

Coach Schafer's Notes for November 1, 2017

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We saw a lot of good things this past weekend from our young team and just two games into the season, there are areas where we can improve.

The first night our play was good at times, ok at times and sometimes ugly. A-H had too many shots on goal because we didn't block shots and this was one of the ugly things.

On the good side, the first evening we received points from nine of our 12 forwards. The penalty kill was 5-for-5 against a team that was converting 29.4% of its extra-man chances. On our first extra-man situation, junior defenseman Alec McCrea scored just 4 seconds into the play at 4:39 of the first period.

We then ran into significant penalty trouble later in the opening period. We were shorthanded for a consecutive stretch of 5:02, including 3:18 of two-man disadvantage. Freshman goaltender Matt Galajda, making his first collegiate start, was rock solid during this stretch with six saves, including a fantastic glove save with 26.1 seconds left in the first period. We killed off the remaining time of the shorthanded situation in the beginning of the second period. At 5:00 into the second stanza, senior forward Trevor Yates scored on the power play, and 1:48 later, freshman forward Morgan Barron recorded his first college goal to make it 3-0.

From an offensive standpoint, the third period belonged to sophomore forward Jeff Malott with goals at 9:30 and 16:03 for a 5-0 margin. Forty-nine seconds later, the shutout evaporated with a goal by the visitors' top scorer, Brennan Saulnier, the younger brother of Jillian Saulnier '15, a standout with the Big Red women's team.

Galajda made 28 saves in the game, while the visitors' goalie stopped 26 shots. We were 2-for-4 on the power play and they were 0-for-5. Matt was outstanding the entire game. He's played that way in practice and has been getting better and better. We had six freshmen making their Lynah Rink for-real debuts on Friday night and they contributed four points, including two by forward Cam Donaldson.

In our Saturday morning skate, we worked on shot blocking because that was not one of our strong points the night before. The extra work proved successful as we blocked 17 shots before they could get to Matt on Saturday en route to the 3-0 shutout.

Alternate captain Yates stole the offensive show in the second game between the two teams. He had two power-play goals and assisted on the game's first tally by junior defenseman Matt Nuttle just 3:05 into the game. Yates' first goal came moments after we had just killed off a penalty. We had too many penalties coming off face offs and in our offensive zone. We will emphasize that this week in practice.

Midway through the second period, Yates, standing off the edge of the crease was the benefit of a great pass from sophomore defenseman Yanni Kaldis and the senior buried the puck to make it 2-0. The same combination was successful once again in the third period at 16:35. Again on the power play, Kaldis recorded his second assist of the evening as he found Yates in the slot. Junior forward Anthony Angello helped out on the play for his second assist on the weekend. Trevor has a great presence around the net. He led our team last year in extra-man tallies and he's off to a great start this season.

Galaida was called upon for just 11 saves earning the shutout in his second collegiate start. The visitors' goaltender made 19 saves. We were 2-for-7 on the power play and they were 0-for-7. The shot blocking on Saturday night was a completely different story than on Friday evening.

Now, the regular season begins as we head out on the road for our first taste of ECAC competition. On Friday evening, we play nationally-ranked Quinnipiac and then travel to Princeton on Saturday night to face a much-improved Tiger team.

Hope to see many of our Big Red fans in opposition rinks this season. Your support is always appreciated.