



WHEA COACHES SEASON OPENING MEDIA TELECONFERENCE TRANSCRIPTS OCTOBER 1, 2008

**HEAD COACH KATIE KING- BOSTON COLLEGE
HEAD COACH BRIAN DUROCHER- BOSTON UNIVERSITY
HEAD COACH HEATHER LINSTAD- CONNECTICUT
HEAD COACH DAN LICHTERMAN- MAINE
HEAD COACH BRIAN McCLOSKEY- NEW HAMPSHIRE
HEAD COACH DAVE FLINT- NORTHEASTERN
HEAD COACH BOB DERANEY- PROVIDENCE COLLEGE
HEAD COACH TIM BOTHWELL- VERMONT**



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BOSTON COLLEGE HEAD COACH KATIE KING QUOTES

On the upcoming season:

“We are very excited about the season. We have good core group coming back with seven seniors and one fifth year. We also have seven new freshman coming into the program and we are looking to them to make an immediate impact.”

On last season’s inconsistency and what needs to change:

Consistency is something we are looking to improve this season. Coming off a year where we went to the Frozen Four and then coming off of last year where we struggled with consistency as a team. I think the freshman class [06-07] made a huge impact that year and they thought it was something it was easy to do and through last year realized how difficult it was to maintain that level of play. Last season really helped in the mental aspect of realizing as a team, needing to work hard day in and day out and can’t take things for granted. The girls really want to get back to that spot in the frozen four.

On what it will take to get back to the Frozen Four:

“We are looking for the freshman class to have a big impact, they come with experience and ice time at their respective schools and most should be able to come and step right in an play. As a team we should be deeper in our lines now and the new girls will add a scoring punch hopefully so we won’t have to rely on just a few players to put points on the board.”

“We also have great leaders within our captain, Colleen Harris, and looking to have Megan Keever who is back from injury to be a strong presence for us and to have Maggie Taverna as leading our defensemen.”

On the impact a goaltender like Molly Schaus has on the team:

“Molly is not only a great player but a great person. I don’t think she realizes the impact she has on her teammates as a leader in her position. As her coach I don’t have to worry when she is in net because I know she can make the saves that are the difference in a game”

BOSTON UNIVERSITY HEAD COACH BRIAN DUROCHER QUOTES

Opening comments on the season:

“The optimal word for our team here at Boston University is experience. We may not be the fastest team or the best team or the team with the most history, but I think we probably lead the league in experience. There’s 17 kids here who are in their third or fourth year of college hockey and they’ve been augmented by a nice, small sophomore class and some pretty good freshmen that are joining our team, so that’s what we have to hang our hat on. Each year has been a little bit of a different year in the first three. There’s been a lesson or a step taken each year and I think this year’s step is probably going to have to be can we beat, not only just play well with, the top teams. We did a great job other than maybe two games, one with St. Cloud and one against UNH to close our season, where all the top teams we played, probably 17 or 18 games against elite teams, we were always in the games except for those two, so that’s what we’re working on, to see if we can take the next step and beat some of those teams.”

“League-wide, I’ll echo what the other coaches have said. Thanks to the administration of Maine and the WCHA mentality that a guy like Dan Lichterman brings and the support of the UVM people and Tim Bothwell, they’re going to continue to bring up our league to join hands with what UNH has done and what Providence has done and what Coach Linstad has done at UConn to make this a wonderful eight-team league and we welcome Dave Flint as well, who’s new to the league.”

Some of the teams in this league are among the elite in women’s college hockey. What’s it going to take to get BU into the conversation that starts with New Hampshire?:

“I think you’re absolutely right that the conversation should start with New Hampshire and that’s a credit to what they’ve done there, but I think because there’s other teams taking a piece of the pie and because a couple of things have happened at UNH, I’ve got to include them a little more in the entire number of the top five. Last year, no

