

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Sat. | **Apr. 15, 2023** | 5:05 PM ET | The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Game 1139 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester, CW Rochester



# GAME NOTES



## TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The playoff-bound Rochester Americans (35-26-6-3) are back in action tonight when they host the Cleveland Monsters (32-21-5-2) in the regular season home finale at 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/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV. Additionally, the matchup will be televised live locally on CW Rochester.

The Amerks have earned 20 points out of a possible 28 over their last 14 games and remain in third place in the North Division ahead of the final home-and-home series with the Monsters, who were officially eliminated from postseason contention last night.

## LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks led 4-3 entering the final frame after a back-and-forth start, but the Belleville Senators pulled away in the third period with four straight unanswered goals to take a 7-4 win Friday at The Blue Cross Arena.

Forwards **Linus Weissbach** (1+1) and **Michael Mersch** (0+2) each recorded a multi-point game while **Kohen Olishefski**, **Jiri Kulich** and **Brett Murray** all scored. **Matej Pekar**, **Sean Malone**, **Lawrence Pilut**, **Mason Jobst**, and **Isak Rosen** each notched an assist.

Goaltender **Malcolm Subban** (19-14-5) made 18 saves in his 38th appearance of the season. His 38 games and 19 wins, both of which are career-highs, are tied for 14th and 12th in the AHL, respectively.

## AMERKS CLINCH FOURTH STRAIGHT PLAYOFF BERTH

With two games remaining in the 2022-23 regular season, Rochester sits in third place in the AHL's North Division standings, one point ahead of the Utica Comets, and three ahead of the Laval Rocket, who clinched the fifth and final playoff spot last night with a win over Syracuse.

The Amerks officially punched their ticket to the postseason by way of a 3-2 overtime win over Syracuse on April 7 coupled with Cleveland's come-from-behind regulation win against Laval. It marks the team's fourth straight playoff appearance dating back to the 2018 postseason. Including last year's memorable postseason run which saw Rochester advance to the North Division Finals, the Amerks have qualified for the Calder Cup Playoffs 47 times in the past 66 years.

## SUBBAN SHOULDERING THE WORKLOAD

Subban, whose started four of the last five games for Rochester, boasts a 19-14-5 record with a pair of shutouts this season. He won seven straight between Dec. 10 to Jan. 14, marking the longest win streak of his pro career.

He was the first Amerks goaltender to post seven straight wins since Jonas Johansson won nine consecutive contests during the 2019-20 campaign.

Subban, who is 5-1-4 over his last 10 starts, had arguably his best performance of the season during a 75-save weekend in Rochester's two-game sweep over the Charlotte Checkers in mid-December. A night after stopping a regular-season career-high 45 saves, Subban was flawless in a 30-save shutout on Dec. 17, his first in the AHL since April 8, 2017.

It's the first time Subban has had multiple shutouts in a season since earning three during the 2014-15 campaign with Providence. His career-high 19 wins are tied for 12th-most among all netminders coming into the weekend.

## 2022-23 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Lukas Rousek	68	15	40	55	-2	24
Brandon Biro	49	16	35	51	4	12
Brett Murray	69	23	26	49	0	37
Jiri Kulich	61	24	22	46	-7	16
Linus Weissbach	67	20	24	44	-14	61

## GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Michael Houser	20	9-7-2	511	.908	2.74
Malcolm Subban	38	19-14-5	1,048	.902	2.99
Eric Comrie	3	1-2-0	79	.898	3.03
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen*	9	6-3-0	238	.898	3.07

\*=Currently with Buffalo (NHL)

^=Currently reassigned to Cincinnati (ECHL)

## 2022-23 MONSTERS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Trey Fix-Wolansky	59	29	41	70	-4	38
Justin Richards	59	10	28	38	6	52
David Jiricek	53	6	32	38	-9	34
Josh Dunne	63	20	17	37	-9	69
Owen Sillinger	70	11	23	34	-16	58

## GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Jet Greaves	42	19-15-5	1,079	.899	3.08
Pavel Cajan	21	7-10-2	478	.877	3.44
Jon Gillies	15	5-8-2	381	.878	3.70
Daniil Tarasov	11	5-5-0	270	.882	3.85

\*=Currently with Columbus (NHL)

^=Currently reassigned to Kalamazoo (ECHL)

## HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

**Cleveland Monsters** vs **Rochester Americans**

32-31-5-2 ..... Overall Record ..... 35-26-6-3

16-15-4-0 ..... Home Record ..... 18-12-4-1

16-16-1-2 ..... Road Record ..... 17-14-2-2

5-5-0-0 ..... Last 10 Games ..... 7-1-2-1

15-9-3-2 ..... Record When Scoring First ..... 20-10-2-2

3.07 (17th) ..... Goals-For Per Game ..... 3.27 (8th)

3.53 (29th) ..... Goals-Against Per Game ..... 3.26 (T-21st)

21.0% (10th) ..... Power-Play ..... 21.2% (9th)

77.5% (T-26th) ..... Penalty Kill ..... 81.6% (14th)

2-1 L @ UTC ..... Last Game ..... 7-4 L vs. BEL

Apr. 16 vs. ROC ..... Next Game ..... Apr. 16 @ CLE



**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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## ROUSEK OFF AND RUNNING

After an injury limited him to just 19 regular-season games during his rookie campaign, forward **Lukas Rousek** has taken his first full season by storm.

A 2023 AHL All-Star selection, Rousek currently leads the Amerks in assists (40) and points (55) in 68 games while his 15 goals are sixth-most.

Rousek, a sixth-round selection of the Buffalo Sabres in 2019, made his NHL debut on March 27 against Montreal, scoring a goal and adding an assist while logging 9:03 of time in the 4-3 shootout loss.

He scored his first NHL goal on his first shot on his first shift, the first Sabres player to do so since **Ethan Prow**.

He's the 27th player in Sabres franchise history to score a goal in their NHL debut with Buffalo and the 186th overall to record the first goal of their career as a member of the Sabres.

Rousek also added an assist later in the game, and by doing so, became the first Sabres skater to record a goal an assist in their NHL debut with Buffalo since former Amerk Maxim Afinogenov on Nov. 10, 1999 vs. Boston.

Rousek, who rejoined Amerks earlier this morning following his third recall of the season to Buffalo, shows 44 points (11+33) over his previous 53 games, including 16 points (4+12) in his last 15 appearances.

## SHARING THE WEALTH

After producing three 20-goal scorers last season, the Amerks could potentially have five or more by the season's end.

**Jiri Kulich** (24) and **Brett Murray** (23) have already cracked the mark, both doing so back on March 26 versus Cleveland, while **Linus Weissbach** also reached his first 20-goal campaign in last night's 7-4 loss to Belleville.

With Kulich, Murray and Weissbach becoming the first players this season to reach the 20-goal mark, the Amerks have now had at least one player from all but two seasons (excluding the COVID-19 shortened 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons) in the 67-year history of the franchise score 20 or more goals dating back to Bronco Horvath's team-leading 37 tallies during the Amerks' inaugural 1956-57 campaign.

The last time Rochester had at least five different 20-goal scorers in the same season was during the 2018-19 campaign when the team had six.

## PROWESS ON THE BLUELINE

Entering the Jan. 19 game against Laval, **Ethan Prow** was the only Amerks defenseman to appear in every game this season. Overall, he has skated in 134 of the 140 games dating back to the start of the 2021-22 campaign.

In 65 games this season, Prow, who recorded his first three-point outing of the season on March 10 against Hartford, is tied for 17th in scoring amongst all AHL defensemen with 40 points while his 34 assists are currently 13th-most at his position. This season marks the fourth straight in which the veteran defenseman has reached the 20-assist mark and the fifth consecutive year with 20 or more points.

