

RoughRiders keep rolling without Foley

Written by Jim Ecker

Saturday, 10 January 2015 23:58 - Last Updated Sunday, 11 January 2015 10:32

Erik Foley, Andrew Oglevie and Jiri Fronk have formed one of the most potent lines in the USHL this season, but the RoughRiders kept rolling Saturday night after Foley suffered a head injury early in the second period and went to the hospital for treatment.

Fronk and Oglevie scored goals after Foley got hurt as the RoughRiders defeated Team USA, 4-2, before 2,959 fans at the Cedar Rapids Ice Arena.

Fronk tied the game, 2-2, with a blast from about 20 feet in front of the goal in the second period, then Oglevie gave the RoughRiders a 3-2 advantage with a rocket in the third stanza.

Fronk and Oglevie were happy to score goals for their absent buddy.

"I think he just drove the net really hard and hit his head on the post," said Oglevie. "He got cut a little bit, but I think he's going to be all right."

RoughRiders Coach Mark Carlson said Foley needed a few stitches in his forehead.

Foley dripped blood onto the ice and appeared dazed after the accident. He got to his feet, but had to be helped to the locker room before heading to the hospital.

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Casey Jerry took Foley's spot on the line with Fronk and Oglevie and they kept performing at a high level. Oglevie said it was not difficult to change line-mates on the fly like that.

"No, not really, not with the team we have this year," he said. "We're very deep and we have a lot of guys that can make a lot of plays out there.

"We didn't really skip a beat at all. We put another guy out there and he tried to get the job done just as well as Foley."

Fronk said it felt good to score a goal for Foley.

"Sure," he said. "We play with Foley all season. But with Casey, it was good. He's good, too."

Oglevie said the club wanted to rally in Foley's absence.

"We wanted to go and win one for him," he said. "Win a period, win a game. I thought we did a pretty good job of executing that game plan."

Fronk, Foley and Oglevie have produced 45 goals in 32 games this season for the RoughRiders. Fronk is tied for the USHL lead with 20 goals, Foley has 16 and Oglevie has nine after netting a pair Saturday night.

Oglevie scored the first goal for Cedar Rapids on a power play in the first period.

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"As of right now they are," said Carlson. "They all would tell you they have a lot of improving to do. They have to manage the puck better, for sure, but they're doing a nice job of scoring goals.

"Sometimes you just find that chemistry," he said.

Fronk has 36 points, Oglevie 33 and Foley 30 when their goals and assists are added together. All three of them rank in the top 12 in the league.

"I think we have three solid guys that like to work hard every day," said Oglevie. "We kind of just go into practice every day and work hard on each other.

"We expect a lot of each other when we go on the ice for games. We know what to expect from each other."

Cedar Rapids raised its record to 24-8 for 48 points, with identical 12-4 records at home and on the road. The RoughRiders own a six-point lead over Dubuque for first place in the Eastern Conference.

Hugh McGing scored an insurance goal for Cedar Rapids in the third period for a 4-2 lead. Ryan Larkin made 19 saves in goal.

The RoughRiders have a two-game series with Green Bay next week, visiting Green Bay Friday night and hosting them Saturday.

Six RoughRiders will play in the Top Prospects Game in Dubuque Tuesday night and Carlson will be one of the coaches in the all-star game.

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"It's a great honor, for sure," Carlson said about coaching in the event. "If our guys hadn't been playing well, I wouldn't be coaching in it. I

have to thank the guys for giving me the opportunity to coach it. It's going to be fun."

Team USA 1 1 0 - 2

RoughRiders 1 1 2 - 4

USA - Trent Frederic (Adam Fox)

RR - Andrew Oglevie (power play) (Jiri Fronk, Charlie Curti)

USA - Chad Krys (power play) (Clayton Keller, Adam Fox)

RR - Jiri Fronk (Adam Gaudette, Ross Colton)

RR - Andrew Oglevie (Jiri Fronk, Casey Jerry)

RR - Hugh McGing (Dylan McLaughlin, Bryce Hatten)