

Coach Schafer's Game Notes for February 8, 2016

CORNELL 2, @Quinnipiac 2 OT

CORNELL 1, @Princeton 0

ALERT: This report was generated by Associate Head Coach Ben Syer, who coached the team on the road this past weekend. Head Coach Mike Schafer stayed home due to concussion-like symptoms after being hit by a puck during the week in practice.

Our tie on the road against (1) Quinnipiac was a real solid effort. We started slower than we would have liked but stayed with our plan for the entire game. Both teams had a number of scoring chances but didn't convert. Junior goaltender Mitch Gillam was outstanding including stifling a breakaway. A penalty on our forecheck enabled Quinnipiac, one of the nation's toughest power-play teams, to score on a tip-in with 5:31 left in the first period. All four of our shots on goal in the first period were quality chances but we just couldn't get the puck past their goaltender.

We started to get more offensive opportunities when our defensemen began getting involved in the second period. We tied the game at 3:44 into the middle period when freshman defenseman Alex McCrea and junior D Patrick McCarron eluded the Bobcats' forecheck and got the puck up ice to freshman forward Anthony Angello. Anthony's outlet pass found junior forward Jeff Kubiak skating quickly through the neutral zone. Jeff drove wide on the left wing to beat a defender and found the goaltender out of his crease. He continued with the puck around the net and scored a wraparound tally for his seventh goal of the season.

A slew of penalties to both teams put Quinnipiac in a 4-on-3 situation. The Bobcats converted from the left dot on a one-timer that flew through Gillam's legs at 7:39 of the second period giving the home team a 2-1 lead.

Shots were about even in the third period and I thought we had some excellent chances that just didn't result in goals. Gillam remained a stalwart in the net to keep us in the game. His play gave our guys much confidence. With 12:28 to play, Mitch neutralized a 3-on-1 break with his quickness in the goal.

Quinnipiac is extremely good defensively but with 2:42 to play, we tied the game at two after misfiring on two consecutive power plays. With each team having a man in the penalty box, McCarron fired a pass down the right half-wall to Kubiak who was coming free out of the right corner. Jeff smartly avoided a sprawling Quinnipiac shot blocker before sending a backhanded

pass up the slot to freshman Mitch Vanderlaan. Mitch converted with a shot over the goalie's catching glove to tie the game and send it into overtime. McCarron got his second assist of the evening and Kubiak his second point.

In the OT, Quinnipiac had four shots on goal and we had three.

Gillam made 39 saves on the night and the Quinnipiac goalie turned away 22. We were 0-for-4 on the power play and the Bobcats were 2-for-3.

It was great for our team to get one point on the road and we are now 1-0-1 against the country's No. 1 teams this season.

Our next game was at Princeton with many, many Cornellians amongst a sellout crowd. This kind of support is extremely appreciated by the guys, especially in the later stages of the game.

We started out slowly but a very good forecheck, especially in the neutral zone, helped make Princeton commit several turnovers that allowed us to play faster as the game went on.

In the second period, Princeton appeared to score (1:27) but the video review showed a Princeton player hit the puck into the net with his hand and the goal was overturned.

Our speed enabled us to score the game's lone goal at 8:58 of the second period. After Princeton cleared the zone, McCrea picked up the puck inside our blue line and sent a perfect pass to senior forward John Knisley breaking toward the left wall. Knisley was flying as he entered the zone and his snap shot went under the left arm of the Princeton goaltender.

On the defensive side, we had a couple of key blocked shots in the third period as Princeton kept up the pressure. Gillam was called upon once again to hold the fort. The players did a nice job of holding the lead and were extremely excited to get back into the win column.

Gillam made 32 saves for his fifth shutout of the year. The Princeton goalie made 29 saves. We were 0-for-1 on the power play and the Tigers were 0-for-2.

This coming weekend we are back at Lynah Rink for Brown on Friday and Yale on Saturday evening. To echo Coach Schafer's comments, "We always invite you to come and see us play. We can use your support."