disrespect to our team or the other six teams, but UNH was two or three goals better than most of us and I think the statistics bore that out over the course of the year. Bob [Deraney]'s team had a great championship game and some other teams had good games with them, in particular I think we did, but they also were able to take people out. I think all of us have closed the gap a little there, which makes it nice from a competitive standpoint. As far as Boston University goes, I think I alluded to it, we've got to get over that hurdle of convincing ourselves that we can beat teams. Talent means a lot, bounces mean a lot, I think UConn took advantage of great coaching, good players, but they also earned some bounces that gave them the confidence to be the second-place team in the league last year and I'm looking to maybe see if we can follow that path. Statistically, we probably need to do what we did in goal, we need to do what we did as a team defensively, but we need to add a few goals to our repertoire and while we don't have a whole bunch of new kids coming in, Jenelle Kohanchuk is the lone freshman up front, but I think maybe our new defensemen and the experience of our big group of kids coming back give us a chance to score more goals and prevent one from going in in a key spot that takes you over the hump. We were ahead of Minnesota, ahead of Mercyhurst, ahead of Dartmouth all in the first ten games of the year going into the third period and couldn't win the game, so those are games we've got to turn around this year on a national scale."

What is the excitement like surrounding the Women's Frozen Four being hosted at Boston University this season?:

"I think it brings a little more work to my daily life, I know that. It's another big statement for Boston University and the importance of ice hockey here at BU. We consider ourselves a prominent program on the national scale and it's something I've been preaching to the ladies I've been recruiting here, so without a doubt that brings another good reflection on Boston University. As far as the excitement for the team, it's what I call a long-range goal. Our goals remain regular season and postseason championship and certainly trying to get to the NCAA tournament, but we still have to make that a little bit of a long-range goal in our fourth year here, but one that's definitely somewhere out there in the sightlines and knowing that it's on our campus, I don't think there's any question that the girls will have fun talking about it and keeping it in perspective, but a long-range goal."

Goaltender Allyse Wilcox had a 1.76 goals-against average in league play last year. Do you think she can get better and how do you keep up that high level of goaltending?:

"Well, you always hope people can get better. I look back to a kid named John Curry just a couple years ago who had an off-the-charts sophomore year, he played even better his junior year and I thought there is no way in God's creation that he could be better in his senior year and lo and behold I think he was, so there's definitely precedent set here. Could Allyse have a 1.50 or 1.40 GAA? Maybe so, but that's the challenge and that's the newness of every single season. She's a kid who you can wind up and put out there and she's going to play well for you just about every night. In a number of games, if she gives up a goal in that first minute, that's it, it's shut down for the night or if somewhere in the game there's a bad bounce and it goes in, she can keep it in perspective and be good for the duration of the time. We're also real lucky that Melissa Haber is an established Division I goalie. Is she going to get a little more time? That's yet to be determined, but without a doubt, Allyse was highly recognized last year, playing against the top goalies, certainly in this conference, and was right there with them, so it's nice to know that you've got people who can start right back in the blue paint and give you a lot of confidence."

What are your thoughts on the group of returning forwards you have?:

"No question we have the pieces there. I think Melissa Anderson is our marquee person in the group, but whether it be Gina [Kearns], Jillian Kirchner, Holly Lorms, who was out for a big part of the season who's a real good sophomore, Lauren Cherewyk skates as well as anybody in the country, Nicki Wiart and Erin Seman had injuries last year that kept them either on the shelf or in a challenged way as far as production, Laurel Koller shoots as hard as anybody in the country and can play in a game, Jonnie Bloemers is a good up-and-down player, so I think there's volume and by far the most depth here so that if we have an injury or two, I think we still line up nine solid Division I forwards where maybe in the past we've had more defensive players, not kids who had as well-rounded a pedigree or as established a pedigree. We'll be at a little better pace on the blue line this year so that will help us create offense as well."

CONNECTICUT HEAD COACH HEATHER LINSTAD QUOTES

General comments regarding the start of the season:

“We are pretty excited about it. We had a good season last year and a good run in placing second. Obviously we are disappointed with our playoff situation, but we were there and certainly our goal is to get back there and to improve on what we did last year. It certainly doesn’t hurt me to have the Player of the Year back in Dominique Thibault and also to put a ‘C’ on her jersey. I think she is going to be even more of an impact this year.”

“What do you see as the positives in WHEA development?”:

“I think that every school did a really good job of recruiting. You can certainly see that when it is getting more and more competitive just in our league. I thought you saw a lot of big time scorers across the board, not just in Hockey East, but that made national impact, too. Our league is definitely developing. I think that is why you saw that it really needed to go to six teams for the playoffs because obviously we feel like that first round is going to be just as competitive and there is always going to be a battle for five and six now. It is the depth of the teams. I think the coaches have done a great job of recruiting obviously across North America and some people are getting into the European thing. Certainly everyone is doing a great job.”

