



HOUSTON AEROS (6-1-1-0) vs. CHICAGO WOLVES (1-3-1-0)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2005

TOYOTA CENTER ● HOUSTON, TEXAS ● 7:05 p.m.

HOUSTON AEROS MEDIA INFORMATION

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2003 CALDER CUP CHAMPS

Aeros Quick Stats

Game #9	HH#
Home	2-0-1-0
Road	4-1-0-0
Streak	5-0-1-0
Home Streak	2-0-1-0
Last 5	4-0-1-0
Last 10	6-1-1-0
This Month	6-1-1-0
Scoring 3 or >	6-0-0-0
Scoring 2 or <	0-1-1-0
One-goal games	4-1-1-0
Two-goal games	1-0-0-0
Scoring first	5-1-1-0
Opponent scores first	1-0-0-0
Outshooting opponent	2-0-0-0
Opponent outshoots	4-1-1-0
Shots tied	0-0-0-0
Leading after 1st	4-1-1-0
Trailing after 1st	1-0-0-0
Tied after 1st	1-0-0-0
Leading after 2nd	4-1-0-0
Trailing after 2nd	1-0-0-0
Tied after 2nd	1-0-1-0
Overtime	0-1
Shootout	2-0
Scoring PPG	6-1-0-0
Not scoring PPG	0-0-1-0
Allowing PPG	6-1-1-0
Not allowing PPG	0-0-0-0
More PIM	4-1-1-0
Fewer PIM	2-0-0-0
Same PIM	0-0-0-0
First of two/three	3-0-0-0
Second of two/three	2-1-0-0
Third of three	0-0-1-0

Five things you need to know

- While two "other" teams from Houston and Chicago sort out the World Series a few blocks away, the Aeros and Wolves renew one of the American Hockey League's most exciting rivalries. Houston has enjoyed much success against Chicago at home - in the regular season that is. The Aeros are 20-7-8-2 all-time at home versus the Wolves. Despite Chicago owning just seven regulation wins in 11 seasons in Houston, the Wolves took three straight against the Aeros at Toyota Center in the 2005 West Division Semifinals. Tonight marks the first meeting since Chicago won Game 5, 5-3.
- The Aeros (6-1-1-0) are off to their second-best start in franchise history. Only Houston's 8-0-0-0 run to begin its 2002-03 Calder Cup-winning season has netted more points in the standings in the first eight games. The Aeros have points in each of their last six games (5-0-1-0) after losing 2-1 in OT to Manchester on Saturday. Houston's only regulation loss was a 3-2 decision at San Antonio, 10/8.
- Despite being held off the scoresheet for the first time in eight games Saturday, Aeros C **Erik Westrum** is in a four-way tie for the AHL's scoring lead with 15 points (4-11=15). RW **Kirby Law's** 12 points (6-6=12) tie him for sixth in the AHL. D **Kurtis Foster** (3-7=10) and D **Curtis Murphy** (0-9=9) rank second and third in the league in defenseman scoring, respectively. All told, the Aeros have five of the league's top 20 scorers. LW **Roman Voloshenko** (7-2=9) is tied for the AHL's rookie scoring lead, and his seven goals are tied for second among all players. The all-time record for goals by an Aeros rookie is 32, set by **Cory Larose** in 2001-02.
- Houston D **Kurtis Foster**, a member of the Wolves for nearly three full seasons from 2001-02 to 2003-04, has eight points (3-5=8) in a five-game point streak he carries into tonight's game. That's one off his career-high of six, set 12/26/03-1/3/04 with Cincinnati. Foster has 10 points (3-7=10), tied for eighth overall among all AHL players.
- Aeros second-year goalie **Josh Harding** has turned in some very good numbers in his brief pro career. He's 26-18-3 with a 2.15 gaa - the lowest in team history - despite missing two months in 2004-05 with a concussion. Without his eight games against Chicago, those numbers would be even better. Harding is 3-5-0 with a 3.05 gaa against the Wolves, but 23-13-3 with a sparkling 1.96 gaa versus the rest of the AHL. Harding also went 0-2 in the 2005 West Division Semifinals. Harding is two wins away from sixth-place **Johan Holmqvist** on the team's all-time victories list.

