

ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY CLUB

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

Friday | **Oct. 10, 2025** | 7:05 PM | Blue Cross Arena | AHL Game 6 | 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](https://amerks.com/Media) | @AmerksPR



vs



TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans usher in their 70th AHL season – and 44th as the primary affiliate of the Buffalo Sabres – tonight at 7:05 p.m. when they host the Toronto Marlies in the 2025-26 home opener at The Blue Cross Arena.

The Amerks and Marlies, who enter their third full season under the direction of head coach John Gruden, will meet a total of six times during the 2025-26 regular season, including a rematch at Coca-Cola Coliseum in Toronto Saturday afternoon. Following this weekend's home-and-home set, the North Division rivals will remain idle until after the new year when Rochester returns north of the border on Jan. 3.

After tonight, the Amerks will not play host to the Marlies until the second-to-last month of the season on March 13 and 27 at 7:05 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RESULTS AGAINST TORONTO

After earning a point in five of the six meetings (4-1-0-1) during the 2023-24 season, Rochester went 1-3-2-0 in 2024-25.

The Amerks boast a 5-7-0-2 record against Toronto over the last six seasons in Rochester, which included earning five out of a possible six points on home ice in 2023-24. Overall, Rochester owns a 11-11-2-2 mark in the head-to-head series since the 2020-21 campaign.

Since the start of the 2023-24 campaign, there have been five games decided beyond regulation, including the two most recent get-togethers between the two teams dating back to April 19, 2025.

Five of the last eight games between the two clubs dating back to 2023-24 have been one-goal game affairs while the other two have been a two-goal difference.

In 31 of the last 48 meetings between the two teams dating back to the 2016-17 season, the team that scored first has come away with the victory.

OPENING THE SEASON

This weekend's opponent with Toronto marks the second time in the last five seasons Rochester has began its campaign with a home-and-home versus the Marlies. Additionally, it will be the third time the Amerks have had a home-and-home with the Marlies in the first month of the slate.

Rochester's first 11 games of the season will come against North Division opponents, with seven coming outside the Flower City.

The Amerks enter the new season with a 34-28-7 all-time record in season-opening games and have outscored the opposition 253-237 dating back to when the puck first dropped on Rochester's inaugural season in 1956.

Rochester is also 41-22-6 all-time in home openers over the previous 69 years and have outscored their opponents 279-217 over that span

Dating back to a 3-2 overtime win over Syracuse to begin the 2019-20 campaign, the Amerks are 2-4-1-0 in their last seven home openers.

Tonight marks the fourth straight year and 13th time in the last 14 years in which the Amerks opened the regular season on home ice.

Rochester has scored five or more goals in five of its last nine home-opening victories dating back to a 6-5 shootout win over Syracuse to open the 2012-13 season.

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
Zach 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 MARLIES OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Alex Steeves	59	36	26	62	8	50
Alexander Nylander	64	23	21	44	-12	14
Nick Abruzzese	71	15	28	43	-11	10

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Dennis Hildebey	30	16-9-4	709	.908	2.55
Artur Akhtyamov	25	10-8-4	598	.901	2.86
Matt Murray	21	10-5-4	465	.934	1.72

2024-25 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Toronto Marlies Rochester Americans

37-23-4-8.....	Record	39-23-7-3
19-10-2-5.....	Home Record	19-13-3-1
18-13-2-3.....	Away Record	23-9-2-2
5-2-1-2.....	Last 10 Games	4-4-2-0
8-4.....	Overtime Record	4-5
4-8.....	Shootout Record	5-3
19-4-1-2.....	Record When Scoring First	26-11-3-1
19.0% (11th).....	Power-Play	18.4% (15th)
84.3% (7th).....	Penalty Kill	85.2% (T-4th)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. TORONTO

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 18	L	4-2	28-21	0-4	5-5
Oct. 19	L	3-2	37-23	0-7	4-4
Nov. 17	OTL	2-1	31-29	0-7	3-3
Feb. 22	SOW	1-0	34-30	0-5	5-5
Apr. 18	L	3-0	32-27	0-3	1-1
Apr. 19	OTL	3-2	32-26	0-4	1-2



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METSA HEADLINES LEADERSHIP GROUP

The Amerks announced the team's leadership group Thursday morning, consisting of team captain **Zach Metsa** while forwards **Brendan Warren** and **Josh Dunne** along with defenseman **Jack Rathbone** will serve as alternates. Newcomer **Carson Meyer** will also sport an "A".

