

**HOCKEY EAST COACHES  
CHAMPIONSHIP MEDIA TELECONFERENCE  
(MARCH 16, 2010)**

**MAINE HEAD COACH TIM WHITEHEAD QUOTES**

**General comments about UML series:**

“We had a thrilling series with Lowell at home. It was very evenly contested and the scores reflected that each night. It certainly could have gone either way in the end, but we’re just thrilled to advance in such a dramatic way. The students returned to campus on Sunday night for classes to start on Monday. It was exciting to see them back in the building and for them to witness that finish was really a lot of fun for our student-athletes.”

**On Scott Darling’s Status:**

“I am going to meet with him again today and we will keep moving forward. But he won’t be in the net this weekend for sure.”

**Comments on Dave Wilson’s Play:**

“I am really proud of David. He has persevered, not just this season, but during his career here. He really rose up for our team when we needed him most this weekend in a very pressurized situation. He seemed to get stronger each night. To perform as he did in an elimination series, with a lot of other players out with injury, he just really stepped up for our team. I’m very proud of him.”

**How do you get players ready for the Garden:**

“Hopefully Thursday’s practice will help us get situated a bit. I think that when the puck is dropped they’re just going to play the game, but certainly that is something that we have some concern about. Having said that, these guys are excited to be down there. Quite frankly, I don’t think that it would matter to them where we’re playing. They are just happy to have extended their season and to be playing in the league final four. Hopefully, Thursday will help a little with that.”

**BU is a big physical team, can you address the match-up:**

“BU has had our number this year and for several years now. We were able to beat them once at home this season, but this is a different format and they have the best winning percentage in Hockey East in the second half of the season. It is a tough match up for us. They’re a strong team and we respect them. We know what we’re up against. Having said that, it is a great challenge for us, and a great opportunity to play in the league final four. No doubt, we certainly respect our opponent, and we know we are up against a real good one.”

**What does it mean to the program to get back to the Garden:**

“It is always important to advance in the post season. It has been a while for us. It is even more special to advance this year after what we’ve fought through. The guys are very excited to make this trip. Our coaching staff is very happy for our guys and very excited to go down to Boston, not just for a banquet, but also for at least one hockey game. It is going to be a lot of fun, but certainly a tough challenge for us in our opponent. It is a very good step for us, a very important step in our climb back up to where we want to be.”

**Big players step up in big games, talk about the play of captain Tanner House:**

“Tanner has been absolutely fabulous for us as a captain on and off the ice this year. A big part of us taking a step this year has been Tanner’s leadership, along with the other juniors and seniors. They have really reestablished the culture that we want in our Maine Black Bear teams. Tanner has been at the forefront for that. It was great to see him step up on a big weekend and deliver some big plays. Tanner was key not just in regards to the goals, but he also won some big face-offs and played well defensively, just all-around gritty hard-nosed hockey. He certainly set the tone for our team and I am very proud of him.”

**Thoughts on Mike Banwell’s Status:**

“We will see, unlikely that he will play this weekend. We are still holding out hope there, but I would say that it is very unlikely.”

**Talk about the injuries:**

“It’s been an exceptional year with the injuries and various issues. I think that is one of the reasons we are most proud that our team never quit. We had our weeks where it was tough to rise up, but they have always found a way to bounce back, especially this past week. It was one after another. First, we announced that Darling was out, then we lost Solomon in practice, then Banwell and Carriere in the first game of the series and then Dimmen in the second game. It was great to see how the team responded under those circumstances and was able to rise up and advance. It is a fine line. We all know in those overtime games that things can go either way. But we are thrilled that our team stuck together and rose up and we were able to get the victory.”

**Where is the team heading into the tournament, is there anything that you would like to improve on:**

“We are always striving to improve our game. Certainly as a young team it is challenging to maintain consistency and that is what we’re focusing on down the stretch. We are trying to become more consistent with our play. As always, we want to keep working on subtle parts of our game. At this point in the year, we are not going to overhaul a bunch of things, we just have to recharge our batteries and focus on executing the little things that we need to do to compete with BU.”