



**HOCKEY EAST CHAMPIONSHIP
COACHES MEDIA TELECONFERENCE
TRANSCRIPTS
MARCH 16, 2010**

**HEAD COACH JERRY YORK- BOSTON COLLEGE
HEAD COACH JACK PARKER- BOSTON UNIVERSITY
HEAD COACH TIM WHITEHEAD- MAINE
HEAD COACH KEVIN SNEDDON- VERMONT**



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BOSTON COLLEGE HEAD COACH JERRY YORK QUOTES

On the UMass Series:

“Our series with UMass did not go three games but it was a fraction away from it. It was 2-2 going into the third period and we had a power play to start the period and we couldn’t get anything productive out of it. UMass had a terrific opportunity and John Muse made an excellent save to keep it alive and then we were able to score (thanks to) Matt Lombardi. In most big, deciding games, your secondary level players tend to score important goals. It was Matt’s third goal of the year but it was a very big (one) for us. That does happen often in playoff games, take Vermont and New Hampshire; I think the guy who scored got his third or fourth goal of the year to send them to the Garden. UMass was a difficult obstacle for us to overcome and Joe Bertagna and I were talking during the year about the balance of the league. We said in November and December that anyone who finished in the top four had a stern test to get to the Garden thanks to the quality of our league. UMass certainly deserves a lot of credit coming off a really big sweep of Maine to put them in that No. 7 spot. We felt very good about advancing and our guys were very excited on Sunday to get another day of rest and look forward to the weekend.”

On the previous games against Vermont this season:

“We played three times and twice we lost, so certainly we’ve had a battle with Vermont this year but now we are all about March. For Vermont to go into Durham and win those back-to-back games shows a lot of momentum and it is certainly at the top of its game. We’ve got a team that has beaten us two of three times and that catches our attention really well. They played so well up at New Hampshire that it’s a team that is hitting its stride and playing very well. We are certainly aware of our opponents’ strengths for Friday night’s game.”

On the BC defense:

“We are playing four freshmen defensemen on a pretty regular basis of our six defensemen and Tommy Cross is a veteran back there as a sophomore. I think they have shown terrific improvement. They were good players when they came but they are adjusting to a strength and quickness factor as you move into it. I feel very good about their play and I think they will be fine this weekend.”

On the team’s play on Saturday:

“Everyone talks about how we held UMass to three shots in the third period to get to the Garden, but when I watched the tape, they whistled a couple just by the crossbar and short-side. They still had scoring chances that were just wide of the net. One in particular was a shorthanded chance where they went three-on-one and Brian Dumoulin made an unbelievable slide across the ice to take a pass away from (Casey) Wellman, so they had a lot more chances than the box score indicates. We are playing good defense and through the course of the year, we had the lowest goals against in league-play and that’s a credit to both our goalies and our forwards too, because it’s not just about defense and goalies.”

On who will be in net on Friday:

“We have two excellent goaltenders and we feel very good about their save percentage, their goals against average and wins. We’ve got a good situation and whoever I pick will be a solid choice.”

On the maturity of the younger players:

“I think that they are all advancing and most of it is due to the four seniors. We’ve got four unique kids in terms of the ability to relate to younger players and bring them into our team, especially our captain, Matt Price. He is a rock-star type captain, when I look at all the captains we have had here. He has done an unbelievable job bringing our guys along. It’s not just ‘X’s and O’s’, it’s the whole adjustment to the league and coming from different areas of the country and Matt has done an outstanding job. I’m very pleased with how they have developed through the year and they will say a lot of the same things about the leadership from our seniors.”

On who from Hockey East could play in the NCAA tournament:

“It never leaves my mind, in terms of the national picture. We are always conscious of where we are in the ‘Pairwise’ and the RPI. I think that by being aware of it, we know how volatile it still is and there could be some unbelievable teams here as we go through this weekend. I’m still hoping to get three teams from Hockey East into the NCAA tournament. We are certainly very proud of our league and I’d like to see three of us get in and I think we are deserving of it. I think the way the ‘Pairwise’ goes, there is still a chance for that. Whoever we put in that tournament is going to have a really good chance to win the whole thing. We might not have as many as four or five teams as we have had in the past years but whoever plays there is going to have a chance to win this thing.”

