

## Coach Schafer's Notes for February 24, 2015

@CORNELL 2, RENSSELAER 2 OT

@CORNELL 2, Union 1

Our three-point weekend guarantees home ice for the first round of the ECAC Hockey Playoffs, and the Big Red is still in the hunt for one of the top four spots and a first-round bye. With two road games remaining at Brown and Yale, the team trails third-place Yale by four points and fourth-place Colgate and Harvard by three points apiece. The Big Red holds the tiebreaker over the latter two teams.

Saturday night was Senior Night, but senior captain John McCarron turned Friday's game into another senior celebration. The right wing scored his second and third goals of the season in the third period after Rensselaer took a 2-0 lead with two goals in 33 seconds during the second.

The Big Red had the advantage in the first period, out-shooting the opposition 8-4. Two excellent opportunities were stopped by the Engineer's goaltender. Cornell also had an outstanding, short-handed scoring chance but McCarron's try was kicked away and senior forward Cole Bardreau's shot of the rebound went into the midsection of a RPI defenseman.

Midway through the second period, two Big Red mistakes resulted in a pair of Rensselaer goals at 11:55 and 12:28 and the Big Red started the third period trailing 2-0.

That's when senior McCarron went to work. Sophomore forward Jake Weidner and Bardreau made two quick passes along the blue line to set up McCarron in open space in the high slot. He fired a shot over the blocker of the visitor's goalie to cut the deficit to one at 3:31 into the final period. Late in the game, sophomore goaltender Mitch Gillam was pulled for an extra skater. The strategy worked, with 33 seconds remaining in regulation McCarron cashed in on a rebound of a shot from senior defenseman Jacob MacDonald sending the Lynah Faithful into frenzy.

Both teams had three shots on goal during overtime. The Big Red nearly earned victory but a long shot from sophomore forward Jeff Kubiak clanged off the near post at the goaltender's left.

Gillam made 22 saves and the RPI goaltender stopped 29 shots. Both goalies stopped 10 shots each in the third period. Cornell was 1-for-2 on the power play and RPI was 0-for-3.

On Saturday night, both teams came out firing in the first period with the Big Red holding the edge on shots-on-goal (11-9) and the score (1-0). With 1:47 remaining in the first period, freshman forward Dwyer Tschantz scored his second goal of the season. The play started with MacDonald feeding sophomore forward Matt Buckles at the left faceoff circle. Buckles

unloaded a shot that was initially stopped. The loose puck was there for the taking, and Tschantz pushed it over the line to give the Red a 1-0 lead. Gillam made a great save on a short-handed breakaway by Union late in the period and the sophomore made another great stop midway through the first period.

In the second period with the Big Red on a penalty kill, halfway through the man-down situation, junior Joakim Ryan won the battle for a loose puck in the corner of the Cornell zone. Ryan sent a pass to Dias driving up the right wing. Union had three men back, but Dias and junior forward John Knisley skated ahead of them. A perfect pass from Dias caught the third defender in no-man's land and Knisley was away on a breakaway from the top of the circles. Knisley's backhander beat the goaltender high to the blocker side for Cornell's third shorthanded tally of the season.

The score remained 2-0 as the teams entered the final stanza, extending Union's scoreless streak to 11 periods. The Dutchmen finally tallied at 2:39 of the third period, as Daniel Ciampini recorded his nation-leading 24th goal of the season during a 4-on-3 power-play. Cornell held onto the lead for the rest of the game.

Gillam was called upon for 26 saves, including a number of the game-setting variety. The Union goalie stopped 18 shots. The Big Red was 0-for-2 on the power play; Union was 1-for-5.

Saturday night was the final home game of the regular season for our six seniors. The Big Red and the Lynah Faithful honored John McCarron, Cole Bardreau, Jacob MacDonald, Joakim Ryan, Madison Dias and Joel Lowry. The victory set the stage for a victorious and appreciative one-by-one skate around the rink by the seniors, who were lauded by a large crowd.