

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

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY HEAD COACH BRIAN DUROCHER**

**Talk a little bit about your team and what you would like to accomplish early in the season?**

“I think one of the real focuses here is to try and have the entire season be a strong body of work, and ultimately earn your way into the NCAA tournament, not have to win the automatic qualifier by taking the postseason; that gets a little risky when you do that. I’d like to think we’ve got enough talent here to certainly challenge to do that. There were some ups and downs last year, partly injuries, maybe a little lack of preparation on a given night, but every game you have to be ready for and that’s going to be one of our charges for the season. If I look at our team, I think we’ve got pretty good depth all the way through. We should have some pretty good offense up front, led by Marie-Philip Poulin, Isabel Menard and Kayla Tutino to name a few. On the back line, we lost some highly-talented kids in Kasey Boucher, Tara Watchorn and Carly Warren but I think we’ll have enough experience back there. We’re aided by having a transfer come here, Shannon Doyle, who’s played two years of college hockey at Colgate. In net, we’ve got two upperclassmen, Kerrin Sperry and Alissa Fromkin, who is coming off of some injuries. We’re hoping she’ll be at the top of her game in her senior year.”

**With Jenn Wakefield graduated, how important is it for Marie-Philip Poulin to stay healthy all season?**

“I think it’s very important for her to stay healthy because she’s obviously a mainstay on our team and throughout this league and hockey in general and I probably omitted, unfortunately, a real key part, Jenelle Kohanchuk. Jenelle played just seven games last year and you could look at her as anywhere from a 30-50 point player. She’s a decorated player; she’s played on the under-22 team and was a very good player in the league for two years. She was off to a fantastic start last year. I think she had 10 or 11 points in seven games and then she had the unfortunate injury. I hope she can certainly cushion some of the blow of losing a fantastic goal-scorer and player in Jenn Wakefield.”

**In the beginning part of your schedule, you play two games against Cornell. Given how last season ended, what is your team’s feeling going into that series?**

“I’m sure there’ll be a little added excitement because both teams are considered strong teams. Obviously they ended our season last year as we did the year before to them so there’ll be some extra energy in the building this time around. Those games are huge because they’re big swing games when you look at the NCAA parings and how the RPI finishes and so you obviously want to get one, if not both of those games, if possible.”

**You have a couple exhibition games, specifically against the Russian National Team and the Boston Blades. With the Blades having former Hockey East players and former BU player Holly Lorms, is there any excitement and what does the team hope to gain from playing against the Russian National Team?**

“Well a couple things are involved there. With the Blades, you have a cast from the U.S. National/Olympic team that play with that team, so it’ll be fun to play against that quality of player. Some of them we’ve played against before, and in the case of Holly, played with, so it’ll be exciting. I believe Kasey Boucher will be playing there as well. Any time you get a quality opponent it’s important. Unfortunately Niagara dropped its program so we had a couple-game void and everyone’s schedule seemed to be locked so to add them will be a new wrinkle and a new team in the building. And as far as the Russian National Team is concerned, one of the things we’re trying to do in this game is continue to grow the game and in some of the traditional countries that are prominent on the men’s side; could be Russia, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Finland, after the U.S. and Canada there’s probably Sweden, Finland and then it drops off. So we’re trying to find ways to continue to grow the game and help those programs and it should be fun to get a national team here and a different uniform involved at Walter Brown Arena.”

**Talk about the expanded playoff format with all eight teams making the tournament and touch briefly on going back to Hyannis.**

“I think that when you’re adding eight teams it speaks to how the league has grown and everybody feels they can try and enhance the experience for all the young ladies that play here. When you don’t get in the playoffs that’s a little bit of a hollow feeling, so it’s exciting that everyone will be involved right down until the end jockeying for positions and for home ice and then certainly having a one-game, do-or-die playoff will be exciting on all four campuses. As far as Hyannis, they did a great job running the tournament down there last year. The whole setting was nice. The kids felt like they went to a destination, like they went to a league final four location which has a different feel than going to somebody’s home ice. It should another exciting year and I think the people that come down there again this year will see that it’s a neat spot and with the crowd they had last year made for a super atmosphere.”

**In terms of players returning, do you have a dark horse among them that you think might make that next jump or fill the role of players that have left?**

“I think for two years that Louise Warren has been a real good player here that has flown under the radar a little bit and I think this is a year that she capitalizes on her opportunities and maybe creates more points. I think Jill Cardella is a very sound two-way player who played a multitude of roles last year. She played the wing, she played in the middle, played on different lines, and she’s someone you can count on all the time. I think on the back end you’ve got Kathryn Miller, who’s never going to be a statistical whiz out there, but she’s very smart and plays the game well. The other one of the blue line is Kaleigh Fratkin, who’s probably as good of a skater and as strong as anybody out

there. She's been behind the Watchorn's, the Ward's, the Boucher's, but this is her time to blossom here and capture the attention of a lot of people that watch the game."

**Talk about the strength of the league and how it has grown since you've started.**

"Each year it keeps moving forward. When top players come into this league, programs continue to put their resources into it, quality coaches are from top to bottom, it continues to grow. Every night you know it's going to be a battle, no matter who you're going against. If I was to sit here and try and critique the league, Boston College is probably the team to beat, but I'd have a hard time slotting in people after that. I think there are some people who have good years recently, a couple that have been down, but I have the utmost respect for the coaches and players that play there, and if someone was predicted seventh but finished second or third it wouldn't shock me."

**Is there anybody coming in that's new that fans can get excited about seeing?**

"There's a pretty good cast of freshmen, and I mentioned the transfer, Shannon Doyle, who has been part of the under-22 program in Canada and has played two years, so she'll come in with the experience and the knowledge and the confidence of playing at this level. I believe that Sarah Lefort is the next kid. She's a real power winger that may have some of the qualities that Jenn Wakefield had. A tremendous shot, real good size, very strong, goes to the net. So those would be the first two off the top of my head. Then there's probably a group of three forwards behind them – Rebecca Russo, Jordan Juron and Dakota Woodworth that are also real solid players."

**You mentioned that Alissa Fromkin was back to being healthy. What do you think is going to happen in goal this year? Do you plan on having Kerrin Sperry be the starter?**

"Well I think that Kerrin has certainly earned her spot as the number one kid on the depth charts going into the season. I'm the type that doesn't have a set philosophy that you have to play one goalie or you have to alternate, or you have to play the hot goalie. I think the kids determine that. Kerrin will get some rope, but I'm going to try and get Alissa out there as early as I can because she's coming off a couple of injuries that have shelved her over the last year, year and a half, and this will be a great time to get her back going because you know you're going to need somebody over the long haul for rest and in case of injuries. We're going to try and get them both going but as I said, Kerrin will probably have the distinction of being number one on the depth charts to start."