

Vermont Head Coach Tim Bothwell Quotes

Q: Thoughts on a few days through the pre-season and where your team is, and what are some of the goals for the season?

A: Like every coach I think we all do the coach speak thing and say we're really excited about the year ahead and really excited about the class we have coming in. But I can put three exclamation points on both of those coach speak statements. We absolutely love our freshman group; we got a terrific group, by far and away our most talented incoming class, and our biggest incoming class. We're going to be a very young team and that is a very good thing on the one hand a ton of enthusiasm. We're hoping it's a no fear situation, don't know what they're getting into versus a little bit of a tentative, intimidated, situation. That will play it self out. We are to a person both coaches and players really excited about the year ahead, especially knowing that Hockey East is going to be such a dog-fight this year, I think it's getting tougher and tougher ever year, this now being my sixth year here it's definitely getting tougher and tougher each year to win games on the weekend and sweep games on the weekend. There are obviously some very talented teams in our league but I definitely think the bottom end has come up a long way and it's going to make for a terrific and very interesting year.

Q: What are your expectations from Amanda Pelkey and the rest of the incoming freshman?

A: We're expecting a lot of the freshmen, we believe in all of them as players, they all have their own little unique talents they bring with them. That's one of the reasons we like the class so much is we have some terrific playmakers, we have some people that can score, we have people that are really gritty, we have some players that are solid stay at home people, and in a general way they are all great kids as well. And that's already playing out as one of the biggest things we've noticed so far is how close they seem and I've had more than a few of the players even say to me in individual meetings it feels like I've been on this team for a year already. You know that's a terrific place for us to start. Having said that Amanda is obviously a world-class player. She's been playing very effective and good hockey at the national camps that she's been to. Most recently in August, and last April as well. She has speed, she's a terrific playmaker, she can score, she's a good student and a great person and we're extremely happy to have her with us. And we're really looking forward to seeing what she can add to the team this year. I could go right down the line and really talk about all the freshman but we could be here for a while. Meghan Huertas coming in with Amanda from the NAHA program, just a terrific player as well, speed, skill, can score, she's gritty, a really great person. She's matured tremendously over the last couple of years. Two years ago at the national camp in St. Cloud, I thought she was one of the top-five or six forwards there, and at that time she was kind of struggling through a lot of stuff, she wasn't sure how much hockey was going to play into her future, but that was two years ago and now she's just a terrific addition

to our program and she's going to do great things for us. [Krystal Baumann](#), we're very happy to have her with us, speed, grit, she goes to the net better than any female forward I've ever seen. She's a human wrecking ball that can score and cause a lot of problems for the other team, so we're very happy to have her with us as well. We have a Swedish Olympian with us, Klara Myren. Again very mature, steadying influence for us. Terrific person again and she's been a great addition. Couple of players from the Canadian Under-18 program Gina Repaci on the blueline and Brittany Zuback. Again great people, good players, and just going to give us some talent depth like we just haven't had before. So we've got a terrific group, Amanda is certainly at the top of the group, but we are really are happy with our freshman class. They're really going to help our small junior/senior group in a very good way. And all of the sophomores have come back in really good shape, and our ready to expand their roles, and contributions to the team. We're just really excited for the year.

Q: Last year you got obviously great goaltending from Roxanne Douville, who do you need as far as the upperclassmen go to step up and provide some offense?

A: Well we definitely need to score more, Roxanne was a very big piece of the puzzle for us. We really do have a great group and Roxanne is one of them, she's a real solid steadying influence for us in terms of her play on the ice, and how she comports herself around the locker room, she's a great student. So we need her to be Roxanne this year, and we know what we're getting there. We definitely need everyone who is returning just to step up a little bit, contribute a little bit more than last year and we're going to be in great shape, with all of our freshman contributing in a very useful and significant way. We really feel our senior leadership group with captains Chelsea Rapin and Erin Went, assisted by Emily Walsh and Kailey Nash are a great group. They've done a really great job of bringing the team together early on. Everything points to some really good chemistry on the team this year which is as a coach is one of the main things you want from your team, is to have good chemistry, and trust and belief in each other, we appear to have that early. The upperclassmen are going to be very important in terms of what we'll be able to achieve this year. It's tough to win in this league and it's tough to win at this level without contributing, solid upperclassmen, so we need them to be at their best and we expect they will be.

Q: Talk a little bit about the strength of the league this year, and how that's developed since you've been here? Any thoughts on the championship being moved to Hyannis this year?

A: I think it's a great move for us to go down to Hyannis, I think we're well set up down there to put on a really terrific event in terms of getting good crowds and having a great championship atmosphere, I know all of the coaches were solidly behind the idea and we were able to sell the AD's on a neutral site championship. I think it's just a terrific opportunity and I really feel confident that no matter what teams are there it's going to be

a great event for our league and great experience for the girls who are there. We're all really looking forward to that.

I think the league generally as I mentioned earlier is going to be tough this year. I don't think there is anybody that's going to go into any weekend thinking this is going to be an easy, two wins for us. I don't think the expectation no matter what team it is that they're going into an easy weekend, and that's just a testament to the growth of this league over the ten years that they've been in existence. Certainly there's been just a huge change in the five years I've been observing. We're all excited about it and it's going to be a fun year just watching the results comes in every weekend, knowing that you don't really know what to expect from any given game.

Q: In terms of the non-conference schedule what will your team be working on through that first part of the year?

A: Yeah, I think the biggest thing for us is how the freshman will adapt. Will they be comfortable stepping in and playing the way they're capable of playing. You never know how a given player is going to react, somebody like Amanda, she's played at an extremely high level of hockey and we expect that she'll come in and feel confident and be off to the races. I really believe that the rest of the freshman group is going to be able to manifest themselves in the same kind of way. But you never know, that's the biggest question mark for us in the early going. Obviously our goal is to win game one, and when that gets done, win game two. We're definitely going to be a young team, and young on the blueline and that's going to be the biggest thing for us, how do those players adapt and how do the returners that are going to get more ice time and more responsibility, react. That'll be the biggest thing for us.