

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Friday | **November 3, 2023** | 7:05 PM ET | Blue Cross Arena | AHL Game 119 | | AHL TV, The Fan Rochester



GAME NOTES



TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (5-2-1-0) look to rebound tonight as they welcome the Utica Comets (2-2-2-0) to The Blue Cross Arena for a 7:05 p.m. contest. The North Division showdown will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV.

The Amerks and Comets, who enter their third season under the affiliation of the New Jersey Devils, will meet 12 times during the 2023-24 season.

Tonight's matchup is the first of a stretch in which the intrastate rivals will meet three times over a four-game span. The two clubs met on Oct. 28 as Rochester closed out the month of October with a 5-4 victory.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST THE COMETS

After earning just a pair of wins through the first five games of the season series with the Comets in 2022-23, Rochester finished the campaign with a 7-3-0-0 record in 10 games.

Rochester has won seven straight games on the road against Utica, which includes this season's preseason contest and the first game back on Oct. 29. Rochester has outscored Utica 27-16 during that same time.

The Amerks have scored at least one power-play goal in 20 of the 34 games (28-for-119) games against Utica since **Seth Appert** took over as head coach prior to the 2020-21 season. The team has registered multiple power-play tallies in six games overall, including two contests where they had three.

LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks fell behind 4-1 in the second period before dropping a 7-2 decision to the intrastate rival Syracuse Crunch Wednesday at The Blue Cross Arena.

Forward **Brett Murray** scored his second goal of the season in the first period while **Jiri Kulich** recorded his team-leading seventh tally during the final minute of the second frame. **Michael Mersch**, **Ryan Johnson**, **Matt Savoie** and **Isak Rosen** all earned an assist in the defeat. **Olivier Nadeau** made his professional debut, recording one shot

Goaltender **Devin Cooley** (3-1-1) suffered his first regulation loss of the season as he made 21 saves before **Michael Houser** (2-1-0) finished the contest in the final 12 minutes in relief.

STREAKING INTO NOVEMBER

The Amerks closed out the month of October with wins in three straight and five of their first seven games, finishing the first month atop the AHL's North Division with a 5-1-1-0 record.

By recording 11 points in the standings through the opening seven games of the season, Rochester had its best start in 14 years. The 2009-10 Amerks started 5-1-1-0 and ultimately jumped out to a 12-1-1-0 to start to the year, a run that included a franchise-best 11-game win streak.

The Amerks 11 points and five wins this season were good for second in the Eastern Conference. Rochester's 33 goals scored were second-most in the AHL while its 32.0% success rate on the power-play was the best in the Conference. The club was tied for most in the AHL with eight power-play goals and was previously one of six teams without a home regulation loss.

2023-24 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Jiri Kulich	8	7	3	10	4	4
Isak Rosen	8	4	6	10	3	2
Mason Jobst	7	4	3	7	-3	4
Jeremy Davies	7	2	5	7	-1	8
Kale Clague	7	1	6	7	2	2

GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devin Cooley	5	3-1-1	151	.883	4.12
Michael Houser	4	2-1-0	83	.838	4.96

2023-24 COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Xavier Parent	6	4	4	8	6	9
Max Willman	6	3	3	6	-1	0
Chase Stillman	6	3	2	5	1	0
Graeme Clarke	6	3	1	4	-3	4

GOALTENDER

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Isaac Poulter	4	2-0-1	116	.951	1.57
Eric Källgren	3	0-2-1	48	.787	5.79

2023-24 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Utica Comets **Rochester Americans**

2-2-2-0	Record	5-2-1-0
0-1-1-0	Home Record	2-1-1-0
2-1-1-0	Road Record	3-1-0-0
2-2-2-0	Last 10 Games	5-2-1-0
2-0-0-0	Record When Scoring First	3-0-0-0
3.00 (T-17th)	Goals-For Per Game	4.38 (2nd)
3.17 (T-20th)	Goals-Against Per Game	4.75 (30th)
16.7% (20th)	Power-Play	28.6% (T-5th)
84.0% (13th)	Penalty Kill	64.7% (32nd)
Nov. 1 @ LAV (4-1 W)	Last Game	Nov. 1 vs. SYR (7-2 L)
Nov. 4 vs. HFD	Next Game	Nov. 4 @ SYR
Kevin Dineen (3rd)	Head Coach	Seth Appert (4th)
David Cuniff (1st)	Asst. Coach	Nathan Paetsch (1st)
Ryan Parent (3rd)	Asst. Coach	Vinny Prospal (1st)



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DYNAMIC DUO: THE SEQUEL

Jiri Kulich and **Isak Rosen** both return for their second seasons in Rochester after putting up one of the most impressive and productive seasons as teenagers in the history of the AHL during the 2022-23 campaign.

