Cyclones Cruise to 6-2 Victory over Utes

Feb. 10, 2017 – Ames, Iowa – Looking to rebound from a disappointing road sweep last weekend against Lindenwood and aiming to jump start a sputtering offense, 10th-ranked Iowa State had high hopes of getting back on track in the team’s first ever game against 19th-ranked Utah Friday night and the Cyclones did light the lamp early and often in a 6-2 victory, but the performance of the Cardinal and Gold was marred some by occasionally sloppy play in the second and third periods.

The Cyclones scored only one goal in 120 minutes of play last weekend against the Lions, but it took only 4:22 for Iowa State to score against Utah as Aaron Azevedo (Spokane, Wash. – Osoyoos Coyotes/KIJHL) won an offensive-zone face-off back to Jake Uglem (Moorhead, Minn. – Winkler Flyers/MJHL) at the point and Uglem fired a hard wrister that scored cleanly high glove side on Utes goaltender Patrick Kasper. At the 9:17 mark, Jackson Graalum (Fargo, N.D. – Aberdeen Wings/NAHL) added an insurance tally by deflecting an Eero Helanto (Turku, Finland – TPS Turku J20 / Jr. A Sm-Liiga) slap shot past Kasper while setting his own screen to give Iowa State the 2-0 lead. Graalum set up the Cyclones’ next goal by threading a backhand pass from the goal line to Azevedo in the slot and the Iowa State center roofed the puck in close at 16:13 for the 3-0 advantage, which Iowa State carried into the first intermission.

Utah did not roll over, however, and just over 45 seconds into the second period Nick Fornelius skated in along the left wing on a two-on-one with Alex King driving the net and Fornelius dished the puck to King in the slot for a redirect past Cyclone netminder Matt Goedeke (Ankeny, Iowa – Hudson Crusaders/MnJHL) at the 50-second mark. Iowa State responded just under four minutes later, though, when Graalum stuck with an initial pass blocked by Tristan Leberknight and got his second pass on the two-on-one over to Colton Kramer (Sioux City, Iowa – Minot Minotauros/NAHL) for the sophomore winger to redirect from the low slot and in at 4:29 of the second for a 4-1 lead. A little over two minutes after Kramer’s goal, Helanto fired an off-foot shot from the point that was blocked but picked up by Tony Uglem (Moorhead, Minn. – Austin Bruins/NAHL) for spin shot in the slot that generated a rebound for Trevor Sabo (Skokie, Ill. – Rochester Ice Hawks/MnJHL) to bury at the 6:46 mark. With Iowa State up 5-1 after Sabo’s goal, the Utes pulled Kasper and inserted Jared Manzella in net, and the game started to turn with the Minnesota native in goal for Utah.

Barnes skated in on the forecheck a little past the 11:30 mark and swept the puck away from Tony Uglem along the end boards, picked up the loose puck, and skated off the end boards for a sweeping shot on Goedeke, who had to go into the splits to make the initial pad save, and which created a rebound for Julian Cronan to rifle into the net from the right post at 11:36 to reduce Iowa State’s lead to 5-2. Manzella stopped all 11 shots he faced in the second period to help keep the game from getting totally out of hand for the Utah after 40 minutes.

Manzella stole the show early in the third period by coming across the net and stoning Kramer with a big blocker save at the 5:15 mark and continued to keep Iowa State off the board for most of the third period. Unfortunately for the Utes, Manzella had his perfect game against the Cyclones thwarted with 2:36 left in the third when Sabo made a pass off the left wing to the slot that deflected the stick of Utah defenseman Joseph DiPofi, stopped dead in the slot while Manzella was heading over to the right post, and which A.J. Gullickson (Verona, Wisc. – Alexandria Blizzard/NA3HL) picked up in the slot to fire in while Manzella was attempting to dive back across the crease. The Utah netminder did manage to make 17 saves on 18 shots in the third period, but Goedeke still picked up the win with 21 saves on 23 shots for the game as the Cyclones skated away with the 6-2 victory.
Following the game, Cyclone Hockey Head Coach and General Manager Jason Fairman had mixed feelings. “I’m glad we got the win, because they haven’t been easy to come by lately; but, I’m feeling kind of ‘blah’ about the whole game,” said Fairman. “We had a couple breakdowns that led to goals that shouldn’t have happened and that’s been our Achilles heel of late.

“I thought we played reasonably well in the first period. I thought guys were engaged and we were playing tight from a systems standpoint. In the second period, we started thinking all offense. Did we have the puck in their zone most of the game? Yes. We got some good shots and they made some good saves. The problem is, we’re not converting enough to make up for our defensive gaffes, and that’s been our problem during this run. It was exposed this evening and if we play like that in a game against Ohio, they will expose it more than twice.