Wolves at Aeros (Aeros are 33-23-14-4 all-time, Aeros are 20-7-8-2 at home)

- Tonight is the 75th all-time meeting between the Wolves and Aeros - 38th in Houston. That's the most meetings between the Aeros and an active AHL franchise.
- The Aeros went 5-3-2-0 against the Wolves in the 2004-05 regular season, including a 4-1-0-0

Aeros Record after Eight/Nine Games

1994-95	3-3-2/4-3-2
1995-96	2-6-0/2-7-0
1996-97	2-5-1/3-5-1
1997-98	4-2-2/4-3-2
1998-99	6-2-0/7-2-0
1999-00	3-2-3/3-3-3
2000-01	3-4-1/3-5-1
2001-02	5-2-1/5-2-1-1
2002-03	8-0-0/8-1-0
2003-04	3-4-1/3-5-1
2004-05	4-3-1/4-3-1-1
2005-06	6-1-1/NA

Most assists, Aeros history

6	Travis Roche	85
7	Mark Cullen	77
8t	Curtis Murphy	75
8t	Stephane Veilleux	75

Most wins, Aeros history

6	Johan Holmqvist	28
7t	Josh Harding	26
7t	Ryan Bach	26
9	Jamie McLennan	25

Most PIM, Aeros history

9	Greg Walters	378
10	Erik Reitz	370
11	Graeme Townshend	369

home mark and a 1-2-2-0 record at Allstate Arena.

- Since joining the AHL, Houston is 15-14-9-4 versus Chicago, including a 10-4-5-2 home record and a 5-10-4-2 road mark.
- The Aeros have just six wins in the last 21 matchups (6-9-6-0) but have points in 12 of those games.
- Fourteen of the last 28 meetings have gone into overtime, including four of 10 in each of the last two seasons. However, each of the last four was decided in regulation.
- Houston is 4-7-7 versus Chicago in overtime and 4-4 in shootouts.
- The Aeros are 20-7-8-2 all-time at home versus the Wolves. Despite Chicago's seven regulation wins in 11 seasons in Houston, the Wolves took three straight against the Aeros at Toyota Center in the 2005 post-season.
- Houston is 5-1-2-0 in the last eight regular season home meetings with the Wolves.
- The long-time rivals don't meet again until 1/22 at Allstate Arena, and Chicago doesn't make a return visit to Houston until 1/28.

Scouting the Aeros

The Aeros are off to a 6-1-1-0 start, and their 13 points are the second most in the AHL...Only Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (7-0-0-0) has more points and a better winning percentage...C **Erik Westrum** has 15 points (4-11=15) to tie for the AHL lead in scoring...RW **Kirby Law** is tied for sixth in the league with 12 points (6-6=12)...D **Kurtis Foster** has 10 points (3-7=10), while counterpart D **Curtis Murphy** has nine (0-9=9)...C **Patrick O'Sullivan**, considered by many the Wild's top young prospect, had points in each of his first four pro games, including two goals, but was held off the scoresheet in each of the last two games...G **Josh Harding** is 5-2-0 with a 2.95 gaa...G **Miroslav Koprivka** won his North American debut last Thursday night, making 29 saves plus four-of-six in the shootout in a 4-3 win at Omaha.

Scouting the Wolves

Chicago, AHL affiliate of the Atlanta Thrashers, won its season-opener, 5-2 in Omaha 10/7, but has gone 0-3-1-0 in four games since...The Wolves have scored just five goals in that four-game streak, including one goal in each of their last three games...RW **Scott Barney**, who missed all of 2004-05 due to injury, leads a brand-new Chicago lineup with six points (3-3=6), just ahead of LW **Ramzi Abid** (2-3=5)...No other Wolves player has more than one goal...D **Mark Popovic** (1-1=2), acquired over the summer from the Mighty Ducks, and former Aero D **Travis Roche** (0-2=2) pace the blueline...G **Steve Shields**, the college roommate of former Aero **Cam Stewart**, is 0-1-0 with a 1.92 gaa...He was signed when both **Michael Garnett** and **Adam Berkhoel** were summoned to Atlanta...G **Gregg Naumenko** is 0-2-0 with a 2.55 gaa.

