

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

Friday | April 25, 2025 | 7:05 PM | The Blue Cross Arena | North Division Semifinals, Game 1 | AHL TV, 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 and Syracuse Crunch extend their rivalry into the postseason as the North Division rivals open the 2025 Calder Cup Playoffs tonight in Game 1 of the best-of-five North Division Semifinals at The Blue Cross Arena. Game time is slated for a 7:05 p.m. start and will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV.

CLOSING THE SEASON

The Amerks closed out the regular season with a 3-2 overtime loss to the Toronto Marlies, ultimately capping the year in second place in the AHL's North Division for the second straight year and tied for fifth overall in the league with a 42-22-5-3 record and 92 points.

Rochester scored the third-most goals in the Eastern Conference (238) and were one of only two North Division teams (Laval) with 210 or more goals on the season.

The Amerks allowed less than 200 goals for just the sixth time in team history. The club's 191 goals marked the fourth-fewest since the team's inception in 1956. Additionally, Rochester finished the campaign with 23 road wins, which ranked tied for second-most in the AHL while the 43 victories overall were the most since the team had 46 during the 2018-19 slate.

PLAYOFF TICKET PUNCHED

The Amerks secured their sixth straight playoff berth by way of a 4-2 win over Springfield on April 2, marking the team's 50th appearance in the 69-year history of the franchise.

The Amerks have qualified for the playoffs in each of the last six years (dating back to the 2017-18 campaign), including all three seasons under former head coach and current Buffalo Sabres assistant coach **Seth Appert**.

AMERKS DRAW SYRACUSE TO BEGIN POSTSEASON

After more than 338 all-time meetings during regular-season play, the second-round series against the Crunch will mark only the seventh meeting in the postseason between the two teams and the third straight year.

Tonight is the first game in the playoffs between the two clubs since they went five games last spring, which featured a pair of overtime games in addition to a double overtime contest. Prior to that, the Amerks claimed three of the previous four playoff series dating back to 1996, which included a reverse sweep by Rochester in 2023.

Rochester is 169-149-20 all-time against Syracuse, which includes a 7-3-1-1 mark this season versus the Crunch. Seven of the 12 matchups between the two teams were won by the visiting team and four of 12 were decided beyond regulation.

The Crunch are heading to the Calder Cup Playoffs for the 19th time since joining the league prior to the 1994-95 season and have qualified for the last seven Calder Cup Playoffs since 2016-17.

PLAYOFFS OVER THE YEARS

Rochester has qualified for the postseason in each of the last six seasons dating back to the 2017-18 campaign and 50 times in the 69-year history of the franchise.

Rochester has been a part of 91 playoff series over the years, in which it has compiled a 227-219 record in 446 games during that time.

2025 AMERKS PLAYOFF SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
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GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
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2025 CRUNCH PLAYOFF SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
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GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
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SERIES SCHEDULE - NORTH DIVISION SEMIFINALS

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
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Game 1 - Apr 25

Game 2 - Apr 27

Game 3 - May 1

Game 4 - May 3*

Game 5 - May 9*

*If necessary

AMERKS CALDER CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

1995-96 vs. Portland

1986-87 vs. Sherbrooke

1982-83 vs. Maine

1967-68 vs. Quebec

1965-66 vs. Cleveland

1964-65 vs. Hershey



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HEAD-TO-HEAD SERIES SNAPSHOT

With tonight's playoff opener marking the 13th meeting overall in 2024-25, the Amerks and Crunch have been fairly acquainted all season long. Rochester finished with a 7-3-1-1 record against Syracuse, claiming points in six of the seven matchups since Jan. 31.

Rochester owns a 3-31-5-2 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 42-11-5-1 mark.

Rochester tallied 13 goals in the opening frame while limiting Syracuse to seven for the second straight year, however, the Crunch outscored the Amerks 24-20 in the final 40 minutes of regulation.

Rochester went 8-for-46 (17.4%) on the power-play this season against the Crunch while also showing an 90.6% success rate on the penalty kill (48-for-53).

Seven of the 12 matchups between the two teams this season were won by the visiting team and four of 12 were decided beyond regulation.

Dating back to the 2018-19 campaign, Rochester has finished with a .500 winning percentage against each season with the exception of the 2021-22 slate when the club went 4-6-2-0.

Forwards **Noah Östlund** (8+5) and **Isak Rosén** (7+4) both finished with seven goals and double figures in points in the season-series with the Crunch. Along with the Swedish duo combining for 23 points, **Brett Murray** tallied six goals and three assists against Syracuse while **Mason Jobst** tallied six points (2+4) in 12 games opposite the Crunch.

