

Coach Schafer's Notes for November 17, 2015

@CORNELL 5, Colgate 1

CORNELL 3, @Colgate 2 OT

Everyone loves a four-point weekend; the coaches, the players and certainly you, the fans. While we are still a young team with just four seniors, we are getting contributions from all classes. Our 5-1 start is the best since the 2009-10 season. The sweep of Colgate also happened for the first time since 2008, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

On Friday night at Lynah Rink, we started out fast with a goal by senior forward Christian Hilbrich just 1:11 into the first period. Hilbrich got a chip pass from freshman defenseman Alec McCrea at center ice, and skated in on the Colgate goaltender. His first shot was blocked, but the rebound came right out, and Hilbrich deked the goalie and put the puck in the back of the net. Sixty-six seconds later, sophomore forward Trevor Yates recorded his first goal of the season, as he was positioned right in front of the goaltender and converted a rebound of a shot by senior defenseman Reece Willcox.

Obviously, that's the way you want to start a game. But then we took a couple of undisciplined penalties that allowed Colgate to score basically on a 5-on-3 situation. We still kept the pressure on, and with 1:50 remaining in the period, freshman forward Mitch Vanderlaan scored on a short-sided shot. That was a big goal because it gave us a two-goal margin going into the first intermission. McCrea made a great play to get the puck up ice quickly and then Mitch just buried it.

Our fourth goal, coming at 7:12 of the second period, came off a 3-on-2 breakaway by junior forward Jeff Kubiak, Vanderlaan and junior defenseman Patrick McCarron. McCarron finished off the break by firing a shot that deflected off the goaltender's helmet into the goal. It was halfway through the second period that the team began playing Cornell hockey.

The third unanswered tally came with 2:55 remaining in the second period. A shot by Hilbrich was turned away by the goaltender, but he poked it right out to junior forward Matt Buckles who slid the puck under the goaltender to put us in front to stay, 5-1.

We continued to dominate in the third period, but couldn't find the back of the net. The difference between Friday night and the previous Saturday vs. Quinnipiac were some huge blocked shots by our penalty killers. Sophomore defenseman Dan Wedman and other guys did a great job. We blocked 28 shots by 14 different players. We also didn't take any penalties in

the third period, and that was a lesson learned from last week.

Junior goalie Mitch Gillam made 23 saves for us, while two Colgate netminders stopped 15 shots. We were 0-for-2 on the power play, and Colgate was 1-for-3.

On Saturday night, we got off to a slow start at Colgate. I was disappointed in our effort that led to a string of five consecutive penalties in the first period, and this came after Colgate had taken a 1-0 lead 3:40 into the game. When you don't come out to play some nights, you sometimes never get it back, but this team has grit, and we fought hard the last two periods and overtime.

The turning point of the game might have come late in the first period when the trio of Willcox, Wedman and junior forward Jake Weidner killed off 68 seconds of a two-man disadvantage with us already down one goal.

We finally got on the scoreboard at 15:35 of the opening period. Vanderlaan worked the puck down low, and Kubiak sent a pass to freshman forward Anthony Angello skating through the slot. The puck slid by Angello to McCarron who fired the puck past the goaltender's blocker to tie the game at 1-1. But Colgate struck back with a power-play goal with 2:31 left in the period.

We improved our play in the second period and had a 12-5 advantage in shots on goal. With 2:08 remaining in the period, Buckles sent a one-timer past the goaltender for an extra-man goal that knotted the score at 2-all.

The good chances were ours in the third period, but obviously we couldn't get the puck past a sharp goaltender. We did out-shoot them 12-7 in the third period, giving us a 32-28 advantage for the first 60 minutes.

Early in the overtime, Willcox started us out on a rush with Kubiak. The latter turned the puck into the path of Angelo who entered the right circle. Anthony snapped off a shot that tipped off a defender's stick, and went through the legs of the Colgate goalie at 1:10 of the extra session. Our bench erupted. The guys on the ice carried out the strategy given to them. Anthony went back into the zone and shot the puck. Good things happen when you shoot the puck.

Gillam was called upon for 26 saves with 14 of them coming in the opening 20 minutes. The Colgate netminder had 30 saves. We were 1-for-2 on the power play, and Colgate was 1-for-6.

We continue on the road this coming weekend, visiting Yale on Friday night and Brown on

Saturday evening. The team is playing exciting hockey, and it would appreciate your support if you are in the area.

[This link will take you to highlights of the Saturday game.](#)