

Wednesday | **November 20, 2024** | 7:00 PM | Place Bell | AHL Game 225 | 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



TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (7-5-2-0) look to get back into the win column tonight as they begin another three-game week with another go-around against the first-place Laval Rocket (12-2-0-0) at Place Bell. The North Division matchup will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

Tonight is the third game in seven days between the two clubs after meeting twice in Rochester last week. Eight points separate the teams in the standings while they each have 58 games left in their season.

The Rocket are one of only two teams (Toronto) in the AHL to remain unbeaten on home ice this season. Laval has earned the win in all six home games, boasting a perfect 6-0-0-0 mark north of the border while outscoring the opposition 21-11. The Amerks, meanwhile, have earned at least one point in eight of their last 10 games overall dating back to Oct. 23.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST THE ROCKET

Dating back to his rookie season, Amerks forward **Jiri Kulich**, who's currently on recall with the parent Buffalo Sabres, has recorded eight goals, including four through the first seven games of the 2023-24 season series, as well as seven assists in 17 career contests against the Rocket.

Rochester has picked up at least one point in 16 of its first 22 road games in Laval, going 14-6-2-0 over that span. Conversely, 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.

Rochester has never had a losing season versus the Rocket and have gone 4-3-1-0 in back-to-back seasons. The Amerks boasted a 6-2-0-0 mark through eight games during the 2023-24 campaign.

Captain **Mason Jobst** led all players during the 2023-24 season with 10 points on five goals and five points whereas **Kale Clague** (1+7) tallied the most points amongst all defensemen in eight games. Goaltender and Quebec native **Devon Levi** turned in a 32-save performance while also earning the win in his only appearance against Laval back on Feb. 3, 2024.

Both teams have near-perfect records when leading after the second period: Rochester is 6-0-1-0 while Laval is 8-1-0-0 in that regard.

LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks tied the game in the third period while also finishing with 16-9 shot-advantage but dropped a 2-1 score to the Toronto Marlies in overtime in Sunday's weekend finale at Coca-Cola Coliseum

Despite suffering its second overtime loss of the week, Rochester has earned at least one point in eight of its last 10 games dating back to Oct. 23.

Forward **Brendan Warren** recorded Rochester's only point in the contest as he netted his second of the season. Warren, who had a season-high three shots on goal, has tallied both of his goals this season on the road and three of his last four dating back to the 2023-24 campaign. **Viktor Neuchev** topped all skaters with a career-high eight shots.

Goaltender **Felix Sandström** (3-2-0), who returned to the crease for the first time since earning the win on Nov. 8, made his sixth appearance overall of the campaign. The Gavle, Sweden, native has helped the club earn at least one point in each of his last four appearances as he boasts a 3-0-1 mark and has allowed two or fewer goals in all four games dating back to begin the month.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén*	14	4	9	13	-2	2
Zachary Metsa	14	1	9	10	2	4
Brett Murray	14	3	6	9	-2	2

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Felix Sandström	6	3-2-1	126	.906	2.35
Michael Houser	9	4-3-1	200	.897	2.69

*=Currently with Buffalo (NHL)

2024-25 ROCKET OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Joshua Roy	14	7	6	13	2	0
Alex Barré-Boulet	9	4	9	13	4	2
Logan Mailloux	9	4	8	12	6	13

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Connor Hughes	7	6-1-0	187	.935	1.85
Jakub Dobeš	7	6-1-0	175	.911	2.39

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Laval Rocket Rochester Americans

12-2-0-0.....**Record**.....7-5-2-0

6-0-0-0.....**Home Record**.....2-3-1-0

6-2-0-0.....**Road Record**.....5-2-1-0

9-1-0-0.....**Last 10 Games**.....6-2-2-0

1-0.....**Overtime Record**.....0-2

2-0.....**Shootout Record**.....2-0

4-1-0-0.....**Record When Scoring First**.....5-4-1-0

19.1% (T-12th).....**Power-Play**.....14.3% (T-25th)

86.4% (5th).....**Penalty Kill**.....81.8% (T-17th)

Nov. 16 @ ROC (4-1 W).....**Last Game**... Nov. 17 @ TOR (2-1 OTL)

Pascal Vincent (1st).....**Head Coach**..... Michael Leone (1st)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. LAVAL

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Nov. 13	OTL	3-2	31-25	0-4	2-4
Nov. 16	L	4-1	26-18	0-3	2-2



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Ryan Harr | Manager of Community & Public Relations



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LEVI LOANED TO ROCHESTER

Goaltender **Devon Levi** was reassigned by the Buffalo Sabres earlier this week after starting the season with a 2-5-0 mark in seven appearances.

