



vs.



NOTE: Complete media note files are accessible on-line, via the Wolf Pack's official website, www.hartfordwolfpack.com. Select "Team" and click on "Media Notes", to view and download the files.

Upcoming games for the Hartford Wolf Pack:

Sat. Dec. 20	vs. Lehigh Valley Phantoms	5:00 p.m.	@ XL Center
Fri. Dec. 26	vs. Springfield Falcons	7:00 p.m.	@ XL Center
Sat. Dec. 27	vs. Portland Pirates	7:00 p.m.	@ XL Center
Wed. Dec. 31	@ Portland Pirates	7:00 p.m.	@ Cumberland Cty. Civ. Ctr.
Fri. Jan. 2	vs. St. John's IceCaps	7:00 p.m.	@ XL Center

Head-to-head:

This is the fourth of eight encounters on the year between the Wolf Pack and Crunch, the top affiliate of the Tampa Bay Lightning, and the second of four visits by the Crunch to the XL Center on the season. The Wolf Pack have lost the last two battles between the two teams, after winning the first. In the only previous meeting here in Hartford, the Crunch prevailed by a score of 5-4 on November 19. Syracuse's **Yanni Gourde** (3-2-5), **Tanner Richard** (1-4-5) and **Jonathan Marchessault** (0-5-5) are tied for the series scoring lead, and **Conor Allen** and **Chris Bourque** share the Wolf Pack points lead, with 1-3-4 apiece. All-time vs. the Crunch the Wolf Pack are 9(W)-7(L)-2(T)-2(OTL)-1(SOL) in 21 meetings, with a 5(W)-2(L)-1(T)-2(OTL) mark in home action.

Wolf Pack Notebook:

The Wolf Pack (15-9-2-1, 33 pts.) have won four straight games, tying a team season high, and have at least a standings point in a season-best five consecutive outings (4-0-0-1), after a 5-4 overtime win in Bridgeport Sunday in their last action. **Chris Mueller** had the overtime game-winner and also added two assists, tying a Wolf Pack season high for points, and **Ryan Bourque** also put up a three-point effort, including his first two-goal game of the season. **Justin Vaive** struck for a pair of goals, his first career multiple-goal outing in the AHL, and he now has points in three straight games (3-2-5). **Ryan Haggerty** also has a three-game point streak (1-3-4) working, after chipping in two assists Sunday, and **Cedrick Desjardins** registered his second straight win in goal with 28 saves.

Crunch Notebook:

The Crunch (17-7-3-0, 37 pts.) moved into a tie with Springfield for the Northeast Division lead Wednesday, with a 3-2 victory in Rochester. That was Syracuse's seventh straight triumph, a streak that began November 29 with a 4-1 win in Hershey. Team scoring leader **Yanni Gourde** (12-12-24 in 27 GP) paced Wednesday's win with a goal and an assist, and he is currently tied for third in the AHL in goals. **Philippe Paradis** also scored, and now has six goals in his last six games (6-2-8), after lighting the lamp only once in his first 18 contests (1-4-5). **Mike Blunden** had the third-period game-winner, and has points in all four games he has played (2-2-4) since returning from a ten-game injury absence. With reigning AHL Player of the Week **Andrei Vasilevskiy** on recall to parent-club Tampa Bay, **Kristers Gudlevskis** made 27 saves Wednesday, notching his fourth straight win.

Last Night in the AHL:

Oklahoma City 2 @ Charlotte 4
Milwaukee 3 @ Lake Erie 4

Tonight in the AHL (all times Eastern):

San Antonio @ Charlotte (7:00)	Toronto @ Gr. Rapids (7:00)	Worcester @ Manchester (7:00)	Providence @ Portland (7:00)
Texas @ Utica (7:00)	Springfield @ Bing. (7:05)	Hershey @ Lehigh Valley (7:05)	Adirondack @ Rochester (7:05)
Albany @ Wilkes-Barre/Scr. (7:05)	St. John's @ Hamilton (7:30)	Bridgeport @ Norfolk (7:30)	

New York Rangers Notebook:

The parent New York Rangers (15-10-4, 34 pts.) finish off a stretch of four straight road games tomorrow night, as they travel to Raleigh, NC to take on the Hurricanes (7:00). The Rangers bring a team season-high four-game winning streak into tomorrow night's game, having completed a sweep of a three-game trip through Western Canada Tuesday, with a 5-2 victory in Calgary. Team scoring leader **Rick Nash** (20-13-33 in 29 GP) tallied two goals in that game, his 19th and 20th of the season, and **Derek Stepan** had a goal and an assist. **Chris Kreider** and **Carl Hagelin** also scored, and **Henrik Lundqvist** made 29 saves. After Saturday's game, the next three are at home for the Rangers, starting with a rematch against the Hurricanes Sunday (7:00).

Tonight in the NHL (all times Eastern):

Tampa Bay @ New Jersey (7:00)	Anaheim @ Ottawa (7:30)	NY Islanders @ Detroit (7:30)	Boston @ Winnipeg (8:00)
Dallas @ Calgary (9:00)			