

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Friday | **January 17, 2025** | 7:05 PM | Blue Cross Arena | AHL Game 563 | 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 (22-10-3-0) begin a stretch of three games in as many nights tonight when they welcome the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (18-14-5-1) back to Blue Cross Arena for the only time this season. The matchup is also the first of back-to-back meetings between the two teams this weekend as the scene shifts to PPL Center Saturday for a rematch in Allentown. Game time is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

The Amerks, who will close out the weekend on the road, enter the weekend with the most road wins (15) across the AHL and are tied with Laval for first place in the AHL's North Division standings with 47 points.

Rochester has scored a division-leading 121 goals, which are tied for third-most in the AHL. Additionally, the club has 31 points on the road this season and are one of three teams in the North Division with 20 or more wins.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST LEHIGH VALLEY

Dating back to the 2019-20 season, Amerks forward **Brett Murray** has recorded four points (3+2) in five career games against Lehigh Valley. He enters tonight on a four-game point streak versus the Phantoms.

Home ice has played a significant factor in the season series for both teams over the last seven years as the Amerks boast a 5-1-1-0 record against Lehigh Valley in Rochester dating back to the 2016-17 campaign. Conversely, the Amerks are 1-4-0-1 in Allentown in that same time frame, including each of the last two, where they have been outscored 10-5.

In each of the 16 contests between the two clubs dating back to Dec. 9, 2016, the winning team has scored at least three goals. Each team has logged one home shutout during that time, including a 6-0 win for the Amerks back on Jan. 17, 2024.

Rochester's shutout in the last meeting here in the Flower City came against current netminder Felix Sandström. Thirteen of the 18 skaters logged at least one point. Current Amerks **Mason Jobst**, **Viktor Neuchev** and **Tyson Kozak** all had one goal and one assist for a multi-point performance. **Brett Murray** scored a first-period goal while **Aleksandr Kisakov** (2), **Isak Rosén** (1), **Zachary Metsa** (1) and **Lukas Rousek** (1) all had assists.

LAST TIME OUT

Despite goals from **Riley Fiddler-Schultz** and **Brendan Warren**, the Amerks were unable to overcome a quick Syracuse start, falling 6-2 to the Crunch Saturday night at Upstate Medical University Arena.

Rochester saw its season-long seven-game win streak come to an end, along with the Amerks' eight-game road win streak getting snapped in the process. The eight-road game win streak was the Amerks' best in over 20 years.

Along with Fiddler-Schultz and Warren each earning a point, **Jack Rathbone** and **Josh Dunne** both recorded an assist while **Jagger Joshua** was credited with his first point since joining the Amerks. Rathbone, who has an assist in back-to-back games, reached the double digits in assists on the slate while Dunne has recorded an assist in four consecutive contests. Warren and Fiddler-Schultz both have eight goals on the campaign, which are career-best, are tied for third-most amongst all Rochester skaters this season.

Goaltender **Devon Levi** (12-3-1) suffered just his third regulation loss with Rochester of the season while allowing six goals, his most since making his Amerks debut in December of 2023.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	32	14	14	28	2	4
Brett Murray	35	16	11	27	5	12
Lukas Rousek	35	6	19	25	10	32

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA	
Devon Levi	16	12-3-1	388	.911	2.36
Felix Sandström	11	6-4-1	254	.894	2.96
Michael Houser*	10	4-3-1	212	.898	2.68

*=Currently with Jacksonville (ECHL)

2024-25 LEHIGH VALLEY OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Samu Tuomaala	34	8	17	25	-16	26
Olle Lycksell*	25	9	15	24	4	8
Jacob Gaucher	38	14	9	23	-2	37

GOALTENDER

GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA	
Parker Gahagen	8	4-1-1	181	.896	2.91
Eetu Makiniemi	5	3-0-1	124	.899	3.03
Cal Petersen	24	10-11-3	546	.881	3.30

*=Currently with Philadelphia (NHL)

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Lehigh Valley Phantoms vs Rochester Americans

