



HOUSTON AEROS (40-14-1-2) AT MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS (36-15-5-2)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2006

BRADLEY CENTER • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN • 2 p.m.

HOUSTON AEROS MEDIA INFORMATION

PH: 713.361.7930

2003 CALDER CUP CHAMPS

Aeros Quick Stats

Game #58	R#28
Home	23-4-1-2
Road	17-10-0-0
Streak	5-0-0-0
Road Streak	4-0-0-0
Last 5	5-0-0-0
Last 10	7-2-0-1
This Month	6-2-0-1
Scoring 3 or >	38-4-0-1
Scoring 2 or <	2-10-1-1
One-goal games	17-5-1-2
Two-goal games	7-3-0-0
Scoring first	27-6-1-2
Opponent scores first	13-8-0-0
Outshooting opponent	17-4-0-1
Opponent outshoots	22-10-1-1
Shots tied	1-0-0-0
Leading after 1st	24-5-1-1
Trailing after 1st	6-6-0-0
Tied after 1st	10-3-0-1
Leading after 2nd	30-3-0-0
Trailing after 2nd	5-10-0-2
Tied after 2nd	5-1-1-0
Overtime	2-1
Shootout	4-2
Scoring PPG	36-7-0-2
Not scoring PPG	4-7-1-0
Allowing PPG	19-11-1-0
Not allowing PPG	21-3-0-2
More PIM	16-6-1-1
Fewer PIM	20-6-0-1
Same PIM	4-2-0-0
First of two/three	12-4-0-0
Second of two/three	9-5-0-1
Third of three	4-2-1-0

Five things you need to know

● Houston (83 points), which has the AHL's best points percentage now at .729, and Milwaukee (79 points) have been 1-2 in the West Division race for more than two months, since 12/9. The Aeros' lead was a season-high nine points (58-49) on 1/12. Houston has had at least a share of first place every day since 11/3. Milwaukee hasn't yet led the West Division this season. The Aeros have one game in hand on the Admirals.

● Houston's 40 victories are tied with last season's total (40-28-6-6), with 23 games remaining. The Aeros are on pace for 116 points – five behind the 1998-99 franchise-record, which was set in an 82-game season. The Houston victory last night gave the Aeros 40 wins in 57 games, bettering the previous fastest 40-game start, 60 games in the 1998-99 Turner Cup championship season. Houston is 17-10-0-0 on the road, also tied with last season's mark (17-15-5-3). The Aeros' franchise record for road victories is 23, set twice, most recently in 1997-98 (23-13-5) in an 82-game season.

● The Aeros snapped out of their Bradley Center funk in a big way last night in their 3-0 victory. It marked Houston's second victory in 11 tries there (2-7-2-0), and G **Josh Harding** notched just the Aeros' second-ever shutout in Milwaukee and the first in more than four seasons with 40 saves. **Jamie McLennan** blanked the Admirals at Bradley Center 1/30/02. Houston itself had been outscored 18-2 in its last five trips to Bradley Center before last night. Harding improved to 3-2-0 with a 1.00 gaa against the Admirals, with each victory coming via the shutout. Houston has scored just one goal in those two losses – that goal coming in an OT loss. Harding has stopped 169-of-174 shots (97.1 percent) versus Milwaukee. Harding the first Aeros goalie to shut out the same team twice in one season since **Johan Holmqvist** blanked San Antonio twice in 2003-04. Harding improved to 25-7-0 with a 2.55 gaa – ninth best in the AHL – with his second shutout of the season and sixth of his career. Harding is the first Aeros' goalie with 25 wins since McLennan in 2001-02. No other Houston netminder has won 25 games since **Frederic Chabot** went 36-19-7 in 1999-2000. Harding has faced 35 or more shots in each of his last seven complete games.

● Aeros RW **Kirby Law** (33-48=81) took over the AHL's points lead last night from Aeros C **Erik Westrum** (27-53=80) with a three-assist performance. They rank first and second in the AHL in scoring and are trying to become the first duo from the same team to finish 1-2 in the league's scoring race since **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, who played in his 600th career professional game last night, has more goals in a single season than any Aero in the AHL years, as does C/LW **Patrick O'Sullivan**, who scored twice last night. O'Sullivan is first in rookie scoring with 64 points (33-31=64), and last night he broke **Cory Larose's** 2001-02 team record (32) for goals in a season by a rookie, and he tied Larose's point total from (64). LW **Roman Voloshenko** (26-16=42) is second among first-year players in goals and 10th in rookie scoring.

