



HOUSTON AEROS (34-12-1-1) vs. MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS (30-12-4-1)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2006

TOYOTA CENTER • HOUSTON, TEXAS • 7:35 p.m.

HOUSTON AEROS MEDIA INFORMATION

PH: 713.361.7930

2003 CALDER CUP CHAMPS

Aeros Quick Stats

Game #49	HH#28
Home	21-4-1-1
Road	13-8-0-0
Streak	2-0-0-0
Home Streak	4-0-0-0
Last 5	3-2-0-0
Last 10	7-3-0-0
This Month	0-0-0-0
Scoring 3 or >	32-3-0-0
Scoring 2 or <	2-9-1-1
One-goal games	14-4-1-1
Two-goal games	6-2-0-0
Scoring first	23-5-1-1
Opponent scores first	11-7-0-0
Outshooting opponent	15-3-0-0
Opponent outshoots	18-9-1-1
Shots tied	1-0-0-0
Leading after 1st	21-5-1-0
Trailing after 1st	6-5-0-0
Tied after 1st	7-2-0-1
Leading after 2nd	26-3-0-0
Trailing after 2nd	5-9-0-1
Tied after 2nd	3-0-1-0
Overtime	2-1
Shootout	4-1
Scoring PPG	31-6-0-1
Not scoring PPG	3-6-1-0
Allowing PPG	17-9-1-0
Not allowing PPG	17-3-0-1
More PIM	13-6-1-1
Fewer PIM	17-4-0-0
Same PIM	4-2-0-0
First of two/three	10-3-0-0
Second of two/three	8-4-0-1
Third of three	4-2-1-0

Six things you need to know

- Houston (70 points) and Milwaukee (65) have been 1-2 in the West Division race for nearly two full months, since 12/9. The Aeros' lead was a season-high nine points (58-49) on 1/12. The Admirals briefly cut the lead to two points (60-58) on 1/19.
- Aeros C **Erik Westrum** (24-47=71) and RW **Kirby Law** (27-39=66) 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. Westrum has already posted the second-highest point and assist total for an Aero since the team joined the AHL in 2001-02. **Jean-Guy Trudel** notched 85 points, including 54 helpers, in 2002-03. Rookie C **Patrick O'Sullivan** is first in rookie scoring with 48 points (25-25=50), and LW **Roman Voloshenko** (24-14=38) is second among first-year players in goals and 10th in overall rookie scoring. The line of Law, Westrum and Voloshenko has been held without at least a point in only seven games this season. Veteran D **Curtis Murphy**, meanwhile, is second among AHL defensemen scoring lead with 39 points (7-32=39).
- The Aeros have scored 74 goals in 15 home games since the 11/27 loss for a 4.93 gpg average. Houston averages 4.19 gpg at home (113 goals in 27 games), on pace for a new franchise-record of 167 goals. Houston has scored five goals or more in 14 of its 27 home games, and four or more in 18. The Aeros have outscored their opponents by a whopping 113-65 margin at home. The plus-48 goal margin is the best in the AHL, and only Wilkes-Barre Scranton (87-45) is within 10 goals.
- Aeros linemates C **Erik Westrum** and RW **Kirby Law** each have at least one point in each of the Aeros' 15 home games since getting shut out 11/27 by Milwaukee. Westrum has 31 points and Law 29 in that span, which has seen the Aeros go 13-2-0-0. Westrum has 48 points (15-33=48) in just 27 home games, while Law has 43 points (19-24=43) at Toyota Center.
- Admirals G **Brian Finley** is 16-6-1 with a 2.01 gaa in his career versus Houston, including a 15-4-0 mark and a 1.95 gaa in the last two seasons. Finley's 16 wins over the Aeros are five more than any other goalie and seven more than any active goalie, and his gaa trails only **Jason LaBarbera** (1.81) among active netminders (minimum five decisions). Finley is the only goalie ever to shut out the Aeros three times in one season (2004-05), and his five overall shutouts against Houston are the most of any netminder. His shutout sequence versus the Aeros is up to 189:31. Finley last allowed a goal to the Aeros 2/10/04, when **Kirby Law** scored in the third period of a 2-1 Admirals overtime win in Milwaukee.
- Houston third-year RW **Matt Foy** didn't join the Aeros from the Minnesota Wild until 11/26, but he's making up for lost time. Foy has 23 points (8-15=23) - just two off his 2004-05 career-high - in only 22 games. After notching just a single assist in his first five games with Houston this season, Foy has posted 21 points (8-13=21) in just 16 games. Foy has a pair of two-goal games, six two-point games and career-