2005-06 meetings (1st of 8 meetings)

Tonight	Chicago at Houston	March 9	Chicago at Houston
January 22	Houston at Chicago	March 15	Houston at Chicago
January 28	Chicago at Houston	March 24	Houston at Chicago
March 7	Chicago at Houston	April 15	Houston at Chicago

A look back...and ahead

Last 5

10/22	1-2 OTL vs. MCH
10/21	7-3 W vs. GR
10/20	4-3 W (SO) @ OMA
10/18	6-5 W (SO) @ OMA
10/15	3-2 W @ GR

Next 5

10/28	@ MIL
10/29	@ GR
10/30	@ PEO
11/3	vs. IOW
11/4	vs. MTB



HOUSTON AEROS (6-1-1-0) vs. CHICAGO WOLVES (1-3-1-0)

The Goalies

Harding vs. Wolves

2004-05: 3-5-0, 3.05 gaa, .882 pct.
2005-06: First appearance
Totals: 3-5-0, 3.05 gaa, .882 pct.

Kopriva vs. Wolves

2005-06: First appearance
Totals: First appearance

Josh Harding (5-2-0, 2.95, .922, 0SHO)

- Is 11-2-1 in his last 14 regular-season decisions, with one of the two losses coming in OT
- Stopped 43 shots but lost 2-1 in OT to MCH 10/22
- Made career-best 47 saves in 3-1 win at PEO 10/14
- Went 21-16-3 in rookie season with Aeros with four shutouts and finished fifth in AHL in gaa (2.01), tops among Western Conference netminders and second among rookies (Lowell's **Cam Ward**, 1.99)

Naumenko vs. Aeros

2005-06: First appearance
Totals: First appearance

Shields vs. Aeros

2005-06: First appearance
Totals: First appearance

Miroslav Kopriva (1-0-0, 2.77, .906, 0SHO)

- Made 29 saves in North American debut, plus 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

Quick Hits

- The Aeros have scored in 19 of 24 regulation periods through eight games.
- Houston has gone shorthanded 75 times in eight games. No other team has been shorthanded more than 61 times. The Aeros have an AHL-high 85 minor penalties - 13 more than any other team.
- Chicago's four-game winless streak is one off Binghamton's active AHL-high.
- The Wolves have scored first three times, but have won only one of those games (1-1-1-0).
- Houston ranks tied for fourth in the AHL in scoring (4.00 gpg), while Chicago is 26th out of 27 teams at 2.00 gpg. But the Wolves are fourth in defense (2.40 gpg), while the Aeros are tied for 10th (3.00).
- Chicago is 0-3-1-0 in games decided by one or two goals. Houston is 5-1-1-0 in such games.

Aeros vs. Wolves

2 Heid	11gp, 0-3=3
3 Stokes	0gp, 0-0=0
4 Foster	8gp, 0-4=4
5 Reitz	22gp, 0-3=3
6 Myrvold	10gp, 0-5=5
7 Westrum	10gp, 3-0=3
10 Law	19gp, 6-9=15
11 Murray	0gp, 0-0=0
12 Courchaine	0gp, 0-0=0
14 Murphy	46gp, 6-23=29
15 Lundbohm	33gp, 5-6=11
16 Olvecky	0gp, 0-0=0
17 Kinkel	0gp, 0-0=0
18 Voloshenko	0gp, 0-0=0
19 Rooneem	0gp, 0-0=0
20 Stoner	0gp, 0-0=0
22 Olson	18gp, 5-3=8
27 Taticek	18gp, 0-2=2
28 Ward	0gp, 0-0=0
29 O'Sullivan	0gp, 0-0=0
32 Wood	10gp, 0-1=1
36 Tetarenko	8gp, 0-2=2

