



HOUSTON AEROS (7-3-1-0) AT PEORIA RIVERMEN (7-2-0-0)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2005

CARVER ARENA ● PEORIA, ILL. ● 6 p.m.

HOUSTON AEROS MEDIA INFORMATION

PH: 713.361.7930

2003 CALDER CUP CHAMPS

Aeros Quick Stats

Game #12	R#8
Home	2-1-1-0
Road	5-2-0-0
Streak	1-0-0-0
Road Streak	1-0-0-0
Last 5	2-2-1-0
Last 10	6-3-1-0
This Month	7-3-1-0
Scoring 3 or >	7-0-0-0
Scoring 2 or <	0-3-1-0
One-goal games	5-1-1-0
Two-goal games	1-0-0-0
Scoring first	5-1-1-0
Opponent scores first	2-2-0-0
Outshooting opponent	3-0-0-0
Opponent outshoots	4-3-1-0
Shots tied	0-0-0-0
Leading after 1st	5-1-1-0
Trailing after 1st	1-1-0-0
Tied after 1st	1-1-0-0
Leading after 2nd	5-1-0-0
Trailing after 2nd	1-2-0-0
Tied after 2nd	1-0-1-0
Overtime	0-1
Shootout	3-0
Scoring PPG	7-2-0-0
Not scoring PPG	0-1-1-0
Allowing PPG	7-3-1-0
Not allowing PPG	0-0-0-0
More PIM	4-2-1-0
Fewer PIM	2-1-0-0
Same PIM	1-0-0-0
First of two/three	3-1-0-0
Second of two/three	3-1-0-0
Third of three	0-0-1-0

Five things you need to know

- Hockey officials wanted more offense this season, and that's exactly what they've gotten. Houston won its third 6-5 game of the season last night, with two coming in a shootout. The Aeros have scored at least six goals in four of their first 11 games. All told in 2004-05, Houston had only four six-goal games, and it didn't get the fourth one until April 2. The Aeros rank seventh in the AHL in team offense at 3.64 gpg. A season ago, Houston was winless when allowing five goals or more (0-7-1-0). Already in 2005-06, the Aeros have three such wins (3-2-0-0), all in 6-5 games.
- Tonight's game will settle the leadership of the Western Division and Western Conference, for now. Peoria has two games in hand on the Aeros, but trails Houston 15 points to 14 for the lead in the division. The teams have gotten to the top in different ways. The Aeros are 7-3-1-0 despite allowing as many goals (40) as they have given up, while Peoria sports a plus-13 (35-22) scoring margin - tied for second best. Both teams have ridden the power play to the quick start. Houston and Peoria are tied for fifth in the AHL with the man advantage at 20.5 percent. The Rivermen are also tied for fifth on the penalty kill at 89.5 percent, but the Aeros rank just 18th at 81.4 percent.
- Aeros C **Erik Westrum** continued his flare for the dramatic last night. Four of Westrum's five goals have given the Aeros the lead, including his tally in Grand Rapids. He staked Houston to a 2-1 lead. Westrum leads the Aeros with six multiple-goal games, two more than any other Aero. **Roman Voloshenko** and **Kirby Law** are tied for second with four. He's also 3-for-4 in shootout situations, including a goal on Jimmy Howard last night. Westrum's 18 points (5-13=18) rank fourth in the AHL in scoring, and his 13 helpers are tied for the league lead.
- Houston moved to 3-0 in shootouts last night, after going just 5-6 last season. Each of the Aeros' shootout wins has come on the road, after they went 4-3 in such situations in 2004-05. Houston's three shootout/overtime wins are the most in the AHL. C **Patrick O'Sullivan** is the lone Aero to score on each of his shootout attempts this season, as he is 3-for-3, with two deciding tallies. C **Erik Westrum** is 3-for-4, as he shot twice in one shootout.
- The Aeros play their third road game in three nights tonight, before returning to Houston for a six-game homestand. The Iowa Stars make their first ever trip to Houston on Thursday, followed by home games versus Manitoba next Friday and Sunday. Friday night kicked off a stretch of 10 games in 17 nights for the Aeros, whose 11 games played are tied for the most in the AHL.