18-14-5-1	Record	22-10-3-0
10-5-2-1	Home Record	7-6-2-0
8-9-3-0	Road Record	15-4-1-0
6-3-1-0	Last 10 Games	8-2-0-0
7-5	Overtime Record	2-3
1-1	Shootout Record	3-0
10-4-3-0	Record When Scoring First	13-5-1-0
17.9% (12th)	Power-Play	15.8% (25th)
83.2% (16th)	Penalty Kill	82.5% (T-20th)
Jan. 15 vs BEL (3-2 W)	Last Game	Jan. 10 @ SYR (6-2 L)
Ian Laperrière (4th)	Head Coach	Michael Leone (1st)

2023-24 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. LEHIGH VALLEY

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Nov. 26	L	5-4	15-49	2-4	2-5
Jan. 17	W	6-0	47-15	1-5	5-5



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LEANING ON THE ALL-STAR LEVI

Devon Levi, who has started 16 of the last 22 games, boasts a 12-2-1 record this season with a 2.36 goals-against-average that ranks eighth-best amongst all qualified AHL goaltenders. He's also tied for fifth in wins (12).

On the heels of his second shutout in eight days, the 23-year-old Levi has guided the Amerks to standings points in 33 of his 42 games with Rochester, dating back to his debut with the team last December. He is 15-3-2 in 19 career road games with Rochester, which includes a near-perfect 7-1-0 mark this season.

Last Saturday's loss was the just the fourth time Levi faced 30 or more shots this season. The Sabres' prospect has faced fewer than 30 shots in 12 of his last 16 starts this season, while seeing less than 30 pucks just seven times in 2023-24.

Levi, who was named to the 2025 AHL All-Star roster last week, saw his six-game win streak snapped on Dec. 18, which matched a career-high. He hasn't allowed more than two goals in nine of his last 13 games and has stopped 296 of the 323 shots he's faced over that span, good for a 2.15 goals-against average and a .919 save percentage.

Levi enters the weekend as one of only 14 AHL goaltenders with multiple shutouts this season and one of just four netminders with multiple assists, trailing only former Buffalo Sabres draft pick and Lehigh Valley netminder Cal Petersen, who leads all AHL goaltenders with three points this season.



BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

It's been exactly a year to the day since the last time Lehigh Valley visited Rochester. Felix Sandström played in that game, but the Swedish-born goaltender was in a Phantoms jersey. Now, the first-year Amerk will face the team he played with for parts of the last six seasons.

Sandström, 28, was drafted by the Philadelphia Flyers in 2015 and spent his first six professional seasons in North America with the organization.

Through 88 games with Lehigh Valley, the veteran goaltender posted a 39-29-13 record with two shutouts.

Sandström enters the weekend having won his last three starts. In his first season with Rochester, the 10-year pro has posted a 6-4-1 record and will make his 100th AHL appearance in his next start.



NO METSA'IN AROUND

Defenseman **Zachary Metsa** enters the contest fourth on the team in scoring and first amongst all Rochester blueliners with 24 points (2+22) while being one of only two Amerks defensemen to appear in all 34 games.

Metsa has points in 17 of his 34 games, which included stringing together an assist in five straight games for the first time in his career. He's totaled eight points (1+7) since Dec. 22, punctuated by his second three-assist effort of the campaign in the win over Springfield back on Jan. 3.

The second-year blueliner's 24 points are fifth-most in league scoring by a defenseman, just six back of Charlotte's Trevor Carrick.

Metsa, who captained Quinnipiac University to its first-ever NCAA National Championship in 2023, is also fourth amongst all AHL defensemen with 22 assists.

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.

MURRAY SPECIAL AND MR. 300

Nine of **Brett Murray's** team-leading 16 goals this season have come on the power-play, including four 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 with 27 points (16+11) through 35 games. He comes into the weekend with points in 10 of his last 11 games, including multi-goal efforts in back-to-back outings and goals in three straight games for the first time in his professional career. Murray has 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 in December 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 new career-high (9) through the first 31 games of this season.

Coming into tonight having played 294 games as an Amerk, Murray is six 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 54 games away from tying Don McSween for 20th on the franchise's all-time games played list (348).



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