

## **Coach Schafer's Notes for October 20, 2017**

**@CORNELL 7, Guelph 1 (exhibition)**

**@CORNELL 2, OTTAWA 2 OT (exhibition)**

The 2017-18 hockey season has begun and we saw many good things, a number of improvements that have to be made, and overall a pretty good weekend for openers. We used everybody who was healthy, and got a long look at their abilities.

On Saturday night, junior defenseman Matt Nuttle showed his offensive prowess with a pair of goals, including our first one on the power play with about 5 minutes left in the first period. A couple of freshmen, forward Tristan Mullin and defenseman Alex Green added goals before the end of the first period to make it 3-0.

The second period was marred by penalties, as Guelph scored the only goal of the period. We kind of took a vacation in the second period, but came back in the third to play the kind of hockey that we wanted to play. Five different players scored in the third period, with Nuttle recording his second goal. Fifteen of our 20 skaters had points vs. Guelph.

We played all three goalies against Guelph with senior Hayden Stewart getting the start with eight saves. Freshmen Matthew Galajda and Austin McGrath saw action with two and six saves, respectively. It's a race with all three of them competing. We video them in practice and they will be evaluated every day. The Guelph goaltender made 33 saves.

Cornell was 2-for-9 on the power play, and Guelph 0-for-6. We have spent a lot of time on our penalty kill, and I think it showed on Saturday night with great blocked shots.

The effort wasn't there on Sunday afternoon when we played Ottawa. The visitors scored first at 12:41 of the opening period. We knotted the score less than a minute later as Mullin recorded his second goal in two games, as he teamed up with his former junior teammate freshman Kyle Betts.

Senior forward Jared Fiegl put us in front just past the midway of the second period on a goal in transition. Green started the rush, and then dished off to Fiegl on left wing. The senior pulled up to fire a shot from the left circle past the glove of the Ottawa goaltender.

We had the upper hand in time of possession, but couldn't take advantage of a number of odd-man rushes to give us some cushion. Ottawa tied the game on a deflected shot from the point with 43.6 seconds remaining with six skaters, as it had pulled the goaltender.

Galajda got the start in goal and made seven saves. Stewart finished up with six stops. The Ottawa goaltender had 32 saves. We were 0-for-4 on the power play, and they were 0-for-3.

All and all, we saw what our players can do against live game competition. We had 10 freshmen make their Lynah Rink debuts. We had a few guys that were coming off injuries both on the

blue line and up front that didn't play, and we expect them to back when we open up the season.

This coming weekend, on Homecoming, we will play the Red-White Game on Saturday night. The regular season begins Oct. 27-28 with a two-game series with Alabama-Huntsville.

I was really happy with our play on Saturday, defense was very involved as it showed in the box scores, we used everybody that was healthy and got a long look at their abilities, all three goalies saw some action during the games. We had a few guys that were coming off injuries on the blue line and up front and they will be back by the start of the season.