

Coach Schafer's Notes for November 27, 2018

Harvard 4, CORNELL 1 @ Madison Square Garden

Yes, we have many injuries, but I was disappointed with how we played on Saturday night in the Frozen Apple Game vs. Harvard at Madison Square Garden. There was no intensity on or off the ice. The game was the least physical I've ever seen a Cornell team play in a game against Harvard. Don't know the answer to how anyone could be lifeless in this type of game before 14,132 mostly Cornell fans.

The first period was played equally with the shots on goal 9-8, in our favor, and we did get on the board first at 6:55 of the opening stanza. Senior center Beau Starrett had a shot turned away by the Harvard goaltender, but when a Harvard defenseman lost his stick, Beau got the puck back behind the net. He worked the puck out to senior defenseman Alec McCrea on the right point. His quick shot was redirected into the net by freshman forward Liam Motley stationed on top of the crease for his first collegiate goal. We held this lead going into the first intermission.

Harvard tied the score with a power-play goal at 3:20 of the second period, then made it 2-1 at the 9:46, scoring on a 2-on-1 play. In the third period, the Crimson basically put the game away with their third goal with 6:02 remaining in the game and added the fourth goal into an empty net.

Sophomore goaltender Matthew Galajda made 23 saves and the Harvard goalie stopped 30 shots. We were 0-for-2 on the power play and they were 1-for-4.

The strength of this team is traveling in packs, three guys around the puck. In this game, I think Harvard had three 2-on-1s, and a few 3-on-2s. That's just lack of backside pressure from our forwards, just kind of standing up and watching what's going on rather than moving their feet.

The loss was our first in the four games of The Frozen Apple, the biennial event at Madison Square Garden when we don't play Boston University. It also ended a streak of four consecutive unbeaten games at the Garden overall. We last lost at MSG to B.U. in 2013. We had beaten Michigan (2012), Penn State (2014) and UNH (2016). This game with Harvard was a non-ECAC contest.

The injuries are really catching up to us. We played three lines in the third period. Injured sophomore forward Brenden Locke, senior forward Jeff Malott, senior defenseman Brendan Smith and sophomore defenseman Alex Green are major players who were out of this game but that doesn't excuse the way we played. To make matters worse we suffered a couple more injuries this weekend and most likely will have more out of lineup this weekend. It's back to the drawing board to emphasize the way our program has been built and sustained all these years; compete together!

We have two ECAC games before the semester break that can't come fast enough. On Friday we are at Dartmouth followed by Harvard on Saturday night.