



# HOUSTON AEROS (32-11-1-1) AT IOWA STARS (21-19-1-1)

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006

### IOWA EVENTS CENTER ● DES MOINES, IOWA ● 7:05 p.m.

HOUSTON AEROS MEDIA INFORMATION

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2003 CALDER CUP CHAMPS

#### Aeros Quick Stats

Game #46	R#20
Home	20-4-1-1
Road	12-7-0-0
Streak	0-1-0-0
Road Streak	0-1-0-0
Last 5	4-1-0-0
Last 10	7-3-0-0
This Month	7-3-0-0
Scoring 3 or >	31-2-0-0
Scoring 2 or <	1-9-1-1
One-goal games	12-4-1-1
Two-goal games	6-1-0-0
Scoring first	21-5-1-1
Opponent scores first	11-6-0-0
Outshooting opponent	15-2-0-0
Opponent outshoots	16-9-1-1
Shots tied	1-0-0-0
Leading after 1st	19-4-1-0
Trailing after 1st	6-5-0-0
Tied after 1st	7-2-0-1
Leading after 2nd	24-3-0-0
Trailing after 2nd	5-8-0-1
Tied after 2nd	3-0-1-0
Overtime	2-1
Shootout	4-1
Scoring PPG	30-5-0-1
Not scoring PPG	2-6-1-0
Allowing PPG	16-8-1-0
Not allowing PPG	16-3-0-1
More PIM	12-6-1-1
Fewer PIM	17-4-0-0
Same PIM	3-1-0-0
First of two/three	10-2-0-0
Second of two/three	7-4-0-1
Third of three	3-2-1-0

#### Five things you need to know

- Aeros C **Erik Westrum** (22-46=68) and RW **Kirby Law** (27-37=64) have combined for 11 points in the last three games and rank first and second in the AHL in scoring. They are trying to become the first duo from the same team to finish 1-2 in the league's scoring race **Paul Gardner** (112 points) and **Jody Gage** (99) turned the trick for Rochester exactly 20 seasons ago – in 1985-86. No two teammates have reached the 100-point plateau since a trio of Carolina Monarchs did it in 1995-96. Law (16) and Westrum (eight) each had lengthy point streaks snapped in Tuesday's 3-0 loss in Peoria. Law's run was a franchise-record. He has 39 points (17-22=39) in his last 21 contests. Rookie C **Patrick O'Sullivan** is first in rookie scoring with 46 points (23-23=46). He trails only fellow rookie LW **Roman Voloshenko** (24-13=37) for the lead in goals among first-year players. Voloshenko is ninth in overall rookie scoring. The line of Law, Westrum and Voloshenko has been held without at least a point in only six games this season, and the Aeros are 0-6-0-0 in those contests. Three of the games have been shutouts, while the trio has also been held off the scoresheet 10/25, 10/28 and 11/19. Tuesday marked the first time not one member of the line had a point in almost two full months, since a 3-0 shutout loss to Milwaukee at home 11/27.

- Aeros RW and captain **Kirby Law's** next goal will tie him with Aeros special assistant to hockey **Cam Stewart** for 10th place on the team's all-time goal list with 54. Law has played in 146 consecutive AHL games – 125 with Houston. Law's 27 goals are five off his 2003-04 career-high, and he's only nine points shy of his career-best total of 73.

- Aeros fifth-year G **Seamus Kotyk**, getting the bulk of work in place of injured G **Josh Harding**, is 6-2-0 with a 1.44 gaa in his last eight appearances. Kotyk has yielded just four goals over his last four starts, improving to 9-4-1 with a 2.43 gaa overall on the season. Kotyk now qualifies for the AHL gaa leaderboard, and he ranks sixth. His career high for victories in a season is 13, set in 2003-04 with Cleveland.

- Not only does Houston have the second-best power play unit in the AHL at 21.3 percent, but it strikes quickly. Over their last 19 games, the Aeros have scored on their first or second power play of the game 14 times. Twice in that span, Houston has scored on both its first and second opportunities. In each of their last four victories, the Aeros scored on either their first or second power play.

- The Aeros are coming off a 3-0 loss in Peoria on Tuesday. The good news for Houston is that it hasn't dropped back-to-back road games on any occasion this season. The Aeros have lost back-to-back games overall just once - 10/25-10/28. Getting shut out has also sparked Houston on two long winning runs this season. After losing 4-0 in Peoria 10/30, the Aeros went 6-0-0-1 in their next seven games. After Milwaukee blanked the Aeros 3-0 at Toyota Center 11/27, Houston won 11 of its next 12 games.

