

Coach Schafer's Notes for January 8, 2018

@CORNELL 7, Princeton 1

@CORNELL 1, Quinnipiac 0

Four-point weekends are always great no matter where the site and when you score eight goals in two games you would expect nothing less, but let's look at this weekend again. What a difference two nights make no matter who you play. Princeton was coming off a pair of ties against St. Cloud, ranked No. 1 in the country at the time. Coupled with our 6-2 win over Canisius the previous Saturday, it was the first time we scored 13 goals over a two-game span since 2004.

We jumped on the visitors early, as junior forward Anthony Angello scored just 4:58 into the first period. We had 16 shots on goal in the first 20 minutes but goals in the second period put the game out of sight. In seven minutes, we out-scored the visitors 4-1 to go into the locker room for the second intermission up 5-1.

Sophomore defenseman Yanni Kaldis scored a power-play goal at 4:18 to make the score 2-0 but the Tigers narrowed the gap with a 5-on-3 goal at 5:29. For the rest of the period, it was all Cornell. Senior forward Alex Rauter tallied a highlight reel goal at 11:36 and freshman forward Cam Donaldson got his first collegiate goal on a breakaway 2 minutes later. Angello picked up his fifth goal of the season with 6 minutes left in the period.

Junior forward Mitch Vanderlaan made it 6-1 at 4:20 of the third period and sophomore forward Jeff Malott completed the scoring with 8:30 left in the game. Freshman Brenden Locke's line accounted for seven points—three assists from Locke, two Angello goals, and one of each from Vanderlaan. Balance was also the key with six different players scoring goals. Senior goaltender Hayden Stewart even got into the scoring column with an assist on the Donaldson goal.

Every guy in our locker room knows that they don't have to shoulder the scoring burden. Guys are going to work hard every night (we hope) and whoever scores, scores. There are no egos on this team! Stewart made 21 saves and two Tiger net minders combined for 29 saves. We were 1-for-5 on the power play and they were 1-for-3.

As I've said, play can be completely different on two consecutive nights. We got away with one vs. Quinnipiac. They came out and hit two or three pipes on the power play. We just weren't sharp all over the ice. They played well; they played a team game on Saturday. We didn't have the same bite, energy or poise that we had displayed just 24 hours earlier.

One of our bright spots was our penalty kill that was 4-for-4, including a 5-minute major early in the second period. We demonstrated lackluster play in the first period and Quinnipiac was definitely the aggressor. Luck was on our side when they rattled a power-play shot off the pipe midway through the opening period. Later in the period, we started to show some spark and had an apparent rebound goal waved off for goaltender interference with 2:44 remaining in the period. In the last few seconds, we had a shot hit a skate in front of the net and bounce off Locke's face mask, and finally clanging off both the crossbar and the far post as the buzzer sounded.

The winning goal came at 14:50 of the second period. Senior forward Trevor Yates won a draw in our zone and sent us flying down ice. Junior defenseman Matt Nuttle sent the puck down the right side. Chips from Donaldson and Yates sent freshman forward Morgan Barron into the neutral zone. Barron cut to the middle at the blue line and spotted Nuttle joining the rush on the weak side. Nuttle, flying through the zone with speed, dropped a pass to Yates in the left circle. His first shot hit a defender's skate but Yates followed the play and quickly slid the rebound under the Bobcats' goaltender for his team-leading 11th goal of the season.

The third period proved to be uneventful as both teams failed to capitalize on their scoring chances.

A couple of hours before game time, we found out that Hayden Stewart, who had started the last three games in goal, was unable to play. We called upon freshman Matt Galajda, who had started our first 11 games and he certainly got the job done. Both goaltenders have been battling it out in practice; it's amazing how not being in the lineup makes you hungry to play well. Effort is what we read and gauge ourselves for whoever is going to be in the lineup. Matt played very well, including a crucial save on a Quinnipiac shorthanded breakaway attempt early in the third period.

Galajda made 28 saves and became just the second Cornell goaltender in program history to record three shutouts during his freshman year. He also regained sole possession of the national lead for victories by a frosh netminder with nine. The Quinnipiac goalie stopped 19 shots.

We were 0-for-6 on the power play (including three consecutive opportunities in the second and into the third period) and they were 0-for-4.

At 13-2, 7-1 ECAC, we have the best winning percentage in NCAA Division I, but we now hit the road for numerous games beginning this weekend at Yale on Friday night and Brown on Saturday evening. This is an exciting team and one that you can be proud of. If you are living near New Haven or Providence, please come and see us play.