Through the first eight games of the season, Kulich is tied for eighth in overall scoring with 10 points (7+3) while his team-leading seven goals are tied for second. Additionally, he is one of 11 skaters in the league with a multiple game-winning goals. He shows eight goals and 11 points over his last 10 games dating back to the 2023 Calder Cup Playoffs.

Rosen, meanwhile, is also tied for eighth with 10 points (4+6) while his six assists are tied for 14th through eight games. Rosen began the season by owning the AHL's longest active point streak after notching a point in each of his first six games.

The duo have combined for 113 points (49+54) in 143 regular season games. Rochester owns a 16-3-2-1 record when they each have at least one point and a 6-1-0-0 mark when they both score in the same game.

TOKARSKI SET TO JOIN ELITE COMPANY

Veteran goaltender **Dustin Tokarski**, who missed the first eight games of the season due to an injury he sustained in training camp, will make his season debut tonight against Utica.

Tokarski, who's in his second stint with the Amerks, went 1-1-0 during a brief two-game stint with Rochester as part of the COVID-shortened 2020-21 campaign. He went 12-20-7 in 42 appearances with the Buffalo Sabres from 2021-23.

Tonight, the two-time Calder Cup winner and AHL All-Star will become just the 18th goaltender in league history to play in 400 career games, a list that also includes former Amerks Bobby Perreault (512), Michael Leighton (507), Drew MacIntyre (440) and Ed Chadwick (417).

The 34-year-old Tokarski comes into the 2023-24 season ranked 18th all-time in games played and remains the only active goaltender on the list.

Currently in his 15th pro season, he joins Marcel Paille and Michael Leighton as the only goaltenders all-time to play at least 15 seasons in the AHL.

In addition to being a two-time Calder Cup winner (2012, 2019), Tokarski won a Memorial Cup in 2008 followed by a gold medal with Canada in 2009.

ANOTHER FIRST-ROUNDER IN ROCHESTER

The Buffalo Sabres last week assigned rookie forward **Matt Savoie** to Rochester on a conditioning assignment. Savoie made his professional debut last Wednesday against Charlotte, recording an assist in the 4-3 win.

Prior to joining the Amerks in Games 2 and 3 of the Eastern Conference Finals against Hershey this past May, the highly touted 19-year-old totaled 192 points (73+119) in 149 career games with the WHL's Winnipeg Ice from 2019-23. He was named a WHL East First All-Star Team selection in 2022.

Savoie is the second member of Buffalo's 2022 Draft class to appear in one game with the Amerks, joining Kulich, and the sixth first-rounder since the start of 2016 (**Alexander Nylander**, **Casey Mittelstadt**, **Ryan Johnson**, **Jack Quinn**, **Isak Rosen**, **Jiri Kulich**). With the exception of Nylander and Mittelstadt, all players began their professional careers in Rochester.

AMERKS-COMETES 2023-24 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Mason Jobst	1	1	1	2	0	1
Brandon Biro	1	0	2	2	0	1
Kale Clague	1	0	2	2	0	1

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Michael Houser	1	1-0-0	4	.778	4.01

UTICA

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Chase Stillman	1	2	0	2	0	0
Xavier Parent	1	0	2	2	5	0
Shane Bowers	1	1	0	1	2	1

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Erik Källgren	1	0-0-0	5	.821	5.08

2023-24 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS UTICA

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 28	W	5-4	28-18	1-3	0-1
Nov. 3					
Nov. 10					
Nov. 11					
Dec. 30					
Jan. 19					
Jan. 26					
Feb. 14					
Feb. 18					
Mar. 10					
Mar. 21					
Apr. 21					

SERIES NOTABLES

Amerks defenseman **Riley Stillman** goes up against his younger brother, Chase, for the second time in their pro careers. Chase in his rookie season after being selected in the first round (29th overall) by the New Jersey devils in 2021. Their father, Cory Stillman, appeared in 1,025 games at the NHL level, totaling 727 points (278+449) and won a pair of Stanley Cup Championships. Bud Stefanski, their grandfather, tallied 425 points in the AHL, won the 1984 Calder Cup and was named playoff MVP.

Comets forward Kyle Criscuolo is in his first season with the New Jersey Devils organization. In parts of two seasons with Rochester, he posted 54 points (21+33) in 94 games from 2017-19 while also skating in six playoff contests. He made his NHL debut with the Buffalo Sabres in 2017-18.

Utica forward Tyce Thopmson is the younger brother of former Amerk and current Buffalo Sabres forward Tage Thompson.

Comets forward Ryan Fitzgerald is the older brother of Casey Fitzgerald, a 2016 third-round pick of the Buffalo Sabres who played parts of four seasons with the Amerks from 2018-22.



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