

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Friday | **Dec. 20, 2024** | 7:05 PM | The Blue Cross Arena | AHL Game 409 | AHLTV on FloHockey, The Fan Rochester, CW 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 (15-9-3-0) look split the two-game series with the Syracuse Crunch (11-8-4-3) as the cross-town foes reconvene for a rematch tonight at Blue Cross Arena. All the action will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester and AHLTV on FloHockey. Additionally, the game will be televised live locally on CW Rochester.

The Amerks enter the weekend tied with Hershey for the most road wins (11) and are four points back of Cleveland for first place in the AHL's North Division standings. Rochester also has a four-point lead on Syracuse, but the Crunch have a game in hand.

Rochester, which entered Wednesday's contest with four straight wins against its intrastate rival, has earned at least one point in 17 of its last 23 games dating back to Oct. 23 overall.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST SYRACUSE

Rochester is ahead 2-1-0-0 in the season series after sweeping the Crunch in a home-and-home set between the two teams to close out the month of November before dropping a 5-2 decision on Wednesday.

The Amerks had won four straight meetings against the Crunch dating back to last season and blanked Syracuse twice over that span, including **Devon Levi's** first pro shutout in a 3-0 win back on Nov. 29.

Rochester owns a 3-28-5-2 record against the Crunch dating back to the start of 2016-17 regular season when they score two or fewer goals. On the other hand, when the Amerks score three or more goals over that same span, the club shows a 37-11-5-0 mark.

The season series has favored the visiting team as 11 of the last 15 meetings were won by the road team and eight of the 15 were one-goal games.

**Isak Rosén** (6+8) leads all Amerks dating back to last season against the Crunch as he and **Nikita Novikov** are the only two skaters to appear in all 15 contests. **Levi** is 4-3-2 with 209 saves in eight contests against Syracuse.

### LAST TIME OUT

Forwards **Brett Murray** and **Isak Rosén** both scored in the first and second periods, respectively, but the Amerks saw their four-game win streak halted in a 5-2 loss against the Crunch Wednesday at The Blue Cross Arena.

Both Murray and Rosén found the back of the net for the fifth time in their last three games and 12th overall on the campaign, which tops all Amerks skaters this season. **Nikita Novikov**, **Vsevolod Komarov**, **Jack Rathbone**, and **Tyson Kozak** all recorded one assist each.

Kozak (10) reached double figures in points for the third straight campaign as he has a career-best three-game assist and point streak. Novikov has five points (1+4) since Dec. 7 while Rathbone has chipped in one assist in three of his previous four contests.

Despite not extending his point streak to four games, defenseman **Kale Clague**, who is two goals away from matching a career-best, registered a game-high five shots alongside forward **Josh Dunne**.

Goaltender **Devon Levi** saw his personal six-game win streak come to an end after suffering just his second regulation loss of the season. He entered the week boasting a 7-1-1 mark through his first nine appearances with the Amerks. The netminder stopped 23 of the 27 shots he faced while being dealt his first defeat since Nov. 27.

### 2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	24	12	12	24	1	4
Brett Murray	27	12	8	20	-1	8
Lukas Rousek	27	3	14	17	3	18

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	10	7-2-1	229	.909	2.27
Michael Houser	10	4-3-1	212	.898	2.68
Felix Sandström	9	4-4-1	195	.886	3.08

### 2024-25 CRUNCH OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Derrick Pouliot	26	5	15	20	7	20
Dylan Duke	26	11	8	19	9	21
Niko Huuhtanen	26	8	10	18	10	33

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Brandon Halverson	15	8-3-4	387	.935	1.77
Matt Tomkins	11	3-5-3	298	.898	3.05

### 2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

**Syracuse Crunch** vs **Rochester Americans**

11-8-4-3	..... <b>Record</b> .....	15-9-3-0
5-3-2-3	..... <b>Home Record</b> .....	4-6-2-0
6-5-2-0	..... <b>Road Record</b> .....	11-3-1-0
4-2-3-1	..... <b>Last 10 Games</b> .....	7-3-0-0
1-4	..... <b>Overtime Record</b> .....	1-3
2-3	..... <b>Shootout Record</b> .....	3-0
7-1-2-0	..... <b>Record When Scoring First</b> .....	10-5-1-0
15.1% (26th)	..... <b>Power-Play</b> .....	16.4% (18th)
80.0% (22nd)	..... <b>Penalty Kill</b> .....	82.8% (15th)
Dec. 18 @ ROC (5-2 W)	..... <b>Last Game</b> .....	Dec. 18 vs SYR (5-2 L)
Joel Bouchard (2nd)	..... <b>Head Coach</b> .....	Michael Leone (1st)

### 2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. SYRACUSE

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Nov. 29	W	3-0	15-20	2-6	6-6
Nov. 30	SOW	3-2	47-15	1-7	5-6
Dec. 18	L	5-2	33-28	0-3	2-2



## MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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## LEANING ON LEVI

**Devon Levi**, who has started 10 of the last 13 games for Rochester, boasts a 7-2-1 record this season with a 2.27 goals-against-average that ranks eighth-best amongst all AHL goaltender, along with a .909 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 36 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.

The win over the Charlotte Checkers back on Dec. 7 was the first time Levi faced 30 shots this season. The Sabres' prospect faced fewer than 30 shots in nine of his last 10 starts this season, while seeing less than 30 pucks just seven times in 2023-24.

Levi, who returned following a brief one-game appearance with the Buffalo Sabres on Sunday, saw his six-game win streak snapped on Wednesday, which matched a career-high. He hasn't allowed more than two goals in five of his last seven games and stopped 159 of the 172 shots he's faced over that span, good for a 1.84 goals-against average and a .924 save percentage.

Levi enters the weekend as one of only 10 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 FINDING CONSISTENCY

Forward **Tyson Kozak** is back with the Amerks after making his long-awaited NHL debut for the Buffalo Sabres earlier this month.

The seventh-round draft pick from 2021 made his debut on Dec. 5 against Winnipeg before scoring his first NHL goal two day 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 fifth different Amerk to earn a recall to the Sabres this season, joining forwards **Isak Rosen** and **Jiri Kulich** along with defenseman **Ryan Johnson** and goaltender **Devon Levi**.

In 18 games with the Amerks, Kozak has already established a new career-high in goals with six, doing so in 24 fewer games than last season.

The Souris, Manitoba, native is in his third season playing for the red, white, and blue. In 114 games as an Amerk, Kozak has 16 goals and 32 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 blueliners with 16 points (1+15) through his first 27 games.

Metsa has points in 10 of his last 23 games, which included stringing together consecutive multi-point games for the first time in his career. He totaled five assists in that span, punctuated by a three-assist effort in the win over Hartford on Nov. 8.

The second-year blueliner's 16 points are currently seventh-most in league scoring by a defenseman, just two back of former teammate Jeremy Davies.

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 15 assists, five of which have come on the power-play.

## MURRAY SPECIAL AND MR. 300

Eight of **Brett Murray's** team-leading 12 goals this season have come on the power-play, including three which ended up being the game-winner.

The veteran forward currently leads the AHL in power-play goals and also ranks second on the Amerks in points with 20 (12+8) through 27 games. He comes into the weekend with goals in three straight games, including multi-goal efforts in back-to-back outings for the first time in his professional career. Murray has now reached the 20-point mark in all six seasons with the Amerks since joining Rochester ahead of the 2019-20 campaign.

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 286 games as an Amerk, Murray is 14 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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