

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

Saturday | **December 14, 2024** | 7:00 PM | CAA Arena | AHL Game 362 | 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 (14-8-3-0) close out their season-long five-game road swing with a rematch against the Belleville Senators (12-5-0-4) tonight at 7:00 p.m. All the action from CAA Arena 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 points in 16 of its last 21 games dating back to Oct. 23 and its 10 road wins are second-most in the league. The Amerks sit in third place in the AHL's North Division standings two points ahead of the Toronto Marlies, who have five games in hand entering Saturday.

Despite just five regulation losses, which are second-fewest in the AHL, Belleville enters tonight with a 12-5-0-4 mark through 21 games. The Sens entered last night riding a five-game win streak.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST BELLEVILLE

Since Belleville entered the league ahead of the 2017-18 season, Rochester has an all-time record of 19-23-2 against the Senators. The Amerks have posted a .500 winning percentage or better in four of the first five seasons in the head-to-head series.

Last season, both teams outscored the opposition in the first period while being outscored in the second stanza. Rochester's 82 goals in the opening period were tied for most in the AHL compared to Belleville, which had the fourth-fewest (54).

The Senators roster includes a pair of familiar faces to Rochester with defenseman Jeremy Davies and veteran netminder Malcolm Subban.

Davies spent the last two seasons in an Amerks jersey, accumulating 58 points (23+35) over 132 games. He led all Rochester defensemen in scoring last season while finishing with career-highs in goals (12) and points (35). Subban, meanwhile, posted personal-bests in wins (20) and appearances (39) before helping the Amerks to the Eastern Conference Finals in 2023.

Tonight's matchup is the second between the two clubs in Belleville this season and just the third of eight overall. The Amerks opened and closed the scoring against the Senators, but were unable to close the gap as they saw their comeback fall short in a 3-2 season-opening loss back on Oct. 11 at The Blue Cross Arena. Rochester evened the season-series last night as they turned in a 7-4 victory at CAA Arena in the first of a back-to-back set between the two teams.

LAST TIME OUT

More than a dozen different skaters recorded at least one point and six produced a multi-point outing as the Amerks rolled to a 7-4 victory in the first of back-to-back meetings with the Senators Friday at CAA Arena.

Forward **Brett Murray** (2+0), **Lukas Rousek** (1+1), **Tyson Kozak** (1+1), **Kale Clague** (1+1), **Isak Rosén** (1+1) and **Konsta Helenius** (0+2) all registered multi-point efforts in the win while **Brendan Warren** also netted a goal. **Jack Rathbone**, **Ethan Prow**, **Riley Fiddler-Schultz**, **Zachary Metsa**, **Mason Jobst**, and **Viktor Neuchev** each recorded an assist.

Goaltender **Devon Levi** improved to 6-0-0 in his last six appearances as he made 27 saves in his ninth game with Rochester this season. The second-year goaltender has a .938 save percentage, 1.48 save percentage and two shutouts since Nov. 29. More impressively, Levi has held the opposition to three or fewer goals in all but seven of his 35 games with the club. He is 22-2-4 in those contests.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	22	9	11	20	0	2
Brett Murray	25	9	8	17	-3	8
Lukas Rousek	25	3	12	15	2	18

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	9	7-1-1	206	.916	2.08
Michael Houser	10	4-3-1	212	.898	2.68
Felix Sandström	8	3-4-1	166	.878	3.23

2024-25 SENATORS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Garrett Pilon	21	3	14	17	1	10
Jeremy Davies	21	2	15	17	1	4
Angus Crookshank	21	12	3	15	6	4

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Leevi Merilainen	12	7-1-2	239	.912	2.12
Mads Sogaard	3	0-1-1	56	.875	3.43
Malcolm Subban	9	5-3-1	191	.884	3.08

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Belleville Senators

Rochester Americans

12-5-0-4.....**Record**.....14-8-3-0

7-3-0-0.....**Last 10 Games**.....6-3-1-0

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

8-1-0-2.....**Road Record**.....10-3-1-0

0-0.....**Overtime Record**.....1-3

3-4.....**Shootout Record**.....3-0

5-2-0-3.....**Record When Scoring First**.....9-5-1-0

19.1% (17th).....**Power-Play**.....15.0% (T-26th)

81.4% (T-15th).....**Penalty Kill**.....82.1% (T-10th)

Dec. 13 vs ROC (7-4 L).....**Last Game**.....Dec. 13 @ BEL (7-4 W)

David Bell (2nd).....**Head Coach**.....Michael Leone (1st)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. BELLEVILLE

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 11	L	3-2	24-31	0-5	4-6
Dec. 13	W	7-4	34-31	1-2	2-4



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LEANING ON LEVI

Devon Levi, who has started nine of the last 11 games for Rochester, boasts a 7-1-1 record this season with a 2.08 goals-against-average that ranks 12th-best amongst all AHL goaltender, along with a .916 save percentage.

On the heels of his second shutout in eight days, the 22-year-old Levi has guided the Amerks to standings points in 28 of his 35 games with Rochester, dating back to his debut with the team last December. The Montreal, Quebec, native is also a perfect 3-0-0-0 in his career when playing in his home province of Quebec.

Last Saturday's win over the Charlotte Checkers marked the first time Levi faced 30 shots this season. The Sabres' prospect faced fewer than 30 shots in eight of his last nine starts this season, while seeing less than 30 pucks just seven times in 2023-24.

Levi, who could make his 10th start of the season tonight, carries a six-game win streak into the weekend, which matches a career-high. He hasn't allowed more than two goals in five of his six games and has stopped 136 of the 145 shots he's faced over that span good for a 1.48 goals-against average and a .938 save percentage.

Levi enters the weekend as one of only six AHL goaltenders with multiple shutouts this season. Only San Jose's Yaroslav Askarov and Calgary's Devin Cooley, a former teammate of Levi's last season in Rochester, have more shutouts.



KOZAK'S BACK, KOZAK SCORES

Forward **Tyson Kozak** has been reassigned to Rochester after making his NHL debut last week for the Buffalo Sabres.

The seventh-round draft pick from 2021 made his debut last Thursday against Winnipeg before scoring his first NHL goal two days later against Utah in what also turned out to be the first goal in Sabres franchise history against the NHL's newest club.

Kozak was the fourth different Amerk to earn a recall to the Sabres this season, joining forwards **Isak Rosen** and **Jiri Kulich** along with defenseman **Ryan Johnson**.

In 16 games with the Amerks, Kozak has already established a new career-high in goals with six, doing so in 25 fewer games than last season.

The Souris, Manitoba, native is in his third season playing for the red, white, and blue. In 112 games as an Amerk, Kozak has 16 goals and 30 points to go with 80 penalty minutes.



NO METSA'IN AROUND

Second-year defenseman **Zachary Metsa** enters the contest tied for fourth on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester's blueliners with 14 points (1+13) through his first 24 games.

Metsa has points in nine of his last 21 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 14 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 seventh amongst all AHL defensemen with 13 assists, five of which have come on the power-play.

MURRAY SPECIAL AND MR. 300

Seven of **Brett Murray's** nine 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 Belleville forward Angus Crookshank for the AHL lead in power-play goals and is also second on the Amerks in points with 17 (9+8) through 25 games.

Prior to scoring his first even strength goal of the season earlier this month 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 284 games as an Amerk, Murray is 16 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 64 games away from tying Don McSween for 20th on the franchise's all-time games played list (348).



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