

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY HEAD COACH BRIAN DUROCHER QUOTES  
SEPT. 20 WHEA SEASON OPENING TELECONFERENCE**

**Talk a little bit about the preseason so far and what you expect from your team this year after making an appearance in the national championship game last year.**

“Obviously I think we’ve got a little bit of a target on our back. Our preseason might be a little bit shorter than somebody else’s in that today and yesterday were our first two skates. I was hoping we didn’t lose any championships and titles on Saturday and Sunday and see if we could have a true weekend off because we got to school a little bit late, Sept. 6. We haven’t had a long look at everybody and things are a bit jaded with five top players out right now, three at the Canadian National Camp and two with injuries. That being said, there’s a lot of excitement, lot of emotion. The challenge is to just be there every night knowing teams are going to be gunning for us.”

**Talk a little about losing Ward and Warren, and how you plan on filling in for those two since you lost a lot of experience.**

“Well I’m sure hoping it’s by committee as far as what people have learned over the years. We not only have four people that will be wearing letters – that being Jenn Wakefield, our captain, Kasey Boucher, Carly Warren and Marie-Philip Poulin, all being our assistant captains – and then you have two great players in Tara Watchorn and Jenelle Kohanchuk who I consider leaders. To have six people that have been around college hockey a long time, minus Marie-Philip, who’s only in her second year but is an older kid with Olympic experience, I like to think we have some potentially excellent leaders. Holly (Lorms) was a kid who pulled all the strings from all the different sectors of the team and Catherine Ward was kind of the new kid on the block who I’ve said many times was 22 going on 40 and you don’t have that situation too often when it comes to maturity. So while they (Lorms and Ward) need to be replaced, I like to think that group of six will play a big part and if they’ve gotta dip down to the Kathryn Millers or Jill Cardellas hopefully they can aid as well. Certainly we’re looking for Jenn Wakefield to lead by example as a person and as a player, and one of the things I’ve learned over the years is to see if you can put the onus on the locker room to take care of certain situations and small problems.”

**What did Jenn Wakefield mean to you last year? Do you see her role changing this year and how good can she be?**

“I don’t see her role changing drastically. She’s somebody that has now been a three-year fantastic player in this league. Throw in a year of experience with the Olympic team. I think it was 32 goals last year – that’s a career for most people, maybe two careers – she’s done it year after year in this league, scoring goals. So I guess much like Allen Iverson used to score baskets, she’s going to try to score goals and she’s going to shoot the puck. We’ve talked with her, it’d be nice for her to make sure she’s using her teammates, make sure everything doesn’t have to be so focused on the top corner, that if we hit nets, get rebounds, she’s a kid who can end up with 10 or 15 more points despite the fact that she could end up with two or three less goals. I think being the consummate team player, but going with what got you there, and that’s her ability to shoot the puck and score goals.”

**Talk about what you look to gain from home non-conference games early in the season**

“I think our thing is to try and get together; things are a bit jaded with the three kids that are gone all this week, so they first step on the ice with us next Monday, maybe Tuesday if they need a day of rest. Tara Watchorn and Isabel Menard are fighting injuries right now. Arguably those could be five of our best hockey players. We’re going to have to get used to each other a little bit as we get going into that first weekend against North Dakota. Fortunately, or unfortunately, those are huge games. They’re big pairwise games, big inter-conference tilts, and they’re big for Boston University and also big for the landscape of Hockey East. You try to fight to get the second and third teams into the playoffs. More often or not, there’s only a handful of cross-conference games. So to have those games and try to get out of the gate well is going to be very important and will bode well for confidence for whoever gets out on top. After that, Niagara comes in. That’s a real blue-collar, hard-

working team. I know they're going over a coaching change but many times you see the extra adrenaline, extra enthusiasm with a new coach. So they're going to be another team that comes right in and puts pressure on us in our building. You want to hold serve at home, so five games in a row you want to come out of the gate with confidence but more importantly on the up side of the ledger in a good number of the games."

**Can you talk about the players that you expect to take another step with another year under their belt, as well as some freshmen that you expect to have an impact?**

"I think when you look at the new kids here, we've got another transfer here, Isabel Menard, who's an accomplished college hockey player, a kid who's already scored 40 points in a season. She would have to be the person you look for when it comes to past accomplishments and being ready for prime time, much like a Wakefield was last year or any transfer who's already played some college hockey. Kayla Tutino is another one in the freshman class who I think before too long is going to be a leader here and seems to bring captains material to the game. I think a couple of dark horses in our program that maybe didn't get as much recognition and still may have to fly under the radar a little would be Kaleigh Fratkin on defense. Kaleigh's probably as strong a kid as there is, she's somebody who played boys hockey right until she got to Boston University – we're talking AA, AAA hockey in Vancouver. And Louise Warren, who kind of flew under the radar last season, had a great national tournament. I think those are a couple of the people that I might call new kids or dark horses, and I think the accomplished players have been there for three years, going on their fourth year – we certainly look to Marie-Philip or Jenelle Kohanchuk and Jenn up front and Tara and Kasey Boucher back there on the blue line as fantastic players for our program to keep moving forward."

**Can you talk about the overall strength of the league compared to when you first started at BU?**

"None of us are going to be great coaches without support. We've had support at Boston University, two schools in particular, Vermont and Boston College, have completely changed the landscape with the allocation of scholarships, the hiring of coaches, and the support around the league. You've got your fantastic people at Providence, Northeastern and UNH who have been here for a long time, and I don't think anybody did a better job than Maria Lewis last year up at Maine. When you throw in Heather Linstad who might be the Dean of our coaches on the women's side, her team every night to me is the most disciplined and the toughest team to play against. With the support and the great coaches in the league we continue to secure quality recruits, continue to heighten the awareness of Hockey East nationally, and hopefully again this year we can get a couple of teams, if not three, into the national tournament. That would be our goal and it's done really by the work during the season. That's what I hope we can all do a good job with, the body of work."