Aeros Record after 11/12 Games

1994-95	4-5-2/4-6-2
1995-96	3-8-0/4-8-0
1996-97	4-6-1/4-7-1
1997-98	6-3-2/7-3-2
1998-99	8-2-1/9-2-1
1999-00	4-4-3/5-4-3
2000-01	3-5-3/4-5-3
2001-02	6-3-1-1/6-3-2-1
2002-03	10-1-0/11-1-0
2003-04	4-6-1/4-7-1
2004-05	5-4-1-1/6-4-1-1
2005-06	7-3-1/NA

Most assists, Aeros history

6	Travis Roche	85
7	Mark Cullen	77
8	Curtis Murphy	76
9	Stephane Veilleux	75

Most points, Aeros history

14	Al Conroy	116
15	Kyle Wanvig	113
16	Curtis Murphy	111
17	Rickard Wallin	110

Aeros at Rivermen (vs. Worcester/Peoria: Aeros are 4-4-1-0 all-time, Aeros are 3-1-1-0 road)

- Tonight is the 10th all-time meeting between the teams - but the second in Peoria. The Rivermen relocated from Worcester, Mass., over the summer.

- Houston got the GWG from **Erik Westrum** with 47 seconds remaining, backing **Josh Harding's** career-high 47 saves, as the Aeros defeated the Rivermen 10/14 at Carver Arena. **Colin Hemingway** scored and **Curtis Sanford** made 22 saves for Peoria, which was a perfect 3-0-0-0 entering the game.
- Last season, Worcester took both meetings. The IceCats held on for a 4-3 home win 11/3/04 after opening up a four-goal lead, and they blanked the Aeros 2-0 in Houston 1/9/05 behind **Jason Bacashihua**.
- Houston's win 10/14 snapped a five-game winless streak against the Blues' AHL affiliates.
- Houston is 4-1-0-0 when scoring three or more goals against Worcester/Peoria, but 0-3-1-0 when scoring two or fewer.
- Three of the teams' nine meetings have ended with at least one team being shut out. The teams skated to a scoreless tie 1/9/04 at Toyota Center.

Scouting the Aeros

The Aeros are off to a 7-3-1-0 start, and they rebounded from an 0-2-1-0 winless streak with a 6-5 shootout win in Grand Rapids last night...C **Erik Westrum** has 18 points (5-13=18) to rank fourth in the AHL lead in scoring...RW **Kirby Law** is tied for sixth in the league with 15 points (6-9=15)...Law and Westrum had three points apiece last night, while rookie linemate LW **Roman Voloshenko** tallied two goals, giving him nine to rank third in the AHL...D **Kurtis Foster** has 11 points (3-8=11), while counterpart D **Curtis Murphy** has 10 (0-10=10)...The duo ranks third and fourth, respectively, among AHL defensemen...G **Josh Harding** is 5-3-0 with a 3.16 gaa but left Tuesday's game versus Chicago due to injury...G **Miroslav Kopriva** 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 Kopriva allowed five goals in 31 shots Friday night in a 6-1 loss at Milwaukee...G **Seamus Kotyk** was recalled from ECHL Augusta Wednesday to replace Harding, and he made 28 saves in last night's shootout victory...Kotyk stopped four-of-five Griffins in the shootout, including the league's leading goal scorer, **Jiri Hudler**.

Scouting the Rivermen

Peoria, the AHL affiliate of the St. Louis Blues, is off to a fast 7-2-0-0 start...The Rivermen won the final three games of a four-game road trip by a whopping 15-1 margin, including a 6-0 rout in San Antonio last night...Peoria won two straight over the Rampage by a combined 11-1 score...Last night, C **Blake Evans** scored twice and G **Jason Bacashihua** made 19 saves for his first shutout...LW **Peter Sejna**, a former Hobey Baker winner at Colorado College, leads Peoria with 13 points (7-6=13)...Six of Sejna's seven goals have been PPG...RW **Mike Glumac** has 10 points (4-6=10)...G **Curtis Sanford** is 3-2-0 with a 2.21 gaa and a .913 save pct...Bacashihua is a perfect 4-0-0 with a 2.25 gaa and a .919 save pct...Bacashihua is 5-5-1 with a 3.37 gaa against the Aeros in his career, but he was 2-0-0 with a 1.50 gaa and a shutout in 2004-05...In two seasons with Utah and one with Worcester, Bacashihua has had to save an average of a whopping 33.9 shots per game against the Aeros.

