

Coach Schafer's Notes for January 23, 2017

@CORNELL 3, Clarkson 3 OT

@CORNELL 3, St. Lawrence 2

We started our four-game home stand against a pair of tough North Country opponents, and while we were disappointed not to record four points, I was pleased that we came back on Saturday night and played a much better game than the night before. The intensity was much better on Saturday evening. We should have played much better the first night after returning home from a successful road trip.

Clarkson got on the board at 16:37 of the first period on a breakaway to take an early 1-0 lead. Ninety-three seconds later (18:10), sophomore forward Anthony Angello tallied his fifth goal of the season in our first four-on-four score of the season. Sophomore defenseman Alec McCrea passed the puck to junior forward Trevor Yates at the top of the zone. Yates fired a shot on net and the rebound came out to Angello at the top of the crease who deposited it into the net. The first 20 minutes ended 1-1.

We just didn't seem to have the focus and intensity that you need to be a great team. I thought we were just an average team on Friday night. It definitely showed in the second period, as Clarkson's top line scored at 6:45 and 9:00, the second on the power play to make it 3-1. They scored two goals on just six shots in the middle period. Yates got us back in the game at 16:38 on a pass from sophomore forward Mitch Vanderlaan from behind the net. Yates shot the puck under the goaltender to make it 3-2 at the second intermission.

For the third time in just five home games this year, we erased a two-goal deficit. On the power-play, Yates scored his ninth goal of the season, converting a rebound off a shot by senior forward Jake Weidner from the top of the circle to make it 3-3. There was no more scoring and we settled for one point against a good hockey team.

Senior Mitch Gillam made just 13 saves, while we peppered the Clarkson goaltender to make 28 stops. We were 1-for-5 on the power play and Clarkson was 1-for-3.

On Saturday night, we came ready to play. St. Lawrence is a good team but I didn't see much difference between them and Clarkson. We showed the kind of intensity that we had been playing on the road. St. Lawrence did have a power-play goal waved off early as the officials ruled that the puck was kicked into the net. Then, just 4:14 into the game, senior forward Jared Fiegl snapped a shot over the goaltender's shoulder for his second goal of the year and a 1-0

Cornell lead.

We weren't finished, as senior defenseman Patrick McCarron made it 2-0 at 13:31 of the first period. Gillam got the play going with a pass to junior forward Alex Rauter who relayed the puck to McCarron on a 2-on-2 break. Near the top of the left circle, Patrick let fly with a shot that went through a defender's legs and into the goal. We had a 2-0 lead after 20 minutes of play.

St. Lawrence demonstrated why it's a highly-ranked team, and came out flying for the second period and scored a goal at 8:54. We had an excellent offensive chance midway through the second period when St. Lawrence was assessed a 5-minute major penalty. Keeping the pressure on for the entire 5 minutes, we just couldn't score. Buoyed by their stellar defense, the Saints knotted the score at 2-all with a goal at 15:49 of the second period.

Less than 2 minutes after the game was tied, we scored the game-winner. An unlikely hero got the winner for us. Sophomore defenseman Brendan Smith scored his first collegiate goal at 17:18 of the second period. Senior forwards Weidner and Matt Buckles worked the puck to the left side of the SLU net and then to Smith. With junior forward Alex Rauter setting a screen, Smith fired the puck that bounced into the net off the glove of the goaltender.

Although no goals were scored in the third period, 20 shots-on-goal were taken; 11 by us. Pucks were ringing off the posts of both nets and provided an exciting end to a well-played game by both teams.

Gillam made 22 saves and the St. Lawrence goaltender stopped 27 shots. Both teams were 0-for-3 on the power play.

This brings us to the season's always highly-anticipated Harvard game at home on Friday night. On Saturday evening, Dartmouth comes to Lynah Rink.

Also this weekend, the Athletic Department and the Cornell Hockey Association honors the 1967 National Championship team. The returnees have many events planned for their reunion, including a reception on Saturday night before the game at the Bio-Tech Building with the public invited. They will also be recognized between the first and second periods of the Dartmouth game.

This promises to be an exciting weekend for Big Red hockey and I hope you'll be raising the roof at Lynah on Friday and Saturday nights!