We would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their banquet sponsorship.

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**Cornell University Men’s Ice Hockey**

58th Annual Awards Banquet
*Sunday, April 14, 2019*
*Lake Watch Inn*

The 2018-19 Cornell Men’s Ice Hockey Team

**Front Row (L to R):** Matthew Galajda, Director of Hockey Operations Joe Palmer, Strength & Conditioning Coach Tom Howley, Head Coach Mike Schafer, Beau Starrett, Alec McCrea, Mitch Vanderlaan, Matt Nuttle, Brendan Smith, Associate Head Coach Ben Syer, Assistant Coach Sean Flanagan, Volunteer Assistant Coach Mitch Stephens, Austin McGrath.

**Middle Row:** Equipment Manager Sean Schmidt, Athletic Trainer Ed Kelly, Nate McDonald, Zach Bramwell, Misha Song, Matt Cairns, Liam Motley, Cody Haiskanen, Morgan Barron, Jeff Malott, Joe Leahy, Alex Green, Tristan Mullin, Michael Regush, Kyle Betts, Dr. David Wentzel.

**Back Row:** Connor Murphy, Brenden Locke, Max Andreev, Noah Bauld, Yanni Kaldis, Chase Brakel, Cam Donaldson.
2018-19 Final Statistics

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2018-19 Results (21-11-4, 13-5-4 ECAC Hockey)

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There are so many other people from professors to Dining Hall workers that I could thank across campus for making my time much better at Cornell, but there are too many to name. They all know who they are, but I’d like to specifically thank Dale Grossman. Thank you very much for all the help you gave me as my academic advisor over the years.

Lastly, I’d like to thank all my teammates that I’ve had during my time at Cornell. When I first arrived, all of you guys were so helpful and made it so easy to get accustomed to being at Cornell. Over the course of the last four years, you guys have the reason that I have enjoyed my time so much here. Whether it be time spent at the rink, battling together in games on the weekend, the road trips together, or going out together on nights in colletgatown. There are just too many memories to count and the friendships with you guys are something I could have only dreamed of coming to Cornell. For all my teammates returning next year, go take care of business and win a championship for this program. You guys are incredible players and I have no doubt will be ready for the challenge next year.
Cornell Hockey Awards

The Bill Doran Sportmanship Award
Presented to the Cornell player combining all of the best attributes that mean sportsmanship, both on and off the ice, as well as being an excellent, competitive player.

The Wendell and Francelia Earle Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement
This annual award, which is endowed in perpetuity by the Earle family, honors Wendell, Cornell professor and team adviser, who was a frequent host of Cornell hockey players and their families. The award recipients are the team members from each class who have achieved the highest cumulative grade point average. Presented by Brian Earle.

The Joe DeLibero-Stan Tsapis Award
Presented to the player who most nearly exemplifies the skilled efficiency, unselfish dedication, and hard-nosed competitive applications that distinguishes him as representative of Joe DeLibero’s and Stan Tsapis’ uniqueness.

The Cornell Hockey Association Award
Presented to the player whose contribution to the team is not apparent in the box scores. His efforts are more clearly measured in enthusiasm, dedication, desire, and unselfish willingness to give to the team an extra ounce of energy.

The Sam Woodside Award
Presented to the senior player who has most improved in overall playing ability and has exhibited team leadership with his play during his career.

The Mark Weiss Memorial Award
Presented to the player who most exemplified from his rookie year through his senior year the same kind of determination and passion the outstanding young athlete, Mark Weiss, had for life and the sport of hockey.

The Ironman Award
Presented to the team member who, in spite of being bruised, broken, spliced, or otherwise hurt, most demonstrated the will and determination to overcome his injuries and contribute to the team. Sponsored by Bert & Helen Cooley and created to honor Coach Schafer.

The Crimson Cup Award
Presented to the player whose contribution to the team was outstanding during the season series against Harvard.

The Greg Ratushny Award
Presented to the freshman player who best exhibits enthusiasm for both the team and Cornell University, camaraderie with his teammates and fellow students, and promise for the future. Sponsored by the Ratushny Family.

