

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

VERMONT HEAD COACH KEVIN SNEDDON QUOTES

Opening comments:

A bit of a roller coast ride for our team to date; obviously high expectations both internally and externally coming into the season, with a great support cast returning from last year's team, and we've just had a little bit of trouble getting off to a consistent start. We've had some great wins against teams like Denver and Boston College twice, and certainly a great game against Lowell that resulted in a tie. So, we've had some great games; Northeastern last weekend, obviously a tough place to play and to come away with two points there was a great step for us; and then obviously last night's win against a very good Yale team here. I think we're starting to see some positive signs that we're playing at a level that we're capable of playing at. Special teams has obviously been a big struggle for us, at least in terms of penalty kill the last few games we've been excellent at it. So, we're hoping that we've corrected some things and again every year is a new year and obviously we have high expectations, but you know we're making a conscious effort to realize this is a new year, and a new team. It's just taking us a little bit of time to find our identity.

On the goaltenders:

Well we've been in a rotation, Mike Spillane is coming off of post-season surgery, he was not eligible or cleared for the first few games so we played Rob Madore out in Denver, and in our exhibition game. When Mike was healthy and ready to go we wanted to get him in there; he actually had to pull himself at Maine. He had come down with a fever, so right before the game he pulled himself and that was disappointing for him because he was anxious to get back in there. But we've had a plan all along to get him in early and kind of go with the rotation until somebody really grabbed the job and became the clear-cut number one, and to date it's been a position much like our team, in that it has been a little bit inconsistent. I know Rob Madore has had some tough nights, he's had some great nights. Mike Spillane's been brilliant, and he's had some average appearances as well. I think the last two games obviously, Rob played great at Northeastern and I thought Mike was absolutely phenomenal last night in preserving the shutout. So, from this point forward, probably sticking with a rotation until one guy really grabs it on a consistent basis.

On the freshmen:

We have (been impressed with the development); I mean we love our freshmen class. I think our returning players have really seen the value that they've added, not only in the on-ice situations, but also in the locker room. They're tremendous followers, but also great future leaders and we've been very impressed by the way they've approached the season; their preparation and how they came to campus, their conditioning, and really how they've contributed. We've put them in some pretty important roles right off the bat and I think each of them in their own way has been a very positive influence in our lineup. We're actually pleased with guys like Brayden Irwin, and look to guys like Justin Milo, Irwin, and Roloff. Those are the guys that really need to pick up the offensive loss

that we had with (Viktor) Stalberg and the seniors. I think they've done a pretty good job to date; I mean our power play is obviously not where it needs to be, and those guys obviously are a big part of that and we'll have to correct that, work through the tough times right now to try to turn that into a positive for us, it's kind of a negative right now. But the freshman class, I mean you look at David Pacan, he played his first eight games without a point and now he's scored three goals in the last three games and last night's game winning goal; obviously in a one-nothing game he was a big factor. So again, each has contributed in a very positive way, just in different roles.