

**WOMEN'S HOCKEY EAST SEASON OPENING  
COACHES MEDIA TELECONFERENCE  
(SEPT. 20, 2012)**

**PROVIDENCE COLLEGE HEAD COACH BOB DERANEY**

**Coach do you want to just talk about the Friars and maybe some of the team goals for the year. What you expect to get out of the first few games of the year of the season and things you will be working on?**

“First and foremost I think we are the youngest that we have ever been in a long time. I think that when we look at the rosters that we are one of the youngest teams in the league but I think that also gives us a lot of excitement as well because we’ve got what we feel is a very close group with a lot to work with. If we aren’t successful this year it won’t be because of the players it will be because of the coaches. I think that we have a terrific nucleus coming back. As well as a talented freshmen class coming in that we as coaches do our jobs that we could surprise some people.”

**Coach in terms of, I asked Dave Flint this question earlier, in terms of the program losing its top goalie, Genevieve Lacasse. Just talk a little bit about how that might play out and if you know at this point what your plans are?**

“To as our goaltenders two freshmen and our returner, Nina Riley, to replace Genevieve Lacasse is an awfully daunting task for them and we are not going to do that. We are going to try and play better team defense and allow them to transition at their own pace and find different ways to play defense until they get up to speed. When you have a goaltender that has logged as many minutes as Genevieve did over her four years with us and had the career that she had you can’t replace her and you can’t expect anyone to replace her. Instead of one person blocking the puck for us I think we are going to probably need six people. That might be the way that we play defense this year we are not sure yet. This coming Saturday we will see what we have got and then try and design a system around it.”

**Coach how about some of your returners this year that you think that you might take the next step this year on either on offense or defense?**

“I think what is interesting the way we got to the championship game last year was a balanced attack. We didn’t have one prolific line we had scoring throughout our line-up and I think that is going to be our recipe for success this year. I think that you are going to see Buie, Vella, Frade, Anderson, Simpson, Hanrahan, Micheletti I just think that they are all going to chip in. I think that makes for the kind of team that has made us successful over the years as a balanced attack. At the defense position I think that we will be as strong there as we have ever been. So that leaves us optimistic about our opportunities but at the end of the day when I look at the rosters we are one of the youngest teams in the league and obviously there are going to be some growing pains. The question is how quick can we get over those.”

**Coach I asked a few other coaches on the call to just talk about the expanded the playoff format that we have now and just talk about going back to Hyannis?**

“I am one of those people that believe the regular season should mean something you know. So was I in favor of all eight teams getting in, no I was not but at the same time I am not in favor of the fact that the buy has caused teams to that have tremendous seasons not make it to the championship game because of that one week layoff. This is the best remedy to ensure that the teams that have the best years that finish first and second are not in a disadvantage playing in the semifinal game. I think in the long run this is the best short-term solution before getting to best 2 out of 3 but at the same time I think that the regular season should mean something. Am I excited that all eight teams are in, yes I am because without question I think that we are the best league in the country from top to bottom, hands down I don't think anyone will dispute that. So the fact that all eight teams are making it really makes it scary with that one game playoff come that first week in March but I think that it is for the greater good. That is the first step getting to two out of three in a playoff format that I think would be more of a long-term solution for us.”

**Coach please maybe talk a little about the strength of the league. Obviously Providence and New Hampshire dominated several seasons of the league but now BC and BU are really starting to come on stronger. Just talk about how the dynamic of the league has changed since its inception?**

“First of all I am really proud to say we have played in six of those Championship games so I feel pretty good. I think that is one of those things that makes our leagues so good is the combination of new and old. Everything has to change and you know when a league gets through its first decade that there would be parody and the talented coaches and players that we have in our league and the talented players not just in the country but the world that are attracted in coming and playing here just adds to the reputation of our league. Its BU and BC that are, deservedly so BC is ranked first and BU is ranked second and they have tremendous teams but I will tell you something teams 3 through 8 any given day can take points from anyone else in the league and I think that's what makes it so exciting. Above all you talk about the players and you talk about those teams and that's why I don't have a lot of hair on my head because every week we are trying to practice and prepare for those teams coming up and you wonder how we are going to compete. And this year is going to be no different whether it's the preseason No. 1 or preseason No. 8 it really doesn't matter they are all going to be heartily tested competitions and that is what makes our league so exciting.”

**Coach how about talking about some of your freshmen class and anyone that you feel will come in and make an immediate contribution at this point or is it too early to tell on that front?**

“You know I think that we recruit players that come in and play. So we expect our recruiting class, our freshmen class to come in and have them all come in and make contributions. We carry a very small roster and we expect Molly Illikainen, Brittney Thunstrom, Prentice Basten, Courtney Kukowski, Lexi Romanchuk, Lexi Slattery and our two freshmen goaltenders Sarah Bryant and Allie Morse all to contribute that is why they came here. Now it is their opportunity to take advantage of the opportunities that have been presented to them.”