The Nicky Bawlf Award
Presented to honor the most valuable player, as determined by the vote of his teammates.

Forward Mitch Vanderlaan

The last four years have been an incredible experience. My time at Cornell has exceeded any level of expectations that I could have possibly had leading up to my arrival on campus. I can still remember the first day, moving into the townhouses on North campus and how welcoming everyone was, and how much they helped me feel comfortable at Cornell right from the outset. When I reflect from that moment onward there are so many moments that stand out. The four trips to Muskoka before the season (big thank you to the McCarron and Malott families for hosting us), my first set of games at Lynah, the win the dying seconds versus Harvard, team Christmas parties, and just going to breakfast with the guys on Sunday mornings are a few I can name quickly but there are so many more. The memories that I have gathered, both at the rink and away from it, are those that I will cherish for the rest of my life. There are so many people that I'd have to thank for these memories.

I'd like to thank my parents first and foremost for supporting me and providing me the opportunity to come to Cornell. Without them there is no way that I could have come here and enjoyed the last four years so much. They have sacrificed an incredible amount for me to enjoy my experience as a Cornell Hockey player.

Next, I'd like to thank the coaches and all other staff involved with the program. Schafer, thank you for pushing me to become a much better player and for giving me so many opportunities to grow. Flanny, thank you for working with me each of the last three years to improve as a player, and for being a guy I could always count on to hold me accountable. Benny, thanks for helping me become a better leader and the way you’ve always pushed the team to get better each day. Topher, you were the first contact I had with Cornell Hockey and were a big reason for me coming. Thanks for giving me the opportunity and persuading me further to join Cornell. Joe, thank you for always taking care of the me and the rest of the boys. Mitch, you’ve great to work with this year and I want to thank you for helping me as a player. Eddy, I spent a lot of time in with you sporadically throughout the four years. What you do for our team is so undervalued, you’re always there for the
2018-19 Season in Review

By Brandon Thomas
Athletic Communications

There was every reason to be optimistic that the Cornell men’s hockey team’s 2018-19 season would put it right back into contention for a national championship. The 2017-18 squad blazed its way to a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament; the entire blue line corps returned after leading the nation in team defense; and All-American goaltender Matthew Galajda was back. A natural maturation of incumbents figured to counter the loss of some front-line scoring.

To look merely at the end result, it would be fair to say this season was a success. While there were more losses than the year prior, the playoff advances were deeper. The Big Red was flying high, and the rebuilding Spartans were universally predicted to finish last in the Big Ten for a third straight year.

The first harbinger was Michigan State opening the scoring with a shorthanded goal. Though freshman Max Andreev tied it up in the second, the Spartans scored three times in the first 12 minutes of the third for a shocking 5-2 victory.

Perhaps more shocking, Cornell had no answer the next night. Though Yanni Kaldis scored twice, the Spartans chased Galajda for a second straight night and won the rematch, 4-3.

“That was a team that was willing to do anything to win,” Schafer said after the second loss. “We’ve got to get back to that mentality.”

The Big Red plummeted 10 spots down the national rankings. And even though the team recovered with four straight victories, the adversity was just getting started.

The ECAC Hockey and Ivy League opener was Nov. 2, and the first 10 minutes was particularly noteworthy. For that one half of just one period, Cornell had its ideal lineup of 19 universities yielded little resistance, so confidence abounded heading into a pair of games against Michigan State to start the season. The Big Red was flying high, and the rebuilding Spartans were universally predicted to finish last in the Big Ten for a third straight year.

The exhibitions against a pair of Canadian universities yielded little resistance, so confidence abounded heading into a pair of games against Michigan State to start the season. The Big Red was flying high, and the rebuilding Spartans were universally predicted to finish last in the Big Ten for a third straight year.

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The exhibitions against a pair of Canadian

By Brandon Thomas
Athletic Communications

The exhibitions against a pair of Canadian
few people know how much Scotty does for the hockey program. From cutting my sticks even more crooked than I would have done myself, to spending the five minutes after every court session lecturing me on foreign currencies and the latest in medical technologies. I would love to petition the university on his behalf for him to teach a four-credit course on surviving and thriving in the real world.

