

## **Coach Schafer's Notes for February 9, 2017**

@CORNELL 4, Colgate 0

There was a lot to like in our unusual midweek game on Tuesday night. First, the win elevated us to fourth place in the ECAC standings with three weeks remaining in regular season. I was also happy that our guys came to play early and moved out to a three-goal lead giving us some breathing room for a change. In our two previous losses, we failed to extend a lead to put the game out of reach.

It was also encouraging that four different players scored goals. And finally, it was our third win in five days. The defense was solid and senior Mitch Gillam made 28 saves to earn his second shutout of the season and the 10th of his career.

Senior defenseman Holden Anderson got the scoring started at 7:01 of the first period. Sophomore blue liner Matt Nuttle fired a shot that was blocked and senior forward Eric Freschi retrieved the puck along the half-wall. Eric passed the puck back to Anderson at the right point and his laser shot found its way through traffic and past the feet of the Colgate goaltender for Anderson's first tally in 2016-17. A little more than 4 minutes later, senior forward Matt Buckles put back a rebound of a shot by sophomore forward Mitch Vanderlaan to make it 2-0 at the end of the first period. We had 11 shots on goal to nine for Colgate.

The first of four penalties called in the game came 14 seconds into the second period and we capitalized with the one-man advantage less than a minute into the power play. Senior defenseman Patrick McCarron fired a shot from the point and junior forward Trevor Yates took advantage of another rebound by depositing the puck into the back of the net to give us a 3-0 lead just 1:04 into the period. It was Yates' ninth goal of the season.

The biggest thing in hockey is that when you get the lead, the other team changes. They start to gamble and push up more. You have to make puck plays a little quicker and capitalize on chances. Colgate had a number of scoring chances in the second period but Gillam handled everything that came his way, including a breakaway with a pad save, when a Raider player cut across the slot on a 2-on-2 rush.

We increased the margin to four goals at 17:47 of the second period, as we continued to push the envelope with the idea of burying any scoring chances. This goal was really a highlight reel one. Freshman forward Jeff Malott picked up the puck in our zone and started up ice. He

avoided a defensive hit at the Colgate blue line and beat a defenseman down the middle before rifling a shot over the shoulder of the exposed goaltender. This play puts games out of reach.

As mentioned, Gillam made 28 saves, including 12 in the third period. We were 1-for-1 on the power play and Colgate was 0-for-3 with just two shots on goal during its man-up advantages.

We've had five games in nine nights including the coming weekend. Yale visits Lynah Rink on Friday night and Brown on Saturday. The welcome mat is always open to those of you who can make it to Ithaca. The following week, we make the North Country trip and then wind up the regular season at home vs. RPI and Union on Feb. 24 and 25.