

## Coach Schafer's Notes for December 31, 2014

FLORIDA COLLEGE HOCKEY CLASSIC at Estero, FL  
December 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

Notre Dame 3, Miami-Ohio 2

Cornell 0, Lake Superior State 0 (Lake Superior wins shootout to advance)

Miami-Ohio 3, Cornell 0

**Lake Superior State 2**, Notre Dame 1

Happy New Year to Everyone! We are looking forward to a healthier and happier New Year for our team. I am without my cell phone for a few days as it didn't want to return to the cold and stayed at the airport in Tampa.

This was one of the weirdest tournaments that I have been a part of, as I watched Lake Superior win the entire tourney while scoring just one goal. They beat Notre Dame 2-1 for the championship, but the first goal was knocked in by one of the Fighting Irish players.

Many of you have heard me talk about scoring chances, and on the first night in the game vs. Lake Superior, we had 30 scoring chances to their four. We hit five goal posts in the game; two by sophomore forward Matt Buckles, with the first one coming just 5:25 into the game with us having an extra-man advantage. We also won the faceoffs (31-22).

In the first 40 minutes, we held a 20-14 advantage in shots on goal. Lake Superior was held to minimal scoring chances throughout the night, but had a couple of strong shifts midway through the second period. On one, a shot deflected off one of our players, and sophomore goaltender Mitch Gillam made a great save off his left arm. He played a strong game in recording his first collegiate shutout.

We had a strong third period, including seven shots on goal in the first 1:09. We held a 17-7 advantage in shots on goal in the third period. We also dominated the 5-minute overtime, still with no goals by either team. Then it got confusing. For some reason, the ECAC officials declared it only a three-person shootout after 15 years of doing a five-person version. We lost 2-1 with junior forward Christian Hilbrich firing a laser past the goaltender's blocker. The shootout certainly confused everyone in the rink except those making the decision. The game officially goes in the books as a tie, but we needed the shootout to determine which team would face Notre Dame in the championship contest.

As I said, Gillam was very strong with 24 saves, while the Lake Superior State goalie made 39 stops. We were 0-for-2 on the power play, and they were 0-for-3. We played Friday night's game without our top scorer, senior forward Joel Lowry, who will be out for awhile with an injury, and senior forward Cole Bardreau who had the flu.

The next night vs. No. 6-ranked Miami (OH), Bardreau returned to the lineup after being absent from action for a few days. We played hard against the best team we have faced this year. They were outstanding. One of the aspects that I wanted to continue on the second night was passion on the bench and the will to win. Score withstanding, I was happy with our approach.

Miami scored just 2:56 into the third-place game on the power play. They added a tally near the end of the period, as we were out- shot, 11-6. We were more physical and played at a faster pace, which was certainly needed against a highly-skilled team. Early in the second period (1:36), the Red Hawks scored again, and I pulled freshman goaltender Hayden Stewart. Gillam returned to the ice and shut them out the rest of the way.

Stewart stopped 10 of 13 shots he faced, and Gillam made 13 saves. The Miami goalie recorded 15 saves. We were 0-for-2 on the power play, and Miami was 1-for-5.

We play against ECAC competition the rest of the regular season. I look forward to the next week, as we get rested up to play against many of the top teams in the country. On Friday night, January 9th, we play St. Lawrence in Canton and make the short jaunt to Clarkson for Saturday evening. We had some extremely, hard-fought games against both North Country teams at Lynah Rink earlier in the season.

Happy New Year to everyone. We look forward to 2015 with great anticipation.