Are you getting recruiting pressure from, not just the Hockey East schools, but the other schools in Connecticut... Yale and Quinnipiac:

“I think that we always compete against the Ivies, certainly that is a huge thing for us. People obviously gravitate toward those schools if they have the grades, so that is a challenge. Quinnipiac put a beautiful rink together and they have a beautiful building there. I think the University of Connecticut kind of stands out because we have so many other great sports on our campus, so that has obviously been a great thing for me in recruiting. The amount of exposure that we have for all of our sports and the success that other teams have is certainly important. Unfortunately, I don’t know if we are competing against Sacred Heart right now, obviously we’ve played them and we hope that they build their program. We would love to have them in the loop as far as the Nutmeg it would be great if all four schools could be there and we if didn’t have to invite an outside school.”

Talk a little bit about Dominique, what is that is so explosive:

“Dominique loves this game and I think that is more of her success is her passion for everything she does. She is truly an athlete. Last year, I let her throw the shot put for our track program here at UConn and she was very successful there. Everything that she does, she wants to be the best at it. She just has that drive. I think the other thing is about her she has that kid feel. I think she still plays hockey with a passion you play with when you are a young kid and nothing affects you. You just keep going and you always want to improve. She is certainly that kind of kid. The other thing is she has an upbeat personality that obviously our team loved about her. Sometimes she says ‘Why is everybody laughing?’ because I don’t think she realizes how funny she is. So it is really her drive and commitment to be successful as an athlete.”

How close is Thibault to reaching her full potential or has she done it already?:

“I think she made a huge step this summer, but I still think that she still hasn’t reached her full potential. She has an unbelievable shot that she doesn’t use enough, which would be a great thing because she scores a lot of goals. I think she has another level that hopefully we will see in the next couple of months.”

MAINE HEAD COACH DAN LICHTERMAN QUOTES

General thoughts on the season?:

“Yeah, I think much like everyone else we are pretty excited about the year. Obviously last year was kind of a feeling out process for not only our players, but our staff to see where our kids are at. We’re excited we brought in seven kids in this recruiting class and there are kids that are going to make an impact not only on the ice, but off the ice for our program. They’re straight character kids and also kids that can play the game. Combine that with a lot of returning kids who now know how we operate things on a day-to-day—it’s an exciting time of the year for us.”

How’s the team taking shape now that you’ve started bringing some of your own recruits?:

“You know, it’s been a great feeling coming in, I think for our kids too, they just come in and understand what is expected day in and day out, as far as a work level, the pace of practice and all those kind of things. I know some

other people have talked about their captains and things like that, we actually don't have a single captain. We have seven kids that we have on a leadership council. It's a little different approach that we don't have kind of that one person we're going to, but we share the load here. Even with our freshman, we got probably 12 kids that are leaders and could be captains at any point. It's kind captain by committee order, our kids step up when it's time for them to step up and that way too we have a great group of followers—because it's hard to be a leader if no one is following. Again, we have a great group of kids, we've got a lot of excitement around Orono here and we're ready to get going.”

Thoughts on Danielle Cyr:

Danny is a kid, she walked onto our team last year and now she is the only kid from Maine we have on our team. But she was voted most improved player by her teammates at the end of last year—she had a great second half of the year last year. In her weight room testing she had the most gains out of anybody in her off ice testing and just her strength categories and her conditioning categories. She really worked her tale off this summer and she is going to do a lot of things for us. She is one of those high energy kids, a kid who is just a natural leader just cause she's a great kid. Makes the right choices off the ice and just has a great attitude everyday at practice and those kind of things, those things other kids kind of gravitate towards. They can see, 'Hey, here's a kid whose walked onto our team' and some of the kids who are maybe scholarship kids say 'jeez, if Danny is working that hard, I need to pick it up.' And so she is a lead by example kid and one of those kids that who other kids gravitate towards—just a fantastic kid and we couldn't be happier with Danny.

