading all first-year players with 10 points (5+5) through the first month of the regular season. In just six games to begin the season, Quinn surpassed his offensive output from his truncated 2020-21 campaign, and became the first AHL player to reach the 10-point mark this season.

Quinn was held scoreless just 14 times all season and had not gone more than two games without recording a point. He recorded a team-leading 19 multi-point performances this year.

AMERKS-SENATORS 2021-22 REGULAR SEASON HEAD-TO-HEAD

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Jack Quinn	8	8	4	12	6	-8
Arttu Ruotsalainen	6	2	3	8	2	-1
Michael Mersch	6	3	4	7	4	-1
JJ Peterka	6	2	5	7	2	-4

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	3	0-3-0	14	.841	4.79

BELLEVILLE

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Cole Reinhardt	8	3	7	10	2	2
Jake Lucchini	8	5	4	9	6	4
Egor Sokolov	8	5	3	8	4	2
Michael Del Zotto	4	2	4	6	8	3

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Mads Sogaard	2	1-1-0	7	.854	3.39
Filip Gustavsson	4	2-1-1	13	.849	3.75
Kevin Mandolese	2	2-0-0	8	.869	4.00

2021-22 REGULAR SEASON 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
Apr. 15	L	2-1	29-27	1-7	3-4



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THE BEST OFFENSE IS A GOOD DEFENSE

Rochester finished with two of the league's top point-producing defensemen in **Ethan Prow** (10+39) and **Oskari Laaksonen** (5+29), who finished 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, also finished third with 39 assists, which were 10 more than Laaksonen. His 10 goals ranked tied for ninth-most by a defenseman this season and only three off the league lead. Prow recorded 31 points (6+25) over his last 40 games despite seeing his season-long six-game point streak halted last Sunday in Cleveland. He totaled 130 points (37+93) over his last 185 AHL contests dating back to the 2018-19 campaign.

Laaksonen, who showed eight points (1+7) over his last 20 games, ranked fourth among defensemen with 23 power-play assists, as all but six of his 29 assists this season came on the man-advantage. Equally as impressive, 27 of his 34 points were 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 had four of the AHL's top scoring rookies in **JJ Peterka**, **Jack Quinn**, **Brandon Biro** and **Linus Weissbach**, all of whom combined for 207 points (82+125) through Rochester's 76 regular games this season.

Quinn, the Buffalo Sabres' eighth overall pick in 2020, tied for third among all first-year players with 26 goals and ranked fourth in points (61) despite only appearing in 45 games. He also ranked second among all rookies and eighth overall in the AHL with 1.36 pints per game while his team-high 10 power-play goals were second-most among all first-year skaters.

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 five points (3+2) over his final eight games since returning to the lineup, Biro finished tied for 12th in scoring amongst all rookies with 41 points (12+29) in 48 games. With his 40th point on the season against Cleveland on April 23, Biro became the third different Amerks rookie this season to reach the mark, joining Peterka and Quinn, and sixth overall.

Weissbach finished his first pro season with 37 points (16+21) in 67 games, including a goal in the season finale against Utica on Friday.

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 also became the first pair of Amerks rookies in franchise history to record 60 or more points.

PLAYOFFS BY THE NUMBERS

ALL-TIME PLAYOFF NOTES

Playoff Appearances: 46

84 Series:	44 wins	40 losses
417 Games Played:	212 wins	205 losses
208 Home Games:	126 wins	82 losses
209 Away Games:	88 wins	121 losses
70 Overtime Games:	29 wins	41 losses
33 Home Overtime Games:	18 wins	15 losses
37 Away Overtime Games:	11 wins	26 losses

GOAL-SCORING

1,384 Goals-For	1,320 Goals-Against
Home: 763 Goals-For	633 Goals-Against
Away: 621 Goals-For	687 Goals-Against

AMERKS ALL-TIME PLAYOFF SCORING LEADERS

POINTS

1	JODY GAGE	79
2	DOMENIC PITTIS	70
3	DAN FRAWLEY	46

GOALS

1	JODY GAGE	36
2	JIM PAPPIN	21
3	RAY SHEPPARD	20

ASSISTS

1	DOMENIC PITTIS	54
2	JODY GAGE	43
3	JIM WIEMER	34

GAMES PLAYED

1	JODY GAGE	81
2	DAN FRAWLEY	80
3	RANDY CUNNEYWORTH	67

GOALIE WINS

1	BOBBY PERREAULT	25
2	DARCY WAKALUK	21
	JACQUES CLOUTIER	21
4	STEVE SHIELDS	15



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