



HOCKEY EAST PRE-SEASON MEDIA QUOTE SHEET

BOSTON COLLEGE HEAD COACH JERRY YORK

General outlook for this season:

"We feel very optimistic about our year. We think we've got a good base. We have a good nucleus of returning players, augmented by what we perceive to be an excellent freshman class. Now we have to mold our club. We have to instill certain values in our team. We're very excited about the possibilities this group of players brings to BC for the '08-09 season."

On benefits of last year's success heading into a new season:

"The biggest thing with our club is that we're not trying to defend the national championship. The trophy is in the case. No one can take it away. Now our goal is to earn another. That's always been our goal. We take great pride in what happened last year and we certainly gained a lot of experience in our players. That will certainly help us this year, but this is a new team and, as always, we look to be as successful as we possibly can be."

On the senior class:

"I think it has the makings of an outstanding senior class. We have skill. We have toughness and we have leadership in our senior class. Now this is their chance to be the fourth-year guys. You can be leaders and real factors as freshmen, sophomores and juniors, but the seniors are the barometer of our team. I think it's an excellent group of players. We have depth on defense and depth with our forwards."

On defense:

"I like our three seniors on defense. They really have an understanding how we play defense. Of course we're going to be led by Tim Filangieri, a rock-solid defenseman. Last year we were a more defensive group. This year we're going to see more goals from our blueline."

On goaltending:

"Goaltending is one of our team strengths this year, no question. Last year we didn't know what we'd get from our freshman goaltender (John Muse). How it changes this year is that our team knows we're solid in goal. Certainly John's confidence level has improved. He knows that if he continues to work hard and improve that he can be a real key figure in our club. His durability and his skills in the goal will both be better this year."

On the 25th anniversary of Hockey East:

"Boston College is proud to be a charter member of Hockey East. It's amazing and impressive the large number of great players who have come through this league and gone on to equally successful professional careers. Yet none of these players landed at our schools by accident. Our league is composed of fine academic institutions. It's been a privilege to coach alongside some of the best coaches in our great sport."

BOSTON UNIVERSITY HEAD COACH JACK PARKER

On Hockey East's 25th Anniversary:

"I believe the biggest difference in the league from the start until now is the parity. Ninety percent of the teams these days think they can make the playoffs or maybe make top four and have a chance at the championship. Everybody has a shot at it these days. I think that comes from a commitment by all the schools and the elevation of the coaching abilities of everybody in this league. The other thing is that we've been so competitive lately against the other leagues. When we first started, we were behind the 8-ball a little bit, but we've gotten to the point where everybody considers us one of the power leagues in the nation. What made the league to start with was the interlocking schedule with the WCHA, but we've added teams in Hockey East and don't play as much games out of league, and that's been a major change. But I think that in general, everyone in Hockey East has been trying to be as good as they can be at every campus and that's why the league is as successful as it is today."

General Thoughts on the Season:

"We have the capabilities to be a very strong team, but it will only be if we act as a team. If we are a bunch of individuals, which sometimes crept up last year, we'll never get to where we need to be. Our objective is to become a team - as soon as possible. Our captains have already been helping us do just that."

"In goal, the position is wide open with a sophomore with just two games under his belt and two incoming freshmen. Despite being young, the three of them all have a good deal of maturity. There is skill there and there is competitiveness there and it will be interesting to see who evolves - or how many evolve - as our goaltenders of record."

"On the defensive end, this is as good of a group of offensive defencemen as we've ever had here. But we have to keep reminding them that their position is defense. They are defense-men. The major reason why we would up in second place in the regular season last year was because our defense came together as a group and played much better. They are all capable on the defensive end, and when they play hard, they play well. Hopefully they'll continue to take a step up."

"Despite losing the top league top two scorers to graduation, we've got an awful lot going for us up front this year. We'll be as skilled, if not more, from top to bottom. We've got plenty of guys that can create for us, including a solid group of four seniors (Chris Higgins, Jason Lawrence, John McCarthy, Brandon Yip) and two of the best sophomores in the country (Nick Bonino, Colin Wilson)."