On how they are preparing for Vermont:

“We don’t have access to the (Vermont) games against UNH but we might exchange tapes as the week goes on. I think that we have a pretty good understanding of how Vermont plays. Kevin (Sneddon) has been there a couple years now and he is not changing or suddenly putting a different type of product on the ice. He’s been pretty consistent over the years. We have a good understanding that we are going to play a team that has a strong goaltender in (Rob) Madore, with back-to-back shutouts at New Hampshire and big, hard-nosed defensemen, maybe the biggest in the league. They play stingy, hard-nosed defense. It’s difficult for us to play teams and get a lot of Grade A chances against them. We are going to have to battle hard against their big, mobile, strong defensemen. They are also dangerous offensively. We’ll look at recent tapes of Vermont but we have a pretty good understanding of what it takes to win the game on Friday night.”

On freshman defenseman Brian Dumoulin’s play this season:

“Brian has had an exceptional year for us as an 18-year old freshman and that is hard to do in our league. Right now he has the highest plus-rating in the league so that’s an incredible stat for a freshman. He plays for a good team but he makes really good decisions and his progression as a player has been really good here.”

On Maine:

Maine is a team that we have seen a number of times this year and they have a lot of their staples that have made them such an outstanding team on a national level this past decade. They are very quick and have some high end players in (Gustav) Nyquist and (Brian) Flynn and I’m not sure if (Jeff) Dimmen is going to be healthy or not but he is certainly a top player; possibly one of the best players in our league. They have had some quality players over the year and play with a lot of gusto so they are going to be a fierce opponent.”

On the importance of having played at the TD Garden earlier this year:

“I don’t think it’s the site as much as it is the more experience you have in tournaments. I know our senior class has had a remarkable record in the month of March. They were 21-3-2 in their four years so that transcends because they feel good about themselves and they want to make a good run here. Last year was very disappointing for us to not go to the national tournament and we have accomplished that this year. The Lamoriello Cup is very important to us; everyone thinks about Lou Lamoriello when they think about this cup. He was a catalyst to our league and we’d love to get it back here to the Heights.”

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BOSTON UNIVERSITY HEAD COACH JACK PARKER QUOTES

On the team's quarterfinal series with Merrimack:

"Our series with Merrimack was certainly an up-and-down affair for us emotionally. We were Jekyll, Hyde, then Jekyll again as far as how we played. We played a team that played consistent throughout in all three games. Merrimack was physical, Merrimack was smart and Merrimack played with a lot of intensity. The games looked like they were close because of the scores. In the Saturday game, Merrimack could have won by six, I thought; Kieran Millan played extremely well."

"In general, they were penalty-filled and physical, and special teams wound up being the catalyst for us. Kieran held the Merrimack power play to 1-for-18 and they were the third-best power play in the nation. We got a couple of big power-play goals in the third game and went 2-for-5 and got the win."

On what the team's mindset is heading into the semifinals:

"If I knew that, we wouldn't be having the problems we've had this year. We certainly have played much, much better in the second half. We've had a pretty good run, but had some real setbacks, however, at the end of the second half. We made a mess out of a game up in Vermont and certainly made a mess out a game against Merrimack. I don't mean to take anything from the way [Vermont and Merrimack] played – Vermont steamrolled us up there and Merrimack steamrolled us and should have won the game by a bigger score on Saturday. It looked like we were disinterested those two games. We had a lot of those in the first semester and we've only had only a couple of those in the second semester, so I'm pretty confident that Dr. Jekyll will show up, but who knows?"