● Reports of the demise of the Aeros power play were extremely premature. After going without a PPG for two straight games 2/10-2/11, the first time all season that's happened, Houston has roared back with 11 PPG on 38 chances (28.9 percent) in the last six games. Tonight's game features two of the top four power play units in the AHL. The Aeros are second at 21.0 percent, while the Admirals are fourth at 19.9 percent. Despite the prowess, the teams have struggled mightily against each other this season. Houston is 5-for-48 (10.4 percent) on the power play against Milwaukee this season. Milwaukee is 2-for-33 (6.1 percent) on the power play against the Aeros this season, and 0-for-24 in the last five games.

Aeros at Admirals (Aeros are 32-35-7-2 all-time, Aeros are 14-19-3-0 at Milwaukee)

- The teams meet for the 77th time tonight – the 37th game in Milwaukee.
- The Aeros are 6-15-2-2 in the last 25 meetings since a 5-1 win 10/17/03.
- Since beating Milwaukee 7-0 at Toyota Center 1/11/05, the Aeros are 4-6-1-1 against the Admirals.
- The Aeros hadn't beaten Milwaukee in back-to-back meetings in the same season since 2/11-3/1/03, and tonight they'll try to win three straight in the series for the first time since 3/30-4/5/02.

Scouting the Aeros

The Aeros (40-14-1-2) have the AHL's best winning percentage (.729) and joins Grand Rapids as the lone AHL teams with 40 wins...Houston has won five consecutive games overall and four straight on the road, tied for a season-high and just one behind the second-longest road run in team history...RW **Kirby Law** has 81 points, (33-48=81), one up on C **Erik Westrum** (27-53=80) for the top spot in the AHL...C/LW **Patrick O'Sullivan** is first in rookie scoring with 64 points (33-31=64)...O'Sullivan is riding a season-high-tying, six-game point streak (5-5=10), his fifth run of at least five games this season...LW **Roman Voloshenko** (26-16=42) is second in goals and 10th in points among rookies...D **Curtis Murphy** is third among AHL defensemen with 47 points (8-39=47)...G **Josh Harding** is 25-7-0 with a 2.55 gaa to rank second in wins, first in save pct. (.927) and ninth in gaa...G **Seamus Kotyk** is 11-6-2 with a 2.93 gaa.

Scouting the Admirals

Milwaukee (36-15-5-2), AHL affiliate of the Nashville Predators, is 14-4-3-1 in its last 22 games...Former AHL Rookie of the Year RW **Darren Haydar** leads Milwaukee with 63 points (22-41=63), tied for seventh-best in the AHL...LW **Scottie Upshall** is the fourth leading scorer with 33 points (17-16=33) despite playing in only 22 games...D **Kevin Klein** paces the blueliners with 33 points (7-26=33)...Rookie All-Star G **Pekka Rinne** is 23-13-2 with a 2.74 gaa, while G **Brian Finley** is 12-5-0 with a 2.99 gaa.

2005-06 meetings (7th of 8 meetings, Aeros are 3-2-0-1 overall, Aeros are 1-1-0-0 at Milwaukee)

October 28	Houston 1 at Milwaukee 6	February 7	Milwaukee 2 at Houston 3
November 25	Milwaukee 0 at Houston 3	Last Night	Houston 3 at Milwaukee 0
November 27	Milwaukee 3 at Houston 0	Tonight	Houston at Milwaukee
February 4	Milwaukee 6 at Houston 5 (SO)	March 17	Houston at Milwaukee

Aeros Record after 57/58 Games

1994-95	26-26-5/26-27-5
1995-96	20-32-5/21-32-5
1996-97	29-22-6/30-22-6
1997-98	36-15-6/36-16-6
1998-99	39-9-9/39-10-9
1999-00	30-20-7/31-20-7
2000-01	27-25-6/27-26-6
2001-02	27-20-7-3/28-20-7-3
2002-03	37-13-6-1/37-14-6-1
2003-04	18-26-10-3/19-26-10-3
2004-05	27-21-6-3/28-21-6-3
2005-06	40-14-1-2/NA

Most points, Aeros history

5.	Greg Hawgood	145
6.	Kirby Law	130
7.	Rob Valicevic	129
8.	Jeff Tory	128
9t.	David Oliver	127
9t.	Mike Yeo	127

Most goals, Aeros history

4.	Brian Wiseman	62
5.	Graeme Townshend	61
6.	Kirby Law	58
7.	Kyle Wanvig	57

Single-season goals, Aeros history

2t.	Mark Freer	38
2t.	David Oliver	38
4.	Scott Arniel	37
5.	Cam Stewart	36
6t.	Kirby Law	33
6t.	Patrick O'Sullivan	33

