

University of Vermont Post-game Quotes

Head Coach Kevin Sneddon

Opening remarks from head coach Kevin Sneddon:

“From our club’s perspective, we got better as the game went on. The first period, the pucks were bouncing a little bit and guys were nervous. We didn’t play as physical as we would have wanted to, to start. I give our guys a lot of credit; everything we addressed in between periods they adapted to and executed in the game really well. It comes down to a game of inches. We had some great looks to win it, both in regulation on that five-minute power play, and certainly in overtime. I told the guys, it’s a game of inches and it comes down to a puck squirting under [goaltender] Rob [Madore] there in overtime. Certainly, congratulations to UMass. It was a hard-fought game both ways. I’m proud of the way our guys represented our institution here in Boston this weekend.”

On the play of goaltender Rob Madore:

“Rob’s been playing sensational for us since we came back for break. [I am] very pleased and he’s the backbone of our team as that position is for most teams. He’d be the first one to admit he was inconsistent and poor at times in the first half. I think it became a mental game more than a physical game for him, but I think he’s done a great job. I think the break was important, certainly for all of us, but certainly for him. He’s come back and played the way we know he’s capable of playing and he did it again tonight.”

On what he told the team heading into overtime, while still on the power play:

“We talked about just trying to manufacture shots. I thought UMass did a great job of trying to take away Sebastian [Stalberg]. On the one flank, we weren’t able to get shots through. They did a good job pressing us to the outside of the dots. We wanted to be able to attack the middle of the ice; case-in-point: [Vermont forward Colin] Markison ends up with the puck wide open in front of the net – that was the area we had to get pucks to.”

On the ice conditions:

“I, first and foremost, want to say the staff here did an unbelievable job with the ice surface. If you think about it, it was 59 degrees out there. It’s incredible that we even played hockey today. So, was the puck bouncing a little bit? Yeah, but I think it was excellent considering the circumstances – it was still a lot of fun out there. What we talked about as the periods went on and even into the overtime, it was going to be a little choppy. It was just one pass, max, and let’s get shots.”

On preparation for an outdoor game:

“We’ve been pretty busy lately with a lot of different games and we played at Maine on Wednesday and practiced at Maine. We didn’t want to let it become a factor because it really wasn’t. I think after that first period, you saw more plays being made out there for both teams and we just didn’t want to make it an issue because it really wasn’t.”

On Michael Paliotta’s penalty:

“I didn’t see it. I saw him standing over a body. That’s not usually a good sign, but he’s a physical player, he’s got to play on the edge and I don’t fault Mike at all. He has to play physical and it was just a circumstance that was certainly unfortunate, but we did a good job on the kill most of the night. It looked like we were in a pretty good situation there, as well as the end. The puck bounced the wrong way off the rebound and [UMass forward Michael] Marcou did a nice job of finding a little space there and getting it through. We had crashed down pretty hard and the puck had eyes and certainly credit to him for getting it there.”

On how the team represented the University during the weekend:

“This has been a tremendous experience for all of us to be around the 65 alums, from the alumni game to all the different receptions we had to engage our alumni. They were excited about our team even though we’re not having the greatest season. They see what kind of quality people we have within our program. We have great young men and they represent our institution with class at all times and I think they did that again tonight.”

On games with UMass:

“We’re the caretakers of our program and part of that is making sure we continue to contribute and add to those traditions. That’s what makes college hockey special. I said that to our guys in the break before the overtime period began. I’m like, ‘This is what college hockey’s all about. We have a rivalry, we’re in overtime at Fenway. Does it get any better?’ It’s hard for our guys right now because if this was a non-conference game, it still would be tough to lose, but they know the magnitude of every point for us right now. That adds to how down they are right now. They knew that was an opportunity to play catch-up a little bit. We still have a lot of hockey to be played, but again, the tradition with UMass is a strong one and we want to continue to build it.”

On how to use this game as a springboard for the second half:

“We’ve got to find our Fenway. We realized that hockey’s a game again, that it’s about having some fun and the way you have fun is competing and battling for each other. We are still just starting to gel as a team and that’s certainly my fault that it’s happening this late, but I believe in our guys and I think we’re seeing tremendous growth. I think if we can get some injured guys back, it’s certainly not too late. But we need to find our Fenway. What makes it fun to come to the rink every day and practice. You saw the smiles all weekend here – we just have to dig down and find that within, every time we practice or play a game.”

Sebastian Stalberg, Jr., F, Gothenburg, Sweden

On what it was like to be playing in an outdoor game in this atmosphere:

“When you’re out there and playing, it’s a matter of just reading and reacting. You don’t really notice the difference as the game goes on with the crowd and everything like that. But it is definitely a special experience for all the guys and adds a lot of excitement to the game, of course.”

On the ice conditions:

“It was a little bouncy out there, I’m not going to lie. But it’s the same for both teams and I don’t think that changed anything for the outcome of the game.”

On how frustrating not being able to win close games is becoming:

“It’s hard to be positive, but we have no other choice. That’s four straight games that we’ve at least battled really hard and early on [in the season] it was just a lack of effort and stupid individual plays at times. And now we play as a team and I think we made a lot of strides here in the second half [of the season] and we haven’t gotten the results.”