

## Coach Schafer's Notes for February 9, 2015

Quinnipiac 1, @CORNELL 0 (OT)  
@CORNELL 4, Princeton 2

We're still looking for a complete weekend, one that features overall consistency. Friday night's game was a great college hockey contest with good things happening from both teams. Quinnipiac is a terrific hockey team and we played them tough for nearly 62 minutes.

The first period saw both teams generating quality scoring chances. We had several opportunities on the power play, with three of our eight shots coming with the extra-man situation. Sophomore goalie Mitch Gillam made a great pad save on a rifle shot with about 6 minutes left in the period.

We thought we had a goal early in the second period. It all started with sophomore defenseman Reece Wilcox setting up senior forward Cole Bardreau for a hard shot from the top of the right circle. The rebound popped off the goaltender's shoulder into the air as junior forward Christian Hilbrich crashed the crease. The rebound went to senior forward John McCarron for an easy put-back into the net. After a long delay in the video room, the officials came out to tell us that the video replay wasn't working. They huddled at mid-ice eventually waving off the goal, concluding that Hilbrich had made contact with the goaltender without being pushed by a defender. That's two goals waved off in two weeks, and obviously is very frustrating.

We had an 8-7 advantage in shots in the third period. Gillam came up big on a Quinnipiac one-timer from close range with 6:20 left in the game. Senior defenseman Joakim Ryan intercepted a pass at the visitors' blue line a few minutes later that sent him on a breakaway but the shot was squeezed in the goalie's pads and turned away.

We went into our third consecutive overtime, which ended just 1:41 into the extra session. An attempted pass off the back wall banked out to Quinnipiac's top scorer, who whipped a pass across the low slot to his teammate who chipped the puck over a sprawled Gillam scrambling after colliding with a teammate in the crease. It was the second time this season that the Bobcats, ranked 16th in the country and 1st in the ECAC, had beaten us 1-0 with a late game goal.

Gillam made 24 saves and the visitors' goaltender stopped 20 shots. We were 0-for-3 on the power play and Quinnipiac was 0-for-1.

On Saturday night, we managed to win, although it was not a great effort on our part. We didn't pay attention to details and the effort wasn't there for much of the game. Fortunately, we got off to a good start, scoring just 2:11 into the game. Senior forward John McCarron won a faceoff back to classmate defenseman Jacob MacDonald to the right of Gillam. MacDonald broke out of the zone and found senior forward Madison Diaz up the middle behind his

defender. A perfect pass put Diaz on a breakaway and he snapped a shot over the goaltender's glove.

Less than 2 minutes later, Princeton was on the power play. Gillam attempted to clear the puck himself but sent the puck right up the middle to a Princeton defenseman. The Tiger fired through a screen as Gillam was scrambling back into position. The shot was tipped by Princeton's Kyle Rankin into the net for a 1-1 game.

We jumped back on top 1:23 later, as Hilbrich tallied his team-leading eighth goal of the season. Bardreau and sophomore forward Eric Freschi, set up the lanky wing for the score. Overall, that's too much scoring for just 5 minutes of playing time but was an example of how the game was played. Bardreau's assist was his team-best 11th of the year.

The second period featured back-and-forth action; we held an 8-3 edge in shots-on-goal. Princeton knotted the game at 2-2 at 15:17 of the middle stanza when Rankin scored his second goal of the contest.

The winning goal came at 5:33 of the third period. Sophomore defenseman Holden Anderson took a pass from Ryan, stepped into space at the right circle and fired a laser past the goaltender who was screened by sophomore forward Jeff Kubiak. Holden gets pucks to the net, but the success was really generated by Kubiak, who at 6-3 makes an excellent screen. It was Holden's first collegiate goal and couldn't have come at a better time.

Princeton pulled its goaltender late in the game and sophomore forward Jake Weidner found the empty net with 1:22 remaining after Freschi bounced one attempt off the near post.

Gillam made 17 saves and the Princeton net-minder stopped 25 shots. We were 0-for-2 on the power play and the Tigers were 1-for-5.

The ECAC standings are really bunched between third and seventh place. We are tied with Colgate for seventh place with 17 points. Clarkson, Dartmouth, Harvard and Yale are a point ahead, all tied for third.

Four of our last six games are on the road - this Friday and Saturday at Dartmouth and Harvard. If we do what we're capable of doing, we can certainly gain some ground in the standings. Looking at the scores from around the league this past weekend, every game is a battle.