



# HOUSTON AEROS (14-5-1-1) AT TORONTO MARLIES (7-8-0-0)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2005

RICOH COLISEUM ● TORONTO, ONTARIO ● 6 p.m. (ct)

HOUSTON AEROS MEDIA INFORMATION

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2003 CALDER CUP CHAMPS

## Aeros Quick Stats

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

## Five things you need to know

- A trio of Aeros ride five-game point streaks into tonight's game. Rookie C **Patrick O'Sullivan** has eight points (3-5=8) in the span, including two helpers in last night's 3-2 win at Manitoba. O'Sullivan is sixth among all AHL rookies with 15 points (6-9=15). The 20-year-old native of Winston-Salem, N.C., has at least one assist in four straight games, tied with D **Erik Reitz** for the team season-high. D **Curtis Murphy** also has points in five straight, with six points (2-4=6) in the run, including a power play goal last night. Murphy's point streak is one off his career-best mark of six, set with Houston from 12/30/02-1/10/03. Murphy had goals in each one of those games. The streak has helped Murphy take over first place among AHL defensemen in points with 17 (3-14=17). Rookie LW **Roman Voloshenko** also has points in five straight (3-4=7).

- Aeros C **Petr Taticek** has made quite the impression since being acquired on loan from the Florida Panthers 10/15. Taticek, who had been reassigned by the Panthers to ECHL Florida, has eight 11 points (6-5=11) in only 15 games since the transaction. Taticek missed two games due to injury earlier this month, but he's returned with a vengeance after going scoreless in his first two games back. Taticek has seven points (3-4=7) in his last five games, with at least one point in four of the five games. He has a goal in two straight games and in three of four contests. The change of scenery has done wonders for the 22-year-old who spent the last two AHL seasons with in-state rival San Antonio. Taticek is just one goal shy of his career-high, with just more than one quarter of the season gone. Taticek, one of three former San Antonio players on the Aeros roster, totaled 22 points (7-15=22) in 67 games with the Rampage in 2004-05.

- Houston C **Erik Westrum**'s has goals in each of his last two games to stay atop the AHL's scoring race with 30 points (10-20=30). Westrum had 33 points (18-15=33) in 80 games last season for Utah. Westrum tied the game early in the third period last night, but that's to be expected. Nine of Westrum's goals have either tied the game or put Houston on top, including seven goals that have given the Aeros the lead. RW **Kirby Law** is fourth in the AHL in scoring with 23 points (10-13=23). He is tied for sixth in goals and tied for fifth in assists. Rookie LW **Roman Voloshenko**, who plays on a line with Westrum and Law, is tied for ninth in scoring with 18 points (12-6=18). Voloshenko is tied with Syracuse's **Geoff Platt** for the most goals and points among first-year players. Voloshenko's 12 goals are tied for third overall in the AHL. At least one of the three has scored a goal in 17 of the Aeros' 21 games.

- Houston has trailed at some point in eight of its 14 victories, including four of its last five wins. The Aeros had 16 come-from-behind victories in 2004-05, so they are halfway to that mark already. Impressively, five of the eight come-from-behind wins this season have been on the road.

- Houston has allowed a league-high 27 third-period goals, but the Aeros were perfect last night in the

final 20 minutes. Houston has kept its opponent off the scoreboard in the third period eight times in 21 games, and it's no surprise that they are 7-0-1-0 in such situations. The Aeros have five regulation losses this season - and in four of those five games, Houston allowed at least two goals in the third period.

## Aeros at Marlies (First-ever meeting)

- Tonight is the first ever meeting between the Aeros and Marlies, the AHL affiliate of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Houston also didn't play the St. John's Maple Leafs. The NHL Leafs moved their affiliate from "The Rock" to Ricoh Coliseum this season.
- Albany, Binghamton, Hamilton, Hershey, Lowell, Portland and Springfield are the lone franchises that Houston has never faced in the regular season. The Aeros have played Hamilton and Hershey in the post-season, and they have their first regular-season meeting with Hamilton in December.
- Five Aeros hail from Ontario: G **Seamus Kotyk**, D **Ryan Stokes**, C **Rem Murray**, RW **Joel Ward** and D **Dustin Wood**. Ward is from Toronto. Seven Aeros played junior hockey in the Ontario Hockey League - Kotyk, Stokes, Ward, Wood, D **Erik Reitz**, LW **Bill Kinkel** and C **Patrick O'Sullivan**.