#### Aeros at Stars (Aeros are 3-1-0-0 overall, First meeting at Iowa)

- Tonight is the fifth meeting between the Aeros and Stars, who are in their first season as the Dallas Stars' AHL affiliate. But it's the first of five trips to Des Moines for the Aeros, who play five of their last 21 road games there.
- In the last meeting 1/13, former Aero **Patrick Traverse** tallied a goal and an assist and **Dan Ellis** made 24 saves in a 3-2 Iowa win at Toyota Center. **Curtis Murphy** matched the veteran defenseman with a goal and a helper for Houston. Iowa opened up a 2-0 lead and held on late for the victory.
- The Aeros had a partial affiliation deal with the Dallas Stars in 2004-05. Goalie **Mike Smith**, defenseman **Patrick Traverse** and forwards **Junior Lessard** and **Marius Holtet** all suited up for the Aeros last season. Smith went 19-17-3 with a 2.42 gaa and won Houston's lone playoff game. Traverse tallied 15 points (6-9=15) in 72 games. Lessard, the 2004 Hobey Baker winner, tied for 12th on the Aeros' roster with 22 points (11-11=22) in 71 games. Holtet notched 12 points (7-5=12) in 54 games. Iowa also features the injured **David Oliver**, a member of the Aeros' 1999 Turner Cup winning team.

#### Scouting the Aeros

The Aeros (32-11-1-1) have the AHL's second-best winning percentage (.733), trailing only Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (32-6-3-1=68, .810 pct)...The Aeros' West Division lead is six points over Milwaukee, which has a game in hand...Houston has won 14 of 17 and 17 of 21 overall...The Aeros play game five of a stretch of seven games in nine nights in four cities...C **Erik Westrum** has 68 points (21-46=68), four up on RW **Kirby Law** (27-37=64) for the top spot in the AHL...C **Patrick O'Sullivan** is first in rookie scoring with with 46 points (23-23=46)...LW **Roman Voloshenko** (24-13=37) has the league lead in goals among rookies...D **Curtis Murphy** is second among AHL defensemen with 38 points (8-31=38)...G **Josh Harding** is 21-7-0 with a 2.63 gaa to rank first in the league in wins, tied for fourth in save pct. (.923) and tied for 11th in gaa...G **Seamus Kotyk** is 9-4-1 with a 2.43 gaa, ranking sixth in gaa and tied for sixth in save pct. (.919), while G **Miroslav Kopriva** is 2-1-0 with a 3.23 gaa.

#### Scouting the Stars

Iowa (21-19-1-1), AHL affiliate of the Dallas Stars and Edmonton Oilers, snapped a three-game skid Saturday with a 4-2 home win over Manchester...Iowa is in fourth place in the West Division with 44 points...C **Toby Peterson** leads Iowa in scoring with 33 points (12-21=33)...Former Aero RW **Junior Lessard** is second with 27 points (14-13=27)...Former Aero D **Patrick Traverse** paces the blueline with 19 points (3-16=19), but he was recalled by the Dallas Stars on Tuesday...Former Aero G **Mike Smith** is 10-11-1 with a 2.42 gaa, while G **Dan Ellis** has posted a 11-9-0 mark with a 2.71 gaa.

#### 2005-06 meetings (5th of 10 meetings, Aeros are 3-1-0-0 overall, First meeting at Iowa)

November 3	Iowa 3 at Houston 5	February 17	Houston at Iowa
December 28	Iowa 2 at Houston 3	February 18	Houston at Iowa
January 12	Iowa 1 at Houston 6	February 23	Iowa at Houston
January 13	Iowa 3 at Houston 2	March 25	Houston at Iowa
Tonight	Houston at Iowa	April 16	Houston at Iowa

#### Aeros Record after 45/46 Games

1994-95	21-20-4/22-20-4
1995-96	15-27-3/15-28-3
1996-97	23-19-3/23-19-4
1997-98	31-10-4/31-11-4
1998-99	33-6-6/34-6-6
1999-00	24-15-6/25-15-6
2000-01	20-20-6/20-21-6
2001-02	22-17-5-1/23-17-5-1
2002-03	30-11-3/30-11-4
2003-04	14-19-9-3/15-19-9-3
2004-05	22-18-3-2/22-19-3-2
2005-06	32-11-1-1/NA

#### Most goals by defenseman, Aeros history

1t. <b>Curtis Murphy</b>	42
1t. <b>Jeff Tory</b>	42

#### Most points, Aeros history

14. <b>Mark Cullen</b>	119
15. <b>Al Conroy</b>	116
16t. <b>Kirby Law</b>	113
16t. <b>Kyle Wanvig</b>	113

#### Most goals, Aeros history

7. <b>Rob Valicevic</b>	56
8t. <b>Mike Yeo</b>	55
8t. <b>Scott Arniel</b>	55
10. <b>Cam Stewart</b>	54
11. <b>Kirby Law</b>	53

