

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Sat. | Mar. 29, 2025 | 7:00 PM | Upstate Medical University Arena | AHL Game 1015 | 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 (38-18-3-3) look to make it four straight wins tonight as they open a home-and-home series against the Syracuse Crunch (29-20-8-4) at Upstate Medical University Arena. The game will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Saturday night, as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

The Amerks come into the matchup having earned at least one point in 14 of their last 20 games dating back to Jan. 25 and sit six points behind Laval for first place in the North Division with 82 points. Rochester is also fourth overall in the AHL entering tonight's matchup.

Rochester has scored the second-most goals in the Eastern Conference (214) and is one of only two North Division teams (Laval) with 200 or more goals while also ranking second in the league in road wins (21).

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST SYRACUSE

Rochester is ahead 6-3-0-1 in the season series, which includes sweeping the Crunch in a home-and-home to close out the month of November, splitting a two-game set before Christmas and turning in a pair of wins heading into the All-Star break.

Prior to the 5-2 defeat back on Dec. 18, 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 3-30-5-2 record against the Crunch dating back to the start of the 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 41-11-5-1 mark.

Isak Rosén (9+11) leads all Amerks in scoring against the Crunch dating back to last season, having appeared in all 22 games in that span. Rosén, who capped the 4-3 come-from-behind overtime win back on Feb. 1, has tallied two of his five game-winning goals against the Crunch this season.

Goaltender **Devon Levi** is 6-4-3 with 347 saves in 13 career games against Syracuse while also owning a .908 save percentage and a 2.68 goals-against-average.

Tonight is the second of three meetings between the two clubs from March 22 to the 30, which includes a home-and-home set this weekend.

LAST TIME OUT

Devon Levi made 28 saves to secure his league-leading sixth shutout as the Amerks blanked Bridgeport by a 6-0 final Friday at Blue Cross Arena.

The Amerks have won three straight to improve to 38-18-3-3 on the season, sitting six points back of Laval for first in the North Division and inching closer locking up a playoff spot for the sixth straight year.

A dozen different Amerks registered points on the night, with **Zachary Metsa** scoring the opening goal 1:33 into the contest. That was followed with goals from **Mason Jobst**, **Riley Fiddler-Schultz**, **Noah Östlund**, **Josh Dunne**, and **Graham Slaggert** as six different goal-scorers sparked the win.

Levi stopped all 28 shots he faced to not only secure his 22nd win of the season, but also his AHL-best sixth shutout of the season. The second-year pro is the first Amerks netminder to lead the AHL in shutouts since **Martin Biron** in 1998-99.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén*	53	27	24	51	9	10
Lukas Rousek	60	6	36	42	17	16
Brett Murray	56	23	17	40	11	25

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	35	22-10-3	867	.918	2.21
Felix Sandström	16	11-4-1	386	.902	2.77
Michael Houser	14	5-4-2	292	.893	2.83

*=Currently with Buffalo (NHL)

2024-25 SYRACUSE OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Derrick Pouliot	60	7	41	48	10	30
Conor Sheary	49	17	30	47	10	21
Dylan Duke	49	16	17	41	11	41

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Brandon Halverson	35	17-9-8	817	.915	2.25
Matt Tomkins	26	12-10-4	637	.907	2.55

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Syracuse Crunch Rochester Americans

29-20-8-4.....**Record**.....38-18-3-3

13-9-4-4.....**Home Record**.....15-11-2-1

15-11-4-0.....**Road Record**.....21-8-1-2

7-2-1-0.....**Last 10 Games**.....4-4-0-2

2-8.....**Overtime Record**.....4-3

3-4.....**Shootout Record**.....5-3

20-2-4-2.....**Record When Scoring First**.....22-9-1-1

16.8% (T-24th).....**Power-Play**.....18.7% (15th)

82.3% (16th).....**Penalty Kill**.....85.6% (2nd)

Mar. 28 vs UTC (1-0 W).....**Last Game**.....Mar. 28 vs BRI (6-0 W)

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
Dec. 20	W	3-1	26-23	0-5	5-5
Jan. 11	L	6-2	30-35	0-0	3-6
Jan. 31	W	4-1	23-28	1-2	3-3
Feb. 1	OTW	4-3	23-39	1-4	4-4
Feb. 14	L	5-1	24-28	0-4	3-3
Mar. 1	SOL	4-3	17-37	1-5	6-7
Mar. 22	W	4-1	33-17	2-7	3-3



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PLAYOFF PICTURE

It's that time of year where playoff primer's are made, and fortunately for the Amerks, it doesn't appear as if they'll be down to the wire for clinching a spot. Now that's not to say Rochester won't be battling for playoff positioning until the very end of the 2024-25 regular season, but to get an "X" next to their name and a confirmed spot in the Calder Cup Playoffs, the team is staring at a magic number of 7.