I am forever grateful for all the efforts of Coach Howley to help develop me as an athlete, but more importantly the life lessons and wisdom he instilled in me. I’d like to thank the band, Dane, my professors and advisors (shout out to Dale Grossman for her advice and passing me in business law, as well as Jack Little for making me pay attention in accounting class and for making sure I got an extra workout in moving his hunting blind). People forget that Connor Murphy was the MVP of moving that thing and I look forward to passing the torch to him to help you move the blind next year.

I’d like to thank the Cornell Hockey Association for all that they do to support our program and for putting on the banquet. Unfortunately, I am not able to be at the banquet this year, but it was always one of my favorite events of the year and I think it does the perfect job of wrapping up the season. Special thanks to Ned and Annie for the photos and for keeping my mother busy during the games.

Last but definitely not least, I’d like to thank the boys. From the moment I arrived on campus I always felt as if I was part of a family and even hundreds of miles away grinding life out in the Coast, I still feel that way. To start I would like to thank the older guys who I looked up to so much in my early years. To the Class of 2016 (Teemu, Knis, Hilly, Reece, and Stoicker) thank you for showing me what it truly meant to be a Cornell hockey player. To this day, I still use the advice you gave me in life. To the Class of 2017 (Paddy, Weids, Kubs, Bucks, Cooster, Gilly, Holden, Freschi, Stoicker, and Sade) thank you for showing me how to have fun and letting me overstay my welcome at all your apartments. To the Class of 2018 (Rauts, Dwyer, Fiego, Yates, Weds, Stew, and Bliisster) thanks for teaching me what it means to be a leader and for always having my back.

Living with you guys was a life-changing experience. I’m not sure I could go through again but is something I wouldn’t trade in for the world.

To the freshmen this year, thanks for helping me stay young, keeping me on my toes, and making me laugh. You guys all have very bright futures ahead of you and I’m glad I got to be a part of your time here. To the sophomores, the engine of the team, thank you guys for being unbelievable friends and reminding me there’s always time for a little fun in the process. To the juniors, I don’t think we could leave the team in better hands than the four of you. Thank you for being some of my closest friends in the three long years we shared together. I’m blessed to have cross paths with all of you (including Hoff-daddy), and am a better person because of it.

To my classmates (including Shoresy, Lals, Chaddy, and Ang) thank you for going through this whole ride with me and being my best friends. When I first met all of you on campus on the first day, I couldn’t have imagined how close we would all become. From F9 to Will 2.0, my favorite memories always took place when you guys were around. I know that we’ll always remain close even if Vandy moves back to New Brunswick and only has his flip phone that doesn’t even take a charge.

I’m so grateful for everyone that helped me be a small part of such an important program. I’m forever thankful I got to live my dream of playing college and even more thankful I chose Cornell University. Thank you.

Michael Regush scores his first collegiate goal vs. Brown (Ned Dykes)

Harvard took a 2-1 lead by the game’s midway point, then added two more against a listless effort from the Big Red for a 4-1 win. It was a crushing loss from all angles. But internally, it was much worse – because the team knew that Galajda had sustained a concussion in the third period.

That thrust Austin McGrath into the spotlight. After spending his freshman season exclusively on the sideline as the team’s No. 3 goaltender, he had gotten his feet wet in a few relief appearances as a sophomore. But this was a whole other ball of wax.

On Nov. 30 at Dartmouth, both McGrath and the rest of his teammates played well. Malott’s return to the lineup proved to be a shot of confidence for the team’s cinderella season. With anticipation high, Liam Motley got his first collegiate goal to give Cornell a 1-0 lead after the first period. But from there, it was a disaster.

Sitting at 5-5, Cornell’s season was on the brink. Only the next night’s game at Harvard stood between it and a sorely needed five-week semester break. Another loss would be the team’s fourth in a five-game span (which hasn’t happened since January 2016), and it would enter the mid-season hiatus below .500 for the first time since 2010-11. Worse yet, there were more injuries with
which to contend. Against the Big Green, Max Andreev suffered a broken finger and Mitch Vanderlaan suffered a hip pointer. Vanderlaan would ultimately play against the Crimson essentially on one leg, because Cornell just didn’t have any other options. And not only was this the same Harvard team that just thumped Cornell in front of 14,000 fans seven nights prior, it was pitting its average of more than four goals per game and gaudy 40% success rate on the power play against a Big Red skeleton crew.

