



HOUSTON AEROS (3-0) vs. PEORIA RIVERMEN (0-3), GAME 4, WEST DIVISION SEMI.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2006

CARVER ARENA • PEORIA, ILLINOIS • 7 p.m.

HOUSTON AEROS MEDIA INFORMATION

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2003 CALDER CUP CHAMPS

Aeros Quick Stats

Game #84	R#42
Overall	53-24-3-3
Home	32-6-2-2
Road	21-18-1-1
Streak	4-0-0-0
Road Streak	2-0-0-0
Last 5	4-1-0-0
Last 10	8-2-0-0
This Month	8-2-0-0
Scoring 3 or >	51-7-0-2
Scoring 2 or <	2-19-3-1
One-goal games	25-8-3-3
Two-goal games	8-6-0-0
Scoring first	35-9-2-3
Opponent scores first	18-15-1-0
Outshooting opponent	23-10-1-2
Opponent outshoots	28-14-1-1
Shots tied	2-0-1-0
Leading after 1st	31-7-1-1
Trailing after 1st	10-12-0-1
Tied after 1st	12-5-2-1
Leading after 2nd	38-3-1-0
Trailing after 2nd	6-19-0-2
Tied after 2nd	9-2-2-1
Overtime	5-3
Scoring PPG	47-13-0-2
Not scoring PPG	6-11-3-1
Allowing PPG	27-18-2-1
Not allowing PPG	26-6-1-2
More PIM	8-12-3-2
Fewer PIM	30-9-0-1
Same PIM	5-3-0-0
First of two/three	14-6-1-1
Second of two/three	12-9-0-1
Third of three	5-4-2-0

Eight things you need to know

- Houston is in the post-season for the 11th time in its 12 seasons after recording its third 50-win season in team history. The Aeros finished 50-24-3-3 - the fifth-best record in the AHL - while Peoria was 46-26-3-5 - one of 10 AHL teams to reach 100 points this season. The teams play a best-of-seven West Division Semifinals series. The Aeros are 8-5 all-time in seven-game playoff series.
- The Aeros are 2-0 all-time when taking a 3-0 series lead, sweeping Hershey in the 2002 Western Conference Semifinals, and taking out San Antonio in five games in the 1997 Western Conference Semifinals. Entering this post-season, only two of 95 teams in AHL history have won a seven-game series when trailing 3-0 - Rochester in 1960 and Adirondack in 1989. Only 33 of the 95 teams have managed to avoid being swept, 10 have forced a Game 6, and just the aforementioned Rochester and Adirondack teams have pushed it to seven games.
- Houston is 12-11 all-time when pushing an opponent to the brink of elimination, including six wins in the last nine attempts. The last time the Aeros had a chance to knock out an opponent, they did, beating Hamilton 3-0 in Game 7 of the 2003 Calder Cup Finals, on the road.
- The Aeros improved to 12-10 all-time in playoff overtime games by winning the first two games of this series in the extra session. Only three times before has Houston played back-to-back overtime games in a playoff series. Most recently, the Aeros lost back-to-back games (Games 5 and 6) in the 2003 Western Conference Finals. This also marks the first time the Aeros have won two overtime games in the same playoff series. Houston is an impressive 9-1 all-time in playoff series when winning an OT game at some point in the set. The lone time the Aeros won an OT contest and dropped the series was the 2001 Western Conference Semifinals to Manitoba, when they dropped a pair of double overtime games.
- Aeros G **Josh Harding** has won six straight AHL starts - tying his career-high - and is 12-1-0 in his last 13 decisions since allowing six goals - including five in the third period - 1/6 in a 6-5 home loss to Grand Rapids. The Wild's second-round pick in 2003 is 18-2-0 in his last 20 AHL decisions. Since allowing four goals over the first two periods of Game 1, Harding has stopped 89-of-92 shots for a .967 save pct. Harding ranks seventh in the Calder Cup Playoffs with a 2.14 gaa, and fourth with a .936 save pct. Harding is 6-0-0 against the Rivermen.
- Houston was 18-10-0-0 on the road after back-to-back wins in Milwaukee 2/25-2/26, but went just 1-8-1-1 in its next 11 road games. However, the Aeros have now won back-to-back road games for the first time since a five-game road winning streak 2/15-2/26. The Aeros were 1-1 on the road in the 2005 Calder Cup Playoffs, winning a 2-1 OT game in Chicago in Game 2.
- The Aeros have scored early and often in the first three games of the West Division Semifinals. Houston has scored first in each game, but it has also scored in 10 of the 11 possible periods, including the two overtime sessions. The lone stanza so far in which the Aeros haven't scored was the second period of Game 2.
- Aeros LW/C **Peter Olvecky** has quietly been one of the Aeros' most consistent performers in the last