Aeros Record after 48/49 Games

1994-95	23-21-4/23-22-4
1995-96	15-29-4/16-29-4
1996-97	24-20-4/24-21-4
1997-98	31-12-5/31-13-5
1998-99	35-7-6/35-7-7
1999-00	25-17-6/26-17-6
2000-01	22-21-6/22-22-6
2001-02	24-17-6-1/24-18-6-1
2002-03	32-11-4/32-12-4
2003-04	16-20-9-3/16-21-9-3
2004-05	23-19-4-2/24-19-4-2
2005-06	34-12-1-1/NA

Most goals by defenseman, Aeros history

1t. Curtis Murphy	42
1t. Jeff Tory	42

Most points, Aeros history

14. Mark Cullen	119
15. Al Conroy	116
16. Kirby Law	115
17. Kyle Wanvig	113

Most goals, Aeros history

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

Most wins vs. Aeros

1 Brian Finley	16
2 Allan Bester	11
3t. Norm Maracle	10
3t. Derek Wilkinson	10

PPG/PPGA ratio

1. Hershey	+31
2. Houston	+27
3. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton	+25
4. Milwaukee	+21

best four assist performance 12/17 vs. Peoria. Since 12/4, Foy's centerman, **Rem Murray**, has notched 20 points (7-13=20) in 23 games since 12/4.

Admirals at Aeros (Aeros are 31-34-7-1 all-time, Aeros are 17-16-4-1 at Houston)

- The teams meet for the 74th time tonight – Houston's 39th home game.
- Milwaukee is the only active AHL team that the Aeros have an overall losing record against.
- The Aeros are 4-15-2-1 in the last 22 meetings since a 5-1 win 10/17/03.
- Since beating Milwaukee 7-0 at Toyota Center 1/11/05, the Aeros are 2-6-1-0 against the Admirals, getting outscored 27-11.
- Houston has been shut out in three of the last five meetings. Seven of the last 13 meetings have ended with one team being shut out.
- The teams traded 3-0 shutouts at Toyota Center 11/25 and 11/27, with Houston's **Josh Harding** and Milwaukee's **Brian Finley** each recording shutouts.

Scouting the Aeros

Playing their first game after the All-Star Break, the Aeros (34-12-1-1) have the AHL's second-best winning percentage (.729), trailing only Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (35-6-3-2=75, .815 pct)...The Aeros' West Division lead is five points over Milwaukee, which has a game in hand...Houston has won 16 of 20 overall, and its 21-4-1-1 home mark (.815 points percentage) is tops in the AHL...The Aeros are coming off a six-day break in games, and they are a perfect 7-0-0-0 when getting at least four days' rest...C **Erik Westrum** has 71 points (24-47=71), five up on RW **Kirby Law** (27-39=66) for the top spot in the AHL...C **Patrick O'Sullivan** is first in rookie scoring with 50 points (25-25=50)...LW **Roman Voloshenko** (24-14=38) is one behind O'Sullivan for the league lead in goals among rookies...D **Curtis Murphy** is second among AHL defensemen with 39 points (7-32=39)...G **Josh Harding** is 21-7-0 with a 2.63 gaa to rank tied for first in the league in wins, tied for third in save pct. (.923) and ninth in gaa...G **Seamus Kotyk** is 10-5-1 with a 2.75 gaa, ranking tied for 14th in gaa, while G **Miroslav Koprivka** is 3-1-0 with a 2.79 gaa.

Scouting the Admirals

Milwaukee (30-12-3-1), AHL affiliate of the Nashville Predators, lost 5-4 at home in overtime to North-leading Grand Rapids last night, allowing the game-tying goal with 1.4 seconds left in regulation...The Admirals, 8-1-2-0 in their last 11 overall, have won three straight road games...Former AHL Rookie of the Year RW **Darren Haydar** leads Milwaukee with 52 points (20-32=52)...D **Kevin Klein** paces the blueliners with 26 points (6-20=26)...Rookie All-Star G **Pekka Rinne** is 21-12-1 with a 2.74 gaa, while G **Brian Finley** is 8-3-0 with a 2.71 gaa...Finley has played just twice in the last 15 games, but with his spectacular record against the Aeros, the odds are good for at least one start in the two-game set.