2005-06 meetings (2nd of 10 meetings, Aeros are 1-0-0-0 overall, Aeros are 1-0-0-0 at Peoria)

October 14	Houston 3 at Peoria 1	January 24	Houston at Peoria
Tonight	Houston at Peoria	January 27	Houston at Peoria
December 16	Peoria at Houston	March 28	Houston at Peoria
December 17	Peoria at Houston	April 1	Peoria at Houston
January 21	Peoria at Houston	April 2	Peoria at Houston

A look back...and ahead

Last 5	
10/29	6-5 W (SO) @ GR
10/28	1-6 L @ MIL
10/25	1-5 L vs. CHI
10/22	1-2 OTL vs. MCH
10/21	7-3 W vs. GR

Next 5	
11/3	vs. IOW
11/4	vs. MTB
11/6	vs. MTB
11/9	vs. OMA
11/11	vs. OMA



HOUSTON AEROS (7-3-1-0) AT PEORIA RIVERMEN (7-2-0-0)

The Goalies

Kopriva vs. Rivermen

2005-06: First appearance
Totals: First appearance

Kotyk vs. Rivermen

2004-05: No appearances
 2005-06: First appearance
Totals: 0-1-0, 4.06 gaa, .871 pct.

Seamus Kotyk (1-0-0, 4.34, .846, 0SHO)

- Recalled from ECHL Augusta on Wednesday and made 28 saves in first start, a 6-5 win over GR Saturday
- 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

Bacashihua vs. Aeros

2004-05: 2-0-0, 1.50 gaa, .947 pct.
 2005-06: First appearance
Totals: 5-5-1, 3.37 gaa, .912 pct.

Sanford vs. Aeros

2004-05: No appearances
 2005-06: 0-1-0, 2.02 gaa, .917 pct.
Totals: 1-1-0, 2.01 gaa, .935 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

Quick Hits

- Houston is 5-1-1-0 in one-goal games, the most such victories in the AHL. In 2004-05, the Aeros were 16-9-6-6 in one-goal contests.
- Aeros C **Erik Westrum** enters tonight's game with 97 assists in his AHL career, and 98 assists total including one with the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes.
- The Aeros haven't allowed 16 goals in three consecutive games in nearly two full seasons. They lost 3-1 to Manitoba, 8-2 to Milwaukee and 6-1 to Utah 11/2-11/7/03, for a total of 17 goals.
- Peoria ranks second in the AHL in PIM's at 39.3 per game. The Rivermen are tied for the AHL lead with five game misconducts.
- The Aeros, 5-2-0-0 on the road, have the most road victories in the AHL.
- Peoria is a perfect 6-0-0-0 when scoring first, but 1-2-0-0 when allowing the first goal.
- The Rivermen are in the top four of the AHL in both scoring and defense, and shots for and shots against. Peoria ranks fourth with 3.89 goals scored per game, and third at 2.44 goals allowed. The Rivermen are fourth in shots for at 34.11, and second in shots against at 26.56.

Aeros vs. Rivermen

2 Heid	1gp, 0-0=0
3 Stokes	1gp, 0-0=0
4 Foster	3gp, 0-1=1
5 Reitz	25gp, 1-14=15
6 Myrvold	4gp, 0-0=0
7 Westrum	24gp, 2-9=11
10 Law	13gp, 7-3=10
11 Murray	0gp, 0-0=0
12 Courchaine	1gp, 0-0=0
14 Murphy	5gp, 0-4=4
15 Lundbohm	3gp, 1-0=1
16 Olvecky	1gp, 1-0=1
17 Kinkel	2gp, 0-0=0
18 Voloshenko	1gp, 0-2=2
19 Rooneem	0gp, 0-0=0
20 Stoner	1gp, 0-0=0
22 Olson	5gp, 3-1=4
27 Taticek	4gp, 0-1=1
28 Ward	1gp, 0-0=0
29 O'Sullivan	1gp, 0-1=1
32 Wood	10gp, 1-0=1
36 Tetarenko	16gp, 0-3=3