## Scouting the Aeros

The Aeros have won six of seven and are 7-1-0-1 in their last nine after splitting one-goal decisions in Manitoba the last two nights...C **Erik Westrum** has 30 points (10-20=30) to pace the AHL in scoring...Westrum has a team-best 10 multiple-point games...RW **Kirby Law** is fourth in the league with 23 points (10-13=23) and is tied for sixth in goals...Rookie LW **Roman Voloshenko** is tied for third in the AHL with 12 goals, and he ranks tied for first among AHL rookies in goals and points (18)...With D **Kurtis Foster** (4-11=15) recalled to NHL Minnesota, teammate D **Curtis Murphy** has taken over the lead among AHL defensemen with 17 points (3-14=17)...G **Josh Harding** is 10-4-0 with a 2.65 gaa...Harding is 16-4-1 in his last 21 regular-season games dating back to a 3-2 SOL vs. Grand Rapids 3/25, and one of the four losses was in OT...Harding leads the AHL in wins (10), minutes (814) and saves (421)...Harding had 31 wins in his two seasons with the Aeros, tying **Rob Dopson** for fifth place on the team's all-time list...G **Seamus Kotyk** is 3-1-1, with a 3.24 gaa.

## Scouting the Marlies

Toronto, the AHL affiliate of the Toronto Maple Leafs, finished up a 4-2-0-0 road trip last night with a 3-0 loss in Binghamton...The Marlies haven't played at home since a 4-1 loss to Hamilton 11/3, a defeat that dropped them to 3-6-0-0...Former Worcester IceCats C **John Pohl**, a college teammate of Houston C **Erik Westrum** at the University of Minnesota, leads the Marlies in scoring with 14 points (6-8=14)...Pohl had a seven-game point streak snapped last night...C **Jeremy Williams** is averaging well more than a point per game with 13 points (5-8=13) in only 10 games...The Marlies also feature eight-year NHL veteran and former Stanley Cup Finalist LW **Bates Battaglia**, who is third on the team with 12 points (5-7=12)...G **Jean-Francois Racine** is 4-5-0 with a 3.39 gaa, while G **Jean-Sebastien Aubin** is 3-3-0 with a 4.30 gaa.

## 2005-06 meetings (1st of 2 meetings)

Tonight                      Houston at Toronto                      January 10                      Toronto at Houston

## Aeros Record after 21/22 Games

1994-95	8-11-2/9-11-2
1995-96	7-14-0/7-15-0
1996-97	8-12-1/8-13-1
1997-98	13-6-2/14-6-2
1998-99	14-3-4/15-3-4
1999-00	12-6-3/12-6-4
2000-01	9-8-4/10-8-4
2001-02	11-7-2-1/11-8-2-1
2002-03	15-5-1/16-5-1
2003-04	5-12-2-2/5-13-2-2
2004-05	11-8-1-1/11-9-1-1
2005-06	14-5-1-1/NA

## Most one-goal wins, AHL

1. Houston	9-2-1-1
2t. Hartford	6-4-1-2
2t. Manchester	6-1-0-1

## Winningest Novembers, Aeros history

1. 2004-05	8-6-0-1
2t. 2005-06	7-1-0-1
2t. 1997-98	7-5-0-0
2t. 1998-99	7-1-4-0
2t. 1999-00	7-2-0-0