Single-season points, Aeros history

2.	Brian Wiseman	98
3.	Jeff Christian	86
4.	Jean-Guy Trudel	85
5.	Kirby Law	81
6t.	Erik Westrum	80
6t.	Mark Freer	80
6t.	Brett Harkins	80

A look back...and ahead

Last 5

2/25 3-0 W @ MIL
2/23 4-3 W vs. IOW
2/18 4-3 W @ IOW
2/17 4-1 W @ IOW
2/15 6-4 W @ CLE

Next 5

3/2 vs. HAM
3/4 vs. HAR
3/5 @ SAN
3/7 vs. CHI
3/9 vs. CHI



HOUSTON AEROS (40-14-1-2) AT MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS (36-15-5-2)

The Goalies

Harding vs. Admirals

2004-05: 1-1-0, 0.99 gaa, .969 pct.
 2005-06: 2-1-0, 1.00 gaa, .972 pct.
Totals: 3-2-0, 1.00 gaa, .971 pct.

Kotyk vs. Admirals

2005-06: 0-0-1, 4.34 gaa, .854 pct.
Totals: 1-2-2, 2.98 gaa, .912 pct.

Josh Harding (25-7-0, 2.55, .927, 1SHO)

- Is 31-7-1 in his last 39 regular-season decisions
- Aeros' all-time leader in AHL victories (46)
- Posted 40-save shutout over MIL, 3-0 on 2/25
- Stopped franchise-record 56 shots in 4-2 win over TOR 1/10
- Stopped 33 shots for fifth career shutout, 3-0 over MIL 11/25
- Made then career-best 47 saves in 3-1 win at PEO 10/14

Finley vs. Aeros

2004-05: 7-3-0, 1.69 gaa, .946 pct.
 2005-06: 2-1-0, 2.60 gaa, .933 pct.
Totals: 17-7-1, 2.17 gaa, .934 pct.

Rinne vs. Aeros

2005-06: 1-2-0, 2.36 gaa, .913 pct.
Totals: 1-2-0, 2.36 gaa, .913 pct.

Seamus Kotyk (11-6-2, 2.93, .907, 0SHO)

- Is 8-4-1 over last 13 appearances but 2-3-1 in last six
- Made season-high 45 saves in 4-3 win at IOW 2/18
- Stopped 30 shots for fifth career shutout, 4-0 in CHI 1/22
- 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 (40-14-1-2) enters tonight's game with 83 points, and a magic number for clinching a playoff spot of 21 points. That's a combination of points won by the Aeros, and points lost by Omaha. The Knights can reach 103 points by winning their remaining 21 games.
- Houston is third in the AHL in scoring at 3.74 gpg, trailing only Grand Rapids' 3.98 gpg and Portland's 3.78 gpg. Since getting shut out 3-0 by Milwaukee 11/27, the Aeros have scored 137 goals in 33 games for a 4.15 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 exactly 299 goals.
- In their last nine victories, the Aeros have outscored their opponents 21-6 in the first period. In the last 22 games overall, Houston has a 34-15 goal margin in the opening 20 minutes, and overall on the season the Aeros are an AHL-best plus-30 (69-39). No other team has scored more nor allowed fewer first-period goals. Houston has trailed after one period just once in its last 17 games.
- Aeros D **Curtis Murphy**, an All-Star for the seventh time in as many North American seasons, became the team's all-time point and goal scorer from the blueline last week. Murphy now has 147 points (43-104=147) in 215 games with the Aeros. Murphy trails only **Greg Hawgood** in assists among blueliners (109). Murphy, a two-time Eddie Shore Winner as AHL Defenseman of the Year, is third among all AHL blueliners in points this season (9-38=47). Murphy's 38 assists are already a new AHL-high for him – his career-best was 43 with IHL Orlando in 1999-2000.
- Houston has trailed at some point in 16 of its 40 victories, with five of the wins coming when trailing by two goals. The Aeros had 16 come-from-behind victories in 2004-05.

They are an impressive 13-8-0-0 when allowing the game's first goal, including wins in each of the last three occurrences.

