

## **Coach Schafer's Notes for March 5, 2019**

**Cornell 4, @St. Lawrence 2**

**CORNELL 2, @Clarkson 2 (OT)**

This past weekend, we had destiny in our own hands. Normally, we're happy with three points on the road! We knew that four points would assure us of being the No. 1 seed for the playoffs and the winner of the ECAC regular-season championship. Obviously, something went wrong, and now we must share the title. We'll be the No. 2 seed for the playoffs due to our 0-1-1 record with Quinnipiac during the season. That's another reason why all games count!

The weekend started out fine with a solid win at St. Lawrence, although I didn't think we played that well in the third period. We started out strong and once again scored first. Freshman forward Michael Regush scored at 13:12 of the first period. Regush banged in a perfect pass from sophomore forward Cam Donaldson to make it 1-0. Regush duplicated his effort just 2:25 later just after we had just finished a power play opportunity. Senior defenseman Matt Nuttle brought the puck out from behind the net and slipped a pass to the goal mouth that Regush directed into the goal for his 10 goal of the season. Michael has strong hands in front of the net and makes the most of his opportunities. We took a 2-0 lead into the first intermission and now have out-scored the opposition in the first period, 34-10 for the season.

Early in the second period, we went up 3-0 on a goal by senior defenseman Brendan Smith. It's great to have him back on the ice. About three minutes later, St. Lawrence narrowed the margin to 3-1, converting on a rebound. With 37 seconds remaining in the middle stanza, Donaldson backhanded a shot into the goal for his 12th tally of the season to make it 4-1.

We held this lead until 13:27 of the third period. With St. Lawrence on the power play, the home team scored, ending our streak of 41 consecutive penalty kills. As mentioned above, I wasn't pleased with our play in the third period, as St. Lawrence out-shot us, 17-4. It still was a huge win because it guaranteed us a bye next weekend and we certainly need the time to 'heal the wounded'.

Sophomore goaltender Matthew Galajda made 29 saves, while two Saints' netminders stopped 18 shots. We were 0-for-4 on the power play and they were 1-for-3.

We had mixed emotions on Saturday night for several reasons. Yes, the tie gives us a share of the regular-season title with Quinnipiac and makes us ECAC champs for the second straight season, but it was the way that we played that put a damper on our achievement. Clarkson scored the tying goal with an empty net and extra skater with just 43 seconds remaining to deny us the win.

Clarkson came out the aggressor and out-shot us 14-3 in the first period. At 9:57 of the first period, they went up 1-0 with a power-play goal making it two consecutive unsuccessful

penalty kills. We went into the locker room for the first intermission trailing 1-0. We regrouped for the second period. On the power play, junior defenseman Yanni Kaldis sent a pass across the top of the crease for senior forward Mitch Vanderlaan to tap inside the back post for his ninth tally of the current season. A little over two minutes later, we made it 2-1 on Regush's 11th goal of the season. The puck bounced off a Clarkson player in a net-front scrum, but Regush was the victor with a shot inside the far post. We led 2-1 going into the final period with Galajda doing a outstanding job in the net.

With the clock winding down, Clarkson pulled their goaltender for an extra skater. Our defense blocked two shots destined for the net, but the puck deflected right to an open Clarkson player near the edge of the left circle. His shot went into the vacated wide side of the net with just 43 seconds remaining in regulation. The overtime session was a defensive battle with only three shots on goal between our teams.

Matty was tough all night in goal with a season-high 33 saves, while the Clarkson netminder stopped 12 shots. It's hard to win with only 14 shots on goal. We were 1-for-3 on the power play and Clarkson was 1-for-4.

After the game we learned we were co-champions of the regular season. The team was not pleased with their play against a very good Clarkson team. We need to get more jump and passion back into our game.

Now, we sit and wait to see who will be coming to Lynah Rink for the quarterfinals on March 15. The first-round bye gives our players time to regain their legs, heal some injuries, and work on getting better the next time out. Hope you will join the Lynah Faithful to follow us throughout the playoffs.