Right on cue, Jack Rathbone struck less than six minutes into the game on Harvard’s first power play.

But Cornell came out swinging in the second period, and it took advantage of the biggest chink in Harvard’s armor – it’s penalty kill. Mullin popped into the slot for a one-timer on which he shattered his stick, but the puck still found its way to an open Cam Donaldson on the edge of the crease. Some slick stick work ensued, and Donaldson’s goal tied the game. About six minutes later, a broken play from the right side led Barron to just through the bone on goal. Harvard’s goaltender kicked the puck on goal. Harvard’s goaltender kicked the puck out the far side, where Vanderlaan suffered a hip pointer. Vanderlaan hung on for a desperately needed 2-1 victory. Schafer described it as one of the “grittiest” wins he’s been a part of in 24 years as the program’s head coach.

“You felt it going home on the bus trip that there was a sense of, regardless of what kind of adversity you go through as a team, we can get this done,” Kyle Betts told the media covering the NCAA East Regional.

“We just had to find our way as a team,” Brendan Smith added. “The first half of the year … we were dealing with injuries, but we weren’t playing the way we had to, to win, to succeed. We really buckled down during our intersession and focused on special teams, focused on the details of the game.”

After the break, Brenden Locke and Brendan Smith both returned for their first action since the Northern Michigan series nearly two months prior – and both celebrated the occasion by scoring in the first period of their first game back, Jan. 4 at Princeton. The Tigers would eventually tie it, but Alec McCrea’s strike

•   •   •   •   •

Sitting here now writing my final note on my Cornell Hockey career, I truly cannot believe how fast time flies. As I look back on my journey, I have so many fond memories. I always felt at home while I was at school and I think such a big reason for that was the people in the hockey program. When I arrived for freshmen move-in, 15 teammates I never met before unpacked my stuff so quickly from my parents’ car I truly did not move one box into my room. Matt Buckles and I still argue over whether or not I thanked him, but even if I didn’t it probably was because I was so overwhelmed with how welcoming everyone was. My freshman fall included some of the most rigorous and challenging workouts I’ve ever been a part of. I can still remember doing a “Snap, Crackle, Pop” circuit workout in the Ramin Room and thinking that it was the hardest workout I’ve ever done in my life. Then Coach Howley looked at me and asked if I was warmed up yet. These are just a few of the many memories I have that represent to me what it means to be a part of the Cornell Hockey culture.

I have so many people to thank that I couldn’t possibly fit it all in this program, so I apologize in advance if I don’t directly name everyone who helped me along the way. I would like to thank the coaching staff for helping develop me as a player, but more importantly as a person. I will be forever grateful to Benny for all the extra time he gave me for skill sessions, and for introducing the “Scotty’s” into those sessions which led to some nice scoring chances for me, and a couple hilarious whiffs for the boys to laugh at on video. Also, to Topher for taking a chance on me as a player and always being there as an encouraging voice in my most difficult of times.

Next, I would like to thank the staff that work tirelessly behind the scenes to help make our experiences as players top notch. I’d like to thank Rusty, Zac, BT, Jason, Dr. Wentzel, Phil, the ticketing office, Nick, and Mike for all that they do. I’d like to thank Ed for dealing with all my age-inflicted injuries, and Schmidty for always taking the best care of me. I think those two know how important the roles they have are for the hockey program, but I’d also like to especially thank them, along with Joe Palmer, for always being there for a good laugh for the past four years. So often we go through low points in a season, both personally and as a team, but I knew I could always count on them to see the lighter side of things and cheer me up.

Which brings me to Scotty Howard. I think
2019 Buffalo.
Up first was Northeastern, a run-and-gun team with a sophomore goaltender that was capable of stealing games by himself. It was a match-up that Cornell quietly liked. The Big Red was adept at absorbing jabs and even the occasional haymaker, then exposing defensive flaws on the counterattack.