- The Aeros are 38-4-0-1 when scoring three goals or more, but they are 2-10-1-1 when scoring two or fewer. Three is also the magic number defensively, as Houston is 35-4-1-1 when allowing three or fewer goals and 5-10-0-1 when yielding four or more.
- Houston is 13-1-0-0 when allowing 29 or fewer shots this season, but also an impressive 10-1-1-0 when yielding 40 or more.
- Houston's checking line of LW **Josh Olson**, C **Bryan Lundbohm** and RW **Joel Ward** has combined for the Aeros' first goal in two of the last three games, in addition to their hard work on the defensive end. The trio finding the scoresheet generally means an Aeros win. Houston is 9-1-0-1 when Olson has a goal, 10-1-1-0 with an assist and 16-2-1-1 with a point. The Aeros are 8-1-0-0 when Lundbohm scores a goal, 11-1-0-0 when he has an assist and 19-2-0-0 when he has a point. Houston is 9-2-0-0 when Ward has an assist, and 10-3-0-0 when he has at least one point. Lundbohm has six points (3-3=6) in his last 10 games.
- The Aeros are 17-5-1-2 in one-goal games, and an impressive 24-8-1-2 in games decided by two goals or less. Houston has seen nine of its last 10 games be decided by one or two goals, going 6-2-0-1. Milwaukee is 16-4-5-2 in one-goal games. The Admirals' four regulation losses in one-goal games are tied for the fewest in the AHL.
- Aeros D **Dustin Wood** is set to play in his 200th consecutive game tonight, the longest active streak in the AHL.

Aeros vs. Admirals

3 Stokes	6gp, 0-0=0
5 Reitz	28gp, 2-3=5
7 Westrum	16gp, 3-9=12
8 Peters	1gp, 0-0=0
10 Law	23gp, 10-12=22
11 Murray	6gp, 0-0=0
14 Murphy	44gp, 7-23=30
15 Lundbohm	6gp, 2-0=2
16 Olvecky	3gp, 0-0=0
17 Kinkel	7gp, 0-2=2
18 Voloshenko	6gp, 2-1=3
20 Stoner	6gp, 0-0=0
22 Olson	29gp, 3-5=8
23 Ferguson	3gp, 0-1=1
27 Taticek	21gp, 3-3=6
28 Ward	6gp, 1-1=2
29 O'Sullivan	6gp, 6-1=7
32 Wood	16gp, 2-1=3
34 Foy	19gp, 2-6=8
36 Tetarenko	7gp, 1-2=3
44 Nazarov	1gp, 0-0=0

Admirals vs. Aeros

3 Reynolds	13gp, 0-1=1
5 Zanon	25gp, 0-5=5
6 Klein	14gp, 1-5=6
10 Gamache	35gp, 15-18=33
11 Brown	3gp, 1-0=1
12 Segal	18gp, 3-2=5
13 Berry	9gp, 1-1=2
15 Beech	6gp, 1-6=7
17 Brookbank	26gp, 0-2=2
19 Upshall	13gp, 7-4=11
20 Haydar	34gp, 5-17=22
21 Classen	27gp, 8-8=16
24 Pivko	18gp, 3-5=8
28 Stortini	6gp, 0-1=1
29 Durno	3gp, 0-3=3
36 Lutz	9gp, 0-0=0
37 Peverley	4gp, 0-2=2
41 May	2gp, 0-0=0

Power play update

- Houston is second in the league on the power play at 21.0 percent.
- The Aeros are 50-for-209 (23.9 percent) with the man advantage in the last 33 games.
- Houston is 11-for-38 (28.9 percent) on the power play in its last six games after going without a PPG in two straight games for the first time this season.
- The Aeros are 22-4-0-1 when scoring at least two PPG. Houston has scored two or more PPG in 17 of its last 32 games.
- Houston has been outscored on the power play just five times in its last 35 games.
- Milwaukee is tied for seventh in the AHL on the penalty kill at 84.0 percent.
- The Admirals have killed off 34-of-39 (87.2 percent) of their shorthanded chances in the last six games.
- Houston is 5-for-48 (10.4 percent) on the power play against Milwaukee this season.

Penalty kill update

- Houston is fourth in the AHL on the penalty kill at 85.4 percent.
- In the last 19 games, Houston is 102-of-115 (88.7 percent) on the PK.
- Houston is 20-3-0-2 when not allowing a power play goal and 31-7-1-1 when allowing one power play goal or fewer.
- Milwaukee ranks fourth in the AHL on the power play at 19.9 percent.
- The Admirals are 6-for-39 (15.4 percent) with the man advantage in the last six games.
- Milwaukee is 2-for-33 (6.1 percent) on the power play against the Aeros this season, and 0-for-24 in the last five games since going 2-for-9 at Bradley Center in the lone other meeting of the season, 10/28. In the last 13 games against Houston, the Admirals are 3-for-64 (4.7 percent) with the man advantage.

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 Taticek'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**.

PPG/PPGA ratio

1. Houston	+28
2. Hershey	+27
3. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton	+24

Single-season PPG, Aeros history

1. Jeff Christian	20
2. David Olier	18
3. Mark Freer	17
4. Roman Voloshenko	15
5. Erik Westrum	14

