

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Thursday | **May 11, 2023** | 7:00 PM | Coca-Cola Coliseum | North Division Finals, Game 1 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester



# GAME NOTES



## TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (3-2) open the third round of the 2023 Calder Cup Playoffs tonight in Game 1 of the North Division Finals against the top-seeded Toronto Marlies (3-1) at Coca-Cola Coliseum. Opening puck-drop in the best-of-five series is set for 7:00 p.m. and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHL TV.

## SERIES NOTES

Rochester advanced to the third round of the postseason for the second straight year after completing the series comeback with a 5-4 overtime win in Game 5 against Syracuse on Saturday. The series, which saw the home team win four of the five games, began and ended with overtime decisions.

The Amerks became just the 12th team in AHL history to win a best-of-five playoff series after dropping the first two games and the first since Grand Rapids in 2015. Prior to its Game 5 win, Rochester had only reverse swept two opponents when either trailing 3-0 (1960) or 2-0 (1967).

The third-round series brings an all-too-familiar foe in the Marlies, who are making their 12th postseason appearance in franchise history. Subsequently, it's also the fourth playoff meeting between Rochester and Toronto and the first since the 2019 Calder Cup Playoffs.

Toronto, which is coming off a 3-1 series win over Utica, has earned three straight first-round sweeps over the Amerks dating back to 2012, owning a perfect 9-0 record over that span.

Rochester is looking for its first third-round series win since the 2000 postseason when they swept Hershey in four games in the Western Conference Finals to advance to the Calder Cup Finals against Hartford.

## PLAYOFF LEADERS

With a goal in each of his first three North American playoff games thus far, **Jiri Kulich** currently leads the league's first-year players with three goals and is tied for fifth in rookie postseason scoring with four in three games.

**Isak Rosen**, a fellow first-round selection of the Buffalo Sabres, has tallied a pair of multi-point games and is tied for fifth in the AHL amongst rookies with four points (1+2).

Amerks captain **Michael Mersch** leads all Rochester skaters and is tied for sixth in the AHL with seven points (4+3) while goaltender **Malcolm Subban**, who's earned the start in all five postseason contests, is one of eight goaltenders in the AHL to post at least one shutout.

**Lawrence Pilut**, who scored the series-clinching goal versus Syracuse, is tied for fifth in scoring amongst defensemen with five points (3+2).

## ADVANCING UNDER APPERT

Amerks head coach **Seth Appert** became just the seventh head coach all-time to lead his team to back-to-back Division finals in his first two full seasons when the Calder Cup has been awarded.

The last time Rochester reached the Division Finals in two consecutive seasons came back in 2003 and 2004 when Amerks Hall of Famer **Randy Cunneynworth**, the winningest coach in franchise history, led the team.

## 2022-23 AMERKS PLAYOFF SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Michael Mersch	5	4	3	7	1	2
Lawrence Pilut	5	3	2	5	3	12
Jiri Kulich	3	3	1	4	1	0
Mason Jobst	5	2	2	4	-1	4
Brett Murray	5	1	3	4	-3	7

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Malcolm Subban	5	3-2	164	.921	2.71

## 2022-23 MARLIES PLAYOFF SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Logan Shaw	4	4	1	5	1	0
Kyle Clifford	4	3	2	5	2	9
Joseph Blandisi	4	1	4	5	3	18
Nick Abruzzese	4	0	4	4	1	0
Ryan Chyzowski	4	2	1	3	-1	-0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Erik Källgren	2	2-0	52	.945	1.50
Keith Petruzzelli	2	1-1	59	.831	5.64

## SERIES SCHEDULE - NORTH DIVISION "SERIES Q" BEST-OF-FIVE

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Game 1 - May 11					
Game 2 - May 13					
Game 3 - May 17					
*Game 4 - May 19					
*Game 5 - May 21					
*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

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Thursday | **May 11, 2023** | 7:00 PM | Coca-Cola Coliseum | North Division Finals, Game 1 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester



# GAME NOTES



## HEAD-TO-HEAD SERIES SNAPSHOT

With tonight's Game 1 marking the ninth meeting overall in 2022-23, the Amerks and Marlies have been fairly acquainted over the year. Over the last five seasons, Rochester shows a 7-5-0-0 mark in Toronto, which includes a 2-2-0-0 record during the 2022-23 campaign.

Both teams finished with four regulation wins in the head-to-head series, with each scoring seven goals in the first period and double digits in the third (ROC-10, TOR-17). Despite being outscored 30-27 and outshot 235-234 overall, Rochester outshot and outscored the Marlies 85-70 and 9-6 in the first and second periods, respectively.