MAINE HEAD COACH TIM WHITEHEAD

Thoughts on the Upcoming Season:

"The players worked hard over the summer, and we're excited to get the season started. Before we begin Hockey East play against Northeastern on Oct. 24th, we will have traveled from one end of the continent (New Brunswick) to the other (Alaska) for non-league games."

25th Anniversary Thoughts:

“Maine has appeared in more Hockey East Final Fours (17) and more NCAA Frozen Fours (11) than any other team in our league since Hockey East began in 1985. The Black Bears have been involved in quite a few memorable games, and produced many elite players over that time.”

What will the impact of Maine's rookies be this season?:

“With 11 freshman joining our team this season, it will be exciting to see how quickly they can impact our team. In order for our team to be successful, we will need several freshman to step up with significant contributions.”

Talk a little bit about the goalie situation the year:

“With Ben Bishop signing early with St. Louis, Dave Wilson and Scott Darling will have a great opportunity to earn ice time and help our team win games.”

MASSACHUSETTS HEAD COACH DON CAHOON

Cahoon's Impressions Of UMass For Upcoming Season:

“I am excited about the fact that we have a lot of players returning from last year's team and there were pieces to last season that lead us to believe that we could have a good nucleus of talent. I am also excited about the prospects of working with the kids that we have been recruiting for the past several years that have finally arrived on campus. I think the mixture bodes well for us to be able to compete, and have a good team along with the other good teams in our league.”

On The Talent Level Of Hockey East:

“I think this is going to be a special season; I think that the league has really improved itself from the bottom up. I think the quality of the league is as strong as it's ever been in the past five or six years from top to bottom. That is really saying a lot based on how good the league has been year in and year out. Right now, I am seeing a lot of good teams in this league and it is only going to be the mature team and the most together team that is going to have that high level of success.”

On The Leadership Of Captains Cory Quirk And Brett Watson:

“Cory has a great relationship with a lot of the guys, the seniors in particular. He has the respect of everyone by exercising his abilities everyday in practice and being a great leader on the ice. Brett is a little quieter and more reserved, but he leads by example in so many instances. He is a phenomenal student and a very diligent performer on the ice, and he crosses the T's and dots the I's at every turn both academically and athletically. I think their leadership will be really central and solid in that it covers all the bases.”

On Defensive Returnees:

“I think Martin Nolet and Justin Braun have a chance to be upper echelon performers here. I think Justin will go into the season as a pre-season All-American Candidate and certainly one of the top rated defenseman in Hockey East. I think Martin has really developed over the last two years and is about to emerge as being one of the top performing defenseman. So we expect big things from both those guys, and we have a complement of younger players that are going to make our defensive core very solid. Of course there is senior John Wessbecker who is coming off an injury which knocked him out of the second half of last season - maybe the most significant factor why our team dropped off in the second half of last year was the absence of John. So we are really looking forward to having him back in the lineup.”

On Goaltending And The Development Of Paul Dainton:

“I think going into last year a big question mark for us was the goaltending. Paul solidified our situation quickly and was a very important performer to any success we had last year. I think he has demonstrated athletically that he can play at this level and play at a very high and competitive level. I am very optimistic about the type of goaltending we will get from Paul and also from Dan Meyers because I think that he, similar to Martin Nolet, has taken a really big step as well. Dan has gotten over a hump and I think you are going to see bigger and better things from him as the season progresses. I am hoping that our goaltending lives up to its billing as being a little bit more established and solid than a lot of people gave us credit for.”

On The Strength Of Hockey East:

“The most direct statement I can make about the quality of our league is that Boston College is the defending National Champion, and they were two games over .500 in league play last year. I think that speaks volumes. From top to bottom our league is clearly the best and there are other great teams out there from other great leagues, but none better than us.”

