

Coach Schafer's Notes for November 11, 2015

CORNELL 4, Princeton 3
Quinnipiac 5, CORNELL 4 (OT)

We opened ECAC competition splitting at home and although at times we played very well, we were unable to close the games with leads each night. Holding the lead is something you learn through strong weekend competition. On Friday night, we came out fast in the early minutes, but failed to take advantage of a power play just 2:35 into the period. Near the end of the period, our defense broke down, panicked with the puck, and didn't make poised plays. Junior goaltender Mitch Gillam kept us in the game with a number of excellent saves. We thought we had scored a goal with three minutes to play in the period, but the officials ruled no goal after a replay.

We continued sluggish play in the second period and Princeton capitalized just 1:31 into the period. The pace changed and we scored three consecutive goals in 4 minutes to go up 3-1. Freshman forward Beau Starrett got it started with his first collegiate goal at 4:47. This seemed to ignite our offense, as freshman forward Anthony Angello tallied a pair of goals at 5:28 and 8:43 of the second period. This forced Princeton to use their only time out.

The Tigers didn't quit and rallied with goals on turnovers at 10:56 of the second period and 1:03 into the final period. We had great opportunities on the power play early in the third period, but couldn't get the puck past the excellent play of the Princeton goaltender. The Tigers had two PP chances and one shot nearly rolled across the goal line but Gillam made the save.

With 49 seconds left in the third period, junior forward Jeff Kubiak skated into the middle of the zone and found the puck in the middle of the ice. He snapped a shot between the legs of a Princeton defender and over the left shoulder of the netminder sending the crowd into a noisy eruption.

Gillam made 21 saves, including 11 in the first period. The Princeton goalie stopped 39 shots, including 17 in the last 20 minutes. We were 0-for-3 on the power play and Princeton was 0-for-4.

While I was very happy for the win, I was disappointed with the way we played. Some of the team played very well but some were just average. As a young team, we are going to win when all of us play well together. However, we did a great job killing penalties down the stretch.

On Saturday night vs. #4 Quinnipiac, the officials dominated the game. The teams were either on the power play or killing penalties and over half the game was played by special teams. Five power-play goals were scored in the game; three by us.

Just 3:45 into the game, a Quinnipiac player was assessed a 5-minute major and game ejection

for hitting from behind and we took advantage of the situation. Senior defenseman Reece Wilcox and junior forward Jake Weidner scored goals 44 seconds apart during the 5-minute advantage and our lead increased to three goals at 10:56 when junior forward Matt Buckles added a goal on another power play. We led 3-0 just halfway through the opening period.

The visitors scrapped back and scored an extra-man goal at 15:59, still in the first period. At 11:04 of the second period, freshman forward Mitch Vanderlaan scored on a rebound of an Angello laser to recover the three-goal lead, 4-1. In the last 7 minutes of the second period, Quinnipiac tallied three times to knot the game at 4-all. Their third goal was after we took a bad penalty and the fourth was on another power-play with 1:27 remaining in the period.

After a scoreless third period with both teams playing quite conservatively, we went into overtime. Quinnipiac wasted no time and scored at 1:26 on a shot from the point that deflected off our player.

Gillam had 28 saves and the visitors' goalie stopped 18 shots. We were 3-for-7 on the power play against a Bobcats' penalty-kill unit that had been a perfect 25-for-25 entering the game. Quinnipiac converted 2-of-6 extra-man opportunities.

We've got to play physical, but you also have to play smart. You also have to have the effort to put an opponent away, and we didn't do that. Quinnipiac gave that effort to come back, and we didn't do the things necessary--discipline, blocking shots on their power play, and little things. We're up 4-1 midway through the second period and we lost the game. That's very disappointing.

We're working to create a new culture and continue build the foundation. Players will be held accountable and those who give the effort and play well will continue to see ice time. Those who don't will have to earn back their right to play. We hope to return at least one player this weekend. John Knisley, Dwyer Tschantz, Brendon Smith, Luc Lalor, Dan Wedman, Hayden Stewart, and Chad Otterman have been out for the last weekend and some haven't practiced yet due to injury.

[Here's video of game highlights.](#)

This week, we play a home-and-home series with Colgate. The Raiders are at Lynah Rink on Friday night and we travel to Hamilton Saturday evening. We're an exciting hockey team to watch. Come see us in action!