

Coach Schafer's Notes for February 13, 2017

@CORNELL 2, Yale 2 OT

@CORNELL 5, Brown 3

Though we had a three-point weekend, it was also frustrating one night to the other. The team played very well in spurts, scoring the first two goals of the Yale game, but faltering at other times. Lack of depth is hampering us now due to injuries but all teams have injuries at the end of the season.

We finally played both games after they had been postponed due to bad traveling conditions. Against Yale on Saturday night, we jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period on a pair of goals by a line that is really producing right now. It was the fourth time in the last five home games that we not only scored first, but went up by two goals. Sophomore forward Beau Starrett got the first scoring chance started with some excellent stick work on the forecheck. He chipped a pass to senior forward Jeff Kubiak, who sent a backhanded pass to sophomore forward Anthony Angello flying through the slot. Anthony beat the goaltender near the post at 6:12.

About 8 minutes later, the same line produced again. Sophomore defenseman Trent Shore found Angello near our blue line and Anthony sent a cross-ice pass to Kubiak who fired a shot past the goaltender's glove at 14:20. Kubiak was outstanding all night long. He's playing some of his best hockey right now at crunch time and Angello is right up there too.

We had an excellent chance to make it 3-0 when awarded a penalty shot but junior forward Trevor Yates' shot was high over the goal. We went into the locker room at the first intermission with a 2-0 lead that could have been much more if we converted a number of excellent scoring chances.

At this point, we stopped working and Yale came out in the second period with higher intensity. A turnover in the neutral zone created a Yale scoring chance and they took advantage of the opportunity to score at 8:02 of the second period. The visitors turned it on and senior goaltender Mitch Gillam kept us ahead, 2-1, even though Yale had three consecutive one-timer blasts from the top of the right circle on a power-play. Gillam snagged the final shot of the extra-man situation that brought the sold-out Lynah crowd to its feet. We still led, 2-1, going into the third period even though Yale out-shot us, 13-7, in the middle period.

Our work ethic slump continued in the third period and Yale tied the game 2-2 with 4:40

remaining. The Elis continued to fire shots on goal and ended regulation with a 35-28 margin. Overtime was scoreless, awarding each team a point apiece. It was very disappointing to play the way we did and I let the team know how I felt.

Gillam made 35 saves and the Yale goaltender stopped 27 shots. We were 0-for-4 on the power play and Yale was 0-for-3.

We didn't have much time to think about Saturday night. We played Brown at 4 PM on Sunday afternoon. The Bears had just come off a tough 2-1 loss at Colgate on Saturday night. It was another rough start as Brown played with a lot of pace in the first period and we didn't. They scored just 3:28 into the game and the Bears recorded seven of the game's first nine shots on goal.

About 5 minutes later, we knotted the score at 1-1. Sophomore forward Mitch Vanderlaan won a battle for the puck along the half-wall to set up junior Alex Rauter, who snapped off a shot toward the goal that hit senior forward, Matt Buckles' skate in front of the net. Buckles recovered the puck to convert the rebound for his seventh goal of the season. We went ahead to stay at 13:01 of the first period, when Angello tallied the first of two consecutive goals with assists from his line-mates, Kubiak and Starrett.

Angello struck again halfway through the second period with his 10th goal of the season. He is really on a roll and the Kubiak line played well both nights. With 4:58 remaining in the middle stanza, Vanderlaan gave us a 4-1 lead with a shot over the goaltender's glove. Assists went to senior defenseman Patrick McCarron and forward Jake Weidner.

Give Brown credit. They didn't give in and scored 70 seconds later to make it 4-2 going into the final period. The Bears tallied again just 2:17 into the third period with a shorthanded goal to make it a 4-3 game. It is very frustrating to give up a 4-1 lead but we regrouped and scored to make it 5-3 with an insurance goal by junior forward Trevor Yates. His shot from the left circle barely made it past the goaltender but counted as his 10th goal of the year to tie for the team scoring leaders with Angello and Vanderlaan.

Gillam made 23 saves and the Brown goaltender stopped 26 shots. Both teams were 0-for-4 on the power play.

As frustrated and mad as I was on Saturday night, I had to look back at our overall performance. We have played five games in nine days and won 9 of 10 possible points to make our overall record 16-6-3 and more importantly 11-4-3 in the ECAC. We've moved into a tie with St.

Lawrence for third place in the league standings with 25 points. All ECAC teams have four games left in the regular season. We trail first-place Union by two points and second-place Harvard by one point.

There are no easy nights in the ECAC this year! This coming weekend, we travel to St. Lawrence on Friday night and Clarkson on Saturday for the final road trip of the regular season and return home on February 24/25 to finish the season against RPI and Union. We will recognize our senior class after the Saturday night Union game.