After spending nearly all season with the Buffalo Sabres, **Jiri Kulich** returns to Rochester ahead of the playoffs. The Czechia native has posted 11 goals and seven assists for 18 points to go with 83 shots in 27 career regular-season games versus Syracuse.

Amerks goaltenders **Devon Levi** showed a 4-3-2 mark in nine appearances against the Crunch this season whereas **Felix Sandström** posted a perfect 3-0-0 mark. In Levi's regular-season career versus Syracuse, he boasts a 6-4-4 record along with a shutout. During the 2024 Calder Cup Playoffs, Levi, who went 2-3, stopped 60 of the 62 shots he faced in a double overtime contest during Game 3 of the North Division Semifinals.

A SWEDE FIRST SEASON 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. The rookie forward finished his rookie season tallying 19 goals and 36 points on the season, with 27 of his points (16+11) coming since Feb. 1. He also found the back of the net in six of his last seven games, a streak that began with his first AHL hat trick on March 22 at Syracuse. Östlund appeared in eight games with the Sabres, registering four shots while averaging 10:33 of ice time.

Östlund, who 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 totaled 19 goals and 17 assists for 36 points in 45 games with the Amerks this season. The 21-year-old native of Stockholm, Sweden, was second amongst all AHL rookies in plus/minus rating at plus-20, and his 15 goals since the All-Star break were fourth-most in the entire league.

Östlund's success earned the rookie forward his first-ever call-up to the Sabres. He made his NHL debut at home against Tampa Bay on April 5. He became the second Amerks forward this season to make his NHL debut with the Sabres, joining **Tyson Kozak**, who had five points in 21 appearances with the big club since making his debut Dec. 5.

2024-25 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	61	28	27	55	4	10
Brett Murray	66	27	22	49	14	29
Zachary Metsa	69	7	39	46	17	16

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	42	25-13-4	1,037	.919	2.20
Felix Sandström	19	12-5-2	461	.899	2.86
Michael Houser	14	5-4-2	292	.893	2.83

2024-25 CRUNCH OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Conor Sheary	59	20	41	61	15	23
Derrick Pouliot	70	7	46	53	10	36
Dylan Duke	65	20	20	40	11	47

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Brandon Halverson	43	22-11-8	966	.915	2.22
Matt Tomkins	26	12-10-4	637	.907	2.55
Ryan Fanti	7	3-1-0	140	.946	1.45

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Syracuse Crunch Rochester Americans

37-23-8-4.....	Record	42-22-5-3
16-12-4-4.....	Home Record	19-13-3-1
21-11-4-0.....	Road Record	23-9-2-2
8-2-0-0.....	Last 10 Games	4-4-2-0
5-8.....	Overtime Record	4-5
4-4.....	Shootout Record	5-3
23-3-4-2.....	Record When Scoring First	26-11-3-1
17.5% (21st).....	Power-Play	18.4% (15th)
83.6% (9th).....	Penalty Kill	85.2% (3rd)
2.86 (T-21st).....	Goals-For Per Game	3.31 (7th)
2.47 (T-1st).....	Goals-Against Per Game	2.65 (7th)
Joel Bouchard (2nd).....	Head Coach	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
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
Mar. 29	W	4-2	25-25	0-2	4-5
Mar. 30	OTL	3-2	27-24	0-2	3-3



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CENTURY MARK AND COUNTING

Brett Murray scored his 100th goal as an Amerk on April 16, becoming the 20th player in franchise history to reach triple-digit goal totals.

The Bolton, Ontario, native is one more goal away from matching former player and coach **Randy Cunneyworth** (101) on the franchise's all-time goals list, and needs two tallies to reach **Ken Priestley** (102) for 18th all-time in regular season goals for the Amerks.

Murray had a career season with a personal-best 27 goals, ranking second on the team behind only **Isak Rosén**. He was one of three Amerks named to this year's AHL All-Stars Classic.

Murray also matched his career-best of 49 points (23+26) from 2022-23. The sixth-year pro logged nine points (4+5) over his last 10 games.

Murray was one point away from joining **Rosén** to reach the 50-point mark. Prior to this season, Rochester had at least two players finish with 50 or more points in each season since the 2017-18 campaign excluding the COVID-shortened 2020-21 season.

In 68 career regular season games versus the Crunch, Murray has produced 27 goals to go with 21 assists. The 6-foot-5, 228-pound forward shows five points (2+3) in six postseason contests against Syracuse.

