

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

Sat. | **Oct. 18, 2025** | 7:00 PM | Upstate Medical University Arena | AHL Game 51 | 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



TONIGHT'S GAME OVERVIEW

The Rochester Americans (2-1-0-0) close out their three-game road swing tonight as they go up against the unbeaten Syracuse Crunch (2-0-0-0) in the first of 12 scheduled meetings between the intrastate rivals at Upstate Medical University Arena. The 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

Rochester posted a 7-3-1-1 record in the season series last season, which included sweeping the Crunch in a home-and-home set to close out the month of November, splitting a two-game set before Christmas, turning in a pair of wins heading into the All-Star break and two others in March.

Prior to the 5-2 loss back on Dec. 18, 2024, 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 3-30-6-2 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 an impressive 42-11-5-1 mark.

Isak Rosén (9+11) leads all Amerks in scoring against the Crunch dating back to 2023-24 season, having appeared in 22 games in that span. Rosén, who capped the 4-3 come-from-behind overtime win back on Feb. 1, tallied two of his six game-winning goals against the Crunch last season.

After being held without a point for the first two games versus the Crunch, **Noah Östlund** posted seven goals and four assists in seven later contests opposite Syracuse, which featured four multi-point outings, his first AHL hat-trick and goals in four straight and five of the last six games.

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	3	3	3	6	0	0
Noah Östlund	3	1	4	5	1	0
Zac Jones	3	0	4	4	-2	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Devon Levi	2	2-0-0	50	.877	3.50
Topias Leinonen	1	0-1-0	17	.850	3.08

2025-26 CRUNCH OVERALL SCORING & GOALTENDING LEADERS

SKATER	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM
Jakob Pelletier	2	2	2	4	-1	0
Dominic James	2	2	1	3	1	0
Charles-Edouard D'Astous	2	1	2	3	1	0

GOALTENDER	GP	REC	SVS	SV%	GAA
Ryan Fanti	1	1-0-0	26	.929	1.96
Brandon Halverson	1	1-0-0	14	.875	2.03

2025-26 HEAD-TO-HEAD BREAKDOWN

Syracuse Crunch Rochester Americans

2-0-0-0 **Record** 2-1-0-0

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

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

2-0-0-0 **Last 10 Games** 2-1-0-0

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

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

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

30.0% (9th) **Power-Play** 50.0% (T-2nd)

100% (T-1st) **Penalty Kill** 75.0% (T-20)

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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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 who's currently on NHL recall with the Buffalo Sabres, returns for his second full season and third overall in Rochester after signing a two-way contract with the 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 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 198-game AHL career in Rochester, also is wearing a letter for the first time.



PARTY OF FIVE

Following Thursday'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 CRUNCH

The Crunch enter tonight with a 16-9-1-1 all-time record in home openers. They've won their last three home openers — defeating Rochester, Bridgeport and Belleville — since 2022-23. Since affiliating with the Tampa Bay Lightning ahead of the 2012-13 season, the Crunch own an 8-4-1-0 record in home openers at Upstate Medical University.

Syracuse overcame 2-0 deficits in both of its first two contests to start 2-0-0-0 for the third consecutive season. In the season opener, the Crunch scored three power-play goals and rallied for a 5-2 win over the Hershey Bears last Saturday before Dominic James struck at 1:17 to give the Crunch a weekend sweep on Sunday.

Forward Steven Santini, who was recalled on Friday to the Tampa Bay Lightning, was named captain prior to the start of the 2025-26 campaign. He appeared in 58 games with the Crunch since 2024, recording six goals and 11 assists for 17 points. The Bronxville, NY, native has skated in 361 career AHL games over 10 seasons, recording 21 goals, 87 points and a plus-56 rating.



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