

Coach Schafer's Notes for January 27, 2016

Dartmouth 3, @CORNELL 0

Harvard 6, @CORNELL 2

Last weekend was one of those you want to forget but better yet, learn from the deficiencies you need to correct. On Friday night, our effort away from the puck was the poorest this year. We didn't play great and we got what we deserved.

The first period was fairly even with scoring opportunities at a minimum; shots 10-8 in Dartmouth's favor. The first goal scored at 2:25 of the second period was similar to the opposition's scoring at Union. In the Union and Dartmouth games, four of the five goals scored by the opposition came from deflections off OUR players. The first goal angled off our defenseman's skate and across the line. Thirty-seven seconds later, a Dartmouth shot on goal hit a defender's hand and deflected into the wide side of the net.

In the third period, we didn't generate much offense until late in the game. Freshman forward Anthony Angello had a great shot from the top of the right circle that was kicked away and 15 seconds later rifled the puck from the slot that clanked off the pipe just outside the left post. We pulled junior goalie Mitch Gillam with 3:41 remaining to put an extra attacker on the ice. We kept the puck in the Dartmouth zone for several minutes but we finally gave up our first empty-net goal with 1:05 left in the game.

Gillam made 26 saves and the Dartmouth goaltender stopped just 18 shots. We were 0-for-1 on the power play and the Big Green was 0-for-2.

The Saturday night game began with all the usual Harvard festivities before a sellout crowd. The visitors gave a quick preview of why they are ranked in the top 10 in the country scoring a power-play goal just 2:22 into the game. Harvard kept the pressure on with a goal at 11:06 and another power-play tally at 13:50. Obviously, our penalty kill let us down this game though Harvard's power play is No. 2 in the country. We knew we shouldn't take penalties but we took too many. We have to be more disciplined, which we have been all year long.

We finally responded late in the first period when senior forward John Knisley forced a turnover on a forecheck, took the puck around the net and set up sophomore defenseman Ryan Bliss for a one-timer from the top of the left circle. His first goal of the season went past the pads of the goaltender with 14.4 seconds remaining in the first period. The goal was our first even-strength tally in four games and it brought the Lynah Faithful back to its feet.

We came out strong for the start of the second period and scored our second goal just 2:44 into the period. With Harvard playing a tough forecheck on the walls, Gillam used a passing lane to sophomore forward Alex Rauter at the blue line. Rauter ignited a 4-on-2 rush up the left wing, and fed classmate Trevor Yates who buried a shot from the slot under the goaltender's glove. We had a chance at a comeback and certainly the crowd voiced its approval.

Harvard didn't falter and scored again at 9:35 of the second, then added a power-play goal with 27 seconds left in the period. The final goal at 19:58 of the third period went into an empty net.

Gillam was called upon for just 17 saves and the Harvard goalie stopped 18 shots. We were 0-for-2 on the power play and Harvard was 3-for-4.

We will learn from this experience with 10 more games left in the regular season. We got excited when the score was 3-2 but then stopped executing as we knew we should and that was the game.

Our next four games are on the road, starting with a trip to the North Country this weekend. We play at Clarkson on Friday evening and St. Lawrence on Saturday. The following weekend we face Quinnipiac and Princeton.