

## **Coach Schafer's Notes for December 5th, 2016**

CORNELL 3, @Colgate 2

@CORNELL 4, Miami (Ohio) 3

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After this week's play, we're pretty excited to be 7-3-1 after starting 0-2-1. I'll take it. We expected the many injuries to important players would take their toll but the team has really picked it up, especially the contributions from the younger players.

It was quite a change in atmosphere going from Madison Square Garden last Saturday night to Tuesday in Hamilton. We played in front of more than 10,000 people in NYC and just more than 2,000 at Colgate. As in recent games, Colgate scored first even though we played a strong opening 5 minutes. About 8 minutes into the game, a turnover resulted in Colgate's first goal, marking the seventh time in nine games this season that we have given up the first goal.

We had 14 shots on goal to Colgate's four in the first 20 minutes and with 5:29 remaining senior defenseman Patrick McCarron scored his first of two consecutive power-play goals. At 1-1, I thought we did a good job of getting above them and creating turnovers.

McCarron's second goal broke a 1-1 tie with 14:40 to play in the third period. We finally were getting those power-play goals by getting pucks down to the paint, which is something we have talked about. Patrick did a great job of being there.

Senior forward Eric Freschi, playing in his 100th collegiate game, made it 3-1 at 7:26 of the third period.

For the rest of the game, we played with too much complacency and Colgate responded with its second goal with 8:17 left in the game to make it 3-2. We fell asleep once we got the 3-1 lead. We need to do a better job of finishing teams off and we allowed a close game at the end.

Senior goaltender Mitch Gillam had a relative easy night with 18 saves, while the Colgate goalie stopped 28 shots. We were 2-for-4 on the power play, and Colgate was 0-for-3.

Our winning streak continued on the weekend as a very good Miami (Ohio) team came to Lynah Rink on Friday night. Unfortunately, the trait of getting down early in the game continued. We started very slowly and they took advantage with a great goal at 5:57 of the opening period. Miami is a dangerous team and has one of the best lines that we will see. We only had five

shots on goal in the first period.

We were even slower in the second period and I can't explain why. Miami went up 2-0 at 14:58 and it looked like we were in real trouble. Finally, with 1:55 left in the second period, freshman forward Noah Bauld scored his second collegiate goal (and second in three games). Bauld snapped a shot over the goaltender's shoulder. The assist went to McCarron who extended his point streak to eight games, which is the longest for a Cornell defenseman since Mark McRae during 2002-03. We went into the final period within reach but still not performing to our potential.

All hell broke loose in the third period and we scored three goals in the span of five minutes. Halfway through the period, sophomore forward Beau Starrett scored his second goal of the season and classmate Anthony Angello followed with his fourth tally 1:13 later. Junior forward Trevor Yates finished out our scoring with a power-play goal and we led 4-2 with 5:02 remaining in the game. Miami didn't pack it in and made it interesting with a goal at 16:56.

Gillam made 20 of his 28 saves in the first 25 minutes of the game. He made a number of outstanding stops. The Miami goaltender was called upon for 28 saves. We were 1-for-6 on the power play and Miami was 0-for-2.

On Saturday night, I was really proud of the way the guys came to play. We played tough and with a lot of energy. As I said before, Miami is a very good team and with the excellent way that we started, the visitors stayed right with us with shots on goal being Miami 10, Cornell 9.

For a change, we took a 1-0 lead at 10:53 of the first period. Junior defenseman Dan Wedman scored his first career Lynah Rink goal with assists to senior forward Eric Freschi and freshman forward Jeff Malott. Wedman's shot from the center point found its way through traffic and over the glove of the Miami goaltender. Both goalies were impressive for the rest of the first period.

In the second period, we went up 2-0 just 1:38 into the period. Sophomore forward Mitch Vanderlaan sent the puck on net from outside the hash marks on the left circle. Senior forward Jake Weidner was right in front of the net and tipped the puck 6 feet in the air. It came down over the goaltender and under the crossbar for Weidner's second goal of the season.

Shortly afterwards, a Miami player tried to run over Gillam and Mitch was slow to get up. We went on the power play and I hoped our unit would have buried the puck to make it a 3-0 game and make them pay; but it didn't.

In the third period, the visitors did score a “reviewed” goal at the 3-minute mark but couldn’t get any closer.

Gillam made 25 saves and the Miami goaltender 18 stops. We were 0-for-3 on the power play and they were 0-for-4. Our penalty kill was outstanding on Saturday and we have now killed off 18 consecutive power plays. Senior forward Holden Anderson's block on a shot in the third period was a super effort and Mitch was big all night long.

We now take a five-game winning streak into the break for final examinations and the next action will not be for three weeks. We will keep the players active so as not to lose this momentum. The Florida College Classic is next on the schedule and we face Northern Michigan on December 28. Colorado College plays Merrimack in the second game. Consolation and championship games will be played December 29<sup>th</sup>.

In the meantime, we have the Skate With the Big Red on Friday night, Dec. 9, at Lynah Rink. It’s a lot of fun for the entire family.

Happy holidays to everyone from the entire Cornell men’s hockey program. We appreciate your support both at home and especially on the road. You are always an important part of Big Red hockey.