The 22-year old netminder split his first full rookie season between Buffalo and Rochester in 2023-24 by combining to post a 26-14-6 mark in 49 appearances. The Quebec native also showed a 2-3 record in five Calder Cup Playoffs with the Amerks.

In Game 3 of the North Division Semifinals against Syracuse, Levi turned aside 60 of 62 shots he faced in the double-overtime victory. Levi was the first Amerks goaltender to make 21 or more saves in a single period during a Calder Cup Playoff game since **Tyler Plante** stopped all 23 shots he faced on April 21, 2010 against Abbotsford.

Levi, who showed a 16-6-4 record in 26 appearances with the Amerks, held the opposition to three or fewer goals in each game over a six-game win streak between March and April 6. He totaled 188 saves on 201 shots while boasting an impressive 2.17 goals-against average and a .935 save percentage over that span.

Levi earned the start in 24 of the last 34 games with Rochester since being reassigned on Jan. 20, including five straight to open February. He won nine of his last 11 starts and 11 of 13 dating back to the start of March.

His career-high 52-save performance in the Amerks overtime win at Toronto on Feb. 19 were the most by an Amerks goaltender since **Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen** had 54 in a 2-1 win at Syracuse on Feb. 25, 2022.

Levi, who finished the season tied for fourth among all rookie netminders with a .927 save percentage, held the opposition to three or fewer goals in all but four of his 26 appearances. He was 16-2-4 this season in those games.

Levi won the Mike Richter Award, given annually to the top goaltender in men's college hockey, for the second straight year following the 2022-23 season. Levi is the only two-time winner in the award's history.

He led the nation again with a .933 save percentage, one year after he set the second-best mark in NCAA history with a .952 save percentage. He tied for third in the nation in both shutouts (6) and saves (1,183). Levi's 16-career shutouts are a Northeastern University school record.

In his two seasons at Northeastern, Levi finished with a 38-22-6 record. His resume includes a Beanpot title, a Hockey East regular-season championship and an NCAA tournament appearance. Levi was also named Hockey East Player of the Year for the second consecutive season in 2022-23 and was one of 10 finalists for the Hobey Baker Award.



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 14 games.

Metsa has points in five of his last 10 games, which included stringing together consecutive multi-point games for the first time in his career, logging five assists in that span and punctuated by a three-assist effort in the win over Hartford on Nov. 8.

The second-year blueliner's 10 points tie him for seventh-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, is also tied for fourth amongst all AHL defensemen with nine assists, four of which have come on the power-play.

SCOUTING THE ROCKET

One year after finishing with a 33-31-6-2 record and last place in the North Division, Laval is off to a red-hot start as they have posted a 12-2-0-0 mark through its first 14 games of the season.

The Rocket's 12 wins are tied for most in the AHL while their 24 points are top amongst all Eastern Conference teams. The club has scored 48 goals this season while allowing 31, which rank seventh-most and third-fewest in the AHL, respectively.

Laval goes up against the Amerks for the first time this season fueled by forward Joshua Roy's team-leading seven goals and 13 points in 14 games. After starting the year without a point through his first two appearances, the St-Georges-de-Beauce, Quebec, native responded with seven goals and six assists over his next 10 contests, which included his second career hat trick on Nov. 2 against Providence.

On the blueline, Laval's Logan Mailloux is tied for fourth in the league amongst all defensemen with 12 points while his eight assists are tied for eighth. Mailloux, who has a pair of four-point efforts already this season, scored the game-winning goal in the final minute of overtime last Wednesday against Rochester to cap his third multi-point performance of the season.



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