month. The Slovakia native, the Rookie of the Year in the Slovakian Elite League last season, has a point in each of Houston's first three playoff games (1-2=3). He carries a six-game point streak (2-5=7) into Game 4, after not having notched points in more than two consecutive games all season. Olvecky set up RW **Matt Foy's** OT game-winner in Game 2.

Aeros at Rivermen (Aeros are 9-8-1-0 all-time in regular season)

- Houston went 6-4-0-0 this season against Peoria, but just 2-3-0-0 at Carver Arena. The Aeros lost the three games there by a combined 15-2 margin, including a pair of shutouts, in addition to an 8-2 loss 3/28 in their last trip there.
- Peoria outshot Houston in eight of the 10 regular-season meetings this season, and enjoyed a 46-26 shot advantage in Game 3.
- The team scoring first won nine of the 10 games in the regular season, and all three games in this series. Houston's 5-3 victory 12/16 was the lone time a team allowed the first goal and won.
- The Aeros are 10-for-79 (12.6 percent) with the man advantage versus the Rivermen this season. Peoria and Omaha were the lone two AHL teams to outscore Houston on the power play in head-to-head meetings this season.

2005-06 meetings (Aeros went 6-4-0-0 overall, Aeros went 3-2-0-0 at Peoria)

October 14	Houston 3 at Peoria 1	January 24	Houston 0 at Peoria 3
October 30	Houston 0 at Peoria 4	January 27	Houston 2 at Peoria 1
December 16	Peoria 3 at Houston 5	March 27	Houston 2 at Peoria 8
December 17	Peoria 2 at Houston 7	April 1	Peoria 0 at Houston 5
January 21	Peoria 1 at Houston 5	April 2	Peoria 3 at Houston 1

Scouting the Aeros

The Aeros (50-24-3-3) finished second in the West Division with 106 points...RW **Kirby Law** paced the AHL in scoring with a team-record 110 points (43-67=110), 12 points up on Aeros C **Erik Westrum** (34-64=98) for the top spot in the AHL...LW **Patrick O'Sullivan** finished first among rookies and fifth overall with 93 points (47-46=93)...LW **Roman Voloshenko** (33-27=60) was third in goals among rookies and tied for ninth in points...D **Curtis Murphy** finished second among AHL defensemen with a new career-best 67 points (14-53=67)...G **Josh Harding** went 29-8-0 with a 2.68 gaa with the Aeros this season, ranking fourth in the league in wins and tied for first in save pct. (.922) despite missing nearly three months due to call-ups and injuries...G **Seamus Kotyk** went 15-15-2 with a 3.03 gaa.

Scouting the Rivermen

Peoria (46-26-3-5), AHL affiliate of the St. Louis Blues, finished third in the West Division with 100 points...Eighteen Rivermen players also skated for the Blues this season...RW **Jon DiSalvatore** paced the Rivermen with 67 points (22-45=67)...RW **Mike Glumac** ranked second with 57 points (25-32=57), but in just 49 games due to call-ups...D **Mike Mottau** was the third leading scorer and tied for sixth among AHL defensemen with 56 points (8-48=56)...G **Chris Beckford-Tseu** went 6-5-1 with a 3.01 gaa during the regular season, while G **Gregg Naumenko** was 3-1-1 with a 1.94 gaa with the Rivermen and 10-7-1 with a 2.86 gaa in 22 games with four teams...Peoria used seven goalies this season.