On The Icebreaker Tournament:

“I think we are more concerned about how ready Michigan State is going to be on October 10. But truth be told I think that both teams will be a little bit unprepared in the sense that there are only going to be about four or five practices prior to the game. We are going to be playing on instincts and with a lot of emotion and hopefully we make fewer mistakes than they do and find a way to get some points. But it is a great opportunity for us and if we are able to have a little success here, it will go a long way to setting the tone for having a great national ranking.”

On The Hockey East Association's 25th Anniversary:

“When you look into the National Hockey League, you can see all the graduates of Hockey East that are literally superstars at that level. You see the impact that Hockey East has had on college hockey with the number of National Championships that the league has won. You see the respect that the league has amongst all of college hockey in terms of the academic performance of the players within the league, and you can't help but to feel proud to be part of it. I was involved in Hockey East in its creation; I was working as the recruiting coordinator at the University of Lowell at the time and it was a big deal for Lowell to be able to move into Hockey East right after the league was formed. I recognize how great the league is; it was a very significant factor that Boston University, where I went to coach after Lowell, was part of the Hockey East alignment and it gave us ever more clout when we traveled nationally. So the league is every bit as good as they say it is and the people in the league are terrific as well.”

Some Of Cahoon's Memorable Hockey East Moments:

“Whenever you go to the Hockey East Championships, those are special occasions and a special season for the team involved. I have been in championship games at Boston University and at a championship game here at UMass. When we played for the league championship at Boston University, we were fortunate enough to win it in a double overtime game against Maine before we ended up losing the National Championship in triple overtime. And then of course here at UMass, we have been to the Championship Tournament three times over the last six years. That is not as good as we would like, but I think it is a good representation of this young program moving forward. The triple overtime loss to Maine was a heartbreaker but it is probably one of the greatest games played in the league's history.”

UMASS-LOWELL HEAD COACH BLAISE MacDONALD

General Comments:

“All the teams in Hockey East have improved by a significant amount. How that improvement matches up to our competition is yet to be seen. We are very happy with the direction of our program. We feel very confident we can compete with anybody. We still only have three seniors, but a very good core group of juniors which should lead the way as our team continues to mature.”

General Outlook on Hockey East:

“There are a couple of groupings in the league this season. The first grouping is Boston College, Boston University and New Hampshire. Anything can happen with those three teams. They’re all very talented and all should be in the hunt nationally.”

“I think Northeastern is very, very close. This is their year with a lot of seniors that have a lot of experience. They should be banging on home ice this year. Also in the next group are teams like Vermont, UMass, Lowell, Providence, Maine and Merrimack. It’s hard to separate those teams; anything can happen in that grouping. Merrimack is going to have their best team in a long, long time. Maine has a youth movement that could be very invigorating for their program. Vermont returns 93% of their offense. Providence and UMass return about 75% of their offenses. I think we could really make a run ourselves.”

“The same variables will determine success: good fortune which means staying healthy, getting good goaltending and which team adapts to the different officiating system with some new rules.”

On Hockey East’s 25th Anniversary:

“There has been so many founding fathers of this league, from the coaching and administrative standpoint, and players that its hard to mention everybody. It’s nice that individuals will be recognized for their excellence in pioneering this conference. Without question it will be a year-long celebration for our entire league.”

“From UMass Lowell’s perspective Billy Riley is our founding father. He was so instrumental and worked diligently to get Lowell into Hockey East. And that follows through today with our new Chancellor, Marty Meehan, and his commitment to our hockey program going forward as we work to be the very best we can be.”

UMass Lowell Team Goals for the Team:

“Our goals would like to be measurable in small increments: Shots for, shots against, save percentage, power play and penalty killing percentage. We’ve set concrete goals numerically that we can quantify in those areas. Focusing on that should lead us to the amount of victories we want to have. We want to improve upon last year’s 16 wins. If we do that we should be in a very good place to compete in this league.”

MERRIMACK HEAD COACH MARK DENNEHY

General Comments on the Season:

“This is the second best time of the year. Everyone is undefeated, and the hope of an upcoming season is exciting for everyone. However, the best time of the year is March when the playoffs begin. This needs to be our focus not just now, but in late January and February when the routine of the season can wear on a person. I am excited about this year’s team. We are looking for our returning players to make the type of progress Matt Jones and JC Robitaille made last season. Moreover, we feel we have addressed some of our more glaring needs through recruiting.”