Fairman continued to stress the importance of the Cyclones working hard in the offensive zone to prevent turnovers that lead to odd-man breaks.

“I told them tonight that it’s fun to watch them keep the puck in the zone, get a lot of chances, and cycle the puck, and we do that against most teams,” explained Fairman. “The problem is, once that ends after a shot, we give up too many odd-man rushes and they seem to end up in the back of the net over and over again.

“I told them they’re going to have to demonstrate to the coaching staff that they can play that way and be aggressive offensively but also do it at the other end of the ice and be defensive, too. We told them if they can’t do that, we’re going to have to make some adjustments.”

Although critical that the Cyclones gave up as many odd-man rushes as they did against the Utes, Fairman did pay some compliments forward to new ACHA Men’s Division 1 team.

“They seem like a professional organization,” said Fairman. “I’m sure with recruiting, they’ll be able to add even more talent.

“They’re already on the cusp of consideration for Nationals. It’s a credit to them and their organization. So, I imagine they have good things ahead.”

Iowa State and Utah face off again Saturday night at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena at approximately 8:00 p.m., following and Iowa State women’s hockey game. Cyclone Hockey will broadcast the game online live on EverSport at https://eversport.tv/acha.

The organization is still busy selling flex packs for its two remaining home games and fans who do not have them already can purchase them at any Cyclone Hockey home game or by contacting the team at 515.294.3498. Cyclone Hockey also offers steep discounts on group rates for groups of fans of 10 or more fans. Group rates must be secured two weeks prior to the desired game a group intends to attend. Fans can learn more about Cyclone Hockey’s extremely affordable ticket prices and group rates at the organization’s website at www.cyclonehockey.com. Cyclone Hockey can also be followed on Facebook at /CycloneHockey, on Twitter at @Cyclone Hockey, and on Instagram at @CycloneHockey. Cyclone Hockey…Right Now.

NOTES: With a goal and three assists on the night, Aaron Azevedo now leads the team in goals (12), assists (17), and points (29). Azevedo’s four-point game snapped a seven-game pointless streak. Jackson Graalum’s three points were a college hockey career best for the freshman. Graalum is now 12th in team scoring with 11 points (5-6-11) in 25 games played and ninth in points per game (0.44). Colton Kramer’s goal and assist keeps him second in team scoring with 24 points (11-13-24) in 32 games played. Graalum and Kramer were both +4 in plus/minus for the night. In his return after missing Iowa State’s last four games while playing for Team USA at the 2017 Winter World University Games, Tony Uglem tallied two assists and is third in team scoring with 22 points (8-14-22) in 24 games played. Uglem is second in points per game at 0.92. Eero Helanto also tallied two assists and is fourth in team scoring with 20 points (4-16-20) in 32 games played. Trevor Sabo also had a two-point night with a goal and an assist and is now eighth in points with 14 (8-6-14) in 28 games played. A.J. Gullickson, with his goal, is fourth in team goal scoring with eight goals in 22 games played. Like his brother, Tony, defenseman Jake Uglem also scored in his return to the Cyclones after playing for Team USA at the 2017 Winter World University Games and has 12 points (6-6-12) in 28 games played. Uglem is tenth in team scoring.
GAME SUMMARY

GOALS BY PERIOD  1  2  3  FINAL
IOWA STATE  3  2  1  6
UTAH  0  2  0  2


Second Period – Scoring: UU, King (Fornelius, Dangel), 0:50; ISU, Kramer (Graalum, Azevedo), 4:29; ISU, Sabo (T. Uglem, Helanto), 6:46; UU, Cronan (Barnes), 11:36. Penalties: UU, King (slashing), 7:23; ISU, Severson (slashing), 15:55; ISU, Arroyo (roughing), 19:43; UU, Cronan (roughing), 19:43.

Third Period – Scoring: ISU, Gullickson (Sabo, T. Uglem), 17:24. Penalties: UU, Leberknight (holding), 8:54; UU, Suel (cross-checking), 12:00; ISU, Severson (tripping), 13:06.

SHOTS BY PERIOD  1  2  3  TOTAL
IOWA STATE  17  16  18  51
UTAH  7  11  5  23

GOALTENDERS (SV/SH)  1  2  3  TOTAL
ISU, Goedeke (60:00)  7/7  9/11  5/5  21/23
UU, Kasper (26:46)  14/17  3/5  -/-  17/22
UU, Manzella (33:14)  -/-  11/11  17/18  28/29

POWER PLAY: ISU 0-4; UU 0-2
PENALTIES: ISU 3-6; UU 5-10

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