

Fri. | **Oct. 17, 2025** | 7:00 PM | Adirondack Bank Center | AHL Game 37 | 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://www.amerks.com/media) | @AmerksPR



TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (1-1-0-0) continue their three-game road swing tonight when they meet the Utica Comets (0-1-1-0) in the first of 10 scheduled meetings between the intrastate rivals at Adirondack Bank Center. The North Division matchup will be carried live on The Sports Leader 95.7 FM/950 AM The Fan Rochester as well as AHLTV on FloHockey.

SEASON SERIES SNAPSHOT

The Amerks have dominated the Comets over the last three seasons, thwarting Utica with a 25-7-1-1 mark, which includes a 14-2-0-1 record on the road since the start of the 2022-23 season. Rochester has outscored Utica 118-93 over that same span, and after the second period alone, the Amerks have dismantled the Comets by a 55-36 margin.

The Amerks have won 14 of the last 16 games on the road against the Comets, the only regulation loss being a 6-0 loss on Nov. 11, 2023 and a 3-2 shootout loss in the most recent get-together on Feb. 28 2025. Since the regulation defeat, the Amerks boast a 9-0-0-1 coming into tonight's series-opener between the two clubs.

Isak Rosén (7+6), **Riley Fiddler-Schultz** (4+5), **Viktor Neuchev** (3+5), **Anton Wahlberg** (5+2), **Konsta Helenius** (4+1), **Nikita Novikov** (3+1), and **Noah Östlund** (3+2) all scored at least three goals against Utica last season. **Brendan Warren** (2+0) and **Jack Rathbone** (2+0) both added a pair of tallies while **Metsa** (+12) and **Novikov** (+11) topped all players as they combined to show an on-ice rating of plus-23

Goaltender **Devon Levi** posted a perfect 5-0-0 in five appearances versus the Comets in 2024-25 while showing a 2.62 goals-against-average and a .908 save percentage. In his career against Utica since joining the Amerks during the 2023-24 slate, the third-year netminder has an 8-0-0 mark, a .927 save percentage and a 2.38 goals-against-average.

GEORGIEV JOINS GOALTENDING TRIFECTA

For the second straight year, the Amerks begin the season carrying three goaltenders following the recent addition of veteran netminder **Alexandar Georgiev**.

Georgiev's arrival brings stability and balance to a rather young goaltending tandem in third-year pro **Devon Levi** and rookie **Topias Leinonen**, who split the duties during opening weekend.

Should Georgiev makes his Amerks debut at some point this weekend, he would become the first Bulgarian native netminder in franchise history.

Additionally, Georgiev is the only Bulgarian-born player to ever play in the AHL as he made his first career start back on Oct. 6, 2017. He's also the first Bulgarian to play in the NHL.

Georgiev appeared in 48 contests with the Hartford Wolf Pack from 2017-19, posting a 16-22-7 record to go with a pair of shutouts.

In 303 appearances at the NHL level with the New York Rangers, Colorado Avalanche, and San Jose Sharks, the 6-foot-1, 179-pound netminder boasts a 151-108-26 record with 15 shutouts.

He owned an 86-41-11 record over a three-year span with Colorado, and led the NHL in wins in back-to-back years in 2022-23 (40) and 2023-24 (38).

Georgiev's last regulation victory in the AHL came back on Oct. 19, 2018 at Belleville while his last win overall was on Nov. 14, 2018 versus Bridgeport.

2025-26 AMERKS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Isak Rosén	2	2	1	3	-1	0
Noah Östlund	2	0	3	3	-1	0
Zac Jones	2	0	2	2	-2	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	2	1-0-0	24	.889	3.00
Topias Leinonen	1	0-1-0	17	.850	3.08

2025-26 COMETS OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Xavier Parent	2	1	1	2	1	4
Brian Halonen*	2	1	0	1	1	2
Ethan Edwards	2	0	1	1	1	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Nico Daws*	1	0-1-0	26	.963	1.03
Jakub Malek	1	0-0-1	20	.870	3.02

*=Currently with New Jersey (NHL)

2025-26 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Utica Comets vs. Rochester Americans

0-1-1-0 **Record** 1-0-0-0

0-1-1-0 **Home Record** 1-0-0-0

0-0-0-0 **Away Record** 0-1-0-0

0-1-1-0 **Last 10 Games** 1-1-0-0

0-1 **Overtime Record** 0-0

0-0 **Shootout Record** 0-0

0-0-0-0 **Record When Scoring First** 1-0-0-0

0.0% (T-22nd) **Power-Play** 42.9% (5th)

90.0% (11th) **Penalty Kill** 75.0% (T-20)

2024-25 SERIES BREAKDOWN VS. UTICA

Date	Result	Score	SF-SA	PP	PK
Oct. 12	W	4-1	40-20	0-5	2-2
Nov. 1	W	8-1	26-19	4-9	4-5
Nov. 2	W	3-2	27-30	0-1	4-5
Nov. 23	L	5-1	36-28	0-1	2-4
Dec. 4	W	3-2	23-23	0-2	2-2
Dec. 27	W	6-3	37-26	0-2	4-4
Dec. 28	W	3-2	36-25	0-0	0-0
Jan. 10	W	5-1	37-30	2-7	4-4
Jan. 29	W	7-4	30-26	1-1	3-3
Feb. 15	W	4-3	29-32	2-3	1-1
Feb. 28	SOL	3-2	33-19	0-5	2-3
Mar. 23	W	4-2	36-36	0-3	2-2



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METSA HEADLINES LEADERSHIP GROUP

The Amerks announced the team's leadership group last week, 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 125 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 last Friday. 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 is wearing an "A" for the first time in his pro career after accruing 51 penalty minutes over 64 games with the Amerks the year prior.

New to the team is forward **Carson Meyer**, a former teammate of Dunne's in Cleveland. Meyer is beginning 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 197-game AHL career in Rochester, also is wearing a letter for the first time.



PARTY OF FIVE

Following yesterday's reassignment of defenseman **Ryan Johnson** to the Amerks, Rochester's current roster features five different first-round picks, 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, made his professional debut last Friday after playing the 2024-25 campaign with Seattle Thunderbirds of the WHL. He recorded his first pro point with the lone assist on **Brendan Warren's** eventual game-winning goal.

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 joins Johnson (31st overall, 2019), **Isak Rosén** (14th overall, 2021), **Noah Ostlund** (16th overall, 2022), and **Konsta Helenius** (14th overall, 2024) as the first-round selections comprising Rochester's 24-man roster.

SCOUTING THE COMETS

The New Jersey Devils began free agency by signing forward Angus Crookshank away from the Ottawa Senators on a two-year contract. After being drafted by the Sens in 2018, Crookshank went on to score 77 goals and put up 149 points in 202 AHL games with Belleville.

Crookshank has played three full AHL seasons, each ending with the winger scoring over 20 goals. The former Senator was a familiar foe with the Amerks during his time in Belleville, scoring 10 goals in 19 games against the red, white, and blue.

Utica returns three of its top four point-getters from last season, including ninth-year pro and team captain Ryan Schmelzer, who led the team in scoring with 44 points while being the only skater to appear in all 72 games.

The Comets also bring back leading goal-scorer from a season ago in Brian Halonen, whose career-high 27 goals tied for 13th-most in the league, the most by a Utica skater since Reid Boucher (31) in the 2018-19 campaign.



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