

## **NORTHEASTERN HEAD COACH GREG CRONIN QUOTES**

### ***Talk about the season in general, talk a little about your match-up with Cornell?:***

“We started the season off, and some people might think this is crazy, but we started the season off with the goal to win the Hockey East [regular season]. I think everyone has the same goal but the realism behind the goal is the question. I thought last year we finished the year strongly and we had a good group of guys coming back. Obviously we fell short by one day. The next step is to win a Hockey East Championship and it was a tough was to lose that semifinal game against Lowell. It's one of those losses that stays with you for a couple of days. Like Kevin [Sneddon] said earlier, this is the third season and you have an opportunity to get to that final four, hopefully a national championship. So we're excited to move forward, everybody has documented and written about the number of years that Northeastern has been absent from the tournament so I think were just excited to get after it and play Cornell out in Grand Rapids. Cornell, I've seen them on tape, they play the same style they played for years under Mike Schafer there. They try and pound you into the boards, take the middle of the ice away and they don't allow you the space to create some odd man rushes. They're very strong in the transitional game and they try and play a wall game basically so we're going to have our hands full.”

### ***Talk about the fact that the team has not been to the NCAA's before, does playing in the Beanpot and Hockey East tournament help?:***

“I can't express this enough; I think Jack [Parker] and Jerry [York] would say the same thing. I don't think college kids will ever experience the pressure and energy that goes into the Beanpot. People who aren't in it can minimize it, but when you're in that tournament and you writers that have been there can identify with what I'm about to say; the Beanpot has its own unique pressure to it. Particularly from our side, since we haven't won it in so long, there's always that anticipation and question 'are you finally going to win the thing?' I think that prepares the team for anything ahead of it, whether it's the Hockey East semifinals. I'll be honest, the Hockey East semifinals, I thought there was a lot of energy in that building particularly in the second and third period when the crowd filtered in from all four teams but the Beanpot prepares you for anything. I know the national tournament has its own little wrinkle to it but it will be different in Grand Rapids. I coached there in the American Hockey League All-Star game back in 2004, I know the building. I think given the fact that we're playing Cornell, two eastern teams, there may not be a lot of people there. So even though it's a big thing, I think we all talk about it, when the guys go on the ice I think they're going to be surprised there's not going to be more than 3,000 people in the building. So that's real simple for me, just focus on the game inside the boards, that's all you have to worry about.”

### ***Talk about the two goalies, Ben Scrivens and Brad Thiessen being recruited by the other school:***

“Gene Reilly was the recruiter back when Brad was being recruited and I don't know Ben at all. I remember seeing his name but I never saw video or saw him play live so I really can't comment on that. As you know we don't see each other that often, I don't think I've even seen Cornell play a game with a common opponent we were scouting until we started to get ready for them this weekend. I really can't comment cause I'm not sure the dynamic was there. I know Brad has visited Cornell and they were obviously very interested in Brad and Brad was interested in them but I didn't really know the dynamic with Ben there.”

### ***How do you prepare for a team that you haven't seen?:***

“I'm not going to look at the '05 tape, I don't even know where it is. I think that every league tries to protect their members and I think that's the right thing to do. I don't think anybody should be passed on information to Cornell that's in Hockey East to help Cornell win, I just think it's a

fraternal thing that should be a sacred type of thing. The good news is with this time of year that all the games are televised, Cornell's game, Princeton, Yale were both on TV so we have those tapes. I'm sure Mike [Schafer] has the tapes of the NESN game we played against Lowell and probably the NESN tape back versus UMass. But there's enough footage around that you can get a pretty good blueprint of what's going on on the ice."

***Last year Hockey East put in two teams to the NCAA Tournament, this year four. What is different about the conference this year?:***

"I really haven't examined what went on last year. I know the records were not as impressive, BU and Vermont were really close to getting in the tournament but they didn't have enough wins and they had a lot of losses piled up in that loss column as well. I think just from a fundamental perspective when there's a big gap between your wins and your losses that usually translates to a pretty good RPI or PWR ranking, I think that's what happened this year. I don't understand the whole system; I don't even want to get into it."

***Talk about all the conference awards earned by the team:***

"Well I've said it fairly religiously; the awards we've achieved are all team awards. Brad won the single awards because the goalie is the guy on the ice that has the biggest impact on the game. If there is one guy that really moved this program forward on the strength of his will power and his talent it's Brad. The collective efforts of staff, people don't realize that you go through players but I went through a lot of staff members too and I joked around at the function that maybe its because I'm difficult to work with. We started out with Gene Reilly, Brendan Walsh and Brendan Flynn, then Walsh left and Shawn McEachern came in and McEachern left and Joe Santilli was a volunteer and obviously Albie O'Connell and Sebastien Laplante and John Carratu have all come on board. This doesn't happen unless there is belief and a rhythm to the way we do things here. That's what happened, everyone has grabbed the vision that I tried to create when I first got here. I use that word a lot because Shawn Walsh was terrific at this. The vision that we crafted for this program four years ago, people have really taken ownership of it that have worked here. The last piece of it is those seniors; they were here for three wins – 3-24-7 – those players never stopped believing in that vision and without all those things Northeastern doesn't get to the point that its at now, for me its very simple."