This will be the first season that girls high school hockey is a sanctioned sport, being that the sport is taking those kind of steps in the state could that maybe make it a little more viable to notice them yourself, maybe keep more of an eye on the girls playing in the state?

“Yeah, the local U.S.A. Hockey team started a development camp for just Maine kids that year. You know, girls hockey is growing in the state here and that's a very positive thing. Obviously it's nice when you can have kids from your own state on your team and those kids can make an impact, it just helps the growth of hockey in general in the area. It's only a positive thing for girls hockey in the state, the more kids that you can get playing and I think we are starting to see growth at least up in our area here of younger kids playing. I see coach Whitehead's daughter is now playing and they got a girls 12 and under team started up here. It's only positive on that end as we get more and more kids, younger girls starting to play at a younger age, it's only going to help the development of hockey in the area.”

NEW HAMPSHIRE HEAD COACH BRIAN McCLOSKEY QUOTES

On Hockey East:

“I think this is by far the most competitive pool of teams we've seen. I think the league is going to be a lot more balanced than we've seen historically. I don't think any team will go through this league undefeated, and I wouldn't be surprised if the conference champion has four losses.”

On junior forward Micaela Long:

“I think that Micaela is in the same boat as a lot of our veterans in that she has crossed over that sophomore threshold into becoming a leader. In her first two years she has been an important for us, and she has done a lot of other little things that were not as noticeable. She has grown a lot as a player in two years, and I think she'll have a great season.”

On replacing the on- and off-ice contributions of six-member senior class:

“We'll be hard-pressed to replace that production. We were one of the few teams last year that rolled three lines, but if you take those three seniors out we certainly would have been less threatening. But in addition to (Sam) Faber and (Jenn) Wakefield, who was the league scoring champion last year as a freshman, we have (Micaela) Long and Kelly Paton, both of whom made strong contributions the last two years. And Courtney Birchard last year had a great year despite missing time with injuries. She was one of the best freshman in the league, but I think she wasn't noticed because of those injuries. We are going to rely on a more focused nucleus of players. I think that put together we have a solid team that will be tough to beat. We'll just go about it in a different way this year.”

Thoughts on senior captain (defenseman) Kacey Bellamy and senior assistant captain (and forward) Sam Faber:

“I think that Kacey has played in Martine Garland’s shadow, and even Martine would tell you that Kacey has been as big a cog in our defense as anyone. It’s her time. Sam Faber hasn’t flown under the radar the same way as Kacey, but those two are critical to our success.”

Comments on senior assistant captain, defenseman Maggie Joyce:

“One senior who always gets overlooked is Maggie Joyce. She is as good a defender as anyone I’ve ever seen. And at 6-foot, she is very tough to get around.”

NORTHEASTERN HEAD COACH DAVE FLINT QUOTES

General comments on the season:

“It’s my first year so the last couple weeks I’ve just been getting my feet wet, getting to know my players, personnel, what I have to work with: what our strengths are, what our weaknesses are, and trying to get them used to the way I expect things done, and to the systems that we’re going to play. I’ve been throwing a lot at them, but I think they’ve responded pretty well; the attitude’s been great, the work ethic’s been great, so I’m optimistic about what we can do this season.”

Could you speak a little about Chanda Gunn’s influence on your goaltenders?

“She had a great career there at NU but I didn’t know what kind of influence she had on the back end of your program. Northeastern, characteristically, they’ve always had great goaltending, which is always a plus. Being a former goaltender, I think that you have to start with a good goalie, and I think Chanda did a great job developing Leah Sulyma last year. She had a fantastic year, and I think there was a question mark when she came in about how good she would be or how good she could be. Chanda worked with her throughout the year and she ended up being the team MVP, and I believe she was runner up for Rookie of the Year in the conference. We have some great goaltending, and I think that’s going to be one of our strengths this year.”

Having come from the DII level, how big is the quantum leap from DII to DI in the level of women’s play? And why was taking the northeastern job the right move for you at this time?

“There isn’t a huge difference between the level I was at and the level I’m at now. Obviously you have better players, and more depth because of scholarships, but ultimately, coaching, you’re dealing with young women 18-22 years old, and how well you can convey your message to them and deal with those kids dictates how successful you can become.”

