

**HOCKEY EAST NCAA REGIONALS MEDIA TELECONFERENCE
QUOTE SHEET
(WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009)**

BOSTON UNIVERSITY HEAD COACH JACK PARKER QUOTES

On the season so far:

“We had quite a battle getting through the Hockey East tournament, for sure. Every game was real tough with a one-goal win against BC, a one-goal win against Lowell and a one-goal win in one of the two wins we had against Maine, so it was quite a grind, but we’re happy to be the champions. We’re happy to be the league champions and then the playoff champions, obviously, so up until this point we’ve had a very, very good season, a terrific season. We’ve won five championships and four tournaments, so we’re looking to win one more tournament to get us to the final tournament and as you go along the tournaments get more difficult to win.”

On the selection process and playing Ohio State in the first round:

“Well, those kind of things happen because they did tweak the process. I wouldn’t want to have to play a team in my own league in the first round of the playoffs, a replay of the weekend before it might even be, so because it was two Central league teams fourth and two Central league teams first, it was difficult, it couldn’t be done, so it had to wind up with somebody taking the non-Central league team. As it turned out, it wasn’t that bad because Air Force was not one of the last two teams, Ohio State was one of the last two teams. I don’t know anything about Bemidji and I don’t know much about Ohio State, I was just starting to learn a bit about Ohio State, but I know one thing about both those clubs, they must be good teams to get in the national tournament. There’s an awful lot of teams playing college hockey and only 16 teams make it. Bemidji is coming in after winning a tournament and Ohio State is coming in right after having a great second half and beating some real good teams so it would be nice if they could make guarantees of 1-16, 2-15, that type of thing, but they have to tweak it to where are the winners more involved. The coaches are involved and the committee allows the coaches to get involved in decision-making like this and one of the things we wanted to make sure of was that we didn’t have league matchups in the first round, so because they didn’t want to give Notre Dame or Michigan a league matchup in the first round, we get Ohio State and I have no problems with that. That’s the rules and not only do I understand them beforehand, I would vote for them the same way next year.”

On dealing with lofty expectations:

“I think this will get easier now because everyone has great expectations now. When we were playing in the tournaments before and towards the end of the season, we were playing teams that were desperate; desperate for wins to get in the playoffs or desperate for wins to stay in the playoffs. We eliminated Maine and they had to win that to continue their season. We eliminated Boston College, they had to win to continue their season. We eliminated Lowell, they had to win to continue their season and every one of those series or games were brutal, like pulling teeth they were so difficult because those teams when pushed they gave us their best games and played extremely well against us because they were desperate. The big difference is, UNH lost to BC, but they weren’t finished, if we

had lost to BC or to Lowell, we wouldn't be finished. Now the difference is everybody in this tournament is desperate and I don't think anybody thinks that anybody is that much better than anyone else. Sometimes in the middle of the season you have a big target on your back if you're the number one team in the nation coming into some of these barns and they say OK, we've got a chance to knock off the number one team, now it's not that we've got a chance to knock off the number one team it's that we've got a chance to be the number one team and that's more of everybody's focus than to grab a little bit of headlines one day in the middle of January because you knocked off somebody that was number one at that time. The other aspect of it is that there are 16 teams in this tournament and 15 teams are going to go home unhappy. Fifteen teams in this tournament are going to lose their last game. The only team that doesn't lose their last game is the team that really is number one. We may be rated number one in some mathematical process, but the number one team will be decided in April and that will be the best team in the nation and every single other team in this tournament will lose their last game. That's one thing that's hard to swallow, but it's something that stays true in NCAA basketball, you have single-elimination and that's the way it goes. I don't think being number one coming into this thing has any effect on how hard Ohio State is going to play us. I don't think that Notre Dame being number two has any effect on how hard Bemidji is going to play them. If there were no numbers up, they'd still play just as hard."

On expectations playing in Manchester:

"We're happy we're in the East, obviously, one, because our fans can travel with us and see us play easily and less expensively, two, because we don't have to do much traveling as a team. We know the building, we've played in the building before and we play at Lowell and they're in an AHL type of building. The lines will not be pro hockey lines, they will be NCAA hockey lines, so that extra couple of feet in the offensive zone won't be a concern, but other than that, it's a neutral site."

On the increase in Hockey East teams in the tournament this year:

"I'm trying to think of where the RPI is figured out and the games that you win and lose outside of your league and most importantly how well our league does facing the other leagues helps everybody's strength of schedule. Our strength of schedule is a little bit better this year, but as a league all the teams had a little bit better strength of schedule than they did the year before and fortunately a lot of our teams were well over .500 in their non-league games so all those things add up to a better opportunity to get the league numbers, so to speak, when it comes to the selection process. Frankly, I thought if there were more than two teams from Hockey East in it late last year, I think those teams would have been good representatives of our league and I think it was proved so when BC won the national championship after being in fourth place in our league. But we dug our own grave last year, we wound up second in the league in Hockey East, which is arguably one of the best leagues in college hockey, but we were way under .500 in our non-league games last year, so once again we knew what the rules are and we did not deserve to be in. We kind of let our league down because if we had just won at least two more games, probably, in the non-league schedule, we probably would have been in the national tournament and we would have had at least three teams from Hockey East."

On the play of the second line”

“It was good to see John [McCarthy] get recognized on the All-Tournament Team. He had a great tournament and he certainly had a great weekend. That line has been terrific for us all year. [Nick] Bonino is the second-leading scorer on the team. [Brandon] Yip is the second-leading goal-scorer on the team. Yip’s got 19 goals now. They got the game-winner Saturday night. They’ve been a terrific power-play line for us. All three of those guys are three of our four top penalty killers, so Bonino and Yip play together on one penalty unit and Popko and McCarthy play on the other penalty unit, so they get a lot of ice time that way and it’s nice that especially Yip and McCarthy are having such great years in their senior year. All of our seniors are having their best years in their senior year and that’s one of the reasons why we’re successful.”

On this team’s place in BU history:

“It ranks behind the four national championship teams. I always thought the best team I coached of the non-national championship teams was the ’76 team, that was a fabulous college hockey team. I thought the ’96 team might have been one of the best teams, but that was a very, very difficult year because that was the year in the first game Travis Roy got hurt and it was an unbelievably emotional year all year, one of the most difficult years I’ve ever had to get through with a team, but that was a very, very talented team and a very, very accomplished team that just lost in the semifinals, they got to the final four but they lost in the semis. They wanted, obviously, to be repeat champions and couldn’t do it. But there’s a little way to go for this team. If all BU hockey seasons ended after the old ECAC tournament or after the Hockey East tournament, this team would be considered one of the greatest hockey teams in BU history, but they don’t end there. All BU hockey seasons end after the nationals are played. Sometimes we’re in them and sometimes we’re not, but the hockey season is extended here for another couple of [weeks] and we have to win [in Manchester and then in Washington D.C.] to be considered up there with the greatest in BU history.”