

## **Post-game quotes**

### **UMass Lowell vs. Northeastern**

**2009 Hockey East Semifinal – March 20, 2009**

#### **UMass Lowell Coach Blaise MacDonald:**

It was a very hard fought game by us. You've got to give to Northeastern, they play with an amazing amount of tenacity, speed, and determination. At the beginning of the game, I thought (Brad) Thiessen, the Hockey East Player of the Year, looked almost invisible. I really liked how we responded when they went up 2-0. In past I thought we lost out structure and our game when that happened, but I thought we really maintained the way we wanted to play. The big goal was Ryan Blair scoring that goal to make it 2-1, that was like Godzilla got off your back. In the third period, we did a great job winning face offs, keeping the puck down low, wearing out their defensemen and I thought that was a big part of the game for us.

We've scored five goals with the goalie pulled this year, so we've been getting pretty good at that. I think the biggest thing is our guys play with a lot of poise, you know Scott Campbell, the puck got edge a little bit, it went through his feet, but he really had good puck poise and stick presence there and got it by (Brad) Thiessen.

I think it started back on Jan. 10 when we played at Boston College and we won that game on NESN in overtime. I think since that time we've wonderful hockey, we've gotten better and better in our believability in each other and our systems have certainly been amplified. Through that stretch only teams we've struggled with since that time were Boston University and Northeastern and we didn't play our game at all... this is the first time this season we've played well against Northeastern. These guys are fantastic, you never have to push them at practice, they have tremendous maturity and it's not their occupation yet, but they treat it like a very important job.

Confidence is a level of certainty by definition. You get a level certainty by preparation and experience. I feel that we've prepared as good as we possible can and we've had the opportunity to exercise our belief and preparation in games and we've won a lot of games a lot of different ways, too. We were down two goals on two different occasions to UVM last weekend and that gave us confidence tonight when we got down two goals.

#### **Northeastern Coach Greg Cronin:**

I think the team that won the game deserved to win. I told the team between each period we were sloppy, uncharacteristically loose with the puck, uncharacteristically fuzzy with our structure and Lowell just kept coming, they stuck to their game plan for sixty-plus minutes and they deserve to win.

Our defensemen was skating up to the red line to dump it and he felt back-pressure on him and as you know the ice gets sloppy in the third period, particularly late. He went to

pass it and the puck bounced up in the air. The right defensemen came over, anticipating the dump in, but the puck flipped and then it came right back at us. We all know (David) Strathman jumped on the ice, I feel terrible for him and he knows it happened. He gets on the ice and the puck comes right back at him. I was a bad break I feel terrible for him.

It's the first time in what 15 years (Northeastern will be) in the NCAA tournament and wherever we go we'll be recharged, ready to go and excited.