

CU powers past Clarkson



DAVE BURBANK / Contributed

Cornell's Joe Devin shoots the puck through the legs of Clarkson's Bryan Rufenach toward goalie Paul Karpowich Friday night.

Power-play goal sparks Big Red's victory

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ITHACA — The key to success in all sports is taking advantage of opportunities.

The Cornell men's hockey team took quick advantage of a four-on-three power play early in the first period to spearhead a 5-2 victory over Clarkson on Friday night at Lynah Rink.

Senior defenseman Mike Devin scored at the 15:47 mark and the Big Red never looked back, adding two more power-play goals along the way.

According to winger Joe Devin, the first power-play goal changed the complexion of the game.

"To be good on special teams is huge in this league," Devin said. "You don't see too many five-on-five goals. (Devin's) goal was huge for us."

The Big Red (10-9-2, 8-5-2 ECAC) made it 2-0 less than two minutes into the second period when John Esposito scored.

A goal by the Golden Knights' Brandon DeFazio six minutes into the second period cut the Big Red lead to one, but that was as close as the visitors would get.

Cornell goalie Mike Garman recorded 23 saves in keeping the Knights (12-12-2, 6-7-1) at bay.

Clarkson head coach George Roll said finding ways to score was the beginning of his team's problems.

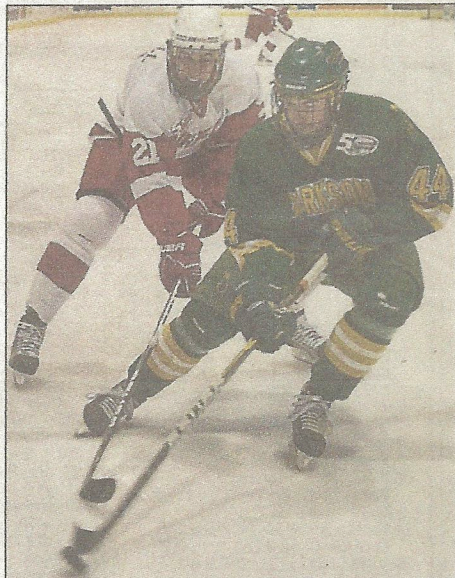
"We had a couple break-away chances to score on," Roll said. "We got to do a better job of putting pucks in the net."

Cornell pulled away for good on a short-handed goal by Sean Collins midway through the third period.



Cornell
5
Clarkson
2

Summary 2B



DAVE BURBANK / Contributed

Cornell's Erik Axell races Clarkson's David Pratt for control of the puck Friday night at Lynah Rink.

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"The fourth goal was the backbreaker," Roll said. "The short-hand goal to make it 4-1. That really hurt us."

For Big Red coach Mike Schafer, the maturation of his team is just beginning despite the decisive victory.

"There's been a huge growth process," Schafer said. "It's funny (because) I don't think we're anywhere close to playing the kind of hockey we can be playing."

Cornell is 6-1-2 in 2011, and

looking to make a late climb up the ECACH standings, where it currently stands sixth.

"This is a really important time of year," Devin said. "You want to get that home ice and (ECAC) standings are everything."

"Each night, we inch closer and closer to the top four in the league," Schafer said. "That's what we're going for."

The win moved Cornell into fourth place in Ivy League, behind Yale, Dartmouth and Princeton.

Cornell hopes to continue its 2011 success when it hosts St. Lawrence tonight at 7 p.m.