Rochester went 5-for-35 (14.3%) on the power-play this season against the Marlies while also showing an 74.2% success-rate on the penalty kill (23-for-31).

In 25 of the last 36 meetings between the two teams dating back to the 2016-17 season, the team that scored first has come away with the victory. Additionally, in 24 of the last 28 meetings, the winning team has scored at least four goals dating back to the 2017-18 season.

Over the last 25 games, Rochester has scored at least one goal in the first period 18 times, which includes a four-goal outing in the series-opener on Oct. 23, 2021. Toronto, on the other hand, has scored 23 times in the final 20 minutes of regulation, which includes a five-goal frame on Jan. 14, 2023.

Of the 32 different players to appear in at least one game for Rochester against Toronto, 21 recorded at least one point, which included goaltender **Michael Houser**, and 14 scored one or more goals.

Forward **Lukas Rousek** (4+4) was a point-per-game player this season against the Marlies as he finished with eight points (4+4) in eight games, which topped all Amerks. Mersch notched one goal and a team-leading six assists in seven contests against Toronto.

Goaltender **Malcolm Subban** manned the pipes for three games opposite Marlies this season, posting a 1-2-1 record with a 4.25 goals-against average and a .851 save percentage.

Both teams closed out the regular season with a win in the final weekend.

## SHARING THE WEALTH

The Amerks finished the regular season with three different 20-goal scorers for the second straight year.

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

With Kulich, Murray and Weissbach all successfully reaching the 20-goal mark this season, 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.

## 2022-23 AMERKS REGULAR SEASON LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Lukas Rousek	70	16	40	56	-1	24
Brandon Biro	49	16	35	51	4	12
Brett Murray	71	23	26	49	-1	46
Linus Weissbach	69	20	27	47	-10	63
Jiri Kulich	62	24	22	46	-7	18

## GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Michael Houser	21	9-8-2	541	.906	2.80
Malcolm Subban	39	20-14-5	1,072	.903	2.94
Eric Comrie	3	1-2-0	79	.898	3.03
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	9	6-3-0	238	.898	3.07

## 2022-23 MARLIES REGULAR SEASON LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Logan Shaw	69	21	48	69	-10	36
Alex Steeves	65	19	32	51	-11	28
Nick Abruzzese	69	16	32	48	-16	18
Semyon Der-Arguchintsev	50	12	28	40	-2	16
Joseph Blandisi	61	15	24	39	9	56

## GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Joseph Woll	21	16-4-1	620	.927	2.37
Keith Petruzzelli	25	13-8-2	628	.909	2.90
Erik Källgren	24	10-9-2	538	.883	3.26

## 2022-23 HEAD-TO-HEAD REGULAR SEASON BREAKDOWN

Toronto Marlies	Rochester Americans
42-24-4-2	<b>Record</b> ..... 36-27-6-3
21-13-0-2	<b>Home Record</b> ..... 18-13-4-1
21-11-4-0	<b>Road Record</b> ..... 18-14-2-2
2-6-2-0	<b>Last 10 Games</b> ..... 6-2-2-0
24-5-2-1	<b>Record When Scoring First</b> ..... 21-10-2-2
3.18 (T-12th)	<b>Goals-For Per Game</b> ..... 3.28 (8th)
3.13 (18th)	<b>Goals-Against Per Game</b> ..... 3.24 (22nd)
23.6% (2nd)	<b>Power-Play</b> ..... 20.6% (13th)
81.5% (13th)	<b>Penalty Kill</b> ..... 81.9% (T-11th)
7-2 W @ TOR	<b>Last Game</b> ..... 4-1 W @ 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

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Thursday | **May 11, 2023** | 7:00 PM | Coca-Cola Coliseum | North Division Finals, Game 1 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester



# GAME NOTES



## EARNING THEIR STARS AND STRIPES

With 19 points (7+12) over his last 26 games, **Linus Weissbach** finished nine points back of the team-lead with 47 points (20+27) in 69 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 was just one point away from his first 50-point campaign, captured career-highs in all offensive categories from last season, including goals (23), assists (26) and points (49). The fourth-year pro ended the season with 23 points (9+14) in his last 28 games and recorded at least one shot in all but five games during that span dating back to Nov. 23.

With 12 points (5+7) over the last 27 games, **Sean Malone** reached the 30-point mark in back-to-back campaigns for the first time in his career. In 53 contests in his fifth season with the Amerks, Malone finished with 14 goals and 17 assists.

Amerks captain **Michael Mersch** showed 35 points (16+19) over the last 47 games dating back to Dec. 17. More impressively, with 45 points in 61 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.

In 66 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 the last 28 games, Davies collected five goals and seven assists for 12 points.

