

## Coach Schafer's Notes for November 21-22, 2014

@CORNELL 3, Yale 2

@CORNELL 4, Brown 0

A four-point weekend this early in the season should always give us much momentum, and certainly it couldn't have come at a much better time. We put the puck in the back of the net, and that is one of things we worked hard on this past week. We now have a foundation to build on as we head to Madison Square Garden next Saturday for our first game ever against a very good Penn State team.

Friday night's game vs. Yale, certainly a worthy opponent, was an outstanding college hockey game. Both teams showed tremendous respect for their opponents, and it was a clean, hard-hitting contest with both sides playing physical.

Yale got on the scoreboard first at 6:45 of the first period with a power play goal that flew past sophomore Mitch Gillam's blocker.

We came back with a pair of extra-man goals, the first at 8:48 that tied the score, and the second putting us up 2-1 at 12:41 of the second period. The first power-play goal was a blast from the center point by junior defenseman Reese Wilcox that flew through traffic high off the post and the goaltender's glove into the net. The play was set up by a picture feed from sophomore forward Jake Weidner.

Freshman defenseman Ryan Bliss scored his first collegiate goal on the second PP tally, converting a wrist shot that sailed through traffic. It was great to see him get his first one. That was one of the things we changed was to get him on the power play. He gets shots through traffic.

We kept the lead for the remainder of the second period that was actually dominated by the visitors. We made mistakes in the neutral zone, giving the puck away, but thank goodness for Mitch for he kept us in the game during the middle 20 minutes.

We kept the lead until 6:31 into the third period, when Yale tied the score on a fluke goal. Miscommunication between our goaltender and a defenseman resulted with Yale banking a shot off Gillam's skate into the net.

Six minutes later, junior forward Christian Hilbrich scored the game-winner. Senior forward Cole Bardreau started the play at mid-ice and passed to Hilbrich skating down the slot. The 6-7 forward fired a shot that beat the goaltender to the glove side with 7:02 remaining in the game. I was really glad for him to score that goal because he has been snake bitten all season long. The key to the game for us was getting the puck through traffic, something we have been working hard on in recent games.

Gillam made 32 saves, and the Yale goaltender stopped 18 shots. We were 2-for-5 on the power play, and the visitors were 1-for-5.

**Game highlights:** <http://cornellbigred.com/index.aspx?path=mhockey&>

The next night against Brown, we continued to do the things that had made us successful the previous night. We got pucks through traffic, to the net, and behind the goaltender.

We scored three times in the first 15 minutes to secure the victory, and freshman goaltender Hayden Stewart played well enough to earn his first collegiate shutout. It was the first shutout for a frosh goalie since Ben Scrivens '10 blanked Union in 2006.

Senior forward Joel Lowry scored the first goal at 4:29 of the opening period. Five minutes later, freshman forward Dwyer Tschantz deflected a shot by classmate Bliss into the net. Hilbrich recorded the third goal with 5:04 remaining in the first period. In the meantime, Stewart made 10 saves for his busiest period of the game.

Sophomore forward Matt Buckles scored his team-leading third goal of the season in the second period to give us the 4-0 lead. The score came on the power play giving us a third consecutive game with a pair of power-play tallies each night.

The whole line of Hilbrich, Weidner and Bardreau was outstanding. Just their awareness, their movement; it was simple, they weren't careless. When they play that way, they are very effective.

Stewart made 26 saves, while two Brown goalies stopped 27 shots.

Game highlights <http://cornellbigred.com/index.aspx>

The Frozen Apple starts at 8 p.m. on Saturday night. This has always been a big alumni event, so we're expecting a tremendous crowd of Big Red faithful at MSG. Hope to see you there.