

## **Coach Schafer's Notes for November 28, 2016**

CORNELL 3, New Hampshire 1 @Madison Square Garden

It never gets old winning at Madison Square Garden and Saturday night's 3-1 victory over a good UNH (6-6-2) team in The Frozen Apple Game was much fun, although we had a rocky start. Winning here important because the players get a big kick out of doing it on one of professional sport's biggest stages, we get to win in front of a large alumni group, and it's against solid competition.

We started off slowly in the first period and found ourselves down 1-0. During the period, we had to come up with a couple of defensive gems, including senior goaltender Mitch Gillam's terrific save on a one-timer and junior defenseman Dan Wedman sprawling on the ice to break up a 3-on-1 break. The Wildcats finally broke through when their top scorer shot while on his knees for his 11th goal of this season.

After their goal, we got things going offensively and finished off the period with a 12-10 shots-on-goal advantage. With 8 minutes left in the first period, we tied the game with a power-play goal. To score on our first power play was important. Senior defenseman Patrick McCarron, passed from the corner to junior forward Trevor Yates who was tangled up in front of the net. Yates managed to roof the puck into the net for his fourth goal of the season; he scored only six goals in 32 games last season. Trevor has a talent around the net. The assist gives McCarron six in the last six outings.

In the second period, we started strong but then stopped moving our feet and turned over some pucks. UNH earned a power play and it took three great saves by Gillam to keep the game deadlocked. Another miscue led to a 2-on-1 breakaway but Mitch again saved us.

With 3:13 remaining in the second period, freshman forward Noah Bauld scored his first collegiate goal, which ended up being the game-winner. Wedman sent a pass into the middle to sophomore defenseman Matt Nuttle who fired the puck that Bauld deflected down bouncing over the glove of the UNH goaltender at 16:47. The assist was also Nuttle's first collegiate point.

Holding a slim lead early in the third period with 14 minutes to play, we ran into trouble when two penalties three seconds apart put us on a long two-man disadvantage. We worked hard and senior forward Jake Weidner outworked a UNH defender on a clear into the Wildcats' zone and drew a tripping penalty on the goaltender's sweep check as he rounded the back of the net. Another defensive gem was junior forward Alex Rauter dropping to ice to defend the goal

post until Gillam could recover from stopping a wraparound.

The highlight of the third period came about 2 minutes later, as Rauter took to the offensive stage. Rauter, from nearby Chatham, NJ, and playing on the home ice of his favorite NHL team, was killing a penalty. He was hooked on a shorthanded breakaway and was awarded a penalty shot.

On top of all the drama, the UNH goaltender is a childhood friend and they knew each other well. Alex skated in wide to the right side before entering the slot and snapped a shot under the goaltender's glove to give the Big Red an insurance goal with 7:14 left. It marked our first penalty shot goal over a span of 949 games, dating back to a goal from Hall of Famer Joe Nieuwendyk on Feb. 27, 1987!

Gillam had 29 saves, including 14 in the second period and many of them were of the super variety. The UNH goaltender made it a close game with 26 stops. This wasn't a 3-1 game where we dominated; it was tight!

We were 1-for-6 on the power play and did a terrific job shutting them out on seven extra-man opportunities.

Without much rest, we return to ECAC action on Tuesday night at Colgate. We're looking to build on the positives and ride our two-game winning streak into something bigger. It's a busy week for us with Miami (OH) coming to Lynah Rink for out-of-conference Friday and Saturday night games.