"We know we can't afford a Mr. Hyde. If we have a no-show type of game, our season is over. I know we have enough competitors and leadership to make sure that we are focused and ready instead of wondering "I wonder how this game is going to go tonight?"

On what to expect from a Maine team that advanced to the semifinals with its back-up goaltender:

"I expect a hard-fought, well-executed game from Maine. They can skate, they've got one of the best first lines in college hockey, they have the best power play in college hockey and they have great goaltending. That's really made them a terrific team this year. Certainly [Scott] Darling is having a great season, but I remember [Dave] Wilson played once against us and he was great (34 saves in 2-2 tie at Maine, 2/14/09). I'm not surprised that he stepped up and became the man for them in a crucial series because some guys are just waiting for their chance. Just because he's the back-up goalie doesn't mean he's not a good goalie. He's the back-up goaltender to a terrific goaltender. If Kieran Millan went down and we had to put [Grant] Rollheiser in, I think we'd be very confident that Rollheiser would be able to get the job done for us, and I think the same holds true for Wilson."

"I don't think that our team will think that this will be an easier game because Darling's not there. They present a lot of problems... and not having their No. 1 goaltender will not be a factor."

On the Terriers' high number of penalties, especially in the Merrimack series:

“My assessment is my guys shouldn’t whine so much. I thought that there could have been 17 more penalties called on the first night (of the Merrimack series), and there weren’t, and I think the referees in the second two nights decided they were not going to let the game get out of hand like the physicality from Friday night. I thought they did a good job. A lot of the penalties were matching penalties – ‘You want to sit and jaw with each other? – you’re gone, boys. You want to take a swipe? Ordinarily in the middle of season, they might not be penalties, but we’re not going to let this stuff go here’.”

“There always a tough call here and there that goes against your team or goes for your team. We had a couple of non-calls on Friday that were very fortunate for us and we survived a couple of calls that we were stupid on. I think we have taken a number of stupid penalties all year long. It has not been a disciplined team. Our team has not been disciplined enough as far as penalties are concerned. With that being said, I have always been on the referees to call games tighter. I think that the only team that has more penalties than us is our opponents. We have more power plays than our opponents do because BU games are called a little tighter. They are usually a little more physical and the other team usually gets pretty physical, too. I don’t think that it’s a matter of the refereeing causing us problems, I think it’s a matter of us adjusting to the refereeing. I think the referees will know that this is a game that’s got to be controlled. I don’t mean because we’re going to go after each other, but because we’re supposed to be enforcing the rule book.”

“On any given evening you can decide that this guy calls it a real tight game and this guy doesn’t call very many penalties - that’s always been the case. The teams should adjust to that - we have not adjusted to anybody. That’s my fault more than anybody else’s.”

On the team’s health, including the injury freshman defenseman Max Nicastro suffered on Saturday:

“Nicastro took quite a gash on his right forearm on Saturday night and did not play Sunday. He won’t practice for a while here - he may be available [on Friday]. He’s probably – what would the term be by [Bill] Belichick? Doubtful? An upper-body injury. If he’s not back, we’ll play Ben Rosen. If he is back, we’ll be happy to have him back.”

“Other than that, we’ve got a lot of guys banged up. It was a very, very physical series [against Merrimack], especially in the defensive corps. We had Max and then we had Colby Cohen leave the bench for a significant part of time in the third game and David Warsofsky did the same thing. I think [Kevin] Shattenkirk got more time on the ice than any game he’s played in his career. We were playing three defensemen one time killing penalties. Everybody should be back, though, from nursing some nagging injuries.”

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MAINE HEAD COACH TIM WHITEHEAD QUOTES

General comments about UML series:

“We had a thrilling series with Lowell at home. It was very evenly contested and the scores reflected that each night. It certainly could have gone either way in the end, but we’re just thrilled to advance in such a dramatic way. The students returned to campus on Sunday night for classes to start on Monday. It was exciting to see them back in the building and for them to witness that finish was really a lot of fun for our student-athletes.”

