

NEW HAMPSHIRE HEAD COACH DICK UMILE QUOTES

Comments about the season to this point and your matchup with BC this weekend:

Well obviously as we head into the playoffs the team has kind of bounced back from a tough November, and I have been pleased with our second half. Our lines we have some good chemistry, some good balance in our lines, we are starting to get some scoring from some different people. Obviously Brian Foster is consistent for us in the net, you know he got the player of the month (In February) when he got back healthy he's given us an awful lot of confidence. Now, I don't want to be repetitious here, the regular season is over we're heading into the playoffs we have Boston College defending national champs, they get excited this time of the season and they just came off a very productive weekend beating the number one team at that point, Northeastern. Jerry has his team back playing well and it should be a weekend of good hockey, obviously the teams I think match up very well. We will need to play a great game defensively, especially our transition game and it will all come down to what happens this weekend and as always special teams will be important.

Can you talk about the things that concern you the most about BC, and the things you're doing to make sure you stay on top:

Well I think, that was last season, we lost to them in triple overtime down at the Hockey East Championship in Boston, so we're looking forward to having an opportunity to play against them now and we can forget about last season. They present problems all the time, they're a very very skilled team and obviously they are well coached. We are going to worry about ourselves and make sure we are ready to play and are prepared and are ready to execute when we get the opportunities. We need to play good defense and everything will be determined this weekend starting Friday night.

Talk about the play of Greg Collins:

Greg's been tremendous for us. The middle of the season, he's our captain and he felt he could do more than what I believe is be one of the top defensive forwards in the league, he's a tenacious forechecker and backchecker but he felt he could do more offensively. We made some line changes, we put him with Peter LeBlanc and Paul Thompson and they've become a very good line and he's scored on the power play, he's scored some very big goals and he's done exactly what he said he could do and be more of an offensive threat. I give him an awful lot of credit, he's taken it and run with it and he's really helped our offensive on that side of it, he hasn't given up anything defensively.

Heading into the playoffs you've won 6 of the last 7, what has changed since the slower start:

You know we got off to a good start in October, we just ran into a tough November, and obviously Brian Foster getting injured didn't help us and we played some pretty good teams and we lost. We weren't playing good defense, so I think the fact that we've played much better defensively and some of the younger guys have stepped into these new roles, obviously Mike Sislo has had a great year, Phil DeSimone is playing well for us so some of our sophomores have stepped up and played well for us. Matt Campanale as a defenseman has stepped in for Joe Charlebois and did well for us at defense. Our senior leadership, Kevin Kapstad back there at defense for us, he and Jamie back at defense, and the leadership of Greg Collins has been good chemistry...not only our line combinations but great chemistry in the locker room and the guys have been just a determined group and they're playing well and I've been pleased with them. Hopefully we can continue to play the way we have been playing the second half.

When a captain steps up and fills whatever role a team needs him to fill, what does that do filtering down throughout the rest of the team?

You know you need to have your leadership be your best players and Greg does it on the ice with his work ethic and now he's obviously providing scoring, so everybody just follows his example but it's always about the leadership and he happens to be one of our captains and is leading this team along with the other seniors. Our senior class are hard workers, they're committed and they're great leaders and the other guys just follow the play. You need to have that if you're going to have any success

It's a big advantage for you guys to be playing at home, what does it mean for the team to be playing with home ice in quarterfinals with a chance to get to the garden:

Obviously, the whittemore center is a fun place to play and it's a large sheet but we will have to contend with their skills on the large sheet so it's a task in itself. It's always better to play, especially with the way the leagues been this season, staying home obviously is better than being on the road, hopefully that helps. Once everybody gets settled we are going to bunker in here and UNH and BC will battle. obviously BC has been a team that's been very successful on the road having gone to the national championship so many times. This will be a fun weekend up here and hopefully we can be successful.

James van riemsdyk, seems like he has picked his game back up again, in terms of teams keying on him, what do you see from that perspective:

He hasn't scored all of the goals in the middle of the season but he did a lot of good things for us. He sets up a lot of goals, he kills penalties, he's on the power play, he brings a lot to our game. The puck has been going in for him as of late and hopefully that continues but whether he's scoring or not he does a lot of good things for us out there. He plays well defensively, he can turn pucks over and break down good offensive. We've been pleased with his effort and it's not always about him scoring goals.