The seventh-year pro has posted 28 points (4+24) in his last 40 outings dating back to Dec. 28 and comes into tonight with two goals and 19 assists over his last 30 games.

## AMERKS-MONSTERS 2022-23 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Jiri Kulich	6	4	2	6	2	2
Isak Rosen	6	1	4	5	4	1
Sean Malone	5	3	1	4	2	1
Filip Cederqvist	4	2	2	4	4	1

### GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Malcolm Subban	4	2-1-1	10	.905	2.45
Michael Houser	2	0-1-0	7	.868	4.25
Beck Warm	1	0-0-1	3	.625	8.90

### CLEVELAND

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Joona Luoto	5	3	2	5	0	5
Trey Fix-Wolansky	2	2	3	5	0	4
Kirill Marchenko	3	2	3	5	0	-1
Josh Dunne	6	3	1	4	0	1

### GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Jet Greaves	4	3-1-0	8	.927	2.24
Pavel Cajan	1	0-0-1	4	.858	3.77
Daniil Tarasov	2	1-0-0	7	.841	4.88

## 2022-23 GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Nov. 11	OTL	6-5	26-35	2-3	2-4
Dec. 1	OTW	4-3	27-34	0-2	4-5
Dec. 3	L	4-3	32-26	0-2	3-4
Feb. 14	L	2-1	34-24	0-4	4-4
Mar. 26	W	5-2	30-21	2-3	3-3
Mar. 29	OTL	3-2	33-26	1-3	4-4

## SERIES NOTABLES

With **Chris Jandric** making his Amerks debut against Utica on April 8, he became the 39th overall player to appear in one game with the Amerks in 2022-23 and the 16th defenseman. He was also the 20th different player to don the red, white and blue colors for the first time in their career.

The Amerks and Monsters have played in a combined 38 games this season decided beyond regulation, including three of the last six meetings between the two teams. The Amerks are 7-6 and 4-3 in the shootout while the Monsters are 6-5 and 5-2 this season, respectively.

Rochester comes into tonight having scored at least one goal during the opening period in 14 of the last 17 games versus the Monsters dating back to the 2020-21 campaign.



## ROCHESTER AMERICANS | MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

@AMERKSPR | @AMERKSHOCKEY

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## EARNING THEIR STARS AND STRIPES

With 16 points (7+9) over his last 23 games, **Linus Weissbach** is 11 points back from the team-lead with 44 points (20+24) through 67 games. By scoring his 19th goal and 41st point of the season on April 5 against Syracuse, he established career-highs in both categories, surpassing the marks he set during his rookie campaign in 2021-22.

**Brett Murray**, who's just one point away from his first 50-point campaign, has captured career-highs in all offensive categories from last season, including goals (24), assists (26) and points (49). The fourth-year pro comes into tonight with 23 points (9+14) in his last 26 games and has recorded at least one shot in all but five games during that span dating back to Nov. 23.

With 11 points (5+6) over his last 26 games, **Sean Malone** reached the 30-point mark in back-to-back campaigns for the first time in his career. Through 51 contests in his fifth season with the Amerks, Malone has 14 goals and 16 assists.

Amerks captain **Michael Mersch** shows 34 points (16+18) over his last 45 games dating back to Dec. 17. More impressively, with 44 points in 59 games, he reached the 40-point mark for the sixth time in his nine-year pro career. The former Calder Cup winner is also a five-time 20-goal scorer, reaching the mark four times in his first five seasons and again last season when he scored a career-high 26 goals.

Through 64 games, defenseman **Jeremy Davies** established a career-high with 11 goals, reaching the mark for the first time in his pro career while also becoming the first Amerks defenseman this season to do so. Over his last 26 games, Davies has collected five goals and seven assists for 12 points.

