

Coach Schafer's Notes for February 18, 2015

@Dartmouth 3, CORNELL 2
CORNELL 3, @Harvard 3 OT

Once again, we had our ups and downs this weekend, did some good things, and then had some lulls that we can't afford to have at this time of the year. We've got to earn more than one point in two games with two weekends remaining in the regular season. Going into the final two home games with Rensselaer and Union, a sweep would obviously be to our advantage. We currently stand tied with Clarkson for seventh place in the ECAC standings, but are only three points from fourth-place Harvard. We hold tie-breaker advantages over Harvard, Colgate and Clarkson, with only Dartmouth having an advantage over us.

On Friday night at Dartmouth, the home team scored on the first shift of the game. Obviously, this is not the way to start a weekend on the road. We battled back hard, but got even further down when Dartmouth took a 2-0 lead at 8:11 still in the first period.

During a 5-on-3 power play, senior forward Cole Bardreau tallied just 9 seconds into the second penalty. Sophomore forward Jake Weidner won the draw to senior defenseman Joakie Ryan at the center point. Ryan sent the puck to Bardreau in the left circle for a one-timer that sailed by the goaltender's blocker for his fourth goal of the year. Ryan nearly scored on the ensuing 5-on-4. Later in the period, sophomore forward Matt Buckles had a shorthanded breakaway but was stick-checked as he was about to shoot.

Still keeping on the pressure, we tied the game with 4:47 left in the first period on Ryan's first goal of the season, with assists to Bardreau and junior forward Christian Hilbrich.

The second period saw us mainly killing penalties. Four times we were shorthanded for a total of 6:41 in the middle period and the Big Green out-shot us, 12-8, but our penalty-killing units and sophomore goaltender Mitch Gillam kept the score deadlocked.

The third period saw no scoring chances for either team until Dartmouth tallied the game-winner with 7:59 left in the contest. We made a defensive error when a player made a diving attempt to clear the zone near the boards toward the wall. One of our forwards thought the puck was out and took off. With a 4-on-3, Dartmouth made a great play and ended the rush by flipping the puck over Gillam high to the stick side.

Gillam made 26 saves, including 12 in the second period, and the Dartmouth goaltender had 21 stops. We were 1-for-4 on the power play, and the home team was 0-for-4.

The next night at Harvard, we came back and played more physical and disciplined. We didn't have to kill a penalty at all during the night, and we went 1-for-2 on a Harvard 5-minute major.

The first period was scoreless, but we dominated possession, although Harvard had a number of good offensive chances, but Gillam kept the Crimson off the board.

Early in the second period, still on that 5-minute power play, with a lot of traffic in front of the Harvard goal, Bardreau fired a shot from the left circle that made it inside the far post just 2:08 into the middle period. With a lot of offensive firepower, Harvard came back to go ahead 2-1 with goals at 8:17 and 11:01 to send us into the locker room trailing 2-1. Gillam was outstanding with 16 saves in that middle 20 minutes. Earlier in the year, we would have folded up the tent at this point, but not anymore as we battled back.

We tied the game at 2-2 at 7:31 of the third period. Freshman forward Dwyer Tschantz made a pass toward the slot from behind the net. The puck slid under the stick of Buckles, and sophomore forward Jeff Kubiak beat the goaltender through his legs for his first goal of the season. Harvard then went back on top at 14:58, with its top scorer recording his 19th goal of the season.

With 3:59 remaining, freshman forward Jared Fiegl recorded his first collegiate goal. Once again, Ryan started the play with a cross-ice pass to junior forward Teemu Tittinen up the right wing. Teemu drove wide of his defender and shot toward the far post. The goalie made a kick save back up the slot, and Fiegl sent a one-timer over the goalie's blocker.

Gillam made 35 saves, while the Harvard goaltender had 26. We were 1-for-2 on the power play, and as I said, Harvard never had that luxury.

This coming Saturday night is Senior Night. We will honor the careers of Cole Bardreau, Joakim Ryan, Madison Dias, Joel Lowry, Jacob MacDonald and Captain John McCarron. Hope you can be at Lynah Rink to cheer us on to victory and honor these players for their many contributions to Big Red hockey.