

Coach Schafer's Notes for November 22, 2016

Quinnipiac 3, @CORNELL1

@CORNELL 4, Princeton 2

This was one of those weekends when you play hard one night but come away losing and then sleep walk the next night through the first period and still come alive enough to pull out a victory.

Quinnipiac is ranked among the top five teams in the country and rightly so. They scored at 10:40 of the first period, and on top of that, we were called for hooking. They went on their first power play but a strong effort by our penalty-kill unit and excellent goaltending by senior Mitch Gillam prevented any damage.

Just 23 seconds after the penalty kill, we tied the score on sophomore forward Anthony Angello's third goal of the season. Senior defenseman Patrick McCarron's shot from the right point was deflected but continued toward the net. Sophomore forward Mitch Vanderlaan fired another carom from the top of the crease and Angello backhanded the puck past the goaltender. The assist by McCarron was his fourth in four consecutive games.

A power-play goal at 2:52 of the second period put the visitors in front, 2-1. We then had a couple of power-play opportunities but came up empty. With 3:12 remaining in the second period, Quinnipiac made the score 3-1 when a centering pass bounced into the net off one of our defenseman's skates past a helpless Gillam. This goal really took the wind out of our sails.

The bottom line is that even though we competed hard, we didn't execute enough plays and apply the details in order to win. We gave up the power-play goal and we didn't get one.

Gillam made 17 saves in 57:47 minutes; we pulled him with 2:13 remaining for an extra skater. The Quinnipiac goaltender made 21 saves. We were 0-for-4 on the power play and the visitors were 1-for-4.

The next night we came out 'sleep walking' during the first period and before we knew it, we were down 2-0 to a team that hadn't won a game this season. We made some huge mistakes behind Gillam and turned the puck over. He bailed us out once but couldn't do it the second time. Their first goal was on the power play and I feel we have an excellent penalty-kill team. Princeton scored again 10 seconds before the first intermission.

Junior forward Jared Fiegl got us on the board at 13:20 of the second period with his first goal of the season. Passes by sophomore defensemen Alec McCrea and Brendan Smith set up Fiegl for a one-timer fired into the upper corner of the net. We were starting to take control and creating momentum and chances. After two periods of play, we out-shot Princeton, 24-15 but still trailed 2-1.

Our momentum continued into the third period and at 8:49 junior forward Trevor Yates tied the game on the power play. Freshman defenseman Yanni Kaldis fired a shot from the left circle that was stopped but Yates stuffed the rebound into the back of the net to tie the score 2-2.

The game-winner was scored by sophomore forward Mitch Vanderlaan with 6:20 remaining in the contest on an unusual play that had to be reviewed to determine if the shot by senior forward Jake Weidner had been kicked by Vanderlaan or if it went off his skate. The latter was the call.

It was apropos that Vanderlaan should get the game-winner because he sparked us in the second period with one of the best periods of hockey I've seen from a kid in awhile. He was a workhorse and I think all the guys fed off him and got their feet going.

Vanderlaan added an insurance goal with 2:12 to play after a Princeton turnover. It was Mitch's seventh goal in seven games and it was the first time anyone has scored like that since Blake Gallagher did it during the 2009-10 season.

Gillam was again solid in goal and kept us in the game with 20 saves, while the Tiger net minder stopped 29 shots in 57:58. We were 1-for-6 on the power play and Princeton was 1-for-5.

The next action comes on the Saturday night after Thanksgiving (Nov. 26) at Madison Square Garden. We face UNH for the first time at the Garden and they are expected to bring many fans to NYC. Our team loves to play in New York because of the tremendous alumni support we receive. Hope to see many of you there. We bus to Colgate for an unusual Tuesday night game (Nov. 29) and then host a pair of home games vs. Miami (Ohio) on Dec. 2-3.