At this point, Utica is the only team that cannot mathematically catch Rochester in the standings. Following Friday's win, the Amerks are at 82 points with 10 games remaining. Two teams from the North Division will not qualify for the playoffs. The next club of focus for the Amerks would be the Belleville Senators, who have 68 points and are sixth in the division.

In simple terms, Rochester's magic number to clinch a playoff berth is seven. That number will decrease by the Amerks gaining points and/or Belleville losing points. For example, the Senators host the Toronto Marlies Saturday while the Amerks face Syracuse. If the Amerks win and Belleville wins, the magic number will shrink to five. If the Amerks win and Belleville loses in overtime or a shootout, the number drops to four, and a Rochester win and Sens loss in regulation can decrease the number down to three.

While Rochester did its part by securing a win Friday, their division adversaries were sure to pick up points as well, with Belleville and Syracuse both winning, while Cleveland earned a point by going beyond regulation. Because of this, the Amerks can trim their magic number down to one point by the end of the weekend and could clinch as soon as Wednesday, April 2.

ENTER SANDMAN

Devon Levi hasn't been the only Amerks goaltender to put on a solid 2024-25 season, with veteran **Felix Sandström** backing up and standing tall when called upon all season. Last Saturday, the 10th-year pro returned to the crease for his first game in 35 days, turning aside 16 of 17 Syracuse shots to pick up the win.

That win was Sandström's 11th of the season and eighth consecutive victory. The Gavle, Sweden, native owns an 11-4-1 record as an Amerk and enters Friday having not lost a game in 112 days, with his most recent loss coming Dec. 6, 2024 in Charlotte. Additionally, each of Sandström's eight wins during this streak have come on the road. His last appearance on home ice was Nov. 23rd, 2024.

The 28-year-old was drafted by Philadelphia in the third round 10 years ago in 2015. He appeared in 30 NHL games over four seasons with the Flyers.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Earlier in the week, the Buffalo Sabres signed forward **Tyler Kopff** to a two-year entry-level contract that begins in 2025-26. In the interim, the 6-foot-4, 215-pound forward out of Brown University will join Rochester on an Amateur Tryout contract (ATO) for the remainder of the current season.

Kopff, 21, recently completed his sophomore season at Brown University, where he led the team with 19 assists and finished second in scoring with 28 points (9+19) in 32 games for the Brown Bears. For his efforts, he earned Third Team All-ECAC honors and was one of only two players to garner First Team All-Ivy accolades for the 2024-25 season.

In ECAC conference games, the 6-foot-4, 215-pound forward compiled 22 points in 22 games to rank fifth in the conference in scoring. His 15 league assists also ranked fifth in the ECAC. He was also tied for the conference lead with five power-play goals.

His 28 points finished tied for 17th in the ECAC and his 0.90 points per game ranked 11th in the ECAC and 70th in the NCAA.

Prior to joining Brown, the Ridgewood, New Jersey, native played two seasons of junior hockey with the Coquitlam Express of the BCHL.



ROUSEK REACHES 200

Amerks forward **Lukas Rousek** reached a milestone last Saturday in Syracuse as the fourth-year pro skated in his 200th game as an Amerk. The Ostrov nad Ohri, Czechia, native has been with the Buffalo Sabres organization for six years, being drafted by the blue and gold in 2019 with the 160th overall pick in the sixth round.

In addition to his time as an Amerk, Rousek has skated in 17 NHL games with the Sabres, including 15 contests last season.

This season, the seasoned pro is fourth in team scoring, churning out six goals and 39 points. Rousek leads all forwards on the team with 33 assists and is 15th amongst all AHL forwards in that category.

Rousek has collected four assists over his last six games. In 202 career games as an Amerk, the winger has amassed 104 points (33+107). He is two points shy of matching his season totals from last year, and in 2022-23, Rousek led Rochester in scoring with his best season to date, collecting 56 points (16+40).



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