

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Saturday | **October 15, 2022** | 4:00 PM ET | Coca-Cola Coliseum | AHL Game 23 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester



GAME NOTES



TODAY'S GAME OVERVIEW

Following a quick turnaround, the Rochester Americans (1-0-0-0) and Toronto Marlies (0-1-0-0) conclude their opening weekend set as the home-and-home series shifts north of the border for a 4:00 p.m. rematch at Toronto's Coca-Cola Coliseum. All of the action will be carried live on 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV.

The Amerks and Marlies, who enter their 18th season in the AHL, will meet a total of six other times during the 2022-23 regular season following today's contest, with today's matchup representing the first of four in the Toronto.

HEAD-TO-HEAD SERIES SNAPSHOT AGAINST TORONTO

Toronto went 4-2-0-0 in the six-game series in 2021-22, and coming into today, have won two of the last four meetings between the two teams. The Amerks earned just one point in the three get-togethers in Rochester last season and over the last five years show a 5-6-1-1 mark compared to a 8-4-0-0 record in Toronto.

Since the start of the 2016-17 season, Toronto has been outscored 108-107 despite outshooting the Amerks 1,078-1,052. There have been six shutouts since 2016-17 with four of the six coming in Toronto.

In the last 34 games against Toronto, the Amerks have scored two or more goals in 26 contests, which includes 11 games where they have produced five or more tallies. Coming into tonight's matchup, the Amerks are 13-10-1-1 in their last 25 games against the Marlies spanning the last five seasons.

Friday's Home Opener marked the fifth time in the last six years in which Rochester opened the season against a divisional opponent.

OPENING THE SEASON

Friday's season-opener with Toronto marked the first time since Oct. 9, 2010 that Rochester opened the season versus the Marlies and the first at home since an 8-5 win over Toronto to begin the 2012-13 campaign.

With the win last night, Rochester improved a 34-26-7 all-time record in season-opening games and have outscored the opposition 248-230 dating back to when the puck first dropped on Amerks inaugural season in 1956.

MERSCH TO LEAD AMERKS LEADERSHIP GROUP

Veteran forward **Michael Mersch** returns for third season in Rochester and second as the team's captain, overseeing an Amerks leadership group that also includes two alternate captains in forward **Sean Malone** and defenseman **Ethan Prow**. Both Malone and Prow served as alternates in 2021-22.

On top of captaining the Amerks to the North Division Finals of the 2022 Calder Cup Playoffs, Mersch finished last season with 54 points on 26 goals and 28 assists, all of which were, or matched, career totals in the league and pushed him over the 20-goal mark for the fifth time in his pro career.

The nine-year pro has appeared in 471 career AHL games between the Amerks, Texas Stars, Ontario Reign and Manchester Monarchs, totaling 318 points (156+162). Additionally, Mersch, a five-time 20-goal scorer in the AHL who won a Calder Cup with Manchester in 2015, has skated in 17 career NHL contests with the Los Angeles Kings.

2022-23 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|-----------------|----|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Isak Rosen | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | -1 |
| Linus Weissbach | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Sean Malone | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | -1 |
| Brett Murray | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Chase Priskie | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

| GOALTENDER | GP | REC | SVS | SV% | GAA |
|----------------------|----|-------|-----|------|------|
| Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen | 1 | 1-0-0 | 22 | .917 | 2.01 |

2022-23 MARLIES OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|--------------------|----|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Alex Steeves | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Logan Shaw | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | -1 |
| Pontus Holmberg | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Nicholas Robertson | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | -1 |
| Nick Abruzzses | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | -1 |

| GOALTENDER | GP | REC | SVS | SV% | GAA |
|----------------|----|-------|-----|------|------|
| Dylan Ferguson | 1 | 0-1-0 | 5 | .714 | 4.03 |
| Erik Källgren | 1 | 0-0-0 | 16 | .889 | 4.35 |

HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

| Toronto Marlies | Rochester Americans |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 0-1-0-0 | Record 1-0-0-0 |
| 0-0-0-0 | Home Record 1-0-0-0 |
| 0-1-0-0 | Road Record 0-0-0-0 |
| 0-1-0-0 | Last 10 Games 1-0-0-0 |
| 0-1-0-0 | Record When Scoring First 0-0-0-0 |
| 2.00 (T-15th) | Goals-For Per Game 4.00 (T-8th) |
| 4.00 (T-23rd) | Goals-Against Per Game 2.00 (15th) |
| 20.0% (T-9th) | Power-Play 50.0% (2nd) |
| 50.0% (T-18th) | Penalty Kill 80.0% (T-9th) |
| 4-2 L @ ROC | Last Game 4-2 W vs. TOR |
| Oct. 22 vs. GR | Next Game Oct. 19 vs. BEL |



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APPERT YEAR THREE

Seth Appert enters his third season as head coach of the Amerks in 2022-23 after being named to the position on August 18, 2020.