“For me, the toughest part being at St. Anselm was that I was recruiting kids to a program that couldn’t really play for anything. Now I have something the kids can play for. I think that was one of the attractions for me changing, and also just that I was at St. Anselm for 13 years, and it was the right time for a career move.”

“I was blown away when I interviewed with Northeastern with what the school has to offer. I’ve lived in Massachusetts and New Hampshire my whole life and didn’t even realize how great of a place it really was. I walked around the campus, and it was just absolutely beautiful. And they have the co-op program. So I looked at it as a place where I could be successful. I looked at the history of the program, and it’s one of the pioneering programs in women’s hockey, and has past Olympians and national team kids. They were consistently in the top in the nation. So I looked at as a challenge for me to get the program back to where it was.”

Coach, it seems like your teams at St. Anselm really excelled defensively: are you going to bring that same defensive focus to Northeastern? Are you approaching anything differently?

“I’ve always stressed defense and for us this year I think that’s going to be a big part of whether we’re successful or not, because we don’t have a lot up front. We return Kristi Kehoe who was our leading scorer -- she had 11 goals last year. After that, it drops off significantly. Some of those kids are going to need to step up and put the puck in the net, but if we can keep the puck out of our net, and be in every game, I think that gives us a lot greater chance. I think our goaltending is as good as anybody’s, and I think we have some pretty strong defensemen. This is a team that gave up 120 goals last year, so my focus is to cut that down significantly so we can be in every game, and give ourselves a chance every night.”

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE HEAD COACH BOB DERANEY QUOTES

General thoughts on the season:

"I think from top to bottom, the league is the most competitive its ever been since I've been involved. The girls will be challenged every night they step onto the ice. I think I have a team this year who will be ready to step up to that daily challenge. I have high expectations for us to win our fourth HE title"

Regarding Danielle Ciarletta:

"With Danielle in net, we have a goaltender who keeps us in every game. Everyone knows how important goaltending is in a league with this type of talent. With the competition she has in practice, Danielle will only get better than she was at the end of last season."

Regarding the 1-0 defeat in the HE final:

"Falling one goal short last year, that hurt, big time. Being so close last year, the girls have worked real hard over the summer. They realize how close we actually came to achieving our goals."

Comments on the freshman class:

"My peers have been telling me how impressive the incoming girls are and hearing that, over and over, from my peers makes me truly believe that these girls are special. I think that these freshman will provide that extra talent and skill needed to get us where we want to be."

VERMONT HEAD COACH TIM BOTHWELL QUOTES

General Thoughts on the season:

"We at Vermont are very excited about the season ahead. We finished last season strong and the league's new playoff format puts us squarely in the running for a playoff spot. All the other teams in the league also have improved but this year I feel we can challenge every opponent and be more competitive."

"The expanded playoff format is great for the league, great for all the programs and great for all the student-athletes. It is an awesome opportunity for us to make history for our program. There is nothing more exciting and motivating than making the effort to be the first to do something."

"Our team didn't score a lot of goals last year but made a big improvement over the previous season. We don't really have one or two players who will be a force on offense but if everyone improves over last season, as well as our newcomers, we will score more by committee. We are excited about our freshmen class. We have added a good group of forwards led by Erin Barley-Maloney, last season's New England Prep School Player of the Year. They will give us some more punch up front. We have some others that will help on the blue line and another goalie to add depth.'

What kind of momentum was gained for the future with the steps the program took forward last season?

"We like the direction our program is heading. We like the cohesion the team built last season and we like the stewardship our returning players will provide. We will be challenged this year by greater expectations; Our goal is to leave no stone unturned in our efforts to meet those challenges."

Sarah Smiddy, Brittany Nelson and Chelsea Furlani were selected by the team as its captains. What kind of leadership does this trio bring to the program?

"There are many, many qualities a team needs, and coaches desire, to have in their leadership group. Sarah, Chelsea and Brittany embody the bulk of those qualities. As a staff, it is part of our philosophy to encourage a 'leaderful team' approach. That is we ask and expect every single member of the team, regardless of their class year or role on the team, to consider themselves leaders and to actively look for ways to demonstrate and support the goals of the group. The development of this mindset is important to the growth of our team and for us to reach our potential. Sarah, Brittany and Chelsea will play a very important role in the nurturing of that attitude."