

2011 HOCKEY EAST TOURNAMENT POST-GAME QUOTES
MERRIMACK vs. BOSTON COLLEGE

Head Coach Mark Dennehy

Opening Comments

Starting off, I would like congratulate Boston College on the championship. I think we found out this year, as a program, how much pressure there can be to play well. We don't like the word expectation, but there are a lot on them. So to me, this is quite a feat. I thought we did almost everything we needed to do except win. Some of their better players had really good nights. We lost in a puck battle on the wall and they found an open guy. On the power play, we kind of redirect one into our own net. I am very proud of my team, our team. A very resilient crew, kept coming back. I thought our special teams were pretty good. I thought we did a lot of the things we needed to do to have success, but you have to play even better to knock off the champion. It is a good learning lesson for us, that is the bad news. The good news is we continue on. I get to coach these young men again next week, which we are obviously excited about, or will be tomorrow. It would be nice to meet them in the Frozen Four.

On playing from behind tonight

We really take it as it comes. We have really prided ourselves on that all year. Obviously, we would like to have gotten the lead, and see what happens then, put a little pressure on the opponent, but we just are taking it as it comes, and taking it shift to shift and try to win one-on-one battles and building form there. It may have had an effect on the game, but it didn't have an effect on our players.

On what role Boston College's experience plays in these games

I don't know. I thought our guys played pretty well tonight, so it is not like we didn't play well. They have some pretty good players. That [Cam] Atkinson kid is pretty good. He made some really good plays. It is a tough line to stop. I don't know if they played any better here, or if they are just a good team. It didn't affect our team. I thought we were much better tonight than we were last night for longer stretches.

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Merrimack Defenseman Adam Ross and Forward Ryan Flanigan

On scoring quickly after Boston College scored

AR: I think that is something that has been the main characteristic for our team all year. We are mature as a group, and we are confident as well. We don't let a goal get us down ever. We know we are a good enough team that as long as we play hard and play our game, we are going to get that goal back. I think tonight was not different. We didn't give up. We just kept going until the end of the game, and fortunately we were able to capitalize on some plays there. It has been this way all year. We are confident in our abilities and just keep trying to get better.

On the last four years and getting to the finals

AR: Yeah, obviously it is huge for us. It is something that when we were brought in here, this was obviously a goal we had and we were able to take the program to this point. So it is exciting to get to this game and obviously we want to win it. I think it was big for the team. A good thing for the program and the school also. Obviously, we are happy about getting to this point.

On what they can learn from this game as they go look towards the NCAA tournament

RF: I think it is important that we focus on what we could have done differently, and to use that into practice this week. Start up Tuesday, and get ready to go on the weekend. We can't focus on...we played at the Garden, and that is great and everything, but we still need to play hockey and the game within the glass. As long as we keep doing that, working hard, and focused on what we need to do to win hockey games, we will be all set next weekend.

On his performance the last couple of weekends

RF: I am not doing too much differently. I am just trying to work hard with my linemates. My linemates do a great job getting to the puck, and I am putting pucks on net, and they are going in. it's great. I will do whatever it takes to help the team and if I don't score any goals but have a few blocked shots, that's good. I just want to win hockey games. If you score two goals, you still have to win the hockey game. I just keep working hard and get it going again.