

**WOMEN'S HOCKEY EAST SEASON OPENING
COACHES MEDIA TELECONFERENCE
(SEPT. 20, 2012)**

MAINE HEAD COACH MARIA LEWIS

Just want to talk about you team. You're picked fifth in the preseason poll. Just talk a little bit about the season and what you want to accomplish early on in the year?

“Well we have a really young team. We've got 15 freshman and sophomores that are going to be playing. We've got a 16th freshman who's going to redshirt, goaltender this year. Were really young. We don't have a lot of upperclassmen. We graduated a pretty big class last year that provided a lot of points for us and played a lot of minutes but really this year is going to be about throwing those young kids into the fire and getting them acclimated to the level and hopefully they can make an impact right away and we can continue to build on what we've been able to do the past two years. So it's going to be an interesting season. I don't know how it will start but were just going to try to put our best foot forward and keep going.”

Could you maybe just talk a little bit about Brittany Ott and how important she is to the team? Obviously she sees quite a few shots, just talk about probably one of the more valuable players on your team?

“All our goaltenders are very valuable. I do know that Ott had gotten the majority of the time in the past but Kylie Smith has done a incredible job of working her way up to earn games and Meghann Treacy who was a redshirt for us last year has been looking really good, “according to the word on the street (chuckle) she's been looking pretty god over the summer and in the preseason here. You know Ott's going to be Ott. She's going to continue to do well but she's got company now and all three of our goaltenders are good enough to play. Its not Ott's job, its up for grabs. I'm the similar philosophy of Brian Durocher when he was talking about not having a set way in which he plays his goaltenders and let the kids decide that, and that's pretty much where were at too. Were excited about all three of our goaltenders and you know we expect them to do well.”

In terms of on offense, obviously Brittany Dougherty is the big name you have returning but who do you think maybe might replace some of the offense left behind Danielle Ward and things like that?

“It remains to be seen I mean obviously we had some pretty good scoring in our freshmen in Jennie More and Tori Pasquariello but we've got a big group coming in and the jobs up for grabs. Were not making any predictions and were not putting anybody in any roles just yet and were going to let them claw, scratch, and fight for the roles they want to have.”

Could you just maybe talk a little bit about Chloe Tinkler and Jennifer More, your two captains, what you expect from them in terms of being your leaders on the team?

“Yeah well Tinkler has been doing an amazing job since taking over that captains role. She elevated herself physically over the summer. She's stepping right in and doing what

she needs to do. I have so much respect for what she's done and I expect her to lead this team this year and do a great job on the ice. She's just getting better and better and I think she understand the position she's in and the role that she's in and the responsibility that she has now as a senior captain, so obviously we expect big things from her. Jennie is more of a quiet leader, she goes about her business, and she does everything that she needs to do and goes above and beyond and does the extra little things. You know when she does speak she has something really profound to say and the biggest thing for us having Jennie as a captain is the fact that she's only a sophomore and with so many young players, we'll have her for the next few years in that role, in that leadership role. You know it's somebody that the younger players can relate to right off the bat and both of them are just tremendous people and tremendous athletes and they make us a better team”

Just talk about the expanded playoff format and returning to Hyannis for the semi's and championship game this year again?

“You know its funny because we have our coaches meetings and I always typically have a different opinion or view then all the other coaches. I did support us going to eight teams but not so much because I feel that we have the parity or depth of the league, which I do believe we have which is fantastic, but its more so, so that we can develop our playoff format in the future and grow the playoffs and hopefully get a two out of three series going which is similar to what they do out west. I do think that the regular season needs to mean something and I did support only having six teams but I don't support a playoff format that sees a northeastern get the raw end of the deal with the way things are set up. So, I'm supportive of our playoffs growing, I'm supportive of that because we do have the depth in the league but I do think its important that our regular season means something so hopefully we can continue to have playoff format grow and not take to many years before that happens. Has for Hyannis, we didn't make it so I cant really comment to much on that but by all sounds of it, it seemed like a great experience for everybody.”

Could you maybe just talk about the motivation the get to Hyannis? Obviously you've had a couple of years where you've been in the quarterfinals but haven't made that jump yet. I would assume that's definitely a goal of yours to get down there this year?

“Absolutely. I think our whole team; you know they learned a lot from the past two years. We had a couple of tough games against providence at the end and providence is one of those teams that, you know it doesn't matter how they do, they know what it takes to win in the playoffs. Its something that our kids need to continue to learn and I hope that the past couple of years, we can take something from that and obviously there is motivation to get to cape cod. It's something that we do talk about and it's definitely on our radar. I think for us to continue to either lose in the first round or not really do well, that's just not acceptable for us anymore with the UMaine program moving forward. We have to get to the next step and obviously that mind set is definitely motivation.”