

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Saturday | **Nov. 16, 2024** | 5:05 PM | The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Game 188 | AHLTV on FloHockey, The Fan Rochester

ROCHESTER AMERICANS GAME NOTES

Blue Cross Arena at the Rochester War Memorial | 1 War Memorial Square | Rochester, NY, 14614 | Amerks.com/Media | @AmerksPR



TODAY'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (7-5-1-0) close out the weekend with a 4:00 p.m. matchup at Coca-Cola Coliseum against the Toronto Marlies (7-1-2-2). All the action will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

Just three points separate the teams in the standings while Toronto has a game in hand.

Rochester have won six of its last nine while Toronto has earned a point in four straight games, including three consecutive games that were decided beyond regulation.

The Marlies are one of only two teams (Laval) in the AHL to remain unbeaten on home ice this season. The Marlies have earned a point in all six home games as they boast a 5-0-1-0 mark north of the border.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST THE MARLIES

Today is the third meeting between the North Division rivals since closing out the 2023-24 season series with the four contests over a span of 33 days. Rochester earned a point in five of the six meetings last season overall, showing a 4-1-0-1 record.

The Amerks boast a 4-6-0-2 record against Toronto over the last six seasons in Rochester, which included earning five out of a possible six points on home ice during the 2023-24 campaign. Overall, Rochester owns a 10-10-0-2 mark in the head-to-head series since the 2020-21 campaign.

In the last four games dating back to last season between Rochester and Toronto, each team has won a one-goal game and two-goal contest. The Amerks have scored in the first period in three of those four matchups while the Marlies have done the same in the middle frame.

Amerks third-year forward **Isak Rosén** has recorded one point in 24 of his last 36 games dating back to last season, going only consecutive games without a point just twice. He has three points (1+2) versus Toronto during that stretch.

In 28 of the last 44 meetings between the two teams dating back to the 2016-17 season, the team that scored first has come away with the victory.

LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks opened the scoring less than three minutes into Saturday's game but the top-ranked Laval Rocket countered with four straight unanswered tallies to earn a 4-1 win and complete the two-game sweep.

Despite the loss, Rochester has won six of its last nine games dating back to Oct. 23. Additionally, since the start of the 2017-18 campaign, the Amerks have posted a near-perfect 14-4-1-0 mark at The Blue Cross Arena versus Laval, including all four meetings last season.

Defenseman **Jack Rathbone** provided Rochester's only point in the contest as he netted his second of the season at the 2:45 mark of the first period. Dating back to the 2023-24 campaign, Rathbone has registered at least one shot in 17 consecutive games, which includes all 13 with the Amerks in 2024-25.

Goaltender **Michael Houser** (4-3-1) made his third straight start and ninth appearance overall of the campaign. The Youngstown, Ohio, native has helped the club earn at least one point in two of his four home games this season and four of his last seven dating back to the 2023-24 slate.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	13	4	9	13	0	2
Zach Metsa	13	1	9	10	1	4
Brett Murray	13	3	6	9	-2	2

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Michael Houser	9	4-3-1	200	.897	2.69
Felix Sandström	5	3-2-0	99	.900	2.42

2024-25 MARLIES OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Alex Steeves*	10	9	3	12	4	12
Nikita Grebenkin	12	4	6	10	1	0
Logan Shaw	12	2	7	9	-3	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Artur Akhtyamov	5	4-0-1	121	.917	2.14
Dennis Hildebey	3	1-0-2	80	.920	2.21
Matt Murray	4	2-1-1	101	.902	3.73

*=Currently on recall with Toronto (NHL)

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Toronto Marlies vs Rochester Americans

7-1-2-1	Record	7-5-1-0
5-0-0-0	Home Record	2-3-1-0
5-2-0-0	Road Record	5-2-0-0
6-3-1-0	Last 10 Games	6-3-1-0
0-2	Overtime Record	0-1
1-1	Shootout Record	2-0
2-0-0-0	Record When Scoring First	5-4-1-0
25.0% (3rd)	Power-Play	16.1% (20th)
88.9% (2nd)	Penalty Kill	80.8% (T-19th)
Nov. 16 vs BEL (4-3 SOL)	Last Game	Nov. 16 vs LAV (4-1 L)
John Gruden (2nd)	Head Coach	Michael Leone (1st)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. TORONTO

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 18	L	4-2	28-21	0-4	5-5
Oct. 19	L	3-2	37-23	0-7	4-4



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KULICH REJOINS SABRES

Rochester's offense suffered a loss yesterday morning by the subtraction of forward **Jiri Kulich**, who was recalled to the Buffalo Sabres. In his first four games since making his Amerks season debut, he's scored a pair of power-play goals while also adding an assist.

