

**NORTHEASTERN HEAD COACH DAVE FLINT**  
**SEPT. 20, 2011 WHEA HEAD COACHES MEDIA TELECONFERENCE**

***On his team and how he sees the season unfolding:***

I'm excited about this year, I think this being my fourth year, we probably have the most talented team, at least on paper, and we had an exciting finish last year making it to the Hockey East championship game. We're looking to build off that – we have nine freshmen coming in, we have some freshmen who are going to step in contribute right away, and be impact players in the league. I feel good about where we are, and how far the program has come in the last four years, and we're excited to get the season going.

***On Florence Schelling and possible playing time for the other goaltenders:***

Obviously Florence has been the backbone of our team the last three years, and a team's success depends in large part on its goaltending. This year, between the two freshmen and Kelsey O'Sullivan, somebody's going to get some playing time, to groom them for when Florence leaves, because those are some pretty big shoes to fill. Ultimately, we have to win hockey games, so we'll find the right time and not put the freshmen in under too much pressure early on, and give them a chance to get their feet wet in the college game, and then hopefully build off that. So they're going to get some time – how much, I don't know. Florence right now is obviously our number one, and we'll let the other three battle it out and see where they fall.

***On the state of women's college hockey in Boston:***

Women's college hockey in Boston is pretty exciting. There are great teams, with BU and BC making it to the Frozen Four last year, with us making it to the [WHEA] championship game, and Harvard's always a power. The landscape has changed, and it's exciting. Boston has a lot to offer, and I think a lot of kids are seeing how great a place it is. They're also seeing how competitive our league is, and it's been drawing some recognition from some high-profile recruits – BU has three Canadian national team players, BC has some US national team players, and we have a freshman in Kendall Coyne who's here this fall. I think all of that tied together and all that the schools have to offer, and the city has to offer, and how competitive the hockey is, it's pretty exciting.

***On building momentum from last year's run and making the NCAA Tournament:***

I hope so. My goal when I took the job in '08 was get the team to get better every year, and that's what we've been doing. A big thing for me early on was teaching our team how to win, and how to win big games. Last year was a good test for us because we started out strong, then we had some injuries, we lost some key players, went through a tough stretch, and then we regained our composure and made that run to the championship. I think the team is pretty excited about our prospects for this year; they're disappointed that they lost in the championship game but they know can get there. That's the most important thing. Getting there that first time, even though we lost, I think it's made them

hungrier. We have loftier goals every year, and this year the team wants to win the championship.

***On his expectations early in the season, and for the Friday 9/23 exhibition game:***

Nerves are always running a little high at the beginning of the year. Kids want to prove themselves, and we have nine freshmen. This weekend, all I want to see from them is effort – the execution is not going to be great, but I want them to compete. That’s what I always tell my team, is get them to compete for 60 minutes. I’m telling them, “we’ll work out all the glitches with systems and everything else.” We have two weeks after that before we play Syracuse, so I’m just looking for them to go out and play hard, not be too tight, and just help us prepare for that opening weekend.

***On how much his nine freshmen figure to contribute right away:***

We have some freshmen who are going to come in and be impact players right away, and I think there’s a couple that will need to learn the system, and need to learn to play at a different pace – it’s going to be a little bit of a bigger jump for them, from where they were playing. But all of them I’m expecting to contribute in one way or another. Some will have different roles – some will have bigger roles, some will have smaller roles – but I’m expecting for all of them to step in and be a factor throughout the season.

***On the overall strength of the league since he first started at Northeastern:***

It’s amazing how competitive our league is. You look at last year – it came right down to that last weekend – anybody could’ve beaten anybody, and Maine was beating the top two teams in the league to get into the playoffs, and I think Vermont had tied BU twice. It’s great when you play in a league where anybody can beat anybody on any given night. If you look at even before I got in the league, and just women’s hockey in general, you could always count on some “gimme” games on your schedule – you could just show up and you could win. It’s not like that anymore; you need to come and you need to play every night. Anybody can beat anybody, and that’s what’s exciting. I think that has really helped the league over the last four or five years.

***On moving the WHEA championship to Hyannis:***

I think it’s a great opportunity for the league. I know there’s probably some people who are disappointed, but I think overall – for the game and for our league – it’s the best thing. We’re going to hopefully sell out the building, and expose a market to our league, and fans to our league that maybe wouldn’t typically see a game, and hopefully get them excited about our league. We did the game in the Bog last year – we’re going to do it again this year – with Providence, and, with not a lot of effort, we sold out the building, and we’ll hopefully do that again this year. The thing for our girls is they typically don’t get to play in front of more than a couple of hundred people, so for them to play in front of 1,000 to 2,000 fans is a big deal for them. I talked to my team after our game in the Bog last year – and it’s a community rink – and I said, “What would you guys think about giving up a home game to play there?” And they said, “Hey, coach, it was exciting. We

never get to play in front of that many people.” I think the people down in Hyannis are going to do a great job. It’s a beautiful venue, and I think they’re going to sell the building out, which will create a great atmosphere for our tournament.