It showed. Playing about 30 minutes from his hometown, Beau Starrett got the Big Red on the board on a two-on-two shot from the high slot. Mitch Vanderlaan added another goal just 54 seconds into the second after creating his own space on his own two-on-one. Goals by Morgan Barron and Michael Regush were exhibitions in outworking the opposition, and Cornell was well on its way to a 5-1 win behind 20 saves from Austin McGrath. It was the program’s first NCAA tournament win since 2012.

The regional final would be against Providence, the bracket’s lowest seed enjoying the perk of playing in its home city. But with an admirable showing of Big Red fans in full throat, this game wasn’t about the venue – it promised to be a war of attrition.

Unfortunately, Cornell never got it going in the opening 40 minutes. Providence scored the game’s first two goals by winning net-front battles, then a power-play goal with just 0.6 seconds left in the second period put the Big Red in a three-goal hole. While the team seemed to be a war of attrition.

However, Cornell never got it going in the opening 40 minutes. Providence scored the game’s first two goals by winning net-front battles, then a power-play goal with just 0.6 seconds left in the second period put the Big Red in a three-goal hole. While the team emulated the proverbial tank in the third period, this game wasn’t about the venue – it promised to be a war of attrition.

Eventually, Cornell was back in first place in ECAC Hockey, and all the way back into the top 10 in the Pairwise rankings.

The Big Red celebrated a goal by Brendan Locke, second from right, in a 5-1 win over Northeastern — the program’s first in the NCAA tournament since 2012. (Eldon Lindsay)
ECAC Hockey quarterfinal series victory over Union. (Cameron Pollack)

Alec McCrea, right, celebrates Noah Bauld’s goal in the Big Red’s match-up against the Dutchmen was intriguing. The Dutchmen had a lofty perch of 17th in the world, but still a silent confidence around Schafer. "So we should have lots of jump to come back tomorrow night." It was a prophetic statement. The Big Red was now mathematically deadlocked at 2. Despite the disappointment of missing out on the win, the point from the tie was still good enough to share the Cleary Cup with Quinnipiac.

Two championships down; two to go.

Armed with the No. 2 seed for the ECAC Hockey Championship playoffs, Cornell got some mileage out of the bye week – resting up some key players who had been playing with ailments and getting Max Andreev back from a 13-game absence due to an injury in January.

Naturally, the Big Red would draw Union in the quarterfinals. Following this season, 24 of Cornell’s last 27 ECAC Hockey playoff games have been against Union (nine), Quinnipiac (eight) or Clarkson (seven). And this particular match-up against the Dutchmen was intriguing. Cornell was on the cusp of securing NCAA tournament credentials. A series loss to Union (or anyone at that stage of the season, really) would spell the end of the season. But because the Dutchmen had a lofty perch of 17th in the Pairwise despite being the league’s No. 7 seed, Big Red victories would carry more weight in helping the team move up the Pairwise.

That fact was little solace after Union rallied for a 3-2 victory in Game 1 of the best-of-three series.

“We had some major mistakes from some of our best players;” Schafer said afterward. “That really cost us a chance to win the game.” But despite the do-or-die scenario, there was still a silent confidence around Schafer and the team as a whole. Union played its top players on country ton, and a road team winning two playoff games at Lynah is exponentially harder than just taking one.

“The good news is that we rolled four lines pretty much all night,” Schafer said. “So we should have lots of jump to come back tomorrow night.”

It was a prophetic statement. The Big Red blitzed Union for two goals in the opening 2:02 of Game 2, coming from Brenden Locke and Mitch Vanderlaan. Noah Bauld and Alex Green added their first goals of the season later on, and Cornell suffocated Union to the tune of a 15-save shutout for Galajda and a 4-0 win.

