



HOUSTON AEROS (6-3-1-0) AT GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS (6-2-0-0)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2005

VAN ANDEL ARENA ● GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. ● 6 p.m.

HOUSTON AEROS MEDIA INFORMATION

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2003 CALDER CUP CHAMPS

Aeros Quick Stats

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

Five things you need to know

- The Aeros are winless in three straight games (0-2-1-0) for the first time since an 0-2-1-0 run from 3/18-3/20/05. Houston needs to win tonight to avoid its first four-game winless streak since an 0-2-2-0 span from 3/28-4/9/04. The Aeros' 6-1 loss in Milwaukee last night, its largest defeat since losing 8-1 in Manitoba 3/19, snapped a four-game road winning streak.
- Milwaukee went 2-for-9 against Houston on the power play last night. The Aeros are in the middle of the road on the penalty kill at 83.2 percent, good for 14th out of 27 AHL teams. But, Houston has yielded a whopping 16 PPG in 10 games, just one off the league high. The Aeros have been shorthanded 95 times - 11 more than the next team, Chicago, and 16 more than San Antonio, which has been on the penalty kill the third most times in the AHL.
- Perhaps it's no surprise that the Aeros' winless streak has coincided with a lack of prowess on the power play. Houston ranks seventh in the league on the power play at 19.5 percent, but the Aeros are just 1-for-25 (4.0 percent) in three games since scoring a season-high four PPG vs. Grand Rapids 10/21. The Aeros have been outscored 4-1 on the power play since that game, and they've allowed a shorthanded goal in three straight contests.
- Houston was outshot 37-27 last night in Milwaukee. Getting outshot is something that is becoming an all-too-friendly occurrence for the Aeros. Houston has been held to 27 or fewer shots in each of its last four games and in six of 10 to begin the season. Meanwhile, every opponent has topped 30 shots, including nine straight at 32 or more since Opening Night.
- Last night, the Aeros kicked off a grueling stretch of 10 games in 17 nights. Fortunately for Houston, six of those games are in the friendly confines of Toyota Center immediately following this three-game road trip that finishes Sunday in Peoria. The Iowa Stars make their first ever trip to Houston on Thursday, followed by home games versus Manitoba next Friday and Sunday.

Aeros at Griffins (Aeros are 26-23-7-2 all-time, Aeros are 11-15-2-0 at Grand Rapids)

- Tonight is the 59th all-time meeting between the teams - 29th in Grand Rapids.
- Houston went 4-2-0-2 against Grand Rapids in 2004-05, including a 2-0-0-2 home mark and a 2-2-0-0 road record.
- Six of the eight meetings in 2004-05 were decided by one goal, including one OT game and two shootout contests. The other two games were each two-goal contests.
- Counting Houston's 3-2 win at Van Andel Arena 10/15, seven of the last 10 meetings in the last two seasons have been decided by one goal.
- Houston is 20-22-7-2 against Grand Rapids since starting off with a 6-1-0 mark.
- Since joining the AHL, Houston is 18-16-6-2 against Grand Rapids, including a 9-5-4-2 home mark and an 8-11-2-0 road record.

Aeros Record after 10/11 Games

1994-95	4-4-2/4-5-2
1995-96	3-7-0/3-8-0
1996-97	3-6-1/4-6-1
1997-98	5-3-2/6-3-2
1998-99	7-2-1/8-2-1
1999-00	4-3-3/4-4-3
2000-01	3-5-2/3-5-3
2001-02	6-2-1-1/6-3-1-1
2002-03	9-1-0/10-1-0
2003-04	3-6-1/4-6-1
2004-05	4-4-1-1/5-4-1-1
2005-06	6-3-1/NA

Most assists, Aeros history

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

Most points, Aeros history

15	Kyle Wanvig	113
16t	Curtis Murphy	110
16t	Rickard Wallin	110
18	Graeme Townshend	108

- Houston is 1-0-6 all-time in overtime against Grand Rapids and 4-3 in a shootout.
- The Aeros are 5-8-0 in their last 13 trips to Grand Rapids, with three one-goal victories.
- The teams don't play again until the final meeting of the season, 1/6 in Houston.
- Houston's 7-3 home win over Grand Rapids last Friday marked the Aeros' largest ever margin of victory against the Griffins.

