

Coach Schafer's Notes for February 5, 2019

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We had another tale of two cities weekend. It was great to get a couple of guys off the injured list and it showed on Friday night at Union. But, on Saturday evening, I thought we wasted the first period. We did not play the type of hockey we played the night before.

In the Union game, it was nice to get back sophomore forward Tristan Mullin and classmate Alex Green, who hadn't played since Nov. 2. We played with predominantly 11 forwards and rolled six defensemen for the first time in a long time.

Freshman forward Michael Regush got us on the scoreboard at 7:19 of the first period. Junior forward Jeff Malott forced a turnover that allowed sophomore forward Kyle Betts to fire a pass toward the goal where it took a slight deflection. Regush's forehand shot ripped over the goaltender's glove. Four minutes later, sophomore forward Cam Donaldson made it 2-0 when he skated up the right side and then cut into the middle. Cam set up classmate Morgan Barron for a slot that rang off the post into the net. We still had about eight minutes remaining in the opening period. With 3:06 left, sophomore defenseman Cody Haiskanen took a feed from junior defenseman Yanni Kaldis and blasted a wrister that made its way through traffic to the back of the net. We led 3-0 going into the first intermission.

With an early lead, we talked about coming out and just trying to win the final two periods. In the third period, we started playing some of the other guys who hadn't played a lot, but even then, we didn't give up many scoring chances. We got another goal in the second period, as Barron notched his 11th goal (second of the game) of the season on the power play.

Sophomore goaltender Matthew Galajda made 24 saves to record his second shutout of the season (11th in his career). We peppered three Union goaltenders with 32 shots (28 saves). On the power play, we were 1-for-4 and they were 0-for-5. Our penalty-kill did a great job. Twenty-two blocked shots and that's kind of a recipe for our team. Union is a very good team at getting shots to the net.

At RPI on Saturday evening, we wasted a lot of shots, even in that first period (12). I think frustration set in as we had 24 shots on goal in the first 40 minutes with nothing on the scoreboard. Midway through the final period, we took advantage of a long power play after RPI took a 5-minute major penalty for hitting-from-behind. Due to a retaliatory minor penalty called on us, we skated 4-on-4 for the first two minutes. Our first power-play unit took a long shift against a sagging Engineer defense. Barron skated into the middle and fired a shot that hit the goaltender high, creating a rebound. Mullin dug it out and the puck popped out to the

other side for senior forward Mitch Vanderlaan to shovel it into the net with 12:50 remaining on the clock.

Less than two minutes later, RPI took advantage of a turnover in our end. A shot from the left circle was blocked by our defenseman's chest, but an Engineer was there to put in the rebound with 10:12 left in the game. In the overtime period, the game opened-up and we had two quality scoring chances with three shots on goal but couldn't record the game-winner.

Galajda was called upon for just 14 saves, while the RPI netminder made 40 stops. We were 1-for-4 on the power play and they were 0-for-1. We've got to do a better job playing a full 120 minutes of hockey on a weekend and not anything less. We'll go back to the drawing board, get some other guys healthy and into the lineup next week and continue to push forward.

The three-point weekend gives us 20 points and continued first place in the ECAC. Yale and Quinnipiac are one point behind, Clarkson and Harvard -- the latter has played one more game than the others -- are two points back.

We return home to Lynah Rink next weekend for games against the North Country teams -- Clarkson on Friday evening and St. Lawrence on Saturday.