On Scott Darling’s Status:

“I am going to meet with him again today and we will keep moving forward. But he won’t be in the net this weekend for sure.”

Comments on Dave Wilson’s Play:

“I am really proud of David. He has persevered, not just this season, but during his career here. He really rose up for our team when we needed him most this weekend in a very pressurized situation. He seemed to get stronger each night. To perform as he did in an elimination series, with a lot of other players out with injury, he just really stepped up for our team. I’m very proud of him.”

How do you get players ready for the Garden:

“Hopefully Thursday’s practice will help us get situated a bit. I think that when the puck is dropped they’re just going to play the game, but certainly that is something that we have some concern about. Having said that, these guys are excited to be down there. Quite frankly, I don’t think that it would matter to them where we’re playing. They are just happy to have extended their season and to be playing in the league final four. Hopefully, Thursday will help a little with that.”

BU is a big physical team, can you address the match-up:

“BU has had our number this year and for several years now. We were able to beat them once at home this season, but this is a different format and they have the best winning percentage in Hockey East in the second half of the season. It is a tough match up for us. They’re a strong team and we respect them. We know what we’re up against. Having said that, it is a great challenge for us, and a great opportunity to play in the league final four. No doubt, we certainly respect our opponent, and we know we are up against a real good one.”

What does it mean to the program to get back to the Garden:

“It is always important to advance in the post season. It has been a while for us. It is even more special to advance this year after what we’ve fought through. The guys are very excited to make this trip. Our coaching staff is very happy for our guys and very excited to go down to Boston, not just for a banquet, but also for at least one hockey game. It is going to be a lot of fun, but certainly a tough challenge for us in our opponent. It is a very good step for us, a very important step in our climb back up to where we want to be.”

Big players step up in big games, talk about the play of captain Tanner House:

“Tanner has been absolutely fabulous for us as a captain on and off the ice this year. A big part of us taking a step this year has been Tanner’s leadership, along with the other juniors and seniors. They have really reestablished the culture that we want in our Maine Black Bear teams. Tanner has been at the forefront for that. It was great to see him step up on a big weekend and deliver some big plays. Tanner was key not just in regards to the goals, but he also won some big face-offs and played well defensively, just all-around gritty hard-nosed hockey. He certainly set the tone for our team and I am very proud of him.”

Thoughts on Mike Banwell’s Status:

“We will see, unlikely that he will play this weekend. We are still holding out hope there, but I would say that it is very unlikely.”

Talk about the injuries:

“It’s been an exceptional year with the injuries and various issues. I think that is one of the reasons we are most proud that our team never quit. We had our weeks where it was tough to rise up, but they have always found a way to bounce back, especially this past week. It was one after another. First, we announced that Darling was out, then we lost Solomon in practice, then Banwell and Carriere in the first game of the series and then Dimmen in the second game. It was great to see how the team responded under those circumstances and was able to rise up and advance. It is a fine line. We all know in those overtime games that things can go either way. But we are thrilled that our team stuck together and rose up and we were able to get the victory.”

Where is the team heading into the tournament, is there anything that you would like to improve on:

“We are always striving to improve our game. Certainly as a young team it is challenging to maintain consistency and that is what we’re focusing on down the stretch. We are trying to become more consistent with our play. As always, we want to keep working on subtle parts of our game. At this point in the year, we are not going to overhaul a bunch of things, we just have to recharge our batteries and focus on executing the little things that we need to do to compete with BU.”

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VERMONT HEAD COACH KEVIN SNEDDON QUOTES

On UNH series:

“It was a great series and we feel very fortunate, we felt very fortunate to get into the Hockey East Playoffs to begin with and then obviously to get by the No. 1 seed; I’m just so proud of our team for battling through adversity this year and having an opportunity to achieve success in the second season if you will. So, we’re very proud to be a part of the four teams going to the TD Garden and again we’re looking forward to a real tough challenge in front of us in Boston College. I think they’re playing extremely well right now and it doesn’t get any easier for us despite knocking off the No. 1, we’re now faced with another incredible challenge with Boston College. But we’ve played the underdog role well this year and we’re certainly in that role this weekend and I think we’re a team that’s had our backs up against the wall most of the season and fought through so much adversity that I’m just so pleased with the fact that our team’s come together and trying to beat the odds. We’re looking forward to the challenge and the opportunity this weekend against Boston College.”