#### PPG/PPGA ratio

1. <b>Hershey</b>	+25
2. <b>Houston</b>	+24
3. <b>Wilkes-Barre/Scranton</b>	+22

#### A look back...and ahead

##### Last 5

1/24 0-3 L @ PEO
1/22 4-0 W @ CHI
1/21 5-1 W vs. PEO
1/20 5-1 W vs. ROC
1/15 4-1 W vs. SAN

##### Next 5

1/27 @ PEO
1/28 vs. CHI
2/4 vs. MIL
2/7 vs. MIL
2/10 @ MCH



# HOUSTON AEROS (32-11-1-1) AT IOWA STARS (21-19-1-1)

## The Goalies

### Kopriva vs. Stars

2005-06: 1-1-0, 3.03 gaa, .897 pct.  
Totals: First appearance

### Kotyk vs. Stars

2005-06: 2-1-0, 2.26 gaa, .928 pct.  
Totals: 2-1-0, 2.26 gaa, .928 pct.

### Miroslav Kopriva (2-1-0, 3.32, .905, 0SHO)

- In first AHL appearance in almost three months, made 35 saves in 5-1 win over PEO 1/21
- Made 29 saves in North American debut, and stopped four-of-six in the shootout, in 4-3 win at OMA 10/20
- Was 0-0-0 with a 2.00 gaa in one pre-season game versus SAN

### Ellis vs. Aeros

2005-06: 1-1-0, 3.03 gaa, .897 pct.  
Totals: 1-3-0, 2.81 gaa, .912 pct.

### Smith vs. Aeros

2005-06: 0-2-0, 4.91 gaa, .814 pct.  
Totals: 2-4-0, 2.69 gaa, .916 pct.

### Seamus Kotyk (9-4-1, 2.43, .919, 0SHO)

- Is 6-2-0 with a 1.44 gaa over last eight appearances
- Stopped 30 shots for fifth career shutout, 4-0 in CHI 1/22
- Made 34 saves in 5-1 win over RCH 1/20
- With MIL, became eighth goalie in AHL history to score goal when he capped off 4-1 win over SAN with empty-netter in season-finale 4/17

### Quick Hits

- Houston is third in the AHL in scoring at 3.73 gpg, trailing only Grand Rapids' 3.96 gpg and Portland's 3.77 gpg. Since getting shut out 3-0 by Milwaukee 11/27, the Aeros have scored 92 goals in 21 games for a 4.38 gpg average. Just three times since the shootout have the Aeros been held to fewer than three goals. Houston is trying to score 300 goals for just the second time in team history. The Aeros scored a franchise-record 307 goals in 1998-99, but that came in an 82-game season. This season Houston is on pace for 298 goals through 44 games.
- In their last four victories, the Aeros have outscored their opponents 10-1 in the first period. In the last 10 games overall, Houston has a 19-6 goal margin in the opening 20 minutes, and overall on the season the Aeros are an AHL-best plus-23 (54-31). Iowa has allowed only 30 first-period goals - second in the AHL.
- Houston rookie C **Patrick O'Sullivan** has six GWG - already one off the single-season franchise-record. Four different Aeros have posted seven GWG, with **Kyle Wanvig** the last to do it in 2003-04. O'Sullivan also has a pair of shootout GWG, but those don't count in the statistics.
- Aeros D **Curtis Murphy**, named an All-Star earlier this month for the seventh time in as many North American seasons, is on the verge of becoming the Aeros' all-time goal leader among defensemen. Murphy is tied with **Jeff Tory** for the top spot among blueliners with 42 tallies. Murphy's 139 points trail only **Greg Hawgood's** total of 145 for the

### Aeros vs. Stars

3 Stokes	4gp, 0-0=0
5 Reitz	4gp, 0-0=0
7 Westrum	4gp, 4-5=9
8 Peters	3gp, 0-0=0
10 Law	4gp, 4-2=6
11 Murray	4gp, 0-2=2
14 Murphy	4gp, 2-2=4
15 Lundbohm	4gp, 1-2=3
16 Olvecky	3gp, 0-2=2
17 Kinkel	2gp, 0-0=0
18 Voloshenko	3gp, 1-0=1
20 Stoner	4gp, 1-0=1
22 Olson	4gp, 0-0=0
23 Ferguson	0gp, 0-0=0
27 Taticek	3gp, 0-2=2
28 Ward	2gp, 0-1=1
29 O'Sullivan	4gp, 1-5=6
32 Wood	4gp, 0-1=1
34 Foy	3gp, 1-2=3
36 Tetarenko	3gp, 0-0=0
44 Nazarov	0gp, 0-0=0