Scouting the Aeros

The Aeros are off to a 6-3-1-0 start, but they are 0-2-1-0 in their last three after a five-game winning streak...C **Erik Westrum** has 15 points (4-11=15) to tie for fourth in the AHL lead in scoring...RW **Kirby Law** is tied for ninth 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)...G **Josh Harding** is 5-3-0 with a 3.16 gaa but left Tuesday's game versus Chicago due to injury...G **Miroslav Kopriwa** won his North American debut 10/20, making 29 saves plus four-of-six in the shootout in a 4-3 win at Omaha...But Kopriwa allowed five goals in 31 shots last night in a 6-1 loss at Milwaukee...G **Seamus Kotyk** was recalled from ECHL Augusta Wednesday to replace Harding...He stopped five shots in relief last night.

Scouting the Griffins

Grand Rapids, AHL affiliate of the Detroit Red Wings, whipped Iowa 6-2 at home last night for its sixth win in eight games to open up the season...The Griffins, long-time divisional opponent of the Aeros, now lead the North Division with 12 points...Both of Grand Rapids' losses this season have come versus the Aeros...C **Jiri Hudler** is second in the AHL in scoring with 18 points (12-6=18), and he leads the league's goal race with 12...D **Bryan Helmer** leads the Grand Rapids defensemen corps with five points (1-4=5)...G **Drew MacIntyre** is 3-1-0 with a 2.27 gaa and a .921 save pct. while G **Joey MacDonald** has been rehabbing off-season surgery...MacDonald hopes to play in early November...G **Jimmy Howard** was just reassigned from Detroit and the rookie stopped 39 shots last night in a memorable debut last night versus the Stars.

2005-06 meetings (Third of 4 meetings, Aeros are 2-0-0-0 overall, Aeros are 1-0-0-0 at Grand Rapids)

October 15	Houston 3 at Grand Rapids 2	Tonight	Houston at Grand Rapids
October 21	Grand Rapids 3 at Houston 7	January 6	Grand Rapids at Houston

Quick Hits

- The Aeros have scored only one goal in each of their last three games.
- The Griffins have played just a single one-goal game, a 3-2 loss to Houston 10/15.
- Houston led in each of its first eight games, but hasn't seen the lead in either of its last two contests.
- Aeros netminder **Miroslav Kopriwa** is a perfect 22-of-22 in the first period. But in the second, opponents have scored eight times on only 32 shots for a .750 save percentage. Milwaukee tallied three goals in the second period last night.
- The Aeros haven't allowed 11 goals in consecutive games in nearly two full seasons. They lost 8-2 to Milwaukee and 6-1 to Utah on 11/6 and 11/7/03.



A look back...and ahead

Last 5	Next 5
10/28 1-6 L @ MIL	10/30 @ PEO
10/25 1-5 L vs. CHI	11/3 vs. IOW
10/22 1-2 OTL vs. MCH	11/4 vs. MTB
10/21 7-3 W vs. GR	11/6 vs. MTB
10/20 4-3 W (SO) @ OMA	11/9 vs. OMA



HOUSTON AEROS (6-3-1-0) AT GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS (6-2-0-0)

The Goalies

Kopriva vs. Griffins

2005-06: First appearance
Totals: First appearance

Kotyk vs. Griffins

2004-05: 0-2-0, 3.66 gaa, .881 pct.
2005-06: First appearance
Totals: 2-3-0, 2.52 gaa, .924 pct.

Seamus Kotyk (0-0-0, 3.33, .857, 0SHO)

- Recalled from ECHL Augusta on Wednesday after going 2-1-0 with a 1.49 gaa in three games
- With Aeros, was 0-0-0 with a 2.07 gaa in one pre-season game versus SAN
- Went 10-6-1 with a 2.95 gaa in 23 games with AHL Milwaukee in 2004-05
- 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

Howard vs. Aeros

2005-06: First appearance
Totals: First appearance

MacIntyre vs. Aeros

2004-05: 0-1-0, 2.98 gaa, .927 pct.
2005-06: 0-1-0, 3.12 gaa, .893 pct.
Totals: 0-2-0, 3.04 gaa, .916 pct.

Miroslav Kopriva (1-1-0, 4.32, .873, 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

Aeros looking for some finish

Houston has allowed 15 goals in the third, the most in the AHL. But the Aeros have scored 11 in the final period. One of the reasons Houston has had trouble defensively in the third period is the shot total. The Aeros have been outshot 138-87 in the third period.

