

## **UMASS-LOWELL HEAD COACH BLAISE MacDONALD QUOTES**

### ***Comments on series in Vermont:***

“I thought it was good for our team to make the tournament, number one, and play a real good team in Vermont in a great atmosphere and venue at [Gutterson Fieldhouse]. We had some experience with them a couple of weeks prior and had some success up there. So we felt pretty confident going up there. Vermont is a team that plays with tremendous structure to their game. That’s good for us. We played with some pretty good structure up there.

“We were fortunate the first night with some timely goals. We were able to respond the next night with a real good outing and win a series in two up in Vermont. It builds a lot of confidence in our young team.”

### ***Playing Northeastern:***

“From start to finish that is a team that has played very, very well. They’ve gotten exceptional goaltending, big time performances from guys like Ginand and some players who have had career types of years. It looks to me like they have great leadership in the locker room. That has allowed them to stay the course and have such a marvelous year.”

### ***Scoring Goals:***

“Scott Campbell is a terrific player. He had a really good weekend up in Vermont. That line with Mark Roebethan and Mike Potacco, two of our three seniors, has played really well. I think they’re using their experience, grit and determination. I don’t think we’ll score many highlight goals. But our goals will be in battle areas and zones, scoring those types of dirty goals. Also we’ve gotten tremendous production from our defensemen, led by Maury Edwards. That’s allowed us to take a little pressure off our forwards and give them more space by creating more offense from our defense.”

### ***On UML and NU senior classes making first appearance in Semifinals:***

“No, I think our experience of playing in big games just in Hockey East will allow us to overcome that quickly. We’ll have a skate there Thursday and Friday, by then novelty will have worn off. Northeastern has played in some enormous games there, so they do have that familiar comfort area of playing in the Garden. Our team is unfazed by those circumstances. I think we’ll play well.”

### ***On Mood on campus this week:***

“We’re on spring break unfortunately. The administration here – you start with our Chancellor Marty Meehan, who made a tremendous commitment to our hockey program two years ago. He’s been a driving force in the resurgence of our program. It’s always good to get support from the very top. There’s an awful lot of excitement on campus for our team. We’ve had two good years in a row. To get to the Garden given the landscape of Hockey East this year, is an amazing accomplishment. It’s a very difficult task to perform. Everyone is excited. The community is excited. In Hockey East home games we averaged almost 5,000 fans per game. Its clearly a big thing in this community and a big thing to this university. We’ll have a good turnout this Friday.”

***On Spreading Offense Around:***

“Our MO has been collective production. Whether is defensemen, fourth line guys, first line guys, power play, non power play, shorthanded goals. We’ve relied on that quality of depth that we have to produce in a lot of areas. A good example of that is we’re down 1-0 in Vermont (Friday night) and our first goal, which is a huge goal, is from Chris Auger. And it’s his first goal of the year. We’ve been fortunate to get that type of production. The underbelly of our confidence as a team is that we think we can score power play goals. If we play aggressively and happen to take a penalty our penalty killing has been extraordinary. The complexion of your game is very confident because of the collective effort and your special teams.”

***Getting Swept by Northeastern in Regular season: Does it have an impact:***

“I don’t think so. They’re a good team. There’s a reason why they were in first place most of the year and in the Garden. I don’t think it affects us at all. We’ve been through too many tough battles. We had to battle really hard in the second half of the season to finish fifth in Hockey East. We had to battle up in Vermont. The past is the past. We’re just focused on a new game. It’s a one-game series and that’s good for us.”

***On Playing through six-game losing streak:***

“It was split by Christmas. We lost three games before and three games after. They were against very good opponents. BU and UNH, then we played Minnesota Duluth. We also played a very good Union team. We thought we played really well in most of those games. There was no panic in our game. There’s a big difference between a one-goal loss and a one-goal victory. Its usually in the details. Lack of details in the losses and paying attention to them in the wins. It just added to our resolve and confidence that we could overcome any kind of circumstance to win.”

***On Goaltending:***

“They’ve both been playing well. They both have pretty good numbers. They both played solid against Northeastern. Nevin had a couple of fluky goals against him and let up three at Northeastern. The next night Carter let up two against Northeastern. We’ll see how they go in practice this week and probably make a decision Thursday night.”