2006 West Division Semifinals

- Game 1 - PEO 4 at HOU 5 (OT)
- Game 2 - PEO 2 at HOU 3 (OT)
- Game 3 - HOU 6 at PEO 1
- Game 4 - HOU at PEO, Tonight 7:00
- *Game 5 - HOU at PEO, Thur. 7:00
- *Game 6 - PEO at HOU, Sat. 7:35
- *Game 7 - PEO at HOU, 5/1 7:35
- * - If necessary

Aeros record when...

Leading 3-0	2-0
Leading 3-1	5-1
*7 game series only	

Top rookie goal scorers in AHL, since 1990-91

1. Patrick Lebeau (90-91) 50
- 2t. Patrick O'Sullivan (05-06) 47
- 2t. Bill McDougall (90-91) 47

Most points by AHL rookie, since 1994-95

- 1t. Patrick O'Sullivan (05-06) 93
- 1t. Darcy Tucker (95-96) 93
3. Daniel Briere (97-98) 92
4. Rem Murray (95-96) 90

Single-season goals, Aeros history

1. Patrick O'Sullivan 47
2. Jeff Christian 45
3. Kirby Law 43

Single-season points, Aeros history

1. Kirby Law 110
2. Brian Wiseman 109
- 3t. Erik Westrum 98
- 3t. Brian Wiseman 98
5. Patrick O'Sullivan 93



A look back...and ahead

Last 5

- 4/24 6-1 W at PEO (Game 3, West Div. Semifinals)
- 4/22 3-2 W (OT) vs. PEO (Game 2, West Div. Semifinals)
- 4/21 5-4 W (OT) vs. PEO (Game 1, West Div. Semifinals)
- 4/16 5-3 W @ IOW
- 4/15 5-6 L @ CHI

Next 5

- 4/27 at PEO (Game 5, West Division Semifinals, if nec.)
- 4/29 vs. PEO (Game 6, West Division Semifinals, if nec.)
- 5/1 vs. PEO (Game 7, West Division Semifinals, if nec.)



HOUSTON AEROS (3-0) vs. PEORIA RIVERMEN (0-3), GAME 4, WEST DIVISION SEMI.

The Goalies (records during reg. season)

Harding vs. Rivermen

2005-06: 3-0-0, 2.00 gaa, .952 pct.
Totals: 3-1-0, 1.83 gaa, .951 pct.

Kotyk vs. Rivermen

2005-06: 1-2-0, 2.89 gaa, .913 pct.
Totals: 1-4-0, 3.10 gaa, .905 pct.

Beckford-Tseu vs. Aeros

2005-06: 0-1-0, 9.63 gaa, .750 pct.
Totals: 0-1-0, 9.63 gaa, .750 pct.

Naumenko vs. Aeros

2005-06: 1-0-0, 2.02 gaa, .913 pct.
Totals: 1-0-0, 2.02 gaa, .913 pct.

Josh Harding (29-8-0, 2.68, .922, 2SHO)

- Is 35-8-1 in his last 44 regular-season decisions
- Aeros' all-time leader in AHL victories (50)
- Recalled to NHL Minnesota 3/8 and went 2-1-0 with 2.59 gaa
- 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

Seamus Kotyk (15-15-2, 3.03 .899, 2SHO)

- Earned sixth career shutout with 36 saves in 5-0 win over PEO 4/1
- 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