Wolves vs. Aeros

2 Tamer	0gp, 0-0=0
3 Kloucek	6gp, 0-0=0
4 J. Dwyer	1gp, 0-1=1
5 Sipotz	9gp, 0-0=0
6 Stewart	18gp, 4-7=11
7 Popovic	17gp, 0-2=2
8 P. Dwyer	0gp, 0-0=0
9 Miller	29gp, 10-27-37
10 Abid	0gp, 0-0=0
12 Morrison	15gp, 3-2=5
14 Sharrow	0gp, 0-0=0
15 Wedderburn	16gp, 0-5=5
17 Larsen	10gp, 5-2=7
18 Naumenko	25gp, 6-5=11
20 Murphy	0gp, 0-0=0
21 Doell	6gp, 0-2=2
22 Smyth	1gp, 0-0=0
23 Stuart	4gp, 2-0=2
24 MacKenzie	38gp, 9-12=21
25 Baby	17gp, 3-2=5
26 Ross	0gp, 0-0=0
27 Barney	0gp, 0-0=0
77 Roche	9gp, 3-5=8

Aeros looking for some finish

Houston has allowed a league-high 11 goals in the third, but it has scored 10 - just one off the AHL lead. One of the reasons Houston has had trouble defensively in the third period is the shot total. The Aeros have been outshot 114-70 in the third period. No other team has allowed more than 80 third-period shots. On the flip side, Chicago has been outscored 8-1 in the third period, the largest margin in the AHL.

He must be an Astros fan

Just how much is Aeros D **Curtis Murphy** enjoying his return to Houston? Entering this season, Murphy had one career three-assist game, but he's had two in the last 10 days. His three-helper night Friday moved him into the top 10 on the Aeros' all-time list with 75. He's tied for eighth with **Stephane Veilleux**, just two behind **Mark Cullen** for seventh. Murphy is tied for 16th with **Rickard Wallin** in team history in points with 110. **Kyle Wanvig** is 15th at 113.

Four former Aeros selected for Olympic potential

- Last week, Canada and Sweden announced their lengthy, "potential" rosters for the 2006 Turin Olympics, and four former Aeros are on the list.
- **Pierre-Marc Bouchard** is one of a whopping 81 players on Team Canada's potential list.
- For Sweden, it's 2003 Calder Cup MVP **Johan Holmqvist**, his teammate on the championship team **Rickard Wallin**, and **Mika Hannula**.
- Final roster selection for next February's Games is set for 12/22.

Last Game (Saturday)

Former Aero **Marty Wilford** scored on a power play 3:04 into overtime to ruin a 43-save performance by **Josh Harding**, as the Manchester Monarchs rallied for a 2-1 win over the Houston Aeros at Toyota Center. **Barry Brust** made 26 saves and **Jeff Giuliano** also scored for Manchester, which went 1-0-0-1 in its Texas Two Step with Houston and San Antonio. **Kirby Law** scored a shorthanded goal 2:25 into the first period, but Houston was held scoreless after that. Harding was the story for much of the game, making 15 saves in the first period, 12 in the second and third, and four more in overtime before Wilford's blast. Harding also stopped **Connor James'** penalty shot.

Looking ahead

Houston finishes its three-game homestand tonight. This weekend, the Aeros hit the road for a three-in-three, in Milwaukee, Grand Rapids and Peoria to kick off a grueling stretch of 10 games in 17 nights.

Wild roster has 11 former Aeros, including eight from 2004-05

- The Minnesota Wild opened up the season with 25 total players on the roster, counting injured reserve. Eleven of those played for the Aeros at one point in their careers, and eight in 2004-05 alone.
- Counting Dallas' **John Erskine** and Phoenix' **Zbynek Michalek**, 10 players off last season's team began the season in the NHL.
- Other notable Aeros opening up the season in the NHL are **Robert Lang** (Detroit) and **Jeff Hoggan** (St. Louis), a member of the Aeros' 2002-03 Calder Cup winning team.

Aeros/Wolves connections

- Wolves defenseman **Travis Roche** was an Aero from 2001-04, racking up 120 points (35-85=120) in 185 games as the team's leading defensive scorer in its three AHL seasons.
- Houston defenseman **Kurtis Foster** was a member of the Wolves from the 2001-02 season to 2003-04. He was traded to Cincinnati in the summer of 2004. Foster totaled 87 points in 181 games for Chicago.
- Wolves assistant coach **Marty Howe** won a pair of AVCO Cups with the WHA Houston Aeros in 1974-75.
- Aeros assistant coach **Matt Shaw** was an assistant coach under **John Anderson** in Chicago in 1998-99.
- Houston's **Curtis Murphy** attended the University of North Dakota for two years with Chicago's **Nick Naumenko**.