## Most wins, Aeros history

2.	Derek Gustafson	37
3t.	Manny Fernandez	34
3t.	Troy Gamble	34
5t	Josh Harding	31
5t	Rob Dopson	31

## A look back...and ahead

### Last 5

11/18 3-2 W @ MTB  
 11/17 4-5 L @ MTB  
 11/13 3-1 W @ SAN  
 11/12 4-3 W (SO) vs. SAN  
 11/11 5-1 W vs. OMA

### Next 5

11/25 vs. MIL  
 11/27 vs. MIL  
 11/30 vs. CLE  
 12/4 vs. CLE  
 12/9 @ ROC



# HOUSTON AEROS (14-5-1-1) AT TORONTO MARLIES (7-8-0-0)

## The Goalies

### Harding vs. Marlies

2005-06: First appearance  
**Totals: First appearance**

### Kotyk vs. Marlies

2005-06: First appearance  
**Totals: 2-0-0, 2.00 gaa, .951 pct.**

### Josh Harding (10-4-0, 2.65, .921, OSHO)

- Is 16-4-1 in his last 21 regular-season decisions, with one of the four losses coming in OT
- Suffered lower body injury 10/25 vs. CHI; returned to win next four starts
- 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)

### Seamus Kotyk (3-1-1, 3.24, .893, OSHO)

- Made 28 saves in first start, a 6-5 win over GR 10/29
- 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

### Aubin vs. Aeros

2005-06: First appearance  
**Totals: 0-2-0, 3.53 gaa, .891 pct.**

### Racine vs. Aeros

2005-06: First appearance  
**Totals: First appearance**

### Quick Hits

- The Aeros are 13-1-0-0 when scoring three goals or more, but 1-4-1-1 when scoring two or fewer. Friday night marked Houston's first loss when reaching three goals. Three is also the magic number defensively, as Houston is 11-1-1-1 when allowing three or fewer goals and 3-4-0-0 when yielding four or more.
- Houston has outshot five of its last seven opponents and is 8-0-0-0 in those situations this season.
- Houston is a league-best 9-2-1-1 in one-goal games, and an impressive 12-2-1-1 in games decided by two goals or less.
- The Marlies have allowed 18 first-period goals - tied for the third-highest total in the league.
- Houston improved to 5-1-0-1 last night in the second night of back-to-back games. The Aeros are 1-1-1-0 in the third game in three nights, with the victory coming Sunday in San Antonio, when they turned a 1-0 third-period deficit into a 3-1 win.
- Last night marked the first time Houston allowed less than 30 shots on the road. The Aeros are 4-0-0-0 overall when yielding 30 or fewer.

### Aeros vs. Marlies

3 Stokes	0gp, 0-0=0
4 Foster	4gp, 2-1=3
5 Reitz	0gp, 0-0=0
7 Westrum	7gp, 1-5=6
8 Peters	0gp, 0-0=0
10 Law	6gp, 1-2=3
11 Murray	0gp, 0-0=0
12 Courchaine	0gp, 0-0=0
14 Murphy	4gp, 2-2=4
15 Lundbohm	5gp, 0-2=2
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	2gp, 0-0=0
27 Taticek	0gp, 0-0=0
28 Ward	0gp, 0-0=0
29 O'Sullivan	0gp, 0-0=0
32 Wood	0gp, 0-0=0
36 Tetarenko	5gp, 1-1=2
44 Nazarov	0gp, 0-0=0

### Marlies vs. Aeros

4 Brown	0gp, 0-0=0
5 D'Amour	0gp, 0-0=0
7 White	0gp, 0-0=0
8 Colaiacovo	0gp, 0-0=0
9 Bell	0gp, 0-0=0
11 Moro	15gp, 1-0=1
13 Battaglia	0gp, 0-0=0
15 Beechey	0gp, 0-0=0
16 Kukemburg	0gp, 0-0=0
17 Newbury	0gp, 0-0=0
18 Engelhardt	0gp, 0-0=0
19 Williams	0gp, 0-0=0
20 Harrison	0gp, 0-0=0
21 Pohl	3gp, 0-1=1
22 Marsh	0gp, 0-0=0
24 MacNeil	8gp, 4-2=6
25 Ondrus	0gp, 0-0=0
33 Hoffman	3gp, 0-0=0
38 Leeb	13gp, 4-3=7
44 Murphy	0gp, 0-0=0
45 Sagat	0gp, 0-0=0
55 Wozniowski	0gp, 0-0=0
75 Later	0gp, 0-0=0
79 Mitchell	0gp, 0-0=0

