

Penalty kills stands strong for Icers in sweep

By Tom Kinslow
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER



Icers reporter Tom Kinslow shares his thoughts on how the team's mentality led to sweeping Ohio: psucollegian.com

All weekend long the Penn State Icers lived on the edge.

Every time it had the man advantage. No. 2 Ohio pushed and pushed with everything it had against the Icers' defense.

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Eleven times Penn State had its heels pushed to the very last inch.

Eleven times the Icers fought back. As opposed to their first series, one in which Penn State gave up three power play goals, the Icers clamped down this time around, holding the Bobcats' power play scoreless en route to a two-game sweep of the Bobcats.

And the Icers did it missing members of their penalty kill unit.

"The good part of it is obviously we lost [Chris] Pronchik, who's probably our best penalty killer," coach Scott D'Amico said. "We had a good performance with [Nick] Seravalli and then we lost Nick, who was in that spot, and we had a good performance with the five guys we used today. Our team is pretty deep, and we do a pretty good job at it and we did a good job this weekend."

Despite missing members of their rotation to illness and injury, the Icers stood tall in the most pressure-filled situations.

Ten of Penn State's 11 kills took place with the Icers either up one goal or tied.

They also had to kill off a five-on-three advantage in both games, once with a one-goal lead and again in a tie game on Saturday afternoon.

During that sequence, the Bobcats threw everything they had at goaltender Teddy Hume and the Penn State defense.

Ohio had numerous opportunities to score during the sequence. The Bobcats hit the post, missed open nets and could not get shots off with Hume out of position.

But after withstanding Ohio's best shot for a minute and 31 seconds, the penalties were cleared and play continued.

"I think the kill on the five-on-three tonight was a bit of divine providence," Hume said.

"They missed some nets, but once we kill it off, if they can't score on a five-on-three, that gives us confidence they're not going to score at all."

Those are the types of sequences, completed through skill or sometimes luck, that would not have happened for Penn State earlier in this season.

The Icers struggled on the penalty kill, and after making it a focus in practices, they are now seeing the results of their hard work.



Andrew Dunheimer/Collegian

Forward Ryan Paradis (front) fights for position against Ohio in Friday's win.

"It's a big swing in game play when they don't score on the power play and we're getting big momentum kills," forward Tim O'Brien said. "It's something that we've

been working on a lot lately, and it's starting to come around."

To e-mail reporter: tpk5016@psu.edu

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