

# ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Saturday | April 5, 2025 | 7:00 PM | CAA Arena | AHL Game 1050 | 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 (40-19-4-3) and Belleville Senators (31-25-4-5) meet for the second time in as many nights the North Division rivals wrap up a weekend set at CAA Arena. The divisional matchup will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester, beginning at 7:00 p.m. tonight, as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

The Amerks come into the contest having earned at least one point in six of their last seven games and 20 of their last 27 dating back to Jan. 25, sitting five points behind Laval for first place in the North Division with 85 points. This season is Rochester's first 40-win season since 2018-19.

Rochester has scored the second-most goals in the Eastern Conference (224) and is one of only two North Division teams (Laval) with 200 or more goals while also sitting tied for second in the league in road wins (22).

### HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST BELLEVILLE

Saturday is the seventh of eight meetings in the season series against Ottawa's AHL affiliate and the second of two on the weekend. The Amerks have gone 4-2-0-0 thus far against Belleville, which included four straight victories prior to last night and have won five of seven dating back to last season.

Rochester swept the Sens at CAA Arena back in December when they outscored Belleville 15-6 in back-to-back meetings before earning a 4-0 win on Feb. 7 and a 6-3 victory on Feb. 21 in the last two contests between the two clubs entering play on Friday.

Forward **Isak Rosén** (3+6) and **Konsta Helenius** (2+7) both lead all players in the season series with nine points while defenseman **Kale Clague** (3+5) is first amongst all blueliners with eight points through the first six games this season.

**Brett Murray** leads all skaters with five goals in six games opposite the Sens this season after scoring twice in back-to-back games for the first time in his pro career. **Zachary Metsa** (1+4) owns a plus-6 on-ice rating, which is best amongst all skaters this season.

The Senators roster includes a pair of familiar faces to Rochester with Jeremy Davies and Malcolm Subban. Davies spent the last two seasons in an Amerks jersey, accumulating 58 points (23+35) over 132 games Subban, meanwhile, posted personal-bests in wins (20) and appearances (39) before helping the Amerks to the Eastern Conference Finals in 2023.

### LAST TIME OUT

The Amerks were unable to generate any offense as they dropped the first game of the weekend set with the Senators by a 5-0 score Friday night at CAA Arena.

The shutout loss, Rochester's third on the road this season, was also the first against Belleville outside the Flower City since Feb. 7, 2018.

Defenseman **Jack Rathbone**, who paces the club with a career-best 160 shots on the campaign, finished with five to lead all Rochester skaters. Forward **Anton Wahlberg**, who entered Friday with a pair of multi-point efforts over his last five games, topped all Amerk forwards with three shots.

Goaltender **Felix Sandström** saw his personal-best nine-game win streak come to a halt as suffered his first loss since Dec. 6, 2024 which also was on a night when the team got shutout. Sandström stopped 23 of he the 26 shots he faced in his 18th appearance of the slate.

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

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	57	28	27	55	9	10
Brett Murray	60	25	19	44	12	25
Zachary Metsa	64	6	37	43	16	16

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	37	23-10-4	914	.918	2.22
Felix Sandström	18	12-5-1	432	.898	2.83
Michael Houser	14	5-4-2	292	.893	2.83

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

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Stephen Halliday	64	16	28	44	-19	41
Jeremy Davies	65	11	32	43	11	40
Angus Crookshank	60	22	18	40	2	34

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Leevi Merilainen	32	15-10-4	712	.913	2.36
Malcolm Subban	22	11-6-3	458	.884	3.01
Michael Simpson	10	4-3-0	190	.880	3.45
Mads Sogaard	8	0-5-1	133	.858	3.69

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

#### Belleville Senators

#### Rochester Americans

31-25-4-5.....**Record**.....40-19-4-3

18-11-2-3.....**Home Record**.....18-10-3-1

13-14-2-2.....**Road Record**.....22-9-1-2

5-4-0-1.....**Last 10 Games**.....6-3-1-0

4-4.....**Overtime Record**.....4-4

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

15-4-3-4.....**Record When Scoring First**.....24-9-2-1

15.8% (29th).....**Power-Play**.....18.3% (15th)

77.4% (29th).....**Penalty Kill**.....85.8% (2nd)

Apr. 4 vs ROC (5-0 W).....**Last Game**.....Apr. 4 @ BEL (5-0 L)

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
Dec. 14	W	8-2	34-31	3-6	2-2
Feb. 7	W	4-0	26-29	0-3	4-4
Feb. 21	W	6-3	28-31	5-6	3-4
Apr. 4	L	5-0	20-28	0-3	2-3



## MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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## AMERKS PUNCH PLAYOFF TICKET

With Wednesday's 4-2 win over Springfield, Rochester officially clinched a Calder Cup Playoff berth for the sixth straight and the 50th time in the 69-year history of the franchise.

The Amerks became just the second North Division to punch their ticket to the postseason, joining the Laval Rocket.

By way of clinching, **Michael Leone** became the third straight bench boss to lead his team to the postseason in his first year as head coach, joining **Seth Appert** and **Chris Taylor**.

The victory was the 40th of the season, marking Rochester's first 40-win campaign since 2018-19. Leone became the first head coach to reach the 40-win mark in his first season since Hall of Famer **Randy Cunneyworth** in 2000-01.

The Amerks are 48-43 all-time over 91 playoff series.

## 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. On March 22, 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.

Last Saturday's win in Syracuse was Sandström's 12th of the season and ninth consecutive victory. The Gavle, Sweden, native owns a 12-5-1 record as an Amerk, and before Friday's 5-0 loss, entered the month of April having not lost a game in 119 days, with his most recent loss coming Dec. 6, 2024 in Charlotte. Additionally, each of Sandström's nine wins during the streak came on the road. His last appearance on home ice was Nov. 23, 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

Last 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.

On Wednesday night, Kopff made his professional debut and became 20th different forward to appear in a game this season for Rochester. The 6-foot-4, 215-pound forward is also the seventh rookie to don the crest in 2024-25.

Kopff is the second Brown University product in the Sabres organization as he joins current Sabres forward Sam Lafferty, who spent four seasons with the Brown Bears from 2014-2018.



## MARCH MADNESS FOR ÖSTLUND

**Noah Östlund** was among Rochester's top point-producers in the month of February and March, which earned him his first career NHL recall on Friday morning. The rookie forward has tallied 19 goals and 36 points on the season, with 27 of his points (16+11) coming since Feb. 1. He's also found the back of the net in each of his last six games, which began with his first AHL hat trick on March 22 at Syracuse.

Östlund, who on Monday was named the Player of the Week for the period ending March 30, was also named the league's Rookie of the Month as he recorded nine goals and five assists for 14 points in 11 games for Rochester in March.

A first-round choice (16th overall) by Buffalo in the 2022 NHL Draft, Östlund has totaled 19 goals and 17 assists for 36 points in 44 games with the Amerks this season. The 21-year-old native of Stockholm, Sweden, leads all AHL rookies in plus/minus rating at plus-20, and his 15 goals since the All-Star break are fourth-most in the entire league.

Östlund's recent success earned the rookie forward his first-ever call-up to the Buffalo Sabres on Friday. He's expected to make his NHL debut tonight at home against Tampa Bay, replacing the injured **Tyson Kozak**, who also made his NHL debut with the Sabres earlier this season.



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