- Aeros RW **Kirby Law's** hadn't scored a goal in 22 games over his last three post-seasons, but he has three goals in as many games in the West Division Semifinals.
- The Aeros are 4-3-2-1 in their last 10 one-goal games. Houston is an eye-popping 25-8-3-3 in such contests, and an impressive 33-14-3-3 in games decided by two goals or less. Gearing up for what promises to be a very tight Calder Cup Playoffs, Houston has seen 27 of its last 35 games be decided by one or two goals, going 15-8-2-2.
- In their last 22 victories, the Aeros have outscored their opponents 37-16 in the first period. In the last 47 games overall, Houston has a 57-37 goal margin in the opening 20 minutes, and on the season the Aeros were an AHL-best plus-31 (89-58). The Aeros are 31-7-1-1 when leading after one period this season.
- Houston is 16-6-2-0 when allowing 29 or fewer shots this season, but also an impressive 11-2-1-0 when yielding 40 or more.
- The Aeros are 51-7-0-2 when scoring three goals or more, but they are 2-17-3-1 when scoring two or fewer. Three is also the magic number defensively, as Houston is 42-6-3-1 when allowing three or fewer goals and 11-18-0-2 when yielding four or more.

Aeros vs. Rivermen

2 Ovington	3gp, 0-1=1
3 Stokes	13gp, 0-2=2
4 Belle	12gp, 1-0=1
5 Reitz	16gp, 0-6=6
6 Thelen	0gp, 0-0=0
8 Peters	5gp, 0-0=0
10 Law	25gp, 14-12=26
14 Murphy	17gp, 0-9=9
15 Lundbohm	13gp, 4-6=10
16 Olvecky	11gp, 3-3=6
17 Kinkel	10gp, 1-0=1
18 Voloshenko	13gp, 4-5=9
19 Irmen	3gp, 0-0=0
20 Stoner	7gp, 1-1=2
22 Olson	15gp, 5-3=8
23 Ferguson	23gp, 2-7=9
25 Bernakevitch	1gp, 0-1=1
26 Mauldin	7gp, 1-2=3
28 Ward	10gp, 3-2=5
29 O'Sullivan	13gp, 5-8=13
34 Foy	14gp, 4-7=11
36 Tetarenko	23gp, 0-3=3

Rivermen vs. Aeros

3 Mottau	27gp, 3-10=13
4 Thompson	26gp, 0-3=3
5 Byrne	12gp, 3-3=6
7 Buckley	16gp, 0-2=2
8 Morgan	47gp, 6-13=19
10 Hemingway	3gp, 1-0=1
11 DiSalvatore	16gp, 1-6=7
12 Stuart	12gp, 0-1=1
14 Evans	17gp, 3-5=8
15 Glumac	14gp, 5-8=13
16 Fitzgerald	0gp, 0-0=0
17 Keith	2gp, 0-0=0
18 McClement	7gp, 0-2=2
19 King	13gp, 1-2=3
20 MacKenzie	13gp, 0-0=0
24 Sejna	15gp, 5-8=13
25 Backes	6gp, 3-3=6
26 Brooks	15gp, 1-2=3
28 Ramsay	11gp, 3-3=6
34 Low	1gp, 0-0=0
37 Stempniak	8gp, 2-4=6
42 Zigomanis	6gp, 3-5=8
43 Woywitka	13gp, 0-1=1
44 Mojzis	12gp, 3-3=6

● Aeros veteran **D Curtis Murphy** didn't have a two-goal game in the first 75 contests of 2005-06, but he has a pair of two-goal, one-assist efforts in the last six games. Murphy, who finished second in the league in scoring among defenseman with a career-best 67 points (14-53=67), had been held without a goal in 17 straight games before he scored twice 4/9 against San Antonio. Since early March, Murphy has raised helped raise \$2,800 for "Murphy's Mission", benefiting "I Have a Dream". In post-season home games, an anonymous local donor is giving \$1,000 per Murphy goal and \$200 per assist to the cause. A Murphy hat trick at home will net \$10,000, and a Calder Cup title will give \$10,000 in honor of the entire Aeros team to "I Have a Dream".

● The **Watson Family Foundation** has announced three charity-driven programs for the 2006 Calder Cup Playoffs: "Saves: Saving Lives", "All-Stars for All-Stars" and "Rookies for Ronald". "Saves: Saving Lives" will benefit Boys & Girls Country. The Watsons will make a donation of \$10 for every save made by an Aeros goalie in the 2006 Calder Cup Playoffs. "All-Stars for All-Stars" will aid After School All Stars. The Watsons will give \$50 per goal and \$50 per assist garnered by each of the Aeros three First Team All-Stars - **Kirby Law**, **Erik Westrum** and **Curtis Murphy**. The assist donation is provided the player assists on a fellow All-Stars goal. The program has raised \$400 thus far. Ronald McDonald House Houston is the beneficiary for "Rookies for Ronald". Ronald McDonald House will receive \$50 per goal scored by a rookie, or an assist on another rookie's goal, in the 2006 Calder Cup Playoffs. That program has raised \$200.

