

Coach Schafer's Notes for November 7-8, 2014

@Princeton 2, CORNELL 1

@Quinnipiac 1, CORNELL 0

It was a tough weekend all the way around. We had some preseason concerns, but not one of them was about goal scoring. And yet, that has been our biggest obstacle in achieving any wins so far this season.

We are getting the offensive opportunities, but not burying our chances that have been many. On Friday night, at Princeton, we doubled up on them in shots on goal (41-20), but they out-scored us, 2-1.

Princeton got on the board first, with a power-play goal just 3:14 into the game. The shot was from about 50 feet out, through traffic, past the blocker of our sophomore goaltender Mitch Gillam. The first period ended with us having 16 shots on goal to six for the Tigers.

The second period saw more of the same, as the shots on goal was 16-9 in our favor. We had five consecutive power-play chances combined in the first and second periods, but still no goals. We had a pair of breakways (one in the second and one in the third periods), but the Princeton goalie stood tall.

In the last minute of the third period, we pulled Gillam for an extra skater, and with 43 seconds remaining, Princeton scored on a 95-foot roller into the net to make the score 2-0. We continued to compete, and with 16 second left, sophomore defenseman Patrick McCarron spoiled the shutout with us having an extra attacker.

Gillam played well enough in goal to win, as he stopped 18 of the 19 shots he faced, while the Princeton goaltender made 40 saves. We were 0-for-4 on the power play, and the Tigers were 1-for-4.

I told the guys after the game that obviously, we've got to look at changes with our lines, and also on the power play because some guys that are in pretty good offensive positions are not producing. Little did I know what we had in store for us the following night.

At Quinnipiac, there was no scoring by either team until 1:56 left in the game. In the first period, while killing a penalty, we had an excellent scoring chance, but shot the puck just wide of the near post. In the second period, we had nearly 4 minutes of a major power play. Late in the man advantage, we had two great opportunities, but the Bobcats goaltender gloved the first one and kicked away the second.

In the final minute of the second period, Quinnipiac nearly scored when Gillam was scrambling over to the weak side. The rebound shot was stopped by senior forward Joel Lowry who went to his knees to stop the puck from going into the open net.

The winning goal was a controversial one, and no video replay was granted. There was a goal-mouth scramble that produced the game-winner, but we felt strongly that a Quinnipiac player was in the crease.

Again, Gillam played well in goal with a career-high 39 saves, including 18 in the third period. The Bobcats' goalie stopped 18 shots. Both teams were 0-for-4 on the power play.

We now return home to try and find a new scoring formula. Clarkson comes to Lynah Rink on Friday night, followed by St. Lawrence on Saturday evening. We're looking for a tough weekend, but one that will be more successful than we have enjoyed so far this season.