

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Sunday | **May 15, 2022** | 5:05 PM ET | The Blue Cross Arena | North Division Semifinals, Game 3 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester



GAME NOTES



TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (3-1) look to take a 2-1 series lead in Game 3 of the North Division Semifinals against the Utica Comets (1-1) tonight as the best-of-five series shifts to The Blue Cross Arena. Game time is slated for a 5:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/95.0 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV.

SERIES NOTES

Rochester evened the best-of-five series 1-1 with their third overtime win of the postseason in Game 2 last night in Utica. **JJ Peterka** completed the hat trick - his third three-goal performance since April 1 - just 1:29 into overtime to seal the win for the Amerks, whose three playoff wins have all come been beyond regulation.

Peterka has scored four goals through the first two games of the series while fellow rookie forward **Peyton Krebs** has chipped in three assists.

PLAYOFF LEADERS

Coming off his second straight two-goal outing in the series-opener against Utica on Tuesday, **Arttu Ruotsalainen** currently leads the AHL with five goals and is tied for second in playoff scoring with seven points in four games. He's also fifth among all point-getters with 1.75 points per game.

With six assists through his first four playoff appearances, three of which came in last night's 4-3 overtime win at Utica, **Peyton Krebs** leads all AHL rookies while also ranking for third overall.

Casey Fitzgerald is tied for ninth amongst all AHL defensemen with three points (1+2) in four games while goaltender **Aaron Dell** is tied for second in wins (3), trailing only Justus Annunen of the Colorado Eagles.

A PLAYOFF TALE OF TWO CITIES

While this particular playoff series may serve as the first-ever postseason meeting between the Amerks and Comets franchises, it's certainly not the case in the long history for either of the two American Hockey League cities.

Tuesday's series-opener in Mohawk Valley was the first playoff matchup between Rochester and a Utica-based AHL franchise since April 25, 1993 when the Amerks finished off the former Utica Devils with a 3-2 win in Game 5 to close out their opening round series.

Rochester has never lost a playoff series to a Utica franchise in its 66-year history, winning both previous series with the Devils (1990, 1993) 4-1.

PLAYOFFS OVER THE YEARS

Prior to the first-round series sweep over Belleville, Rochester hadn'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 85 playoff series over the years, in which it has compiled a 215-206 record in 421 games during that time.

The Amerks are looking for their first second-round series win since the 2004 postseason when they swept the Hamilton Bulldogs in four games before dropping a five-game series to Milwaukee in the third round.

2021-22 AMERKS PLAYOFF SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|--------------------|----|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Arttu Ruotsalainen | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 2 |
| JJ Peterka | 4 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Peyton Krebs | 4 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Mark Jankowski | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Casey Fitzgerald | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 |

| GOALTENDER | GP | REC | SVS | SV% | GAA |
|------------|----|-------|-----|------|------|
| Aaron Dell | 3 | 3-1-0 | 108 | .878 | 3.26 |

2021-22 UTICA PLAYOFF SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|-----------------|----|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| A.J. Greer | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Robbie Russo | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Joe Gambardella | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Nolan Foote | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Reilly Walsh | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

| GOALTENDER | GP | REC | SVS | SV% | GAA |
|------------|----|-------|-----|------|------|
| Nico Daws | 2 | 1-0-1 | 44 | .863 | 3.46 |

SERIES SCHEDULE - NORTH DIVISION SEMIFINALS "SERIES J" BEST-OF-FIVE

| Date | Result | Score | SF-SA | PP | PK |
|------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Game 1 - May 10 | L | 6-3 | 40-22 | 1-1 | 0-1 |
| Game 2 - May 14 | W | 4-3 | 29-19 | 0-1 | 1-2 |
| Game 3 - May 15 | | | | | |
| Game 4 - May 17 | | | | | |
| Game 5 - May 19* | | | | | |

*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



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

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HEAD-TO-HEAD SERIES SNAPSHOT

With tonight's Game 3 marking the 15th meeting overall in 2021-22, the Amerks and Comets have been fairly acquainted all season long. The Amerks finished with a 6-5-1-0 record against Utica during the regular season, claiming points in seven of the last nine matchups.

The intrastate rivals alternated wins over their 12 games throughout the regular season series with the Amerks prevailing in the most recent matchup by way of an 8-1 rout win on April 29. Rochester outscored Utica 43-42 and each team finished with four wins on home ice.

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. It bested the 37-year-old mark set by the 1984-85 Amerks, who won their first 11 games that year to set the standard.

In the 12 games during the head-to-head series, Rochester's power-play unit went 11-for-45. Conversely, the Amerks shorthanded team killed off 31-for-41 opportunities.

Forward **Jack Quinn** (4+10) posted a team-best 14 points in eight games against the Comets this season. Quinn recorded at least one point in seven of his eight games opposite Utica. The AHL Rookie of the Year produced his first four-point (1+3) effort in Rochester's 7-6 win over Utica on Jan. 12.

