

Coach Schafer's Notes for October 23, 2018

CORNELL 7, Guelph 0 (exhibition)

After two exhibition games, we have out-scored the opposition 13-1. Confident? Yes, but not over-confident. Well, at least the coaching staff isn't, and we know we have plenty of work at this early juncture of the season.

Against Guelph, we scored four goals (one power-play goal) in the first period, firing 16 shots on net to the visitors' 2. We really had a big push in the first period, and after that, it was just an average hockey game for us. We didn't capitalize on a lot of chances like we did the previous exhibition. We missed a couple of wide-open nets.

Midway through the second period, we scored two consecutive shorthanded goals ... when's the last time we did that? Before the two shorthanded scores, we did some exceptional penalty killing, especially on a 1 minute, 41-second segment when we were at a 5-on-3 disadvantage. The number of blocked shots was outstanding while killing the 5-on-3. And, that's what you look for from your team; willing to sacrifice even in an exhibition game. They're willing to do the right thing at the right time. Sophomore goaltender Austin McGrath also made some nice saves during the second period. The two shorthanded goals really blew the game wide open.

We added the seventh goal midway through the third period. Seven different players scored during this game and sophomore defenseman Alex Green had three assists.

The officials assessed several penalties during the game and we were 1-for-5 on the power play to Guelph's 0-for-6. I really liked our pace coming through the neutral zone on our power-play breakout. We had some good looks on the entries and guys were moving around.

Each of our three goaltenders played one period. Sophomore Matthew Galajda made two saves in the opening period, McGrath had eleven in the middle frame, and freshman Nate McDonald stopped seven in the third period. The Guelph goaltender recorded 28 saves.

So, it all begins this weekend with two, non-league games against the Big Ten Michigan State Spartans Friday and Saturday at 7PM. It should be an interesting opener ahead of first ECAC games next weekend against Yale and Brown. Hope you can be at Lynah Rink this weekend and throughout the season for outstanding college hockey.