

Coach Schafer's Notes for January 19, 2016

@Rensselaer 1, CORNELL 0

CORNELL 3, @Union 3 OT

It's great to be a coach and wonder how you can complete a two-game road trip playing as soundly as you can and still come back to Lynah Rink with just one point! Like I've said since the beginning of the season, the ECAC is strong top to bottom and every night will be a challenge.

On Friday night in Troy, I honestly thought we played a perfect road game except for the score. In the first period, we came out flying with 13 shots on goal against a very good goaltender. The momentum continued after the first intermission. After an RPI mistake just 16 seconds into the second period, senior forward John Knisley had a breakaway but the goalie made a terrific glove save that was just one of his 9 stops in the first 4 minutes of the period.

The game's lone goal came at 14:12 of the second period. A Rensselaer player slammed a one-timer through Gillam's legs. The goal was his first of the season! We out-shot them 17-6 in the second period.

Our power play let us down early in the third period. We had a 5-on-3 for 75 seconds but couldn't score. Later, as our penalty-kill unit finished, we jumped into a 3-on-1 break but our shot was stopped by the goalie with his pads. RPI then got its second power play but a huge save by Gillam with 4:50 left kept the score at 1-0. Shots in the third period were 14 for Cornell and 3 for RPI.

Gillam made 15 saves and the RPI goalie stop 44 shots....yes, 44 shots, our largest output in a non-overtime game since 2008. Both teams were 0-for-2 on the power play.

It's frustrating to lose but if we continue playing this kind of hockey, we will get good results.

On Saturday night at Union, I felt we also played a great road game. Whereas we didn't get any power-play help against RPI, we had three extra-man tallies vs. Union. This was the second time this season we scored three PPGs but didn't win; the other was against Quinnipiac.

We took advantage of Union being in the penalty box early in the first period to build a two-goal lead. Just 3:53 into the game one of Union's top defensemen was assessed a 5-minute major and game misconduct penalty for hitting from behind. Two minutes into the extra-man advantage, junior forward Jake Weidner set up the score with a pass from behind the net to

classmate Matt Buckles in the slot. Buckles rifled a shot that caromed off the post and into the net.

Again on the power play, we made it 2-0 at the 14:36 mark. Weidner won the faceoff back to junior defenseman Patrick McCarron and over to Buckles at the center point for a shot. We regained the puck and Weidner and McCarron worked to get the puck to Buckles once again. Matt's shot went through an RPI defender and between the goaltender's legs. Union had only one scoring opportunity in the first period as our defenders blocked 7 of the 20 blocks we recorded during the 65 minute game.

Just 5 minutes into the second period, Union scored their first goal with a shot that ricocheted past Mitch off our defender. We made it 3-1 with a power-play goal by freshman forward Mitch Vanderlaan at 8:52.

We seemed to be in control and did a good job in the third period until the end of the period. We took a bad penalty with 4:30 remaining and Union pulled its goaltender for a 6-on-4 advantage. Union used the same first-goal formula for their second goal, deflecting a shot off our defender at the top of the crease at 16:26. With 2:32 remaining in regulation, Union sent the game into overtime with a shot from the bottom of the left circle that slid beneath Gillam.

Gillam made 27 saves and two Union goaltenders stopped 21 shots. We were 3-for-4 on the power play and Union was 1-for-3.

Obviously, it was a frustrating weekend because I felt we played well but came away with only one point toward the standings.

We return to Lynah Rink this coming weekend and it won't be any easier! Dartmouth comes in on Friday night and Harvard on Saturday. As always, we enjoy having your support at all our games, home and away.