Thoughts on Merrimack’s offense and goaltending:

“It was good to see Rob (Ricci) pick up where he left off last year. We think he is one of the best players in Hockey East. The good news is that he doesn’t have to do it alone. We are expecting Francois Ouimet and Chris Barton to make similar improvement to that of J.C. Robitaille. Goaltending should be our strength. Andrew was as good as anyone in college hockey the half of last year. Pat has shown he can win games on his own, and Joe Cannata is one of the elite young goaltenders in the country.”

Comments on Hockey East’s 25th anniversary season:

“Hockey East has been a pre-eminent league in Division I college hockey since it’s inception. I felt privileged to have played and humbled to be coaching against some of the best people to have ever been involved with college hockey. Merrimack College is proud to be a member and looking forward to contributing to the league’s continued success.”

NEW HAMPSHIRE HEAD COACH DICK UMILE

Comments on the upcoming season:

“We are UNH are excited about this season and are ready to get things going. I think we have a solid team from top to bottom starting with our captains Joe Charlebois and Greg Collins. Those guys will help lead a team that I think has a good balance between veteran players and newcomers.”

Thoughts on the league this year:

“I think the league will once again be one of the most competitive in college hockey. Every year, Hockey East is well represented in the NCAA Tournament and has performed very well in the tournament. I think last year proved that the league is getting tighter from top to bottom. The Northeastern’s, the Lowell’s, the Merrimack’s have made great strides and now every game in the league is a difficult one. I think heading into this year the league is wide open and any number of teams can compete for the title. Of course, we were excited about defending our regular-season title and competing to win the league’s tournament championship as well.”

On the 25th anniversary of Hockey East:

“This year should be exciting with the 25th anniversary. When you think back there have been a lot of great players, coaches and moments over the back 25 years. Through my involvement first at Providence and now at UNH I’ve seen and been a part of a lot of great games and unforgettable moments.”

NORTHEASTERN HEAD COACH GREG CRONIN

On the team returning, specifically the balanced roster:

“We only lost two skaters, so were returning almost all of our personnel. We have more balance now than we’ve had since I’ve been here. We have good team speed and our ability to generate scoring chances should be visible every night. We have the ability to sustain the success we had in the first half of last season. The challenge going forward, and I see it statistically represented in the standings, is we’ve got to get much better defensively. Our

goals against average was too high. The second thing that we need to improve on is our special teams – we finished last in the league power play and seventh in penalty killing. It's remarkable we finished in sixth place last year with home ice in balance in the last game of the regular season and we did it with poor defense and poor special teams. So just looking at it from an objective statistical perspective given the players we've got coming back and given the adversity we were able to manage in late January and early February, if we can just improve on those two areas, special teams and defense, we should have instant improvement."

On goalie Brad Thiessen:

"Brad made a big splash when he got here because we went on a nice run there in the second half of his freshman year, and a lot of the success was driven by his performance in net. Last year we did really well in the first half of the year, we went as high as being ranked seventh in the country and again Brad was given a lot of credit for that, but I think it was more of a team effort. He himself hit his first stretch of adversity here in the second half of last season and he got pulled from a couple games. Goalies go through that, it's an important part of their development and I've seen him already this year as a very focused and mature person. I think he and his teammates are very driven this year to sustain the level of success we had through the mid January last year."

