

## **Coach Schafer's Notes for November 24, 2015**

CORNELL 0, @Yale 0 OT

CORNELL 1, @Brown 0

Whenever you gain three points on the road, that's a successful trip; although four points would have been better! Anytime you win three points on the road and score just one goal, you have to be thankful; and our U.S. Thanksgiving couldn't come at a better time.

Yale has a very good hockey team, and was ranked No. 10 in the country going into the game. Their goalie has had an excellent career and proved extremely tough on Friday night in New Haven. But, we have a very good goaltender too. Junior Mitch Gillam was dynamite both nights in racking up his third shutout of the season in just seven games (5-1-1).

We are a battered and bruised team, and a lot of guys stepped up on the weekend. A pair of defensemen, freshman Trent Shore and junior Holden Anderson played up front vs. Yale. Early in the game, we put on some pressure, but didn't see any scoring. I thought our forwards played very well and did a tremendous job in the neutral zone, advancing the puck when they had to. They did a great job in staying ahead of the Yale forwards, and they played with poise.

During the game, both teams traded a number of scoring chances, hitting the post, and coming up short on two power plays. With 3 minutes left in regulation, we had two great chances to score, but the Yale goalie was a stalwart. The Bulldogs had an excellent shot at an open net, but Gillam slid over to make the save.

In the overtime, with 2 minutes remaining, a Yale shot hit the post, and then we had a penalty called on us, but we fought tough to kill off the man-down situation.

Gillam made 30 saves, and the Yale goalie stopped 28 shots. It was a great college game, a 0-0 tie. The guys followed a good game plan; we were disciplined and patient. It was a good point on the road.

On Saturday night at Brown, we didn't play with the same kind of urgency, enthusiasm, and energy as we did vs. Yale. It wasn't an easy win because we committed errors early that resulted in a Brown power play. The Bears carried the play, and with less than a minute before the first intermission, Gillam kept us in the game with two "big league" saves. Brown out-shot us 10-3 in the opening 20 minutes.

Halfway through the second period, we scored the game's only goal. It started with sophomore defenseman Ryan Bliss sending a hard ring around the boards from center ice. Classmate Trevor Yates, a forward, was the first player to the puck in the right corner, and Yates sent the puck around the net. Junior forward Jake Weidner retrieved the puck, eluded a defender and found Yates open, coming out of the corner. Yates slid the puck by the right pad of the Brown goaltender at 11:18 of the middle stanza. The goal was a great team combo, as Weidner forced the turnover on the fore-check, as he stripped the defenseman. Yates went to the goal line and finished the job.

After we went in front, 1-0, our defense started to block a lot of shots. Weidner had five of the team's 18 blocked shots.

In the third period, we killed two quick power plays, and held on for the victory. Gillam made 27 saves and the Brown goaltender stopped 18 shots, as his team saw a three-game unbeaten streak snapped. We were 0-for-1 on the power play, and Brown was 0-for-4. Over the last four games, Gillam has been outstanding. He's been seeing and reading the puck very well, and that's what happens when goalies get confidence.

We now take a break from ECAC action, but certainly not a break from a highly competitive opponent. We play Boston University at 8 p.m. on Saturday at Madison Square Garden in what is billed the Red Hot Hockey Game. We're looking forward to seeing all the alumni who come into the city to see this battle. The guys consider this game one of the highlights of the season, and certainly appreciate your support.

With all of the guys we have hurt and out of the lineup, it says a lot about our hockey team to be able to score one goal on the weekend and get three points.

Happy Thanksgiving ... Coach Schafer