

Coach Schafer's Notes for November 13, 2018

CORNELL 3, @Northern Michigan 1

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This was a very good road trip because we had two wins despite several injured players. The lineup was shorthanded on Saturday evening. Travel to Marquette was not easy and now that we're home, we can get some needed rest.

On Friday night our forwards were relentless playing with speed and puck possession all night long. They did a tremendous job on backside pressure. It was a good team effort as we blocked shots and kept things simple. I was very happy with our performance. Our first goal came early (3:13), as sophomore wing Cam Donaldson scored his third goal in the last five games. He also had an assist on our final goal. Northern Michigan scored at 18:04 to send us into the locker room tied 1-1 after 20 minutes on the larger Olympic-sized ice. The home team goal came off a defensive mistake and their player fired a puck that went off sophomore Matthew Galajda's skate into the back of the net.

At 13:30 of the second period, freshman forward Michael Regush tallied on the power play. Senior forward Mitch Vanderlaan passed from the outside left hash to Regush cutting down the slot. He vaulted the puck over the glove of the Northern Michigan goaltender to make it 2-1. Mitch did a great job, firing it down toward the goal looking for a tip-in and that's what Michael did. It was good timing because we had had some great opportunities that we didn't capitalize on.

Senior forward Beau Starrett recorded his first goal of the season with 5:15 remaining in the second period. A Northern Michigan breakdown allowed Donaldson to slide a pass from the far-right point to a wide-open Starrett on top of the crease for a tap-in tally. We took a 3-1 lead into the final period after allowing just seven shots on goal in the first 40 minutes. At the tail end of the second period, we successfully killed off a 63-second, two-man up, Northern Michigan power play.

The third period was scoreless for both teams with a combination of 13 shots on net. Galajda was called upon for just 12 saves for the entire game and their goalie stopped 19 shots. We were 1-for-5 on the power play and they were 0-for-3.

Saturday's game was all about special teams; we had three power-play goals for the first time since 2017 scoring two in the first period. Senior defenseman Alec McCrea scored the first extra-man goal at 5:16 of the game. Freshman forward Max Andreev drew two defenders towards him and dished the puck back to sophomore forward Brenden Locke. He quickly set up McCrea for a shot from the top of the left circle that went through the legs of the goaltender. With 4:02 remaining in the opening period, we found ourselves in a two-man advantage. It just took 12 seconds for sophomore forward Morgan Barron to score his team-leading fourth goal of the season with an assist to junior defenseman Yanni Kaldis. Two minutes later, the home team made it 2-1 with a

power-play goal, and that was the score heading into the final period. Earlier in the second period, we missed an excellent opportunity to blow the game wide open while on a 5-minute power play after a major NMU penalty. That 5-minute power play killed us. We were lackadaisical, and we didn't get possession in their zone for the entire 5 minutes wasting a lot of time and energy.

At 11:13 of the third period, Regush scored for the third straight game to restore our 3-1 lead. It turned out to be the game-winner, as Northern made it 3-2 with 7:04 remaining in the game. Regush's goal was a great finish. It was a great line rush, great play by Vanderlaan at the blue line. When Michael gets his chances, he buries them.

Galajda was called upon for 24 saves and the Northern Michigan goaltender made 18. We were 3-for-7 (I'll take that any night) on the power play and they were 2-for-7.

We had a short bench Saturday with two defensemen, sophomore Alex Green and senior Brendan Smith out of the lineup making the game much more difficult.

We bring a four-game winning streak back to Lynah Rink this coming weekend. Quinnipiac will be here on Friday night, followed by Princeton on Saturday evening. There are no 'gimmies' on this schedule we prepare for every game.

Hope to see you at Lynah Rink on Nov. 16-17. Tickets are still available for the Frozen Apple vs. Harvard at Madison Square Garden on Saturday, Nov. 24.