The Loyola University Men's Hockey Team rounded out their season the weekend of February 6th splitting an exciting two game series against Notre Dame in South Bend with 4-2 loss on Friday night then bouncing back to win 6-3 for their season finale on Saturday evening.

We asked all of the team's seniors about what it meant to them to be playing their final games for the Ramblers, and they all replied saying that they wanted to enjoy their last games and get the most out of their last experiences as teammates.

For senior forwards Nick Kemp and Jackson "Papa Bear" Bray and senior goalie Nathan Pecoraro, the fun started Friday afternoon in the car when "Everybody" by the Backstreet Boys came on the radio and made Bray feel "larger than life" as he was reminded of all the good times he had when the song was popular in the late 90s. It was a sign that the weekend would be something special for him and all the seniors.

Friday's game ended in a tough 4-2 loss, but was highlighted by a half game shutout by Nathan Pecoraro and goals by Nick
Kemp and sophomore forward Nick Sohl. Despite the outcome, the Ramblers left the rink with their heads held high knowing that they could rebound and take it to the Irish on Saturday evening.

Several Ramblers players spent the Saturday walking around the historic Notre Dame campus before their game later that night. Some players walked into the stunning Basilica of the Sacred Heart while others took pictures in front of the iconic "Touchdown Jesus". Bray, Kemp, and Pecoraro spent their day walking around the athletic facilities including the Fighting Irish basketball court where they shot baskets and saw all of the trophies earned by their men's and women's basketball teams over the years.

Saturday's season finale got off to a great start for the Ramblers with two goals coming Captain Jordan Hawkins in the first period and a flashy goal from Jackson Bray just before the buzzer to end the second. In the third and final period Bray took over the scoring and had three goals to seal the deal for a 6-3 victory. Nick Kemp and junior Keegan Thornton also factored into the scoring with three and two assists, respectively. With stellar performances this weekend, Bray and Kemp each finished their seasons with 50+ points marking them as two of the most successful players in club history. It should also be noted that Bray is the first Loyola hockey player in history to drain a three pointer on the Irish home court, demonstrating his ability to get the job done both on and off the ice.

The team's season ended with a strong performance, and all of the seniors were sent off with a well-played victory. Graduating seniors include forwards Jackson Bray, Nick Kemp, and Joe Nolan; defensemen Greg Pappas and Andrew Droste; and goaltender Nathan Pecoraro. We wish all of them the best of luck on whatever they decide to take on next.

Some memorable quotes from the game included one from Jackson Bray on his last competitive hockey games and a friendly competition with Nick Kemp to see who will end up with the most points on the season: "It's kind of sad to let the game go when I've been playing so well this season, but I'm just hoping to have an enjoyable last weekend with my teammates and beat Kemp in points". Alternatively, Nick Kemp on his final games in a Ramblers uniform, the rivalry with Bray, and his future plans: "I think I'll let him [Bray] have this one. Unlike him, I plan on following my dreams to play in the NHL, so this isn't the last you'll be hearing from Nick Kemp".

The MVP of the game was Nathan Pecoraro posting a half game shutout Friday and stopping 31 of 34 shots on Saturday in his final appearances in a Loyola uniform. The overall results of the series were Friday: 4-2 which resulted in a loss for Loyola and on Saturday: 6-3 for a win for Loyola.