

2011 HOCKEY EAST TOURNAMENT POST-GAME QUOTES MERRIMACK vs. NEW HAMPSHIRE

Head Coach Mark Dennehy

Opening Comments

I think everybody has been asking how we are going to deal with being here for the first time in a while. And you were there. It wasn't great. We didn't get off to a great start. One of things we have prided ourselves on all year is being able to handle adversity. Staying in the moment and kind of emptying the tank and seeing after sixty, or sixty-five minutes seeing where we stand. I thought our guys did a real good job of that. The bench was very positive. Right away that first puck bounces in and even though it was a non-goal, it could really put question marks in the goalie's head. I love how my team went over and tapped him on the pads. We know we are here because of him, in large part. He ended up saving us big later. I thought we played better as the game went on. We got back to our type of hockey, kind of in your face, taking away seams and then possessing the puck down low and making them defend. Some timely goals, did a real good job on the penalty kill. Obviously, we need to do a better job of getting pucks to the net. But beyond that, very proud of my guys.

Playing Boston College sets up the way he would like it

You know what? The story line is about the players. It is about these guys and they deserve a shot at the title. It was something that was on our list of goals. I am happiest for them, to be honest with you. My brother just gave me a hug and said good job of opening the door. They have to be ready. All the credit goes to them. We have some work to do to get ready for tomorrow night.

On Boston College and how they have fared

Yeah the season series ended the day after thanksgiving. There is a lot of water under that bridge. I think it is safe to say we have our hands full. They are a very good team. Their puck skills are off the Richter Scale. Their depth upfront is incredible and I thought John Muse could have very easily been the player of the year in this league. It will be a heck of a challenge for our guys, but that is why they came here. We will get a chance to measure up tomorrow.

On the Merrimack support

Yeah and you know it has been great. Again I have to give a lot of credit to the administration, both president (Dr. Christopher) Hopey and Glenn Hofmann. When I first got there, I was worried about if our assistant coaches names were going to be announced right at the games. And from game management, to the marketing of the program, they have done just an unbelievable job, and then our players. A Small school like Merrimack, you could be the best team in the world, and if your players aren't good people, they aren't going to be supported. Our guys are in the community, people know who they are. I would say probably a third of the people here are just from the Andover area. They have no ties to the school except the excitement of college hockey and they sort of jumped on our bandwagon which is plenty big enough. Anybody's team that might be out of it, feel free to route for Merrimack tomorrow.

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MERRIMACK GOALTENDER JOE CANNATA AND ELLIOTT SHEEN

On the team's penalty kill

JC: it has been great all year, and it is something we have worked on everyday. Coach Stewart has been all over us, and everyone buys into his system. As of late, the last Maine game we did a great job and it carried over to tonight. Clearing pucks and eating pucks, and that is what we are all about.

On coming out with nerves

ES: Well going out there for warm-ups, it is definitely got to look around and recognize the building you are in. you watch all the Bruin's games and never really pictured yourself on the ice, so you get through warm-ups and kind of get your balance out there and look around to enjoy it, but once that puck drops in the first period it is inside the glass.

On Ryan Flanigan

JC: I am sure Sheen would agree. He works real hard, and gets on pucks and he is not afraid to play the body. He may not play a lot, but he will definitely put his body on someone. He has been great all playoffs. He has been our MVP. There line has been great.