Power play update

- Houston ranks seventh in the league on the power play at 19.5 percent, but the Aeros are just 1-for-25 (4.0 percent) since scoring a season-high four PPG vs. Grand Rapids 10/21.
- The Aeros had at least one PPG in each of their five road games, but that streak was snapped last night.
- The Griffins are 19th in the league on the penalty kill at 81.7 percent.

Penalty kill update

- Houston ranks 14th in the league on the penalty kill at 83.2 percent, and it has yielded at least one man advantage goal in each of its 10 games this season.
- Houston has gone shorthanded 95 times in nine games. The Aeros have an AHL-high 104 minor penalties.
- Grand Rapids ranks fourth in the league on the power play at 22.6 percent. But, the Griffins are just 2-for-22 versus Houston, including a 1-for-13 performance in the other game at Van Andel Arena, a 3-2 Houston win 10/15.

Aeros vs. Griffins

2 Heid	9gp, 0-1=1
3 Stokes	4gp, 0-0=0
4 Foster	34gp, 6-16=22
5 Reitz	20gp, 2-2=4
6 Myrvold	0gp, 0-0=0
7 Westrum	10gp, 7-2=9
10 Law	21gp, 3-5=8
11 Murray	1gp, 0-2=2
12 Courchaine	0gp, 0-0=0
14 Murphy	57gp, 13-29=42
15 Lundbohm	30gp, 3-8=11
16 Olvecky	2gp, 2-0=2
17 Kinkel	2gp, 0-0=0
18 Voloshenko	2gp, 4-0=4
19 Rooneem	1gp, 0-0=0
20 Stoner	2gp, 0-3=3
22 Olson	21gp, 1-4=5
27 Taticek	16gp, 4-1=5
28 Ward	2gp, 0-0=0
29 O'Sullivan	2gp, 1-0=1
32 Wood	10gp, 0-2=2
36 Tetarenko	7gp, 0-1=1

Griffins vs. Aeros

2 Amadio	6gp, 0-2=2
6 Martens	1gp, 0-0=0
7 Manlow	30gp, 3-9=21
9 Kopecky	20gp, 5-4=9
10 MacLean	4gp, 2-0=2
12 McDonell	3gp, 1-2=3
13 Lebda	11gp, 2-0=2
14 DiCassmiro	6gp, 0-2=2
15 Filippula	2gp, 1-1=2
16 Ouhalen	1gp, 0-0=0
19 Himelfarb	11gp, 1-4=5
20 Helmer	22gp, 2-4=6
22 Quincey	2gp, 0-0=0
23 Ellis	18gp, 3-5=8
24 Richards	56gp, 8-15=23
26 Hudler	16gp, 5-6=11
27 Bootland	19gp, 5-0=5
28 Meech	10gp, 0-0=0
29 Keller	0gp, 0-0=0
34 Bonello	0gp, 0-0=0
42 Hackert	1gp, 0-0=0
44 Insana	1gp, 0-0=0

Last Game (Friday)

Kris Beech and **Timofei Shishkanov** each scored twice and **Pekke Rinna** made 26 saves, as the Milwaukee Admirals rolled to a 6-1 victory over the Houston Aeros at Bradley Center. **Rick Berry** – in his Milwaukee debut – and former Aero **Chris Bala** also scored and **Kevin Klein** added three assists for Milwaukee (1-3-0-1), which won its first game after having scored only seven goals in its first four games. **Miroslav Kopriva**, filling in for the injured **Josh Harding**, turned away 25 shots in 42 minutes for the Aeros (6-3-1-0), who are winless in their last three (0-2-1-0) overall and had a four-game road winning streak snapped. **Petr Taticek** helped the Aeros avoid the shutout with a goal with 3:03 remaining.

Welcome back

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 two weeks. He's tied for eighth on the Aeros' all-time assist list 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.

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/Griffins connections

- Aeros defenseman **Anders Myrvold** spent the 2003-04 season in Grand Rapids.
- Grand Rapids' **Darryl Bootland** and **Eric Himelfarb** and Houston's **Joel Ward** both hail from Toronto.
- Houston's **Ryan Stokes** played 13 games for OHL Barrie in 2002-03. The Colts' leading scorer that season was Grand Rapids' **Eric Himelfarb**.
- Grand Rapids' **Kyle Quincey** played two seasons at OHL Mississauga with Houston's **Patrick O'Sullivan**, and one with Ryan Stokes.