Buffalo's fourth-round selection (99th overall) in the 2016 NHL Draft, the veteran forward has spent his entire six-year pro career in the Buffalo Sabres organization. In 325 career games as an Amerk, Murray has amassed 206 points on 100 goals and 106 assists while also adding 17 points (8+9) in 26 postseason appearances.

GETTING THE JOB(ST) DUNNE

Josh Dunne returns to the Calder Cup Playoffs after leading all Cleveland Monsters with seven goals and tied for second in points (11) during the 2024 postseason, which ended in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference Finals.

In Cleveland's three-game sweep against the Crunch last spring, Dunne, who established a career-high 19 assists in 68 games with Rochester this season, scored one goal and notched an assist.

Captain **Mason Jobst** finished off the 2024-25 regular season by reaching the 30-point mark for the third straight campaign. The Ohio State University product ranked fourth amongst Amerks in goals (18) while logging the sixth-most points (37) while his 19 assists were tied for seventh in 70 games.

Jobst totaled three points (1+2) during the North Division Semifinals last spring after posting two goals and two assists during Rochester's reverse sweep over the Crunch in 2023. The Speedway, Indiana, native has recorded 16 points (4+12) in 19 career AHL postseason contests.

LEONE LEADS CLUB TO PLAYOFFS

By way of clinching a playoff spot, **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**.

At age 37, Leone is the second-youngest active head coach in the AHL behind Trent Vogelhuber of the Cleveland Monsters, who also began their playoff run last night against the Toronto Marlies.

Named the 34th head coach in the 69-year history of the franchise prior to the start of 2024-25, Leone embarked on his AHL head coaching career following two seasons as head coach and general manager of the Green Bay Gamblers (USHL).

With the Amerks finishing the season with 42 wins, 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. Cunneyworth later went on to become the all-time winningest coach in franchise history with 340 career wins over nine seasons with Rochester.

AMERKS-CRUNCH 2024-25 SEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

ROCHESTER

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Noah Östlund	9	7	5	12	4	3
Isak Rosen	10	7	4	11	6	3
Brett Murray	10	6	3	9	4	6
Mason Jobst	12	2	4	6	11	3

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Felix Sandström	3	3-0-0	6	.926	2.00
Devon Levi	9	4-3-2	24	.898	2.63

SYRACUSE

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
Conor Sheary	11	5	3	8	5	-2
Max Crozier	8	0	7	7	17	-1
Derrick Pouliot	12	0	7	7	6	0
Dylan Duke	11	6	0	6	17	-1

GOALTENDER

	GP	REC	GA	SV%	GAA
Ryan Fanti	3	0-1-0	4	.938	1.74
Matt Tomkins	3	2-0-1	6	.931	1.90
Brandon Halverson	8	3-4-1	21	.876	3.21

SCOUTING THE CRUNCH

The Crunch finished third in the North Division and have finished among the top three teams seven times dating back to the 2016-17 season. Syracuse completed its 31st season in the AHL and also reached the second round of the postseason for the seventh straight year dating back to 2016-17.

Forward **Conor Sheary**, a two-time Stanley Cup Champion with the Pittsburgh Penguins, topped all Syracuse skaters with 61 points and tied for first with 20 goals in 59 games. The Melrose, Massachusetts, native began the campaign with the Tampa Bay Lightning before being assigned to the Crunch at the beginning of November.

Defenseman **Derrick Pouliot**, who signed a two-way contract with the parent Tampa Bay Lightning prior to the start of the 2024-25 season, finished the year topping all AHL defensemen with 46 assists while his 53 points ranked second.

Sheary (5+3) and Pouliot (0+7), both whom won the Stanley Cup during the 2015-16 slate, combined for 15 points in 23 games against the Amerks this season.

Brandon Halverson and Matt Tomkins were the co-recipients of the Harry "Hap" Holmes Memorial Award for the 2024-25 season with Cayden Primeau and Connor Hughes of the Laval Rocket. It is the second Holmes Award for Syracuse in the last seven seasons.

Halverson continued his career resurgence by going 22-11-8 in 43 appearances for the Crunch, posting a 2.22 goals-against average, a .915 save percentage and five shutouts. The ninth-year pro signed a two-year contract with Tampa Bay on Feb. 3 and made the first start of his NHL career for the Lightning on Mar. 22. Tomkins played 26 games for the Crunch, posting a record of 12-10-4, a 2.55 GAA, a .907 save percentage and three shutouts.

Halverson faced Rochester eight times during the 2024-25 slate, going 3-4-1 and showing a 3.21 goals-against-average and a .876 save percentage. Tomkins, meanwhile, went 2-0-1 with a 1.90 goals-against average and a .931 save percentage.



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