

HOCKEY EAST COACHES MEDIA TELECONFERENCE (DEC. 1, 2009)

PROVIDENCE HEAD COACH TIM ARMY QUOTES

General comments on the season so far.

We've made some improvements from where we were 12 months ago. We've played some good hockey, but we need to become more consistent. So that's our challenge that lies ahead as we get into just the Hockey East schedule. We only have Hockey East games left. So, like I said I think we've done some good things. I think we've played pretty well. We've made some improvements, but we have to become a more consistent team.

You've got the weekend series against Maine coming up. How are you preparing for a team that is coming off its biggest offensive output of the season?

They are playing extremely well. They've been playing well for a long stretch now. I thought coming into the year they were going to be a good team. I thought they played well last year. I thought they played better and better as the year progressed and they had a great playoff series with BU. I liked the look of their team coming into the season. First of all, we have to try to straighten out some areas of our game. We have to try to refine some areas of our game. As I said, the challenge for us is our consistency, game to game, venue to venue and we'll spend a lot of time this week in trying to make sure that our game is where it needs to be at come the drop of the puck on Friday night. On the same token, we have to be prepared for Maine and how effective they can be in their building. They have some talented players. Their power play is exceptional and they're competing hard and getting very good goaltending from Scott Darling. So, we've got to make sure that we're taking care of some of the things we need to do to be a good team and at the same token be aware of what makes Maine a good team. We have to be prepared when the puck drops that we're ready to play our game. We have to be aware and respond to the things that Maine does and does well. But they are playing very, very good hockey right now and it will be a challenge for us this weekend.

In terms of your offense, it seems like you're scoring more goals than you did last year. Are you pleased with that area of your game?

We've improved in a number of areas and I think we're playing better hockey. We're doing things better as a group and I think we've got some good players. We've got some talented players and we are a very, very young team. But I think, we've got pretty good speed in our lineup and we've got some players with pretty good skill level and see the game fairly well. We're playing overall a better team game, a more consistent game, but we need to get better in that area of our play. We're generating some good opportunities and we have some players who can take advantage of it. Our power play has been improving so I think as a result so we've been in a position where over the course of the 13 games we've played in, we've been able to capitalize in some opportunities. So, I think there are a number of factors that come into play, but ultimately we've I think worked hard to generate some opportunities and some good players in our lineup and some good speed, we're able to take advantage of it in situations. Our power play is still evolving, improving and chipping in and that always is going to be a springboard to your offense.

How about Alex Beaudry? It seems like Justin Gates has gotten some time as of late. How is Beaudry as your No. 1 goalie? Have you been pleased with his play?

I'm very pleased with both guys (Alex Beaudry, Justin Gates). Alex has played very well. Of course, Alex came in last December right after the holidays and gave us a spark and we played very well out of the gate after the New Year. I think it got a little overwhelming for him with playing and classes starting and being in a whole new environment (not having gone through the process with the other guys, just kind of being dropped in January). All of a sudden, not only are you playing, but classes have started and I think it was a little bit overwhelming at times for him. And then, obviously a new level of play and a very good level of play. I think having that semester under his belt and to play last year and then coming in obviously with everybody else at the start of the school year and going through the conditioning portion of September and getting himself ready and just being in a much better rhythm with everything. I think his play has reflected that. Gates has improved tremendously from his freshman year. So, I'm very, very happy with both guys. What you want from good goaltending is that they give you a chance to be in the game every night and if you can hang in the game every night you get into that third period you have some opportunities to try to win the game and they certainly have provided that for us. I think because Alex has that semester under his belt and beginning with everyone going through the whole process, he's certainly in a better rhythm than he was in the middle of February last year.