Appert is 48-44-9-4 over his first two seasons behind the Amerks bench, which includes a 37-win campaign in 2021-22 that culminated with an extended playoff run as part of team's first playoff appearance in four years.

After leading Rochester to a fifth-place finish in the AHL's North Division standings and becoming the sixth straight head coach to reach the 30-win mark in his first full season at the helm, Appert spearheaded one of the most impressive playoff runs in nearly two decades.

Under Appert, the Amerks won their first playoff series since 2005 and advanced to the third round of Calder Cup Playoffs for the first time since 2004, first sweeping Belleville in the play-in round before ousting Utica, one of the AHL's top teams in the regular season, in the best-of-five North Division Semifinals.

YOUTH MOVEMENT TAKES OVER ROCHESTER

Of the 25 players on Rochester's Opening Night roster, 11 are Buffalo Sabres draft picks, including two first-round selections.

Isak Rosen (14th overall,) and **Jiri Kulich** (28th overall) come to the Flower City as members of Buffalo's first-round selections in 2021 and 2022, respectively. Rosen spent the 2021-22 season with Leksands in Sweden, where he made his debut in the Swedish Hockey League. He led all 17-year-olds with the Leksands U20 as he posted 35 points (21+14) in 38 games. Kulich, meanwhile, spent most of last season with HC Energie Karlovy Vary of Czechia's top pro league as a 17-year-old, appearing in a career-high 49 games. He tallied 14 points on nine goals and five assists while also notching four points (2+2) in two games with HC Energie Karlovy Vary.

Aleksandr Kisakov (2nd round, 2021), **Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen** (2nd round, 2017), **Oskari Laaksonen** (3rd round, 2017), **Brett Murray** (4th round, 2019), **Filip Cederqvist** (5th round, 2019), **Sean Malone** (6th round, 2013) **Lukas Rousek** (6th round, 2019), **Linus Weissbach** (7th round, 2017), **Tyson Kozak** (7th round, 2021) round out the Sabres NHL Draft picks.

Last night's lineup featured five players who made their North American professional debuts as well as a total of seven rookies. **Kohen Olischefski** and **Lukas Rousek** both skated with Rochester during 2021-22 but are still first-year skaters.

DEPTH ON DEFENSE

Excluding **Peter Tischke**, **Mitch Eliot**, and **Oskari Laaksonen**, the other five defensemen patrolling Rochester's blueline have all appeared in at least four NHL games, including newcomers **Kale Clague** and **Chase Priskie**.

Ethan Prow finished third in scoring amongst all AHL defensemen with 49 points (10+39) in 70 games during his first season with Amerks in 2021-22. It was also the second time in three AHL seasons he reached the 10-goal mark. He made his NHL debut last year which featured his first NHL goal on his first NHL shot at the age of 29 against New Jersey on Dec. 29.

Lawrence Pilut returns for his second stint in Rochester after spending the last two seasons with Traktor Chelyabinsk of the KHL, where he recorded 39 points on seven goals and 32 assists in 97 contests. He also produced 10 points (1+9) in 20 postseason contests.

AMERKS-MARLIES 2022-23 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|-----------------|----|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Isak Rosen | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | -1 |
| Linus Weissbach | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Sean Malone | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | -1 |
| Brett Murray | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

GOALTENDER

| | GP | REC | GA | SV% | GAA |
|----------------------|----|-------|----|------|------|
| Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen | 1 | 1-0-0 | 2 | .917 | 2.01 |

TORONTO

| SKATER | GP | G | A | PTS | PIM | +/- |
|--------------------|----|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Alex Steeves | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Logan Shaw | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | -1 |
| Pontus Holmberg | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Nicholas Robertson | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | -1 |

GOALTENDER

| | GP | REC | GA | SV% | GAA |
|----------------|----|-------|----|------|------|
| Dylan Ferguson | 1 | 0-1-0 | 2 | .714 | 4.03 |
| Erik Källgren | 1 | 0-0-0 | 2 | .889 | 4.35 |

2022-23 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

| Date | Result | Score | SF-SA | PP | PK |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Oct. 14 | W | 4-2 | 25-24 | 3-6 | 4-5 |

SERIES NOTABLES

In 22 of the last 29 meetings between the two teams dating back to the 2016-17 season, the team that scored first has gone on to come away with the victory. Additionally, in 19 of the last 21 meetings, the winning team has scored at least four goals dating back to the 2017-18 season.

This weekend's home-and-home series with the Marlies is the first time the Amerks open the season with back-to-back games against a Canadian-based opponent since splitting a two-game set with the Cape Breton Oilers on Oct. 6 and 7 to begin the 1995-96 campaign. Rochester would later go on to win the Calder Cup, the franchise's sixth and most recent championship.

The Amerks improved 3-0-0-0 all-time in the season-opener against the Marlies, outscoring Toronto 16-9 over that span. Prior to last night, Rochester won the most recent season-opening contest on Oct. 9, 2010 to kick-off the 2010-11 campaign.



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