

**HOCKEY EAST QUARTERFINALS
COACHES MEDIA TELECONFERENCE
(MARCH 6, 2012)**

BOSTON UNIVERSITY HEAD COACH JACK PARKER QUOTES

On BU's season up until this point and the team's quarterfinal match-up with UNH:

“Our season, to this point, has been very eventful, I guess you could say. We’ve been on the front page a couple times off the ice, and that’s not good for us. On the ice, I think we’ve handled it extremely well. Credit to our captains and our senior leadership to be working as hard as they can to keep this team focused and playing as well as they can. Because we’ve removed guys from the team, we’ve had to have people step up and play different positions and/or step up and get more ice time and mostly everybody has responded well to that situation.

I think a guy like Chris Connolly has done a great job being moved to center where he hasn’t played since freshman year. He’s played extremely well for us. Other guys have stepped in – [Wade] Megan has stepped in from a third-line guy to a first- or second-line guy to a power-play guy and he’s been our leading goal-scorer. Different people have stepped up and we’ve gotten a couple guys back who were injured like [Yasin] Cisse and [Ryan] Santana that didn’t play first semester much and they’ve come back and played. We have had guys help us out and hang together and I think we’ve played solid team defense for the most part. We’ve been surprisingly effective offensively I think mostly because our power play has gone so well and we’re getting a lot of production from our point men. But also some guys have really stepped up and put the puck in the net for us that made jumps from last year.

All those things added up to a solid season. We would up tied for second place in the league and lost the second seed because Lowell had the better head-to-head record. The last two games we played against Lowell I thought were very, very good games for us even though we split. We’ve had a lot of very solid games.

Our match-up with UNH is kind of weird because we haven’t played them since December, and we’re obviously a different team than we were December, not only because everyone is different after playing and practicing as long as we have, but also because we’ve lost three key guys that were very instrumental to our first-half success. Those guys are no longer with us, so it’s a different team that UNH will see this weekend. Not necessarily a “less-than” team, I think maybe even a better team in some ways. Certainly a better team, as far as team concept is concerned.

I think you can throw out those three games [against UNH] out the window – they were so early – and they hadn’t solidified their goaltending situation yet. Even then I think last two games we played against them were exciting college hockey games to watch. In general, I think it will be a typical BU-UNH match-up.”

On the importance of special teams and goaltending in the playoffs:

“We’ve had the opportunity to get on the power play lot and we’ve had the opportunity to kill penalties a lot. We’re the most penalized team in the league and I think the second-most penalized team in the league is whoever we’re playing. Our opponents get an awful lot of penalties as well. It’s obvious that referees seem to call a lot more penalties in BU games than they do in other games and I would imagine that trend would continue and there will be a lot of special teams played during this series. UNH is the least penalized team in the league but I do believe that when we played against them earlier this year the penalties were fairly even.

Our special teams have been a big reason why we have been successful. We’ve done a good job killing penalties, we’ve been real successful on the power play, we’ve got some shorthanded goals and our net has been pretty good. Both power play and penalty kill have both been things that we’ve been pretty confident in. We would prefer to play less on the PK, obviously, because we wear guys out, I think, and we use certain guys to play both power play and penalty kill in all those situations. When there’s a lot of penalties and a lot of power plays, we can get a little legless, and that’s something we really have to watch and maybe use some different guys more often in that situation. But it has been a big part of our success and hopefully that can continue.

Playoff hockey is a lot different. You can go on a streak, and all of a sudden your power-play percentages jump up, and then you can get in a bad streak, and if it’s a bad streak at the wrong time, it hurts. The wrong time is playoff time and right now I’d say we’re playing pretty well in both those areas, but not nearly as well as we were a month ago.”

On expectations heading into the playoffs for seniors who were part of the 2009 national championship team such as Chris Connolly and Kieran Millan:

“I expect them, as well as everybody else, to raise their game. I don’t think it just falls on the goaltender or falls on the senior captain or guys that have won championships. I think these [other] guys have played in a lot of big games over the years even though they haven’t gotten to the Frozen Four. They’ve played in a lot of important games, they’ve played in a lot of pressure games, they’ve played in front of some big crowds. All of them have to step up. We have to have our fourth line playing as well as they can, our first line play as well as they can because mostly everybody steps up this time of the year and you’ll see the best hockey being played because there’s so much at stake.”

On approaching this Friday’s game after struggling at home down the stretch:

“I think we approach it as a playoff game and getting everybody thinking about that, first and foremost. I think it will be a lot easier because we’re playing UNH, a team that we’ve had a great rivalry with for a long time. Our guys know how good they are and they know that their goaltending was their Achilles’ heel earlier and they’ve obviously solved that with DeSmith. This is a team that presents a lot of challenges and our guys know that. They respect UNH as an opponent and they respect UNH’s talent and their preparedness, so they know they have to be ready for that.

As far as the home-ice advantage is concerned, this has been a funny year because we've played some very, very good games at home and didn't win. That Lowell game that I mentioned was one of the best games we've played all year. I think the best game we played all year was against Merrimack here (a 3-2 overtime loss on Nov. 11). We played extremely well. We went up to BC and got outshot badly and won the game and then came back here the very next night and outshot BC very badly and lost the game. We've had some problems like that in the past, but I don't think it's as big of a problem as the record looks like it is. I think what it really reflects is how great we've been on the road. Our Northeastern game the other night was the first road game we've lost in the league since November. Maybe we'll have our guys get on a bus and drive around town for a minute and come back to the arena. I think that probably is another reason why we don't look at home record and say "what happened here?"

On Chris Connolly and the season he's had as captain of the Terriers:

"He's had a lot to do as the captain of the team this year – off the ice and on the ice – and he's been terrific that way. He's had a lot to do with our success on the ice because of his play. He gets an awful lot of ice time. He kills every penalty, he kills every 5-on-3 penalty, he plays every power play, he's the first-line center and he's one of the most unselfish players we've ever had here. He's got the most assists for a career of any player at BU since Chris Drury. He's got the most assists in the league this year [during league play]. He's been a consistent producer of points for us since he's arrived and he's had his best year in his senior year, which is always great. Add to that the fact that he had to move from left wing to center and put a lot more pressure on him personally to play a different position which is a lot more demanding, I think, in our system. He's really stepped it up and accepted that challenge as well. He's been a terrific example of what we want. He's got six minutes of penalties in league play, as I mentioned, playing for a team that gets a lot of penalties called in a game, both for and against, so I think that's a feather in his cap of how hard he can play without crossing that line. He's up for a few major awards in this league, and deservedly so. If you wanted to have a prototypical college hockey player – a student-athlete, a good guy, a good teammate, a good leader, a good producer of winning plays in pressure situations – Chris Connolly would be a pretty good poster boy."