

## **Coach Schafer's Notes for February 3, 2016**

@Clarkson 2, CORNELL 1 OT

@St. Lawrence 2, CORNELL 1 OT

What can you say about a road trip weekend with back-to-back overtime losses?

On Friday night Clarkson dominated the early play out-shooting us 11-2 in the first period. It's hard to score when you have only two shots on goal. We dominated the play in the second period carrying over a power play from the first period and going on the extra-man attack at 2:43. On this second PP, we scored at 4:34 to go up 1-0. Freshman Anthony Angello fed classmate Mitch Vanderlaan coming out of the left corner who fired the puck toward the inside of the near post. The Clarkson goaltender got a piece of his shot but the puck dropped over the goal line for Vanderlaan's sixth goal of the season.

Clarkson didn't get a shot on goal until midway of the second period and had two good opportunities but the defense and junior goaltender Mitch Gillam were equal to the task. We continued to turn up the offense in the Clarkson end but couldn't score. The home team regained momentum and tallied with 19 seconds remaining in the period to send us tied at 1-all into the third period.

We were out-shot 12-5 in the third period but held on to send the game into overtime. We were assessed a holding penalty with 1:19 remaining in OT when one of our back checkers attempted to stop a 2-on-1 break. Clarkson took advantage to score the winning goal on a one-timer from the top of the right circle with 28 seconds remaining in the extra session. The shot hit one of our defenders before deflecting into the net.

Gilliam stopped 30 shots while the Golden Knight's goalie made 17 saves. We were 1-for-3 on the power play; Clarkson was 1-for-4.

On Saturday evening we traveled to Canton to play St. Lawrence. In a game that saw nine power plays, we had the first opportunity midway through the first period. Fifteen seconds into our first power play junior forward Jake Weidner scored his third goal of the year. Sophomore forward Trevor Yates worked the puck from the end boards to junior forward Matt Buckles in the left circle. Matt quickly found Weidner just above the hash marks. Jake's shot flew over the blocker of the goalie at 11:08 of the first period. Shots were even (9-9) in the first 20 minutes.

We began the second period strong but the St. Lawrence goalie was equal to the task. Also, we couldn't take advantage of three power-play opportunities in the second period. Shots-on-goal

were slightly in our favor (19-18) after 40 minutes of action.

Both goaltenders played well in the third period with St. Lawrence out-shooting us 19-7. The home team finally tied the score at 12:07. The guys up top lost their defensemen and the St. Lawrence player made a great shot. Leading up to that goal we allowed a lot of turnovers in our own end. After the goal, I called a timeout to explain we were getting away from our plan, we were turning the puck over in the neutral zone, and we needed to be stronger on our exits and entries. We talk about this a lot but didn't execute in the third period.

It took St. Lawrence only 20 seconds to score in overtime. We lost the puck battle in the circle to Gillam's left. The St. Lawrence player beat his defender off the boards to skate in on goal and lift a backhand past Gillam's left arm.

This was our ninth extra-period game of the season and we are now 3-3-3 in overtime. Gillam made 36 saves and the St. Lawrence goalie had 25. We were 1-for-5 on the power play and the Saints were 0-for-4.

Gillam was outstanding all weekend. Possibly his best weekend this season tallying 66 saves on 70 shots.

We have work to do this week before another tough road trip. We understand that when we win we do certain things well, and when we don't play well and make mistakes, we lose. At the start of the year, we were more consistent like not turning pucks over in the neutral zone. Now we find ourselves in a funk because guys are trying to do too much.

On Friday night we play #1 Quinnipiac and travel to Princeton for Saturday evening.