

## **Coach Schafer's Notes for February 20, 2018**

@CORNELL 2, Brown 1

@CORNELL 3, Yale 2

We had a tale of two games this past weekend. On Friday night we started strong but didn't put in a full night's work and on Saturday evening we rebounded on Senior Night in a game that was fun to play.

On Friday against Brown, the game started with sophomore forward Jeff Malott scoring just 87 seconds into the first period. Junior forward Anthony Angello started the play by swatting down a Brown pass and racing up right wing to begin a 2-on-1. Angello set up Malott flying down the middle for a tip-in. We led 1-0 for the remainder of the period but our effort dissipated quickly.

Brown tied the game at 3:59 of the second period and it was obvious that we hadn't come to play. It was a lackadaisical effort. On the Brown goal, it was evident that we didn't pick up sticks and it cost us.

At 13:26 of the second period, we scored a power-play goal that is something we haven't done often at this part of the season. The play started with sophomore defenseman Yanni Kaldis jamming a puck down the right wall from the point. Senior forward Trevor Yates collected the puck behind the net and quickly passed to Angello in the right circle. With the defense scrambling and the goaltender committed to the shot, Angello slid a pass across the slot to senior forward Alex Rauter for an easy finish.

Holding a 2-1 lead, we had to kill a 5-minute major penalty but handled it well.

At the end of the game, Brown pulled its goalie for an extra attacker. In the game's final 20 seconds, Brown won a faceoff in our zone and fired off five shots. Four were stopped by freshman goaltender Matt Galajda and the last one ended up in his glove at the buzzer!

Galajda made 25 saves and the Brown goalie stopped 21 shots. We were 1-for-3 on the power play and Brown was 0-for-4. This was one of the worst games we've played this season as far as effort was concerned. Lack of detail and a little selfishness crept into our play. We wanted to score but we didn't know the right way right down to the end.

On Saturday night, we wanted to send our seniors out in style in their last regular season game at Lynah before a sellout crowd. In a complete turnabout from the night before, the level of effort and competition was outstanding for 60 minutes. In the first period, we out-shot the visitors 14-9 though had no goals.

Yale came into Lynah on a five-game winning streak and scored on a power play at 5:29 of the second period. We were down a man because one of our players took an

undisciplined penalty for the second night in a row. The Elis entered the game with the country's worst power play unit but scored both of their goals in extra-man situations. Obviously, we need to look at what happened on man-down situations, although we did an outstanding job killing the 5-minute major on Friday night.

Freshman forward Tristan Mullin got us on the board with 1:51 remaining in the second period. On the power play, Mullin redirected a shot by freshman forward Brenden Locke past the right pad of the goaltender, sending us into the locker room tied 1-1. Shots on goal after 40 minutes of play were 29-12 in our favor.

We started the third period killing a power play carried over from the second period and Yale scored a second extra-man goal at 1:28 to take a 2-1 lead. About 7 minutes later, senior forward Jared Fiegl scored the equalizer with a long shot through traffic, after extended offensive pressure in the visitors' zone. Fiegl's goal really got the Lynah Faithful going. The goal was Fiegl's fourth in the last six games after starting February with just four tallies in his collegiate career! His energy and effort has been so important to the team during a time when he was downed by both injury and illness. He has been an inspiration to the entire team.

The score remained tied 2-2 until 1:46 remained in the game. Mullin recorded the game-winner with help from senior forward Dwyer Tschantz. It was his third goal of the season, two of which have been game-winners, the other scored in the Red Hot Hockey contest vs. BU at Madison Square Garden.

Right now, we must work on team discipline. In the first period, we took a penalty while on a power play. Then we took another undisciplined penalty in the second period.

Galajda made 30 saves and the Yale netminder had 36 stops. We were 1-for-6 on the power play and they were 2-for-5.

The comeback victory gave us our first undefeated Ivy League slate since 1996 and we remain first the ECAC.

This weekend we're on the road to the Capitol District for the final two games of the regular season. These are very important, starting with Rensselaer on Friday night, a team we lost to at Lynah Rink on February 3rd. On Saturday evening, we play Union in Schenectady.

We hold first place in the ECAC with 34 points (16-2-2), Union is second with 30 points (15-5), Clarkson is third with 26 points (11-5-4) and Harvard is fourth with 25 points (11-6-3). I know we'll have tremendous fan support in the Capitol District this coming weekend and we thank you for your support as always.

We have earned a bye for March 2-3 and then host an ECAC quarterfinal series on March 9-10 (11, if necessary).