Game 3 had a similar start with Kyle Betts scoring just 57 seconds into the game, but the Dutchmen quickly took their own lead less than five minutes later after a pair of quick goals. Beau Starrett’s gritty rebound goal in the second period tied the game, then Tristan Mullin and Jeff Malott scored 42 seconds apart in the third period to cap the 4-2 win and the program’s ninth trip to the ECAC Hockey Championship weekend in the last 12 years. And for a second straight year, it was against a surprise opponent.

Having entered the playoffs as the No. 8 seed, Brown pulled off an improbable road sweep of top-seeded Quinnipiac in the quarterfinals. Not only did that make Cornell the highest seed in Lake Placid for a second straight year, it gave the Big Red a chance to exercise some demons against a Bears team that staggered it five weeks earlier with that stunning third-period rally in Providence.

As fate would have it, Cornell even built itself another 3-0 lead against Brown. An early five-minute major whistled against the Bears set up power-play goals by Matt Nuttle and Noah Bauld, then Mullin scored the third goal at the 12:08 mark.

Any fears of another Brown rally against Cornell were amplified by a major penalty against the Big Red toward the middle of the second period. But Cornell’s penalty kill continued its dominance and the Bears took three penalties over the following five minutes. Morgan Barron buried a five-on-three goals, and the rout was on. Joe Leahy tagged on in the third period, becoming the fourth Cornellian in four playoff games to score his first goal of the season (and the first on the collegiate level, in Leahy’s case) and Betts capped the scoring with an empty-netter that also served as Cornell’s only shorthanded goal of the year. Galajda was stout in net, making 30 saves for his fifth shutouts.

The Big Red was now mathematically assured of a spot in the NCAA tournament, so only one thing was in its crosshairs – the championship game against Clarkson.

Unfortunately, any feelings that maybe – just maybe – Cornell was done with mountains of adversity proved premature. The game against the Clarkson Knights started promisingly enough with a deft give-and-go goal by Noah Bauld on a two-on-one with Brenden Locke in the game’s eighth minute.

At first, it started as rare penalty trouble. One of the least-penalized teams in the country, Cornell was whistled for the first four penalties of the game. Then Clarkson was able to do what so few had since Jan. 1 – carve up the Cornell penalty kill for goals. Devin Brosseau scored two power-play goals in the first period to give Clarkson a 2-1 lead. Worse yet, Jeff Malott was lost for the rest of the game – and season – with an injury suffered on one of the infractions.

The Big Red methodically gained traction and tied it up with Tristan Mullin’s tip-in of a Matt Nuttle offering with 5:41 left in regulation. Just as happened three weeks prior an hour to the west in Potsdam, Cornell and Clarkson went into overtime tied at 2.

Then, the most bizarre of occurrences. A play from behind the Cornell net produced a collision between a Clarkson player and the goal that tipped the cage over onto Galajda. With his head lodged between the crossbars, he struggled to shrug the hefty frame off him for a full six seconds until the whistle was blown. In the process, he suffered an injury to his leg. After attempting to play through the next sequence, he had no choice but to remove himself from the game.

It was an unenviable situation for Austin McGrath, coming in cold to the most pressure-packed of situations. Less than four minutes later, Clarkson had its winning goal from Chris Klack – though no goaltender in the world could have stopped it. A cross-ice pass to the back post found Klack’s stick through the feet of two well-positioned defenders.

Further insult: Clarkson was offside just a few moments before the goal. But the illegal touch of the puck went undetected by the linesmen before the play went back into the neutral zone before clean zone entry. That wiped away any right for Cornell to challenge the play on video review.

Overcoming adversity defined the Big Red to this point, and now – down a top-six forward in Malott and an All-American goaltender in Galajda – Cornell had to pick itself up after a bitter loss. After all it had been through, the Big Red had still earned a spot on the national stage.

This season marked just the third time in program history Cornell made the NCAA tournament for a third consecutive season. (The first two times were in the heralded stretch of 1967 to 1970 bookended by national titles). And for a third straight year, the Big Red was assigned a first-round game against the Hockey East champion in a New England-based regional.

Still, there was a little history on the Big Red’s side. It would be the team’s first NCAA appearance in Providence since 2003 – a regional that Cornell won en route to its last Frozen Four appearance. The national championship was held in Buffalo that year, and in