Metsa is no stranger to being in a leadership role, having captained Quinnipiac University to its first-ever National Championship in 2023.

The 65th captain in franchise history, Metsa returns for his second full season and third overall in Rochester after signing a two-way contract with the Buffalo Sabres. The 26-year-old blueliner is coming off a season where he topped all Amerks in assists (39) and finished third in points (46) in 69 games.

A native of Delafield, Wisconsin, Metsa has totaled 70 points (14+56) in 123 regular season games with Rochester since joining the club in 2023. He originally signed with the Amerks prior to the 2023 Calder Cup Playoffs.

Off the ice, the Amerks' newest captain has been the team's winner of the AHL Man of the Year Award back-to-back seasons. The award is given annually by the AHL to players with outstanding contributions to the local community and charitable organizations.

Wearing an "A" for a second season is center Dunne, who was recalled by the Sabres earlier this morning. Dunne posted 29 points (10+19) during the regular season, then added three goals and seven points over eight playoff contests. The sixth-year pro saw his efforts rewarded towards the end of the season with a two-game call-up to the Buffalo Sabres.

Rathbone will wear an "A" for the first time in his pro career after accruing 51 penalty minutes over 63 games with the Amerks the year prior.

New to the team is forward **Carson Meyer**, a former teammate of Dunne's in Cleveland. Meyer will begin the year still rehabbing from a lower body injury, but is expected to bring a scoring touch to the Amerks lineup, posting 65 goals over 201 AHL games. The Powell, Ohio, native has also appeared in 41 games with the Columbus Blue Jackets over parts of three seasons.

Warren, the longest tenured active Amerk, will close out the quartet of players named alternate captains. Warren, who has spent his entire 195-game AHL career in Rochester, will also wear a letter for the first time.



RADIM READY TO ROLL IN THE ROC

Rochester's 26-man opening night roster features four different first-round selections, including highly touted defenseman **Radim Mrtka**, who the Buffalo Sabres took with their ninth overall pick this past summer.

Mrtka, who signed a three-year, entry-level with the Sabres in July, is set to make his professional debut after playing the 2024-25 campaign with Seattle Thunderbirds of the Western Hockey League (WHL).

Mrtka had 35 points (3+32) in 43 games last season and a plus-10 rating with Seattle. The Havlickuv, Czechia, product tied for fifth amongst all WHL rookie defensemen in points.

The 6-foot-6, 218-pound blueliner logged four points (1+3) in five games to lead all Czechia defensemen at the 2025 IIHF U18 World Championship. Additionally, he earned a silver medal with his native country at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup, collecting a pair of helpers in five appearances.

Mrtka makes up one-fourth of the former first round selection from the Sabres joining **Isak Rosén** (14th overall, 2021), **Noah Östlund** (16th overall, 2022), and **Konsta Helenius** (14th overall, 2024).

Anton Walhberg (2nd round, 2023), **Topias Leinonen** (2nd round, 2022), **Viktor Neuchev** (3rd round, 2022), **Olivier Nadeau** (4th round, 2021), **Matteo Costantini** (5th round, 2020), **Vsevolod Komarov** (5th round, 2022), **Scott Ratzlaff** (5th round, 2023), and **Nikita Novikov** (6th round, 2021) round out the Sabres NHL Draft picks.

MOVIN' ON UP

Of the 26 players on the Sabres opening-night roster, including those on injured reserved, **Ryan Johnson**, **Jack Quinn**, **Jiri Kulich**, **Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen**, **Tyson Kozak**, **Jacob Bryson**, **Peyton Krebs**, **Tage Thompson** and **Justin Danforth** all previously spent time with the Amerks.

In addition to the nine players, current Sabres assistant coach and former Amerks head coach **Seth Appert** spent four seasons behind Rochester's bench from 2020-2024. Appert posted a 123-94-22-10 record in his four seasons, leading the team to three straight 30-plus win seasons as well as three consecutive playoff appearances, including an historic run to the Eastern Conference Final in 2023 as part of the team's deepest postseason run in nearly 20 years. He was 15-14 in 29 career playoff games.



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