Rookie **Isak Rosen** has posted 21 points (11+10) in 35 games since Jan. 21. In the 7-1 victory over Springfield, Rosen, the Sabres' first-round selection (14th overall) in the 2021 NHL Draft, notched his first-career three-point game as well as his first-ever two-goal outing. Overall, four of his 14 goals on the season have come while on the power-play. Rosen is one of only two rookies this season to reach the 30-point mark.

**Mitch Eliot** tied his previous career-high in goals (3) at Providence on Feb. 26, reaching the mark in 24 fewer games than the 2021-22 campaign.

## SCOUTING THE MONSTERS

The Monsters are currently in sixth place in the seven-team North Division and have been officially eliminated from playoff contention.

The Monsters were sent reinforcements from Columbus in the form of leading point-getter Trey Fix-Wolansky, who tops all Cleveland skaters with 29 goals, 41 assists and 70 points, all of which are career-highs from last season. The fourth-year forward has skated in nine contests with the big club this season and was recently named to the AHL Second All-Star Team.

Jet Greaves (19-15-5) has handled much of the goaltending duties this season for Cleveland. The Cambridge, Ontario, native, who is currently in his second year with the Monsters, logged a pair of shutouts over his last eight outings. Earlier this season, Greaves made his NHL debut, stopping 46 of 49 shots he faced.

Cleveland has also used Pavel Cajan (7-10-2), Jon Gillies (5-8-2) and Daniil Tarasov (5-5-0) at times this season as they have combined for a 17-23-4 record in 47 appearances.

## A JOBST WELL DONE

**Mason Jobst** has made the most of his second opportunity with the Amerks as the fourth-year pro is in the process of assembling a career-year.

Through 59 games this season, the Speedway, Indiana, native has already established career-highs in all offensive categories, including goals (14), assists (23) and points (37).

With an assist in the 2-1 loss in Hershey on March 18, Jobst reached the 30-point plateau for the first time in his pro career, becoming the ninth different Amerk this season to eclipse the mark.

Since the turn of the New Year, Jobst has amassed 11 goals and 24 points over his previous 33 games, including his first career hat trick in the 7-5 loss to the first-place Toronto Marlies back on Jan. 14. He comes into tonight with seven goals and 17 points over his previous 21 games, a stretch highlighted by a career-best three-game goal-scoring streak.

Jobst has totaled 50 points (18+32) over 85 career games with the Amerks dating back to last season.

## WORKING OVERTIME

Last Friday night's overtime win against Syracuse was the eighth time in the span of 11 games -- and the 20th overall -- that went beyond regulation.

The Amerks are 7-6 in overtime this season and show a 4-3 mark in shootouts.

Rochester (.550) is one of 18 teams in the AHL this season with a .500 or better winning percentage in overtime games.

Rochester tied an AHL record with 29 overtime games in 2017-18.

## KEEPING IT KULICH

Ever since returning from an impressive showing at the 2023 IIHF World Junior Championship in January, **Jiri Kulich** has not only emerged as one of the team's most consistent point-getters, but as the top prospect in the Buffalo Sabres pipeline.

The third of Buffalo's three first-round picks in last year's NHL Draft, Kulich currently leads the Amerks and is tied for sixth amongst all AHL rookies in both goals (24) and points (46).

With Kulich becoming the first player this season to score 20 goals, it marks the first time the Amerks had a rookie 20-goal scorer in back-to-back seasons (**Jiri Kulich** in 2022-23, **Jack Quinn** and **JJ Peterka** in 2021-22) since **Drew Stafford** in 2006-07 and **Clarke MacArthur** in 2005-06.

Kulich, the youngest regular player in the AHL, is only the fourth player in league history to score more than 20 goals during his 18-year-old season (turning 19 after Jan. 1) and first since Robert Dome of Syracuse recorded 21 in 1997-98. Kulich also becomes just the second Amerks player in franchise history to reach the mark as an 18-year-old since **Jozef Cierny** scored 27 during his only season in Rochester in 1992-93.

He was named the AHL's Player of the Week for period ending Feb. 26 after totaling six points while leading Rochester to its first three-win weekend.



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