

Coach Schafer's Notes for November 14, 2016

CORNELL 4, @BROWN 2

CORNELL 6, @YALE 3

We return home after logging approximately 2,450 miles and 44 hours over 17 days on the road. We're the last NCAA Division I school to play a regular-season game at home.

We are excited about the progress made this season while opening with five straight road games. When you travel on the road, you find yourself with adversity. We've come together as a hockey team, but we are still finding our identity, finding out who we are.

The first night at Brown, the home team scored just 5:33 into the game. Normally, you don't want this to happen on the road, but our team really was not affected by this early deficit. Five minutes after the first Dartmouth goal, we tied the game on an excellent team play. The combo ended with a one-timer by sophomore defenseman Alec McCrea, with assists to sophomore forward Anthony Angello and senior forward Jake Weidner. Our play in the first period was relentless. Senior forward Matt Buckles had three shots himself while we had a two-man advantage.

Even though we had a second-period goal called back, we kept up the momentum. A bit over 9 minutes into the second period, we went up 2-1. Senior defenseman Patrick McCarron started the play with a setup of a sharp-angled shot by junior forward Trevor Yates that bounced off the back of the Brown goalie. Sophomore forward Beau Starrett finished off the play by putting a rebound in the back of the net.

At this point we were on a roll, as freshman forward Connor Murphy scored his first collegiate goal while falling to the ice at 12:52, and junior forward Alex Rauter scored with 1:35 left in the second period to give us a 4-1 lead going into the final 20 minutes. Brown scored on the power play with 5:35 left in the game.

Senior goaltender Mitch Gillam had 22 saves, and a pair of Big Brown goalies stopped 29 shots. We were 0-for-8 on the power play, and Brown was 1-for-5. We weren't able to capitalize on the power play, but even strength, we were able to get going. It was good for the guys to see the result of hard work through the weeks. We were better than we were at both Harvard and Dartmouth. We've just got to keep going forward.

The next night at Yale was a completely different game, but we hung in there tough against nine power plays, as the officials called a standard that was not what we have already been used to so far in this young season. Yale has a great power play, and we were able to hold them to one PPG.

We jumped on them early in the opening period as sophomore forward Mitch Vanderlaan recorded his first of three goals in the game at 3:49. About 5 minutes later Rauter's second goal in two nights made it 2-0. We were outshot in the first period, 13-8, but Gillam came up with the big time saves. When Mitch is on, he gives up very few rebounds, and that was his game on Saturday evening.

Vanderlaan tallied his second goal at 5:37 of the second period to make it 3-0 before Yale's first goal at 7:31. Then on the power play, the Elis' very-talented John Hayden converted his second consecutive goal, this time on the power play, to reduce the lead to 3-2 midway through the second period. At 14:34, Vanderlaan completed his hat trick, our first three-goal game since Tyler Roeszler's feat against Colgate in 2011. Yale did make it 4-3 with 1:42 remaining in the middle stanza, but Yates added a goal with 51 seconds remaining to give us a two-goal margin going into the locker room.

The third period began with much of the same standard, as we were killing penalties. Vanderlaan went from scoring goals to blocking shots, as he had three of his team-high four blocked shots.

Angello scored the game's final goal on an empty net with 1 second remaining. The analysis of the game was that every time Yale pushed, we responded. That was the key.

Gillam was really tough in the nets with 39 saves, while two Yale goaltenders stopped 21 shots. We were 0-for-5 on the power play, and Yale was 1-for-9.

Quinnipiac (3-1 ECAC, 7-3-1 overall) comes to Lynah Rink on Friday night, followed by Princeton (0-3-1 ECAC, 0-4-1 overall) on Saturday evening. We're excited to play before the Lynah Faithful, and we're all fired up to begin on Friday night.