### Stars vs. Aeros

4 Jancevski	35gp, 1-8=9
5 Fahey	10gp, 1-7=8
7 Belle	3gp, 0-0=0
8 Grossman	3gp, 0-0=0
10 Holtet	4gp, 0-1=1
13 Barch	1gp, 1-0=1
15 Brodziak	3gp, 0-0=0
16 Hagos	2gp, 0-0=0
19 Peterson	10gp, 2-5=7
20 Lessard	3gp, 2-1=3
21 Eriksson	4gp, 2-0=2
22 Platt	6gp, 0-0=0
23 Tjarnqvist	10gp, 0-4=4
24 Polak	4gp, 2-2=4
25 Johnson	4gp, 0-1=1
26 Stastny	4gp, 0-2=2
27 Traverse	3gp, 1-2=3
28 Oliver	13gp, 4-4=8
29 Vas	2gp, 0-0=0
44 Crombeen	2gp, 0-1=1
47 Eastman	1gp, 0-0=0
58 Wathier	1gp, 0-0=0
77 Scalzo	4gp, 0-1=1

most in team history among defensemen. Murphy has 21 points (4-17=21) in his last 21 games, including 12 points (4-8=12) in the last 10 games. Murphy ranks second among all AHL defensemen in points this season (7-31=38). Murphy is tied for fifth among all AHL players at plus-17.

- The Aeros are 12-4-1-1 in one-goal games, and an impressive 18-5-1-1 in games decided by two goals or less. Thirteen of the Aeros' first 21 games were decided by one goal. Since then, however, just five of the last 24 games has been of the one-goal variety.
- Houston has trailed at some point in 13 of its 32 victories, with four of the wins coming when trailing by two goals. The Aeros had 16 come-from-behind victories in 2004-05. They are an impressive 11-6-0-0 when allowing the game's first goal.
- The Aeros are 31-2-0-0 when scoring three goals or more, but 1-9-1-1 when scoring two or fewer. Three is also the magic number defensively, as Houston is 29-4-1-1 when allowing three or fewer goals and 3-7-0-0 when yielding four or more.
- Houston is 15-2-0-0 when outshooting an opponent, but it has been outshot in eight of its last 10 games. The Aeros are 11-1-0-0 when allowing 29 shots or fewer.
- The Aeros already have four 20-goal scorers. No other AHL team has more than two. Houston has had more than four 20-goal scorers just twice in team history - it had five in 1995-96 and 1996-97.

### Power play update

- Houston is second in the league on the power play at 21.3 percent.
- The Aeros are 34-for-129 (26.4 percent) with the man advantage in the last 21 games.
- Houston is 15-for-64 (23.4 percent) in the last 11 games, scoring at least two PPG in seven of the games.
- The Aeros are 20-2-0-0 when scoring at least two PPG. Houston has scored two or more PPG in 12 of its last 20 games.
- Houston has been outscored on the power play just twice in its last 23 games.
- Houston has a trio of players with at least 10 power play goals - including C **Erik Westrum's** league-leading total of 14. There are only 13 AHL players who have reached double digits in that category. Only Grand Rapids and Peoria have as many as two. The Aeros have had more than two players with 10 power play markers just once in team history, when four accomplished the feat in 1998-99, including **Jeff Christian's** franchise-record 20.
- Iowa is 18th in the AHL on the penalty kill at 82.7 percent.
- The Stars are an improved 23-of-26 (88.5 percent) on the PK over their last five games.
- Houston is 5-for-26 (19.2 percent) with the man advantage against Iowa this season. The Aeros' lone loss was when being held without a PPG.

### Penalty kill update

- Houston is third in the AHL on the penalty kill at 85.9 percent.
- The Aeros are 44-of-45 (97.8 percent) on the PK in the last eight games since Grand Rapids went 5-for-10 on 1/6, and they've held their opponent without a PPG in nine of the last 11 games.
- Houston has killed off all 23 shorthanded chances over its last four road games.
- Houston is 15-3-0-1 when not allowing a power play goal and 25-5-1-1 when allowing one power play goal or fewer.
- Iowa ranks 24th in the AHL on the power play at 13.0 percent.
- The Stars are 4-for-24 (16.7 percent) with the man advantage in the last five games.
- Iowa is 3-for-26 (11.5 percent) on the power play against Houston.

### Last Game (Tuesday)

Former NHL All-Star **Patrick Lalime** posted 33 saves and **Ryan Ramsay's** goal 12 seconds into the second period gave him all the support he'd need, as the Peoria Rivermen defeated the Houston Aeros 3-0 at Carver Arena. **Seamus Kotyk** made 24 stops for Houston, which has been blanked in each of its last two trips to Peoria.

### Aeros/Stars connections

- Houston D **Clayton Stoner** and Iowa D **Shawn Belle** were defensive partners for three full seasons at WHL Tri City.
- Aeros defenseman D **Erik Reitz** spent the 2001-02 season at OHL Barrie along with Iowa RW **B.J. Crombeen**.
- Houston C **Erik Westrum** and Iowa C **Toby Peterson** each hail from Minneapolis, Minn.

