

**HOCKEY EAST QUATERFINALS
COACHES MEDIA TELECONFERENCE
(MARCH 9, 2010)**

BOSTON UNIVERSITY HEAD COACH JACK PARKER QUOTES

Opening Comments:

“Our season has been a tale of two cities almost. The first semester I thought we really underachieved and didn’t play hard enough and didn’t get the focus that we need to be a competitive hockey team in the most competitive league in college hockey.”

“We buried ourselves pretty good, and then in the second half, we had a pretty good run. We had a couple of missteps, but in general we played very well from January on. [Goaltender] Kieran Millan started to play well again the way he did his freshman year, our defensemen started to play a little more competitively and we started to chip in a little more offense.”

“We are still not a finished product. We’ve had a couple of things that have happened to us that we made us have to tweak things around. Losing Corey Trivino was a big blow to us after the Maine series. We lost three out of our next four games. Some of that was effort, but some of had to with us tweaking the lines and trying to figure out how we were going to survive that. We’ve got that solved a little bit.”

“In general, it’s been a much, much better second half. Obviously record wise – we were the best team in the league January on – but I know we’re much better in the league from January on than we were from October to December just by the way we were playing.”

“We feel better about ourselves and tried not to cry over spilt milk about what happened to us earlier, but recovering the way we have has made me feel pretty good about our competitiveness and our willingness to right the ship.”

On closing the regular season with two wins over Northeastern on the heels of being swept in a weekend series at Vermont:

“I think you have to put those hand-in-hand. The Vermont series was such a debacle – we played so poorly the first game, played better the second game, but not much. We came out of there with no points and it looked like we buried ourselves, and then we had to go play a team that we split with during the year – both one-goal games – and I thought we played two of our better games. I think our last game over at Matthews was our best game of the year. We attempted 72 shots and had a pretty good effort in a lot of ways.”

“I told my team before the [NU] series started that the most important is that we wind up ahead of Northeastern – we can’t control anything else. [Doing that] would allow us to do two things: feel good about ourselves heading into the playoffs and at least we’d know we’d be ahead of Northeastern.”

“I felt like the cat that swallowed the canary when I walked off the ice and they told me we were in third place. It was a remarkable finish for us because everything fell right for us and we did have a much, much better second half.”

On uncharacteristically being at the bottom of the league in team defense:

“I don’t think it much to do with Kieran’s struggles – that certainly was part of it. It had just as much to do, if not more, with our overall team defense and our name-brand defensemen not playing as hard as they and as well as they should defensively, including the forwards as well.”

“We didn’t play with anywhere near the intensity and focus you need to play. We were full of ourselves for a long time after the year before and it took us a little while to get embarrassed, actually, before we started to play a little bit better. Even in the second half, we had phases where guys would fall in and out of how hard they were playing. I thought that [Kevin] Shattenkirk and Colby Cohen had as good a weekend [against Northeastern] as they’ve had all year – both offensively and defensively. It was completely different from how they played – and our entire d-corps played – up at Vermont.”

“It was a lack of commitment to defense that has hurt us earlier and it has been a rejuvenated focus to defense that has helped us in the second half.”

On concerns about overconfidence entering the Merrimack quarterfinal series?

“If we’re overconfident, we’d have to check ourselves into Mattapan State Hospital. Not just because how good a team Merrimack is, but who we are all year. We weren’t even close to them in the game we lost up at Merrimack and they could have won either of the games that were played [at Agganis Arena].”

“Our team knows how good of a team [Merrimack] is. When I watch this team play, I’m flabbergasted that more people aren’t talking about how good they are and I was flabbergasted at how they struggled sometimes early on on the road, but now they’re playing much better on the road as well. [At times this season], they’ve had the best home record and the best power play in college hockey.”

“They present a lot of problems and their style presents a lot of problems – the way they stretch, the way they chip pucks out of the zone. They make it difficult for us to play our game and they make it difficult for any team to go after them, and we like to go after people. They make it difficult when they get the puck – they are so talented when they come across the blue line and center ice. They can bang and cycle with anybody.”

“I’m already afraid of them, so I don’t think my team will anything but concerned with a real good Merrimack team.”