

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB
SIX-TIME CALDER CUP CHAMPIONS 1965 | 1966 | 1968 | 1983 | 1987 | 1996

Sat. | **December 7, 2024** | 6:00 PM | Bojangles Coliseum | AHL Game 320 | 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 (11-8-3-0) have a chance at redemption tonight when they clash with the Charlotte Checkers (11-4-1-2) for the second time in as many nights in a rematch at Bojangles Coliseum. Game time is slated for a 6:00 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

Rochester has earned at least one point in 13 of its last 18 games dating back to Oct. 23 and is 6-3-1-0 over its last 10 road contests. The Amerks sit in fourth-place in the AHL's North Division standings, two points back of Toronto Marlies, who have four games in hand entering the weekend.

Charlotte has been hot as of late, earning 10 out of a possible 12 points over its current six-game point streak, including wins in each of its last four and back-to-back shutouts.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST THE CHECKERS

The Amerks are 8-17-0-0 all-time against Charlotte after splitting the four meetings with the Checkers last season, including the only get-together at Bojangles' Coliseum. Rochester suffered a 5-2 setback in the 2024 Queen City Outdoor Classic at Truist Field.

Coupled with last night's shutout loss and the 3-2 win in the first game in Charlotte last season, Rochester has won three of the last four contests at Bojangles Coliseum dating back to the 2022-23 season. Entering tonight, the club boasts a 3-1-0-0 record over that span in the Queen City.

Since the start of the 2022-23 season, **Brett Murray** (2+6), **Lukas Rousek** (1+5), and **Isak Rosén** (2+2) have combined for five goals and 18 points against the Checkers. Murray and Rousek have appeared in all nine games versus Charlotte while Rosén skated in all but one contest.

Kale Clague topped all Rochester skaters during the 2023-24 season series against Charlotte with four points (1+3) while he, Murray and Rousek all had three assists. Rosén totaled a pair of points for the second straight season as he scored once to go with an assist.

Goaltenders **Michael Houser** (6-3-2) and **Felix Sandström** (5-6-0) have each posted a four-win season against Charlotte in their respective careers and together show an 11-10-2 combined record. Houser's (4-0-1) came in 2014-15 with San Antonio while Sandström (4-1-0) was nearly perfect opposite the Checkers during the 2023-24 campaign with Lehigh Valley.

LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks were held to just 19 shots and were unable to generate much offensively as they dropped a 6-0 decision to the Checkers in the first game of a season-long five-game road swing Friday at Bojangles Coliseum.

Despite suffering its second shutout of the campaign and seeing its three-game win streak halted, Rochester has earned at least one point in 13 of its last 18 games dating back to Oct. 23. Friday was the first time in the 25 all-time meetings with the Checkers that Rochester has been held off the scoreboard.

Zachary Metsa, who had an assist in back-to-back games entering Friday's contest, **Mason Jobst**, and **Josh Dunne** all registered three shots each to top all Amerks while **Jack Rathbone** and **Riley Fiddler-Schultz** each had a pair. **Kale Clague** also appeared in his 300th pro game, recording one shot.

In his eighth appearance of the season and first since Nov. 23, goaltender **Felix Sandström** (3-4-1) made 29 saves, but suffered the defeat.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	19	7	10	17	-3	2
Brett Murray	22	7	7	14	-5	4
Zachary Metsa	22	1	12	13	0	8

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	6	4-1-1	121	.899	2.28
Michael Houser	10	4-3-1	212	.898	2.68
Felix Sandström	8	3-4-1	166	.878	3.23

2024-25 CHARLOTTE OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Kyle Criscuolo	18	10	12	22	5	8
Trevor Carrick	17	5	14	19	-1	8
Aidan McDonough	16	10	6	16	2	15

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Cooper Black	3	2-0-1	45	.900	1.62
Ken Appleby	7	4-2-1	149	.903	2.27
Chris Driedger	8	5-2-1	200	.885	3.22

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Charlotte Checkers Rochester Americans

11-4-1-2.....**Record**.....11-8-3-0

7-2-0-0.....**Home Record**.....4-5-2-0

4-2-1-2.....**Road Record**.....7-3-1-0

5-3-1-1.....**Last 10 Games**.....4-4-2-0

1-1.....**Overtime Record**.....1-3

1-2.....**Shootout Record**.....3-0

10-7-1-0.....**Record When Scoring First**.....7-5-1-0

36.0% (1st).....**Power-Play**.....14.4% (27th)

83.1% (13th).....**Penalty Kill**.....82.8% (T-15th)

Dec. 6 vs ROC (6-0 W).....**Last Game**.....Dec. 6 @ CLT (6-0 L)

Geordie Kinnear (5th).....**Head Coach**.....Michael Leone (1st)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. CHARLOTTE

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Dec. 6	L	6-0	19-35	0-4	2-3



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LEANING ON LEVI

Devon Levi, who made his season debut for the Amerks on Nov. 20 at Laval, has started four of the last five games for Rochester.

Levi, who's slated to make his seventh start of the season tonight, is riding a three-game win streak into the weekend. He hasn't allowed more than two goals in each game and has stopped 54 of the 58 shots he's faced over that span good for a 1.30 goals-against average and a .931 save percentage.

During last Friday night's 3-0 win over Syracuse, Levi stopped all 20 shots he faced, which included 13 in the final period of regulation, to earn his first professional shutout. It marked the first time he blanked an opponent since he made 32 saves in a 4-0 win over Massachusetts on Feb. 25, 2023 with Northeastern University.

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, has held the opposition to three or fewer goals in all but six of his 32 appearances. He boasts a record 20-2-4 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.



NO METSA'IN AROUND

Second-year defenseman **Zachary Metsa** enters the contest third on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester's blueliners with 13 points (1+12) through his first 21 games.

Metsa has points in eight of his last 18 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 13 points tie him for 10th-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 fifth amongst all AHL defensemen with 12 assists, five of which have come on the power-play.

MURRAY SPECIAL AND MR. 300

Six of **Brett Murray**'s seven goals this season have come on the power-play, including two which ended up being the game-winner.

The 26-year-old is tied with Checkers forward and former Amerk Kyle Criscuolo for the AHL lead in power-play goals and is also second on the Amerks in points with 14 (7+7) through 22 games.

Prior to scoring his first even strength goal of the season Wednesday against Utica, Murray was the only AHL player with at least six goals this season to have scored all his goals on the power-play.

With the exception of his rookie season, the veteran forward has recorded at least six power-play goals in five of his first six professional seasons, which includes a career-high eight during the 2022-23 campaign.

Coming into tonight having played 281 games as an Amerk, Murray is 19 games away from becoming just the 24th forward in franchise history to appear in at least 300 games with the club and first since Phil Varone did so during the 2015-16 campaign. He's also 67 games away from tying Don McSween for 20th on the franchise's all-time games played list (348).



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