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 recorded multi-point outings in the same contest. The Amerks were 16-1-2-0 when Quinn produced at least two points and 14-3-0-0 when Peterka recorded more than one point.

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 FINAL 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 UTICA FINAL REGULAR SEASON LEADERS

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|-------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Chase De Leo | 55 | 21 | 35 | 56 | 18 | -3 |
| Fabian Zetterlund | 58 | 24 | 28 | 52 | 8 | 5 |
| A.J. Greer | 53 | 22 | 30 | 52 | 102 | 10 |
| Alexander Holtz | 52 | 26 | 25 | 51 | 10 | -3 |
| Reilly Walsh* | 70 | 9 | 34 | 43 | 16 | 12 |

GOALTENDER

| | GP | REC | SVS | SV% | GAA |
|---------------|----|--------|-----|------|------|
| Akira Schmid | 38 | 22-8-5 | 967 | .911 | 2.60 |
| Nico Daws | 21 | 14-4-2 | 554 | .916 | 2.54 |
| Mareks Mitens | 17 | 7-8-2 | 422 | .888 | 3.31 |

2022 HEAD-TO-HEAD PLAYOFF BREAKDOWN

| Utica Comets | Rochester Americans |
|--------------------|---|
| 1-1..... | Record 3-1 |
| 1-1..... | Home Record 1-0 |
| 0-0..... | Road Record 2-1 |
| 1-1..... | Last 10 Games 3-1 |
| 0-0..... | Record When Scoring First 2-1 |
| 4.50 (4th)..... | Goals-For Per Game 3.75 (T-7th) |
| 3.50 (16th)..... | Goals-Against Per Game 3.75 (18th) |
| 66.7% (1st)..... | Power-Play 25.0% (6th) |
| 50.0% (23rd)..... | Penalty Kill 66.7% (T-21st) |
| 4-3 L vs. ROC..... | Last Game 4-3 W @ UTI |



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@AMERKSPR | @AMERKSHOCKEY

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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 registered 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-TESSENTIAL 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 became the first Amerk 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-COMETES 2021-22 REGULAR SEASON HEAD-TO-HEAD

ROCHESTER

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|----------------------|----|-------|----|------|------|-----|
| Jack Quinn | 8 | 4 | 10 | 14 | 8 | 1 |
| Sean Malone | 8 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 2 | -2 |
| JJ Peterka | 11 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| Michael Mersch | 11 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 15 | -1 |
| GOALTENDER | GP | REC | GA | SV% | GAA | |
| Aaron Dell | 2 | 1-0-0 | 3 | .900 | 1.67 | |
| Mat Robson | 3 | 2-1-0 | 12 | .867 | 3.94 | |
| Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen | 8 | 3-4-1 | 24 | .871 | 3.64 | |

UTICA

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|-------------------|----|-------|----|------|------|-----|
| A.J. Greer | 11 | 7 | 8 | 15 | 43 | 1 |
| Reilly Walsh | 11 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 7 |
| Ryan Schmelzer | 12 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| Fabian Zetterlund | 7 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| GOALTENDER | GP | REC | GA | SV% | GAA | |
| Nico Daws | 7 | 4-2-0 | 17 | .898 | 2.81 | |
| Akira Schmid | 6 | 2-2-1 | 18 | .869 | 3.63 | |

2021-22 REGULAR SEASON 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 | W | 8-1 | 35-29 | 1-3 | 2-2 |

2021-22 HEAD-TO-HEAD REGULAR SEASON BREAKDOWN

| Utica Comets | Rochester Americans |
|------------------|---|
| 43-20-8-1..... | Record 37-29-7-3 |
| 23-8-4-1..... | Home Record20-13-3-2 |
| 20-12-4-0..... | Road Record 17-16-4-1 |
| 3.42 (5th)..... | Goals-For Per Game3.34 (9th) |
| 2.86 (8th)..... | Goals-Against Per Game 3.55 (29th) |
| 21.6% (5th)..... | Power-Play 23.5% (3rd) |
| 81.9% (9th)..... | Penalty Kill79.5% (22nd) |



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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 regular season finale against Utica on April 29.

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

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------|
| 85 Series: | 45 wins | 40 losses |
| 421 Games Played: | 215 wins | 206 losses |
| 209 Home Games: | 127 wins | 82 losses |
| 212 Away Games: | 90 wins | 122 losses |
| 73 Overtime Games: | 32 wins | 41 losses |
| 34 Home Overtime Games: | 19 wins | 15 losses |
| 39 Away Overtime Games: | 13 wins | 26 losses |

GOAL-SCORING

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1,399 Goals-For | 1,335 Goals-Against |
| Home: 767 Goals-For | 636 Goals-Against |
| Away: 632 Goals-For | 699 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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