Rookie **Isak Rosen** posted 22 points (11+11) in 37 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 came while on the power-play. Rosen was 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.

## MARLIES REGULAR SEASON IN REVIEW

With a 42-24-4-2 record in the regular season, the Marlies won the franchise's seventh Division title. Toronto, which lost 11 of its last 13 games, including a season-long seven straight, finished nine points ahead of Rochester in the AHL's North Division standings.

In his first season with Toronto, Logan Shaw captained the Marlies while leading the team with 48 assists and 69 points. Shaw was the winner of the Fred T. Hunt Memorial Award by the AHL after skating in 69 of the club's 72 games, including his 600th game as a professional on Mar. 12. He also represented the club at the 2023 AHL All-Star Classic.

Shaw has totaled 104 goals and 126 assists for 230 points in 381 career AHL games with Toronto, Belleville, Manitoba, San Diego, Springfield, Portland and San Antonio.

Toronto has won eight consecutive Game 1's dating back to 2017 and are 9-0 all-time in the playoffs against Rochester.

## AMERKS-MARLIES 2022-23 REGULAR SEASON HEAD-TO-HEAD

### ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Lukas Rousek	8	4	4	8	2	2
Michael Mersch	8	1	6	7	2	-1
Mason Jobst	7	3	3	6	4	0
Linus Weissbach	8	3	3	6	6	1

### GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Eric Comrie	1	1-0-0	2	.944	2.00
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	2	1-1-0	4	.937	2.04
Michael Houser	2	1-1-0	6	.864	3.10
Malcolm Subban	3	1-2-0	13	.851	4.35

### TORONTO

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Logan Shaw	8	2	11	13	6	2
Bobby McMann	7	10	0	10	0	4
Alex Steeves	7	2	3	5	6	1
Nick Abruzzese	8	1	4	5	0	-1

### GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Keith Petruzzelli	3	2-0-0	3	.954	1.26
Erik Källgren	5	1-2-1	16	.875	3.90
Dylan Ferguson	1	0-1-0	2	.714	4.03
Joseph Woll	1	1-0-0	5	.848	5.00

## 2022-23 REGULAR SEASON GAME-BY-GAME BREAKDOWN

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 14	W	4-2	25-24	3-6	4-5
Oct. 15	L	3-1	26-40	0-3	2-4
Dec. 10	SOW	4-3	38-26	0-4	2-4
Dec. 31	W	3-2	13-36	0-2	3-3
Jan. 14	L	7-5	33-33	0-3	2-2
Feb. 17	W	6-2	37-26	2-3	5-6
Feb. 18	L	5-1	27-30	0-7	2-2
Mar. 12	L	6-3	35-20	0-7	3-5



## NORTH DIVISION FINALS | GAME ONE

TORONTO, ON - 7:00PM | AHLTV | THE FAN ROCHESTER



**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

Thursday | **May 11, 2023** | 7:00 PM | Coca-Cola Coliseum | North Division Finals, Game 1 | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester



# GAME NOTES



## ROUSEK MADE UP FOR LOST TIME

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

A 2023 AHL All-Star selection, Rousek led the Amerks in assists (40) and points (56) in 70 games while his 16 goals were tied for fifth-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 last Saturday following his third recall of the season to Buffalo, finished with 45 points (12+33) over his final 55 games, including 17 points (5+12) in his last 17 appearances.

## KEEPING IT KULICH

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

The third of Buffalo's three first-round picks in last year's NHL Draft, Kulich led the Amerks and finished tied for sixth amongst all AHL rookies with 24 goals while his 46 points are tied for 11th-most.

With Kulich becoming the first player this season to score 20 goals, it marked 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 this season, was 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 became 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.

## WORKING OVERTIME

Rochester's April 7 overtime win at Syracuse was the eighth time over a stretch of 11 games -- and the 20th overall -- that went beyond regulation.

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

Rochester (.550) finished as one of 16 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.

## PLAYOFFS BY THE NUMBERS

### ALL-TIME PLAYOFF NOTES (Coming into tonight's game)

#### Playoff Appearances: 47

<b>88 Series:</b>	47 wins	41 losses
<b>432 Games Played:</b>	220 wins	212 losses
<b>214 Home Games:</b>	130 wins	84 losses
<b>218 Away Games:</b>	92 wins	126 losses
<b>77 Overtime Games:</b>	34 wins	43 losses
<b>36 Home Overtime Games:</b>	20 wins	16 losses
<b>41 Away Overtime Games:</b>	14 wins	27 losses

### GOAL-SCORING

1,435 Goals-For	1,374 Goals-Against
Home: 790 Goals-For	654 Goals-Against
Away: 645 Goals-For	720 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



**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