

Coach Schafer's Notes for December 2, 2015

RED HOT HOCKEY ... CORNELL 3, BOSTON UNIVERSITY 3 /OT

Another Red Hot hockey game is in the books, and once again, this was a great college hockey game. It's the reason why we play annually at Madison Square Garden because both our team and our fans get an opportunity to come together for great college hockey. Our fans? We had lots of them in the crowd of over 17,000, and the team certainly appreciated all the support. The majority of the crowd bled Red.

We came out fast and established the physicality we wanted. We had some outstanding scoring chances and prevented all of BU's scoring chances in that first period. Shots were 10-9 in BU's favor.

The second period saw us continue to play very well and get a quick start in the scoring column. Every team wants to score the first two goals, and that's exactly what we did. Freshman forward Anthony Angello tallied his team-leading fifth goal of the season on the power play just 2:16 into the second period. The play started when junior forward Jeff Kubiak set up classmate Patrick McCarron for a shot from the center point. Angello, standing in the middle of the slot, redirected McCarron's shot off the ice and over the right shoulder of the goaltender.

A little over 5 minutes later, sophomore forward Trevor Yates doubled the score with his third goal of the season. Sophomore forward Alex Rauter gave Yates a pass for a semi-breakaway shot. Their goalie made the initial save but Yates kept the play alive with senior forward Teemu Tiitinen attempting a backhand wraparound at the opposite post. The puck slid across the crease and Yates fired it up into the net.

At this point, we held the 2-0 lead for the rest of the period because of junior goaltender Mitch Gillam and his terrific play, including 11 saves.

Although BU came out flying for the third period with two goals in the first 8:30, I thought we still played well. We battled back with the game tied 2-2. We have six injured forwards. Junior defenseman Holden Anderson has been asked to play as a forward and he scored putting us ahead 3-2 redirecting a shot by Patrick McCarron, sending the puck through the legs of the goaltender at 11:03 of the third period. Anderson is playing a position he has never played before and this is just one example how guys have stepped up this season to help the team. Five minutes later, BU scored to tie the game 3-3 and send it into overtime.

In OT, BU fired six shots on goal but Gillam was up to the task. We had to kill a penalty in the extra session that was highlighted by a "take one for the team shot block" by sophomore defenseman Dan Wedman who used his thigh to stop a possible game-winning goal.

The game goes into the record book as a 3-3 OT tie but for the sake of who keeps the Kelly-Harkness Trophy, we did the shootout. Historically, I don't like shootouts even though these are exciting for the fans. I always vote against it when we play the Florida tournament. We lost the shootout 3-2.

Gillam made 40 saves, the most stops by a Cornell goaltender since Andy Iles did the same on Feb. 21, 2014, a stretch of 47 games. BU's first goal at 5:36 of the third period stopped Gillam's shutout streak at 213 minutes, 17 seconds, which is the third-longest in program history. The BU goalie stopped 22 shots. We were 1-for-2 on the power play and BU was 0-for-4.

We return to ECAC action this weekend at Lynah Rink on Friday night against St. Lawrence and Saturday against Clarkson.