The third-year forward began the 2024-25 campaign in Buffalo, appearing in eight games and scoring his first NHL goal on Oct. 17 at Columbus.

Kulich was named to the AHL's Top Prospects Team for the second straight year in 2023-24 after scoring a career-high 27 goals – including seven power-play goals, a shorthanded tally, five game-winners and two hat tricks – and finished third on the team with 45 points in 57 games while leading the Amerks back to the postseason for the second straight year.

Kulich also finished the 2023-24 season with 11 multi-point efforts highlighted by a career-best four-point showing against Belleville on April 13.

He never went more than six games without a point and recorded at least one shot in all but one game last season, including a career-high 11 shots against Belleville on April 12.

Kulich, who represented Rochester at the 2024 AHL All-Star Classic, was the first Amerk to score 20 or more goals in back-to-back seasons since Cole Schneider and Justin Bailey both did so in 2015-16 and 2016-17 and also became the first Rochester player to lead the team in goals in consecutive seasons since AHL Hall of Famer Jody Gage in 1991-92 and 1992-93.

He made his NHL debut for Buffalo on Nov. 25 at New Jersey and went on to captain Czechia to a bronze medal at the 2024 IIHF World Junior Championship. Kulich finished tied for the tournament lead with 12 points (6+6) in seven games, including a pair of four-point outings and two game-winning goals to earn a selection to the tournament All-Star Team.

In 123 career AHL games, all with Rochester, Kulich, who was selected in the first round (28th overall) of the 2022 NHL by the Buffalo Sabres, has amassed 53 goals and 41 assists for 94 points. He has also tallied 13 points (7+6) in 17 Calder Cup Playoff games since making his AHL debut during the 2022-23 campaign.

Prior to his recall, he was one of five first-round draft pick on the Amerks roster that was selected by the Sabres; **Konsta Helenius** (2024, 14th), **Noah Östlund** (2022, 16th) **Isak Rosén** (2021, 14th overall), and **Ryan Johnson** (2019, 31st overall).



NO METSA'IN AROUND

Second-year defenseman **Zachary Metsa** begins the week second on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester's blueliners with 10 points (1+9) through his first 13 games.

Metsa has points in five of his last nine games, which included stringing together consecutive multi-point games for the first time in his career, logging five assists through two games last week, including a three-assist effort in last Friday night's win over Hartford.

The second-year blueliner 10 points tie him for sixth-most in league scoring by a defenseman.

Last season, the Delafield, Wisconsin, native logged seven goals and 24 points and was named the team's co-Rookie of the Year with Viktor Neuchev.

Metsa, who captained Quinnipiac University to its first-ever NCAA National Championship in 2023, also is tied for tops amongst all AHL defensemen with nine assists, four of which have come on the power-play.

ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

The Amerks made history back on Nov. 8, becoming just the second team in the 89-year history of the American Hockey League to reach 2,500 franchise wins. The two-time defending Calder Cup champion Hershey Bears are the only other team to accomplish the feat, entering the weekend with 3,107 total regular-season victories.

Rochester also became just the eighth team in pro hockey history to reach the mark, joining each of the NHL's Original Six franchises as well.

Dating back to its inaugural campaign in 1956-57, Rochester boasts an all-time regular-season record of 2,500-2,092-402-115 in 5,181 games.

In 69 seasons, the Amerks, who have claimed six league championships and 14 Division titles during the regular season, have scored 17,936 goals while allowing 17,250.

The club has used 64 different captains, including 14 future Stanley Cup champions as well as 42 Calder Cup winners. Rochester has had a captain each season with the exception of the 2010-11 slate and used four different players that donned the C in the same season on one occasion (2013-14).



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