

## Coach Schafer's Notes for January 14, 2019

#17 CORNELL 6, #13 Arizona State 1

#17 CORNELL 3, #13 Arizona State 2

This past weekend was great for us. We went into both games like it was playoff time because we knew that was the Arizona State independent-team thinking. They have a really good hockey team and lead the nation with 16 wins. Now, we must put the weekend past us, and play with the same intensity the rest of the way vs. ECAC competition.

On Friday night, we did what we wanted to do in a home series, and we really came out strong in the first period. We fired 26 shots in the first period against a goaltender who led the country with 6 shutouts. With 2:43 left in the first period, we took a 1-0 lead as all five of our skaters touched the puck before sophomore forward Brenden Locke scored. Less than two minutes later, we made it 2-0 on a great effort by sophomore forward Cam Donaldson. A loose puck went flying into the Arizona State end, and Cam stepped on the throttle to retrieve the puck in the right circle where he flipped a backhander over the goaltender's glove. Sophomore forward Morgan Barron assisted on both goals.

Believe it or not, the second period was scoreless with our team leading in shots, 15-11. We took a 3-0 lead at 4:23 of the third period. Sophomore forward Tristan Mullin started a 3-on-2 break on the left wing. As he drew a defender, Tristan slid a pass inside to senior forward Mitch Vanderlaan who drew the last defender. Mitch sent the puck across the slot to a wide-open senior forward Beau Starrett. Beau deked the goalie to the ice and then roofed a backhand for the score. Two minutes later, the visitors' Johnny Walker broke the shutout with a breakaway for his nation-leading 19th goal of the season. From then on, it was all Cornell.

Junior forward Connor Murphy scored his first goal of the season, swatting home a rebound from a shot by freshman forward Michael Regush to make it 4-1 at 8:58 of the third period. Three minutes later, Starrett scored on the power play ending the night for the visitors' goaltender. With 21 seconds remaining, Vanderlaan was "Johnny on the spot", converting a puck from the bottom of the right circle that had bounced off an Arizona State defender's skate.

Sophomore goaltender Austin McGrath again played well with 24 saves, while the two Arizona State netminders stopped 46 shots. We were 1-for-3 on the power play and they were 0-for-3. There were no extra-man situations in the first period.

After scoring six goals on Friday night, you hope that the team will come out firing the next evening. It took us only 61 seconds to answer that question. Donaldson got us going with a shot that caromed off a defender and under the goaltender, with assists to senior defenseman Brendan Smith and sophomore forward Morgan Barron. We've been encouraging Cam, who plays excellent defensive hockey, to be more aggressive offensively, and he heeded our advice by scoring again with 1:21 remaining in the first period for his team-leading ninth goal of the season. We took a 2-0 margin into the first intermission.

Much like Friday evening, the second period was scoreless, but the visitors out-shot us, 13-9. We had two power-play attempts but couldn't capitalize in the middle period. The power play didn't have that killer instinct in the second period, but it did in the third, as Barron scored his seventh goal of the season

to make it 3-0. At this point, the Sun Devils opened their game and we had a number of great scoring chances but couldn't increase our margin.

With 5:38 remaining, the visitors scored to make it 3-1, and then with 21 seconds remaining, added a power-play tally. We withstood the onslaught, as sophomore goaltender Matthew Galajda, making his first start since Nov. 24, made two crucial saves against one of the top power plays in the country.

Galajda made 27 saves for the night and the Arizona State goalie stopped 25 shots. Both teams were 1-for-5 on the power play. I thought our penalty-killing was good for the entire weekend and for the most part our discipline was good. They do some things that really challenge you defensively and I thought the guys were up to the challenge.

Beginning this weekend, we are back in the league for the remaining games. Quinnipiac is in first place (7-4-1) with 15 points, followed by Yale (6-2-1) with 13 points. We are tied for third with 11 points (5-2-1).

It's a big weekend at Lynah Rink with Harvard (tied for 5th, 4-4-2) coming to town on Friday night followed by Dartmouth (tied for 3rd, 5-3-1) on Saturday evening.

Hope you can come out and support the Big Red in another big series.