Rivermen vs. Aeros

3 Mottau	15gp, 2-6=8
4 Thompson	16gp, 0-3=3
5 Byrne	4gp, 1-0=1
7 Buckley	4gp, 0-1=1
8 Morgan	36gp, 4-10=14
10 Hemingway	1gp, 1-0=1
11 DiSalvatore	6gp, 1-3=4
12 Stuart	1gp, 0-0=0
14 Evans	5gp, 1-1=2
15 Glumac	5gp, 2-4=6
16 Rajamaki	2gp, 1-0=1
19 King	3gp, 0-0=0
20 MacKenzie	4gp, 0-0=0
21 Riddle	0gp, 0-0=0
23 Whitfield	0gp, 0-0=0
24 Sejna	5gp, 1-3=4
25 Wideman	3gp, 1-1=2
26 Brooks	4gp, 0-1=1
28 Ramsay	3gp, 0-0=0
29 Linglet	0gp, 0-0=0
32 Lynch	5gp, 1-1=2
34 Low	1gp, 0-0=0
37 Stepniak	1gp, 0-0=0

Aeros looking for some finish

Houston has allowed 17 goals in the third, tied for the most in the AHL. One of the reasons Houston has had trouble defensively in the third period is the shot total. The Aeros have been outshot 142-95 in the third period.

Power play update

- Houston ranks tied for fifth (with Peoria) in the league on the power play at 20.5 percent. The Aeros were just 1-for-25 (4.0 percent) since scoring a season-high four PPG vs. Grand Rapids 10/21, prior to going 2-for-7 last night with the man advantage.
- The Aeros have at least one PPG in six of their first seven road games.
- The Rivermen enter tonight's game tied for fifth in the AHL on the penalty kill at 89.5 percent.

Penalty kill update

- Houston ranks 18th in the league on the penalty kill at 81.4 percent, and it has yielded at least one man advantage goal in each of its 11 games this season. Grand Rapids was 3-for-7 last night.
- Houston has gone shorthanded 102 times in 11 games., 10 more than any other AHL team. The Aeros have an AHL-high 112 minor penalties. Chicago is second with 107, but no other team is in triple digits.
- Peoria is tied for fifth (with Houston) in the AHL on the power play at 20.5 percent.

Last Game (Saturday)

Roman Voloshenko scored a pair of goals, and linemates **Erik Westrum** (1-2=3) and **Kirby Law** (0-3=3) each tallied three points, as the Houston Aeros defeated the Grand Rapids Griffins 6-5 in a shootout at Van Andel Arena. In his first start with Houston, **Seamus Kotyk** made 28 saves and stopped the AHL's leading goal scorer, **Jiri Hudler**, in the final round of the shootout to secure the victory. **Patrick O'Sullivan** scored in regulation and got the deciding goal in the shootout, and **Bryan Lundbohm** also scored the Aeros, who are the only team to beat Grand Rapids (6-2-0-1) this season.

Murphy climbing charts

Aeros D **Curtis Murphy** garnered one assist last night, moving him into sole possession of eighth place on the team's all-time list with 76. **Mark Cullen**, Murphy's teammate on the 2002-03 Calder Cup winning team, is seventh with 77. Murphy moved into sole possession of 16th place on the Aeros' all-time points list with 111. He's two behind **Kyle Wanvig** for 15th.

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/Rivermen connections

- Peoria's **Brendan Brooks** and **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.
- Houston's **Erik Westrum** and Peoria's **Troy Riddle** were both born in Minneapolis, Minn.
- Peoria goalie **Curtis Sanford** and Houston winger **Joel Ward** played three seasons together with OHL Owen Sound.
- Houston's **Joey Tetarenko** and Peoria's **Rocky Thompson** spent much of the 2000-01 season together at AHL Louisville.