### And the youth shall lead them

● Much has been said and written about the Aeros' veterans this season, but the youngsters have been just as important to the 14-5-1-1 start. Houston has nine players 22 years of age or under, and the budding superstars have accounted for 32 of the team's 71 goals (45.1 percent). LW **Roman Voloshenko** has 12, C **Petr Taticek** has seven, LW **Peter Olvecky** has six, C **Patrick O'Sullivan** has six, and D **Clayton Stoner** has two. Youth is also served in the goaltending department, as 21-year-old G **Josh Harding** leads the AHL in wins with 10.

### Power play update

- Houston is ninth in the league on the power play at 19.4 percent. The Aeros are 8-for-30 (26.7 percent) in the last four games.
- The Aeros are 8-1-0-0 when scoring at least two PPG, with the lone loss coming Friday in Manitoba.
- Toronto is 27th and last in the league on the penalty kill at 75.0 percent. The Marlies have allowed 31 PPG, the most in the AHL.
- The Marlies have allowed 14 goals on 51 shorthanded chances in six November games, just a 72.5 percent kill rate. They've yielded at least three PPG four times this month.

### Penalty kill update

- Houston is tied for 15th in the AHL on the penalty kill at 83.8 percent.
- After the Aeros yielded at least one man advantage goal in each of their first 13 games this season, they went 31-of-32 (96.9 percent) in the next six games. However, Manitoba went 4-for-18 in the two-game series in Winnipeg.
- The Aeros are 11-1-1-1 when allowing one power play goal or fewer.
- Toronto is 16th in the AHL on the power play at 14.3 percent.
- The Marlies are 3-for-33 (9.1 percent) with the man advantage in their last five games.

### Murphy climbing charts

Aeros D **Curtis Murphy's** not only leads all AHL defensemen in scoring with 17 points (3-14=17), he continues his march up the Aeros' all-time leaderboard despite spending just more than two seasons in the team's sweater. Murphy's 118 points not only rank 14th on Houston's ledger, but he is fourth among all defensemen, trailing 2003 Calder Cup champion teammate **Travis Roche** by two points. Murphy is 14th among all players in points, one behind another former teammate, **Mark Cullen**. Murphy's 80 assists rank seventh all-time, five behind Roche for sixth.

### A shoutout for the shootout

- The Aeros are 4-1 in shootouts this season, after going only 5-6 in shootouts in 2004-05.
- C **Patrick O'Sullivan** is 4-for-5 in shootouts, with two deciding tallies.
- C **Erik Westrum** is 3-for-6, as he shot twice in one shootout.
- LW **Roman Voloshenko** missed on his first three attempts, but his tally 11/12 against San Antonio was the deciding goal.

### Last Game (Friday)

**Petr Taticek** finished off a three-point night with the game-winning goal with 3:47 left in regulation, as the Houston Aeros rallied from two goals down for a 3-2 victory over the Manitoba Moose at MTS Centre. **Curtis Murphy** added a goal and an assist, **Erik Westrum** also scored and **Patrick O'Sullivan** set up two goals, including Taticek's deciding tally. **Josh Harding** made 23 saves for Houston, which has won six of seven and is 7-1-0-1 in its last nine.

### Aeros/Marlies connections

- Toronto's **Brad Brown** played for the Minnesota Wild from 2001-2004.
- Houston captain **Kirby Law** and Toronto's **Ian MacNeil** were teammates in 2002-03 and 2003-04 in Philadelphia.
- Toronto's **Tyson Marsh** and Houston's **Adam Courchaine** were teammates in WHL Vancouver from 2001-04.
- Houston's **Erik Westrum** and Toronto's **Johnny Pohl** attended the University of Minnesota together from 1998-2001.

### Most points, Aeros history

13	Mark Cullen	119
14	<b>Curtis Murphy</b>	<b>118</b>

### Most points, Aeros history (Defensemen only)

1	Greg Hawgood	145
2	Jeff Tory	128
3	Travis Roche	120
4	<b>Curtis Murphy</b>	<b>118</b>