On regular season series against Boston College:

“Yeah we can’t use those games, I think they were obviously a completely different team back then. I remember playing them, we obviously had a little bit of success winning the season series against Boston College, but I remember saying how good I thought they were going to become with all their young freshmen defensemen that obviously were top-end players but needed to gain experience in big games and obviously they’ve achieved that going into the second half and having success. They’re extremely talented at all positions now, so the youth is not hurting them in any way, shape, or form now. So, we have to throw those games out, we can’t look at films on BC back then, they are just a different team now, we’ll use much more recent games just knowing that they’re a completely different team, they’re a great team. We’re really excited about the opportunity to play them this Friday.”

On challenging Rob Madore:

“I think he (Rob Madore) was a little bit shocked and had a ton of different emotions going on after Game 1 and what was said in the locker room. There was no yelling or screaming, I was just very matter of fact about the way I thought he played, I mean the team played pretty hard; I thought we had every chance to win that game, but unfortunately some goals went in that just aren’t typical for him and I guess I looked at it and said, ‘hey, I’ve got to spark something in this team.’ We were pretty down in the locker room and knew it was going to be a long series, obviously if we were going to stay alive it was going to go three games and you have to take some calculated risks. We all obviously know that Rob’s probably the most mentally tough student-athlete we have on our team, so as much as it was about trying to spark Rob, it was to spark our team to play better defensively in front of him and I think the team kind of rallied around him and no credit needs to be pointed at the coaching staff by any means, it was all on Rob and the

way he prepared to do what he needed to do to come back from a very tough outing, and he did. So, I think a lot can be said about being 'called out', but the bottom line is he did the job to turn things around and especially the overtime period where New Hampshire looked like they were one of the Olympic teams and just had so many chances to win it. I remember a couple of times almost stepping down from the bench and thinking, it's over, and he made saves out of nowhere and that allowed us to kind of crawl back and gain some confidence in overtime because we were kind of back on our heels for a few minutes and again he gave us an opportunity to stay in that game when it didn't look promising."

On the matchup with Boston College:

"Well you know every matchup is going to be different, BC's got such a great blend of having tremendous talent and the ability to score goals, but I also think they have a great ability to play team defense. They use their speed in a very good way on back pressure, they're very good on transition and they're layers of defense are very solid. Again I talk about the experience they have on the blue line versus maybe their inexperience the first couple months of the season; their guys are not playing like young freshman back there on the blue line, I watched them in zone on film and they're very solid, they make very few mistakes so I think they can play either game and be successful, and that's the challenge. They have moments where they can open it up and make you look foolish because of their skills and their ability to finish, and then there's other moments when they know to shut it down and play tight team defense, so that's what's made them successful; there's been a great blend I think for them."

On how to approach the game:

"Well I think we've got to play our game. If we play as well as we did against New Hampshire I think we're a tough team; we forechecked well, we took offensive chances when we had the chances, but at the same time we were very solid defensively and I think it's about us finding our blend. I think you can get wrapped up now in thinking about what BC's going to do, but I think we've really got to focus on what makes us a good hockey team. I think we've proven that we can beat a lot of good teams when we can play to the best of our ability. So, our challenge is obviously to focus on the things that are going to give us a chance to have success against BC, but mainly focus on what we need to do to be successful and play Catamount hockey, and that's be aggressive, use our size to our advantage, play well defensively, cycle well, don't turn away from looking for a shot and a rebound, I think that's what gave us opportunities against New Hampshire this weekend."