2005-06 meetings (4th of 8 meetings, Aeros are 1-2-0-0 overall, Aeros are 1-1-0-0 at Houston)

October 28	Houston 1 at Milwaukee 6	Tuesday	Milwaukee at Houston
November 25	Milwaukee 0 at Houston 3	February 25	Houston at Milwaukee
November 27	Milwaukee 3 at Houston 0	February 26	Houston at Milwaukee
Tonight	Milwaukee at Houston	March 17	Houston at Milwaukee

A look back...and ahead

Last 5

1/28 5-4 W vs. CHI
 1/27 2-1 W @ PEO
 1/26 4-6 L @ IOW
 1/24 0-3 L @ PEO
 1/22 4-0 W @ CHI

Next 5

2/7 vs. MIL
 2/10 @ MCH
 2/11 @ HAR
 2/15 @ CLE
 2/17 @ IOW



HOUSTON AEROS (34-12-1-1) vs. MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS (30-12-4-1)

The Goalies

Kopriva vs. Admirals

2004-05: 0-1-0, 7.19 gaa, .839 pct.
Totals: 0-1-0, 7.19 gaa, .839 pct.

Kotyk vs. Admirals

2005-06: 0-0-0, 3.28 gaa, .833 pct.
Totals: 1-2-1, 2.59 gaa, .925 pct.

Finley vs. Aeros

2004-05: 7-3-0, 1.69 gaa, .946 pct.
2005-06: 1-0-0, 0.00 gaa, 1.000 pct.
Totals: 16-6-1, 2.01 gaa, .938 pct.

Rinne vs. Aeros

2005-06: 1-1-0, 2.02 gaa, .926 pct.
Totals: 1-1-0, 2.02 gaa, .926 pct.

Quick Hits

- Houston is third in the AHL in scoring at 3.75 gpg, trailing only Grand Rapids' 3.94 gpg and Portland's 3.75 gpg. Since getting shut out 3-0 by Milwaukee 11/27, the Aeros have scored 103 goals in 24 games for a 4.29 gpg average. 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.
- The Aeros are 13-4-1-1 in one-goal games, and an impressive 19-6-1-1 in games decided by two goals or less. The Admirals are 12-3-4-1 in one-goal games, and 22-6-4-1 in games decided by two goals or less.
- In their last six victories, the Aeros have outscored their opponents 14-3 in the first period. In the last 13 games overall, Houston has a 25-10 goal margin in the opening 20 minutes, and overall on the season the Aeros are an AHL-best plus-26 (60-34).
- Aeros D **Curtis Murphy**, an All-Star 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 140 points trail only **Greg Hawgood's** total of 145 for the most in team history among defensemen. Murphy, who needs two more assists to become the fifth in team history to reach 100, is second among all AHL defensemen in points this season (7-32=39).
- Houston has trailed at some point in 13 of its 34 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 11-7-0-0 when allowing the game's first goal.

Aeros vs. Admirals

3 Stokes	3gp, 0-0=0
5 Reitz	25gp, 2-2=4
7 Westrum	13gp, 3-7=10
8 Peters	1gp, 0-0=0
10 Law	20gp, 8-9=17
11 Murray	3gp, 0-0=0
14 Murphy	41gp, 7-21=28
15 Lundbohm	3gp, 1-0=1
16 Olvecky	2gp, 0-0=0
17 Kinkel	4gp, 0-1=1
18 Voloshenko	3gp, 1-1=2
20 Stoner	3gp, 0-0=0
22 Olson	26gp, 2-5=7
23 Ferguson	0gp, 0-0=0
27 Taticcek	19gp, 3-1=4
28 Ward	3gp, 0-1=1
29 O'Sullivan	3gp, 1-0=1
32 Wood	13gp, 2-1=3
34 Foy	16gp, 2-5=7
36 Tetarenko	7gp, 1-2=3
44 Nazarov	1gp, 0-0=0

Admirals vs. Aeros

3 Reynolds	10gp, 0-1=1
4 Weber	3gp, 0-1=1
5 Zanon	22gp, 0-4=4
6 Klein	11gp, 1-4=5
10 Gamache	32gp, 14-18=32
11 Brown	2gp, 1-0=1
12 Segal	15gp, 1-2=3
13 Berry	7gp, 1-1=2
15 Beech	5gp, 1-6=7
17 Brookbank	23gp, 0-1=1
19 Upshall	10gp, 4-3=7
20 Haydar	31gp, 5-15=20
21 Classen	24gp, 7-7=14
22 Tootoo	12gp, 1-4=5
24 Pivko	15gp, 3-5=8
28 Stortini	3gp, 0-0=0
29 Durno	0gp, 0-0=0
33 Yablonski	8gp, 0-0=0
36 Lutz	7gp, 0-0=0
37 Peverley	2gp, 0-2=2
41 May	0gp, 0-0=0

