

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

BOSTON COLLEGE HEAD COACH JERRY YORK QUOTES

On the UMass Series:

“Our series with UMass did not go three games but it was a fraction away from it. It was 2-2 going into the third period and we had a power play to start the period and we couldn’t get anything productive out of it. UMass had a terrific opportunity and John Muse made an excellent save to keep it alive and then we were able to score (thanks to) Matt Lombardi. In most big, deciding games, your secondary level players tend to score important goals. It was Matt’s third goal of the year but it was a very big (one) for us. That does happen often in playoff games, take Vermont and New Hampshire; I think the guy who scored got his third or fourth goal of the year to send them to the Garden. UMass was a difficult obstacle for us to overcome and Joe Bertagna and I were talking during the year about the balance of the league. We said in November and December that anyone who finished in the top four had a stern test to get to the Garden thanks to the quality of our league. UMass certainly deserves a lot of credit coming off a really big sweep of Maine to put them in that No. 7 spot. We felt very good about advancing and our guys were very excited on Sunday to get another day of rest and look forward to the weekend.”

On the previous games against Vermont this season:

“We played three times and twice we lost, so certainly we’ve had a battle with Vermont this year but now we are all about March. For Vermont to go into Durham and win those back-to-back games shows a lot of momentum and it is certainly at the top of its game. We’ve got a team that has beaten us two of three times and that catches our attention really well. They played so well up at New Hampshire that it’s a team that is hitting its stride and playing very well. We are certainly aware of our opponents’ strengths for Friday night’s game.”

On the BC defense:

“We are playing four freshmen defensemen on a pretty regular basis of our six defensemen and Tommy Cross is a veteran back there as a sophomore. I think they have shown terrific improvement. They were good players when they came but they are adjusting to a strength and quickness factor as you move into it. I feel very good about their play and I think they will be fine this weekend.”

On the team’s play on Saturday:

“Everyone talks about how we held UMass to three shots in the third period to get to the Garden, but when I watched the tape, they whistled a couple just by the crossbar and short-side. They still had scoring chances that were just wide of the net. One in particular was a shorthanded chance where they went three-on-one and Brian Dumoulin made an unbelievable slide across the ice to take a pass away from (Casey) Wellman, so they had a lot more chances than the box score indicates. We are playing good defense and through the course of the year, we had the lowest goals against in league-play and that’s a credit to both our goalies and our forwards too, because it’s not just about defense and goalies.”

On who will be in net on Friday:

“We have two excellent goaltenders and we feel very good about their save percentage, their goals against average and wins. We’ve got a good situation and whoever I pick will be a solid choice.”

On the maturity of the younger players:

“I think that they are all advancing and most of it is due to the four seniors. We’ve got four unique kids in terms of the ability to relate to younger players and bring them into our team, especially our captain, Matt Price. He is a rock-star type captain, when I look at all the captains we have had here. He has done an unbelievable job bringing our guys along. It’s not just ‘X’s and O’s’, it’s the whole adjustment to the league and coming from different areas of the country and Matt has done an outstanding job. I’m very pleased with how they have developed through the year and they will say a lot of the same things about the leadership from our seniors.”

On who from Hockey East could play in the NCAA tournament:

“It never leaves my mind, in terms of the national picture. We are always conscious of where we are in the ‘Pairwise’ and the RPI. I think that by being aware of it, we know how volatile it still is and there could be some unbelievable teams here as we go through this weekend. I’m still hoping to get three teams from Hockey East into the NCAA tournament. We are certainly very proud of our league and I’d like to see three of us get in and I think we are deserving of it. I think the way the ‘Pairwise’ goes, there is still a chance for that. Whoever we put in that tournament is going to have a really good chance to win the whole thing. We might not have as many as four or five teams as we have had in the past years but whoever plays there is going to have a chance to win this thing.”

On how they are preparing for Vermont:

“We don’t have access to the (Vermont) games against UNH but we might exchange tapes as the week goes on. I think that we have a pretty good understanding of how Vermont plays. Kevin (Sneddon) has been there a couple years now and he is not changing or suddenly putting a different type of product on the ice. He’s been pretty consistent over the years. We have a good understanding that we are going to play a team that has a strong goaltender in (Rob) Madore, with back-to-back shutouts at New Hampshire and big, hard-nosed defensemen, maybe the biggest in the league. They play stingy, hard-nosed defense. It’s difficult for us to play teams and get a lot of Grade A chances against them. We are going to have to battle hard against their big, mobile, strong defensemen. They are also dangerous offensively. We’ll look at recent tapes of Vermont but we have a pretty good understanding of what it takes to win the game on Friday night.”

On freshman defenseman Brian Dumoulin’s play this season:

“Brian has had an exceptional year for us as an 18-year old freshman and that is hard to do in our league. Right now he has the highest plus-rating in the league so that’s an incredible stat for a freshman. He plays for a good team but he makes really good decisions and his progression as a player has been really good here.”

On Maine:

Maine is a team that we have seen a number of times this year and they have a lot of their staples that have made them such an outstanding team on a national level this past decade. They are very quick and have some high end players in (Gustav) Nyquist and (Brian) Flynn and I’m not sure if (Jeff) Dimmen is going to be healthy or not but he is certainly a top player; possibly one of the best players in our league. They have had some quality players over the year and play with a lot of gusto so they are going to be a fierce opponent.”

On the importance of having played at the TD Garden earlier this year:

“I don’t think it’s the site as much as it is the more experience you have in tournaments. I know our senior class has had a remarkable record in the month of March. They were 21-3-2 in their four years so that transcends because they feel good about themselves and they want to make a good run here. Last year was very disappointing for us to not go to the national tournament and we have accomplished that this year. The Lamoriello Cup is very important to us; everyone thinks about Lou Lamoriello when they think about this cup. He was a catalyst to our league and we’d love to get it back here to the Heights.”