

Coach Schafer's Notes for January 20, 2015

CORNELL 5, @Union 1
@Rensselaer 3, CORNELL 0

Obviously, last weekend's trip to the Capital District was definitely a tale of two nights. Scoring five goals vs. Union was certainly a luxury for us, as we hadn't done that in 39 games, dating to November 2013.

On Friday night, we really came to play. Five penalties were called in the first period with no power-play goals by either team, although our first penalty gave us a head start on a scoring play. Junior forward Christian Hilbrich completed his interference penalty, stepped out of the box and flew down the ice on a breakaway after a long pass from senior forward John McCarron. Hilbrich hit the back of the net with a shot that went under the blocker of the goaltender to give us a 1-0 lead 12:24 into the game. We had another great chance to make it 2-0 on another power play; hitting a post and having the goaltender make a save just 20 seconds later.

We finally made it 2-0 with 2:55 remaining in the second period. Senior forward Cole Bardreau, who had three assists on the night, sent a pass to freshman forward Trevor Yates at the Union blue line. Yates took a hard hit but was able to get the puck to senior defenseman Jacob MacDonald in the zone on a two-on-one rush with sophomore forward Matt Buckles. MacDonald kept the puck on his backhand side to shield it from a defender. His shot was lifted over the left shoulder of the goalie to give us a two-goal lead going into the second intermission. Before we left the ice, we had to kill off 1:08 of a 5-on-3 man-down opportunity before Union committed its own penalty. It was the 20th consecutive time that we have successfully killed off a two-man down situation dating to February 2012.

The game was still very competitive until 8:33 of the third period when sophomore forward Jake Weidner scored our third goal and his second power-play goal in as many games. Weidner completed a tic-tac-toe passing play with Bardreau and senior defenseman Joakim Ryan. Union pulled their goaltender for an extra skater with more than 7 minutes remaining and senior forward Madison Dias recorded his first goal of the season into an empty net with 5:35 remaining to make it 4-0. Three minutes later, Matt Buckles scored his fifth goal of the season during a two-man advantage power play.

Union broke the shutout with 13.3 seconds left in the game, scoring on a rebound. Sophomore goaltender Mitch Gillam was outstanding all night long with 20 saves. The Union goaltender had 13 saves. We were 2-for-7 on the power play, and they had just one shot in five opportunities.

We did it all right. The balanced attack saw five different players score, the defense was solid, and the special teams performed well.

The story of perfection ended on Saturday night in Troy. We just weren't ready to extend this excellence into the next night. We had three power-play opportunities in the first period and couldn't find the back of the net. It was a scoreless first period, with RPI having eight shots to our seven.

The scoreless contest became a 1-0 game for RPI at 7:45 of the second period, as the home team converted a rebound on the second whack at the puck. We went into the third period with only a one-goal deficit, but that ended when the Engineers scored at 3:50 and 5:38 to take a 3-0 lead. At this point, we exchanged goalies; freshman Hayden Stewart made nine saves in 10:38. We played with an empty net for the final 3:44 but still could not score a goal. The Engineers missed the open net three times.

Gillam made 16 saves, while the RPI goaltender stopped 26 shots. We were 0-for-3 on the power play, and the Engineers were 0-for-1.

We return home for five of the next six games. On Friday night, Harvard visits the Lynah Faithful and we host Dartmouth on Saturday evening.

Thanks to all who contributed recently during our annual Phonathon. The players worked very hard this year and did an excellent job reaching out. If you were not around to speak to one of our current players, [this link will direct you to our site](#) where you can still make a contribution to support our hockey program.