

Coach Schafer's Notes for March 5, 2015

CORNELL 3, @Brown 3
@Yale 4, CORNELL 0

For the second consecutive road trip, on Friday night at Brown we started the game very slowly and we were non-existent during the opening stanza. The Bears took advantage of our lack of energy and scored three times in the first 14 minutes of the game. I pulled sophomore goaltender Mitch Gillam after the three goals even though he was only responsible for one. Freshman Hayden Stewart came in with a little over 6 minutes to go in the first period and shut the door the rest of the game making 12 saves.

Actually, the next 45 minutes of the game was all about us; we out-shot Brown 30-12. We kept plugging away and collected our first goal at 14:45 of the second period. Sophomore forward Matt Buckles received a rebound pass off the boards as he was skating towards the net. He juked the goaltender and put the puck in the back of the net for his seventh goal of the season. Senior defenseman Joakim Ryan earned the assist.

With 1:54 to play in the second period, senior forward John McCarron narrowed the gap to 3-2. Senior forward Cole Bardreau sent a pass to senior defenseman Jacob MacDonald at the center point. His low shot caromed off McCarron's skate into the net.

We tied 3-3 at 5:32 of the third period. Freshman defenseman Ryan Bliss sent a one-timer from the high slot toward the net that rebounded into the path of junior forward Christian Hilbrich at the left circle. Hilbrich's shot slid under the scrambling goalie for his team-leading ninth goal of the season to send the game into overtime.

With 13 seconds remaining in OT, Hilbrich raced for a puck that went the length of the ice and brought it to the front of the goal where he was crosschecked into the goalie. The puck came back to Bardreau and he buried it. Game over, but oh no! The officials left the ice for a video review that took forever. Finally, they disallowed the goal claiming that Christian bumped the goaltender without being crosschecked. This was a frustrating call when all the video clips show him pushed into the Brown goalie.

For the game, Gillam had five saves and Stewart 12; the Brown goalie turned away 29 shots. We were 0-2 on the power play and the Bears were 0-4.

Saturday at Yale, the home team scored just 1:27 into the game after a neutral zone turnover and a poor line change. We improved play through the rest of the period and entered the locker room for the first intermission down 1-0.

In the second period, things just weren't going right. The second Yale goal at 8:53 was the result of a miscue. The puck jumped over our defenseman's stick right in front of Gillam and they took

advantage with their second goal. It got worse about 5 minutes later. You knew it wasn't our night when a Yale shot blasted off Gillam's helmet caromed off our back-checker into the net. Yale is not a team to give the lead to because they are a good hockey team. They added an empty net goal with 56 seconds remaining.

Gillam made 27 saves and the Yale goaltender only 16. Both teams were 0-4 on the power play.

Recording just one point for the weekend left us in seventh place in the ECAC. We face tenth place Union at Lynah Rink this weekend in a best-of-three series – faceoffs at 7 pm. Most teams are banged up at this time of the year and we may lead the pack. We're at home and that's a plus because there is no better place to play than in front of the Lynah Faithful. If you can get to Ithaca, we'd love to have your support!