

## Coach Schafer's Notes for February 12, 2019

**@CORNELL 5, Clarkson 0**

**@CORNELL 3, St. Lawrence 1**

With a great performance at home and resulting four-point weekend we are in sole possession of first place in the ECAC with 24 points. Quinnipiac is in second with 21, and Clarkson and Harvard are tied for third place with 20 points apiece. Yale is fifth with 19 points.

While our weekend was successful, it also took its toll, as we lost two more players to injury. This has our player-reserve at zero so every healthy member of the team will have to step up for 60 minutes a game.

On Friday night, from start to finish, I thought we were solid throughout the course of the game. I didn't think we had many lapses in our game. I think we are starting to learn as the season has gone on. It was just a solid effort from start to finish. For the 19th time in 22 games, we scored first, going on top just 8:17 into the opening period. Freshman defenseman Joe Leahy's shot from the left circle rebounded off the goaltender and was redirected by sophomore forward Brenden Locke for his fifth goal of the season.

We went on the power play with 2:48 remaining in the first period and Junior forward Jeff Malott roofed the puck over the goalie's glove sending us into the first intermission with a 2-0 lead against a Clarkson team ranked in the two polls the same as us. It didn't take long to make it 3-0. At 1:03 of the second period, senior defenseman Matt Nuttle made good on a shot from the right hash mark that bounced off the far post and into the net.

Near the end of the middle stanza (18:04), freshman forward Michael Regush made an incredible individual effort to make the score 4-0. With a defender on him near the right faceoff dot, he toe-dragged to the middle and worked the puck back to his forehand before slipping it between the goalie's legs ... a big-time play.

We added another goal in the third period (14:47) with the teams playing four-on-four. Malott scored his second goal of the game with the help of a pair of defensemen, Alex Green and Yann Kaldis. Brenden Locke had a three-point (1-2) night for a season-high. Sophomore forward Morgan Barron had an assist on Nuttle's goal; he now has 11 points in the last 12 games.

Sophomore Matthew Galajda made 17 saves for his third shutout of the season, while two Clarkson goaltenders stopped 21 shots. We were 2-for-3 on the power play and the visitors were 0-for-2. Our special teams were extremely strong all night long.

On Saturday night, we faced another dangerous team with a record that doesn't reflect their strength. We continued our trend of scoring first, and it was the first of two power-play tallies in the opening 20 minutes. Regush recorded the first goal at 5:39 for his fourth goal in the last six games, and his fourth power-play tally. He's the first Cornell rookie to record four or more power-play goals in a season since current Columbus Blue Jackets forward Riley Nash '11, who had seven in his freshman campaign.

We jumped in front, 2-0, with our second power-play goal. At the 10:17 mark, Barron scored his 12th goal of the season. Senior forward Mitch Vanderlaan dug the puck out of the left corner and passed it back to Kaldis at the point. Yanni moved toward the middle and found Barron open in the right circle for a one-timer. The goaltender made the save, but it bounced off a St. Lawrence defender above the crease and into the net. We led 2-0 after 20 minutes of action.

Halfway through the second period, St. Lawrence got on the scoreboard as a scramble in front of our net resulted in a shot going off the back of a defender. Five minutes later, we made it 3-1. Kaldis sent a pass to Green on the right wing who in turn passed the puck to Barron. Morgan skated into the zone and dropped the puck off for Vanderlaan. Mitch had a clear lane into the right circle where he snapped a shot inside the far post and past the goaltender's blocker at 16:19. That was the key play in the game when those guys came on the ice and made the plays, and Mitch buried it to give us some comfort going into the third period.

Galajda was again solid in net with 20 saves; the St. Lawrence goalie stopped 21 shots. We were 2-for-4 on the power play, and they were 0-for-3. We have now out-scored the opposition in the first period, 28-6. It's great to come out strong and we need to do this for continued success.

We have six games remaining in a tight ECAC race, with four games on the road. To lose Cody Haiskanen, who has been playing his best hockey, on Friday night, and then Cam Donaldson on Saturday is frustrating. I know injury is part of the game and our team has been resilient so far this season. We're going to have to be even more resilient during the stretch drive.

Next weekend, we travel to Brown for Friday night and Yale on Saturday. Hope many of you will come out and support YOUR team as we keep the drive for the number one spot in the ECAC. This weekend we clinched at least a share of the Ivy League championship, as Princeton beat Yale 4-1.