Miroslav Kopriva (3-1-0, 2.79, .916, 0SHO)

- Outdueled former NHL All-Star Patrick Lalime for second straight game, making 25 saves in 2-1 win at PEO 1/27
- 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

Seamus Kotyk (10-5-1, 2.75, .909, 0SHO)

- Is 7-3-0 with a 2.18 gaa over last 10 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

- The Aeros are 32-3-0-0 when scoring three goals or more, but they are 2-9-1-1 when scoring two or fewer. Three is also the magic number defensively, as Houston is 30-4-1-1 when allowing three or fewer goals and 4-8-0-0 when yielding four or more.
- Iowa, Peoria and Milwaukee are the lone teams with two regulations wins against the Aeros this season.
- The Admirals outscore their opponents 57-40 in the third period. Only Wilkes-Barre/Scranton has yielded fewer goals in the final 20 minutes (34).
- When either leading or tied after two periods, Milwaukee is 27-3-4-1. Houston is 29-3-1-0 in that situation.
- Houston has enjoyed great success on the ice at home this season, but also in the stands as of late. In the last 13 games, dating back to 12/16, Toyota Center has hosted 80,922 fans for an average of 6,225. That has boosted the Aeros' attendance average to 5,411 – up to 10th-best in the AHL. Houston has bettered the 7,000 mark in attendance in each of the last three games, including a 11,672 last Saturday to welcome Rose Bowl Most Valuable Player **Vince Young** on Boy Scout Night. It marked the Aeros' second-largest crowd in their three seasons at Toyota Center. The last three- and four-game stretch with 7,000 or more fans was during a four-game run to close out the 1998-99 campaign. A 7,000-plus crowd is also expected tonight at Toyota Center.

Power play update

- Houston is second in the league on the power play at 20.9 percent.
- The Aeros are 37-for-149 (24.8 percent) with the man advantage in the last 24 games.
- Houston is 26-for-88 (29.5 percent) at home with the man advantage in the last 15 games. Only once in that span (1/13 vs. Iowa) have the Aeros not scored a PPG.
- The Aeros are 20-3-0-0 when scoring at least two PPG. Houston has scored two or more PPG in 13 of its last 23 games.
- Over their last 22 games, the Aeros have scored on their first or second power play of the game 16 times. Three times in that span, Houston has scored on both its first and second opportunities.
- Houston has been outscored on the power play just three times in its last 26 games.
- Milwaukee is tied for ninth on the penalty kill at 83.8 percent.
- The Admirals have allowed 11 goals on 44 shorthanded chances in the last six games for just a 75.0 percent kill rate.
- Milwaukee is 2-for-18 (11.1 percent) on the power play against the Aeros this season, but 0-for-9 at Toyota Center.

Penalty kill update

- Houston is third in the AHL on the penalty kill at 85.6 percent.
- In the last 11 games, Houston is 61-of-66 (92.4 percent) on the PK.
- Houston is 16-3-0-1 when not allowing a power play goal and 27-5-1-1 when allowing one power play goal or fewer.
- Milwaukee ranks fourth in the AHL on the power play at 20.2 percent.
- The Admirals are 8-for-35 (22.9 percent) with the man advantage in the last six games.
- Houston is 2-for-26 (7.7 percent) on the power play against Milwaukee this season. The Admirals and Peoria Rivermen are the lone AHL teams to hold the Aeros without a PPG in more than one game this season.

Aeros/Admirals connections

- Aeros D **Curtis Murphy** was a member of Milwaukee's Calder Cup championship team in 2003-04.
- Houston C **Bryan Lundbohm** spent most of four seasons with the Admirals, from 2001-05. He was injured when Milwaukee won the Calder Cup in 2003-04.
- Aeros G **Seamus Kotyk** went 10-6-1 with a 2.95 gaa in 23 games with Milwaukee in 2004-05.
- Houston D **Erik Reitz** played two seasons (1999-2001) with Milwaukee G **Brian Finley** at OHL Barrie.
- Aeros C **Patrick O'Sullivan** played junior hockey with Milwaukee's **T.J. Reynolds** in 2001-02 in Mississauga. Reynolds was Houston C **Petr Taticcek's** teammate in San Antonio in 2004-05.
- Milwaukee D **Rick Berry** played in Utah in 2004-05 with Aeros C **Erik Westrum** and D **Dustin Wood**.

