

## **Coach Schafer's Notes for October 29, 2018**

Michigan State 5, @ CORNELL 2

Michigan State 4, @ CORNELL 3

The opening weekend certainly didn't go as planned. We were unsettled right from the opening whistle and Michigan State came ready to play. It's not unusual, regardless of who you are, for the first game to go the way we played on Friday night. But, I was surprised at the lack of poise among players who were in a lot of games last year.

Halfway through the first period, we were on the power play and it broke down. The visitors scored a shorthanded goal at 11:33 and led 1-0 at the end of one period, even though we out-shot them, 11-8. Midway through the second period we knotted the score with a 3-on-2 opportunity, as senior forward Mitch Vanderlaan sent a pass to sophomore forward Cam Donaldson cutting down the middle. The puck went past Donaldson and a defender before sliding to wide-open freshman forward Max Andreev closing in on the right hash mark. He fired the puck past the glove hand of the goaltender to make it 1-1. Andreev became the first freshman to score Cornell's first goal of a season since Joe Devin '11 against RIT in 2007. The score was 1-1 after 40 minutes of play.

Coming out after the second intermission, we made a huge mistake against their top line. Three guys that were responsible for taking care of the puck got greedy down low and gave up a 2-on-1. We need to learn those lessons in a hurry. Michigan State took the lead for good at 4:33 of the third period, and then fired home three more unanswered goals before sophomore defenseman Matt Cairns scored with 3:43 left in the game.

Sophomore goaltender Matt Galajda allowed four goals and made 15 saves before changing goalies with less than five minutes to play. Their goalie made some big saves (32), while our goalie didn't. He didn't come up with the big save like last year when we needed it. Last season, he saved us in so many games.

The difference in the game is using opportunities to score on the power play and when we did their goalie made the big saves. We were 0-for-5 on the power play and they were 1-for-3.

On Saturday night, we came out and took a 1-0 lead with just about 4 minutes remaining in the first period. On the power play, sophomore forward Morgan Barron won a faceoff to start the man advantage and we had two good shots by sophomore forward Tristan Mullin that were blocked. Their clearing attempt was intercepted by junior defenseman Yanni Kaldis at the point. A couple of passes set Yanni up for a wrister from the point that hit a defender and fluttered into the net through a screen by freshman forward Michael Regush. We were out-shot, 13-8, in the first 20 minutes.

Michigan State came out fired up for the second period and scored three goals in the second half with two coming from their skilled top line. I must do a better job identifying a line that's going to shut down the other team's top line. I must put together the top defensive pair that can do the same thing. They made it 4-1 just 48 seconds into the third period and being down 4-1 is no easy assignment against any team, good or bad. At this point, we once again pulled Matt. He's a great goaltender and a great kid, and I know he's going to bounce back. On the defensive side of the puck, we can't be giving up nine goals in a weekend and expect to have success.

Give our players credit because they didn't pack it in. Donaldson recorded his first goal of the season at 3:43 of third period in a 4-on-4 situation. At the 14:57 mark, a Kaldis power-play tally cut the lead to one goal, but we couldn't get anymore. We made several good plays in the third period and had 18 shots on goal to Michigan State's four.

Galajda made 20 saves and sophomore Austin McGrath stopped three shots in 17 minutes of play. The Spartans goaltender had 36 saves. We were 2-for-8 on the power play, and they were 1-for-3.

The good news is that we "start" anew this weekend, opening ECAC and Ivy League play. Yale is here on Friday night followed by Brown on Saturday evening.

We had several former players on campus this past weekend and it was great to see them. We all wish the results would have been better.