

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE HEAD COACH DICK UMILE QUOTES**

### ***Comments on the season to date and talk about your upcoming series this weekend?:***

The second half I've been pleased. I've been happy with the way the team played this past weekend. Obviously we had a solid game Friday night against Maine and you know Saturday night we went over to the Verizon and it was disappointing we couldn't get one past Darling, I thought he played well. It probably wasn't our best effort, especially in the first period but you know second and third period we did enough and gave ourselves an opportunity we just couldn't finish. I like the way the team is competing I think defensively we have gotten much better as a team the guys defend very well in their own end and we're not giving up as many scoring chances, I think that was a concern in the month of November so we've done a much better job there so we are very consistent playing defensively. Offensively we probably have been somewhat inconsistent, mostly with our power play. Some nights offensively with our forwards there isn't enough puck support but overall I'm pleased with the forwards offensively. I guess the area we struggled is inconsistency on the power play and it needs to be more consistent especially when you're getting towards the end here and we're all competing for positions in the league and fighting. We have a one point lead over BC and Lowell, we're trying to get the home ice and you know, sitting in 4 you can be in 7 real quick depending on what happens on the weekend. That being said we're going to play Providence and Timmy's done a very good job with his team and battling back and playing well. Obviously his goaltending situation has become solid and we all need to have solid goaltending. We have had some great battles with Providence and expect it to be the same this upcoming weekend.

### ***Has anything really surprised you about Hockey East this year?:***

I don't know if anyone caught us off guard. We all knew that BU was going to be a strong team coming in, and Northeastern with the team they had last year and Thiessen in net. I think what happened here is how strong if you want to call it the bottom is. We have all said over the years that from top to bottom we are one of the strongest leagues but if you just look at the pairwise and the number of teams that are up there in the top 15 that represent Hockey East. I think that's what probably, I don't know if it's surprising but rewarding for our league is how a lot of teams are sitting nationally, and in the pairwise. We all know that right now every night anybody can beat anybody and that's been proven throughout the season. It's a tough battle every night. We all know there's talented players that play in Hockey East and again, I think that's what makes us better teams is who we play in our own league.

### ***Brian Foster, he seems like he's really starting to hit his stride as of late. Talk about his role and what you expect of him down the final 8 games of the season?:***

Once he got rest there during semester break, he got healthy. He was nicked up there obviously the first half, he couldn't push off. He's come back healthy and he's been very, very consistent in goal for us. He's the guy that gives you the opportunity to win every single night. He's been solid, he's been the leader for us back there so again he gives us the opportunity to win every night and we need to do our part and help out when we have opportunities to score.