

Coach Schafer's Notes for November 14-15, 2014

@CORNELL 2, Clarkson 1 OT
St. Lawrence 4, @CORNELL 2

We had our ups and downs this past weekend, saw some good things, and then a number that we need to improve on immediately.

Friday night's game was one that could have gone either way, as all low scoring contests seem to be. After a scoreless first period (shots were even at 11 apiece), Clarkson took a 1-0 lead just 4:28 into the middle stanza.

A little less than 6 minutes later, we knotted the game at 1-all. We were on the power play, and Clarkson cleared the zone into the right corner on the same side as the Golden Knights' bench. Sophomore goaltender Mitch Gillam collected the puck and caught the visitors in a line change. Gillam sent a 100-foot pass up the opposite wing to senior forward Cole Bardreau. Bardreau fired a pass into the slot for senior forward Joel Lowry, who broke in alone on goal before beating the goaltender with a move to his forehand. Lowry had been battling a scoring slump, but he kept at it and tallied his first goal of the season. Gillam also had a first--his first collegiate assist. Last year in November he scored an empty-net goal in his first collegiate game.

We continued to produce scoring chances and played solid defense which is a good formula, but regulation ended at 1-1. With 30 seconds remaining in regulation, freshman forward Jared Fiegl received a 5-minute major penalty and game disqualification for boarding. This meant that we were going to be short-handed most of the overtime if it went the full 5 minutes.

The winning goal came at 1:37 into OT. It all started with a two-on-one rush with Lowry weaving inside a Clarkson defenseman pinching at the right point to fly away up the left wing. Lowry pulled the puck around another Clarkson defender and sent a pass across the slot to sophomore forward Eric Freschi breaking in on goal. Freschi elevated his shot quickly, with the puck bouncing off the goalie's glove before finding the back of the net. The Lynah Faithful went wild.

The game-winning goal was a huge relief for everyone. If we were going to have to kill a 5-minute major for all of overtime it was going to be a challenge. Lowry made a great play on the two-on-one to end the game.

Gillam played well in the net with 23 saves, including 11 in the first period. The Clarkson goaltender made 27 saves. We were 1-for-3 on the power play, and Clarkson was 0-for-4.

The win gives us a 4-0-5 record in overtime games over the last two seasons. It was our first short-handed overtime goal since Mike Iggulden beat Union on Jan. 14, 2005.

Saturday was just different for the first time this year. Not all of our players came ready to play. Even though we had four breakaways in the first period, the focus from some of our players was not there.

We jumped in front first, as Bardreau scored at 11:11 into the game. The score was the result of some pretty passing after sustained pressure in the Saints' zone. Lowry started the play with good work along the boards before passing to sophomore forward Jake Weidner on the right side. Weidner then threaded a perfect pass across the low slot to Bardreau, and he converted from point-blank range on the power play for his first goal of the season..

St. Lawrence tied the score at 13:41 when a shot that was wide of the net, banked off the hip of one of our defenders in the slot. We went into the first intermission tied at 1-all. The visitors jumped on top with just 33 seconds remaining in the second period, a period that saw few scoring chances by either team. The goal was scored while one of our players fell at the point, and the shot found its way through traffic.

St. Lawrence tallied its fourth short-handed goal of the season at 1:20 of the third period to make it 3-1. The Saint then went in front, 4-1, with a power-play tally at 5:09 of the third period.

Sophomore forward Matt Buckles recorded our second extra-man goal with 7:51 remaining. Sophomore forward Jeff Kubiak gained the puck in the zone, and passed to junior forward Christian Hilbrich along the left side. Quickly, Hilbrich found Buckles in the high slot. Buckles first shot was stopped, but with a great effort Matt converted the rebound.

Gillam made 16 saves in 45 minutes of play, and freshman Hayden Stewart stopped three shots the rest of the way. The St. Lawrence goalie stopped 21 shots. We were 2-for-8 on the power play, and the visitors were 1-for-6.

We're still at home this weekend, and the team knows we need an all-out effort from everyone. Our players have to understand that in order to get through this tough stretch, we need all hands on deck all the time.

Yale comes into Lynah Rink on Friday night, followed by Brown on Saturday evening.