● Entering the post-season, 12 Aeros have played a total of 190 Calder Cup Playoffs games, led by **D Curtis Murphy** (59) and RW **Kirby Law** (40). Just five have season action in the post-season with the Aeros, including Murphy (37) and **D Erik Reitz** (13), each members of the Aeros' 2003 Calder Cup championship team. Murphy also owns a 2004 Calder Cup with Milwaukee, and a 2001 IHL Turner Cup with Orlando. **D Scott Ferguson** has played in 11 Stanley Cup Playoffs games, the lone Aero to see action in the NHL post-season. Ferguson was a Calder Cup Finalist in 1997, when his Hamilton team lost to Hershey.

● Aeros **D Curtis Murphy** has won 13 of the last 14 post-seasons series in North America in which he has participated. The lone loss was with the Aeros in the 2002 Western Conference Finals, a five-game loss to Chicago.

● Houston has trailed at some point in 23 of its 53 victories, with eight of the wins coming when trailing by two goals. The Aeros had 16 come-from-behind victories in 2004-05. They are an impressive 18-15-1-0 when allowing the game's first goal.

Power play update

- Houston finished the regular season tied second third in the league, with Peoria and Milwaukee, on the power play at 20.0 percent.
- Houston is 12-for-106 (11.3 percent) with the man advantage in the last 17 games.
- The Aeros are 26-8-0-1 when scoring at least two PPG
- Peoria tied for fourth in the AHL on the penalty kill at 84.9 percent.
- The Rivermen have killed of 35-of-41 (85.4 percent) of their shorthanded chances in the last eight games.
- Houston is 10-for-79 (12.6 percent) on the power play against Peoria.

Penalty kill update

- Houston tied for eighth in the AHL on the penalty kill in the regular season at 83.4 percent.
- The Aeros have allowed 32 PPG on 142 chances in the last 21 games for just a 77.5 percent PK rate, and they allowed a season-high-tying five PPG 3/28 in Peoria.
- Houston is 26-6-1-3 when not allowing a power play goal and 41-13-3-2 when allowing one power play goal or fewer.
- Peoria tied for second in the AHL, with Houston and Milwaukee, on the power play at 20.0 percent.
- The Rivermen are 2-for-34 (5.9 percent) on the man advantage in the last six games.
- Peoria are 14-for-79 (17.7 percent) on the power play against Houston. The Rivermen had 11 players score their 12 PPG in the regular-season series.

Aeros/Rivermen connections

- Peoria **C Brendan Brooks** and **D Brendan Buckley** teamed with Aeros assistant coach **Matt Shaw**, then Quad Cities' head coach, to win the UHL's regular-season title with the Mallards in the 1999-2000 season. Buckley was Aeros LW **Greg Mauldin's** teammate in Syracuse in 2003-04.
- Aeros LW **Joey Tetarenko** and Peoria **D Rocky Thompson** spent much of the 2000-01 season together at AHL Louisville.
- Aeros **G Seamus Kotyk** spent the 2003-04 season in Cleveland along with Peoria RW **Jon DiSalvatore**.
- Aeros rookie **F Danny Irmen** and Peoria rookie **F David Backes** played two seasons of junior hockey together with USHL Lincoln.

PPG/PPGA ratio

1. Hershey	+34
2. Peoria	+23
3. Houston	+23
*Regular Season	

Single-season PPG, Aeros history

1t. Roman Voloshenko	20
1t. Jeff Christian	20
3. David Olier	18
4t. Patrick O'Sullivan	17
4t. Erik Westrum	17
4t. Mark Freer	17
7. Kirby Law	15

