

Coach Schafer's Notes for December 4, 2017

@Miami 2, CORNELL 1
CORNELL 4, @Miami 0

Oxford, Ohio was a long bus trip and thank goodness we now have a break until Dec. 30. On the other hand, we couldn't have anticipated that we would be 10-2 at this time of the season. Our young players have contributed greatly and the upperclassmen have been outstanding leaders.

On Friday night, we gave up very few 5-on-5 scoring chances and created quite a few. Unfortunately, we missed our chances and they scored on theirs. Our power play (0-4) let us down and they capitalized on the couple chances (2-2) they had on the power play. That was the difference in the game.

It looked like it was going to be a good night after senior forward Alex Rauter scored his third goal of the season just 3:59 into the game. On the Rauter goal, sophomore forward Noah Bauld created a turnover behind the Miami net and the puck went to junior defenseman Matt Nuttle along the right boards. Bauld got the puck back and dished it off to Rauter at the right point who fired a shot that beat the goaltender. A 5-minute major penalty on Miami shortly after the goal gave us another outstanding opportunity, but we couldn't convert. We out-shot them 10-4 in the first period.

Miami scored power-play goals at 16:35 of the first period and with 54 seconds remaining in the middle period.

Freshman goaltender Matt Galajda played the first 40 minutes in goal with just eight saves. Senior Hayden Stewart, back from an injury, stopped three shots in the third period. Their goaltender had 30 saves.

It was just a frustrating game because we did a lot of good things and didn't give up many chances while creating our own.

I felt that we came back on Saturday and played the kind of hockey that has led to our success over the first 12 games. We were 2-for-4 on the power play and held them to 0-for-3. We were extremely tenacious and played very fast.

For the second consecutive night, we scored a goal in the first period and then two more to take a 3-0 lead after 20 minutes. Junior forward Anthony Angello, on the power play, tallied his fourth goal of the season at 9:24 of the first period, sneaking a shot between the goaltender's legs. Again on the power play, senior forward Trevor Yates tipped in a shot by sophomore

defenseman Yanni Kaldis for his team-leading eighth goal of the season less than 3 minutes later to give us a 2-0 margin.

Thirty-five seconds later, junior defenseman Brendan Smith made a pretty passing play along the left wall to playing partner Alec McCrea at the center post, to Rauter on the right half wall, who quickly dished to freshman forward Kyle Betts coming down the slot. Betts converted inside the wide side of the net for his first collegiate goal. I was happy for Kyle because he's been working hard but hasn't been rewarded.

No one scored in the second period though we each had one power-play opportunity. The only scoring in the third period was an empty-net goal by Rauter with 51 seconds remaining.

Stewart made his first start of the year, recorded his third career collegiate shutout, and made 26 saves, while the Miami goaltender stopped 19 shots. Matt has been giving up some goals I haven't particularly liked but the main reason for starting Hayden was because he has been working very hard since his injury—I was rewarding him for his hard work. He played awesome making some big saves and was strong down low.

With the win, we tied Cornell's fifth-best winning percentage through 12 games in the modern era of Cornell hockey. It's also the second time in the last three seasons that we have had a .833 winning percentage at this point in the schedule.

We're looking forward to the break! We have 10 freshmen and they're tired. They have done a great job but at times seemed mentally and physically fatigued. We have almost a month-long break; our next game is against Canisius College on December 30 (4PM) at Lynah Rink.

We're fifth in the all-important Pairwise rankings, which have a large impact on NCAA tournament selection.

On Friday night December 8th at 7PM at Lynah Rink, we will have some fun with the fans as part of our annual Skate with the Big Red. It's a great time for families and especially the kids with autographs, team pictures for all and plenty of skating.

On behalf of the Cornell Men's Hockey Team, we wish you a very Merry Christmas. We all should be thankful for the upcoming holidays. May 2018 be a fun-filled, productive and safe year for all of us. Come and see our exciting Big Red team.