On the experience young players have gained over the past two seasons:

"This is the first time that we have young guys – young talented guys – that are going to have to compete for spots. I think most guys who are freshman hope to come in and to play in those top two line roles and they know they have to battle to get to that level. The last two recruiting classes have come in and played right away in those top line roles because we haven't had as much depth. The BU's, BC's and UNH's every year have freshman that come in and they have to compete to get that first or second line role. Quailer, Tuckerman, McLaughlin and Lipinski are all in that same cycle now where they are going to have to compete to play with McNeely, MacLeod, Vitale, Silva, Ginand and those type of veterans that have been here for two or three years. It makes it exciting for the coaches because now you can make decisions based on performance, not necessarily the future. It will be a fun training camp because certain guys are going to be able to respond to it in terms of being able to compete at that level whether they are veterans like Kraemer, Donovan or Costa who played in those roles last year or the freshman are going to come in and merge right away and be able to take positions right out of the gate. Freshman defenseman J.P. Maley is going to push guys like a Danny Nycholat, Mike Hewkin and Jacques Perreault and they're going to have to compete."

On the contrast from having one senior last season to eight this year:

"The core group of any team will dictate the behavior of the team both on and off the ice, and we have eight seniors that have been through this progression of rebuilding. They gained a lot of experience and wisdom in going from three wins to 13 to 16, a terrific playoff series against Vermont and no. 7 in the country. They've had the highs and lows as we go along building a program and that gives them wisdom when it goes to managing a locker room. The fact that Vitale, McCauley, Liotti all come back after having C's or A's on their jerseys last season makes that transition into leaders a lot easier so I'm looking for them to become more vocal more visible and more coach-like cause ultimately they'll dictate what goes on throughout the season."

PROVIDENCE HEAD COACH TIM ARMY

Talk about the upcoming season and what we can expect from your team:

"I expect this year's team to be more consistent on a game-to-game basis. When I say consistent, I'm emphasizing a truly competitive approach each and every night."

Talk about the freshman class and how they will affect the team:

"They will improve our overall team speed as well as upgrade our skill level. From a mental standpoint, we expect that they will help us to build that competitive consistency."

Thoughts on leadership from co-captains John Cavanagh and Kyle Laughlin:

"I'm entering my fourth year at Providence College, and this is the best group of captains that we've had. I think they have a real good understanding of the culture that we are creating and they're truly an extension of our coaching staff in the locker room."

Comments about the goaltending, especially with the loss of Tyler Sims:

"I think we have good depth in the net. None of the three goalies have played much at this level so the challenge is pretty obvious of them getting into a rhythm at this level of play. However, we feel as though they bring a great deal of athleticism and talent to the position and will provide the goaltending that's necessary to be a good hockey team."

How will the offense be this year, given the loss of Jon Rheault?:

"I think we're deeper. There's no question we're faster and we have more skill throughout our lineup and because of that I think we have the resources to be a more productive offensive team."

VERMONT HEAD COACH KEVIN SNEDDON

On what the current players and coaches learned from last year's experience in advancing to the Hockey East Championship Game:

"We learned a lot about ourselves, each other, and certainly what we could accomplish as a program. We endured a very difficult first half of the season, but we came together for the second half. Three important milestones were accomplished for our program. First, cracking the top four in Hockey East was a very difficult yet rewarding task. The reward of hosting a playoff series by obtaining the No. 3 seed was a big step for our program. The second milestone was getting past a very good Northeastern hockey team to get to the TD Banknorth Garden. Finally, and perhaps most importantly for our team, beating one of the best programs in college hockey (Boston University) in the semifinal game gave us confidence that we didn't just earn a trip to Boston, but that we belong as one of the elite teams in Hockey East."

On what the team is looking to improve in 2008-09:

"We need to be a much more consistent team from start to finish. Last year we didn't deserve to go to the NCAA tournament because we had a very disappointing first half. Don't get me wrong, part of the process for our young team was to learn from that tough start and that helped us become the team we were at the end. However, if you want to play in April, you have to be consistent throughout the season. Another area we've addressed in the off-season is finding more power-play production. If we can address those two key areas, we will set ourselves up for a successful season."

Thoughts on the league's 25th anniversary:

"Despite only being a proud member of Hockey East for the past three years, we are extremely privileged to be associated with 25 years of hockey excellence and tradition. It has been a rewarding experience for our staff, student-athletes and fans to be in the best conference in college hockey. We look forward to helping this tradition grow for the next 25 years."