

No. 1 seed New Hampshire vs. No. 3 seed Providence
WHEA Championship Game
March 9, 2008 at Freitas Ice Forum

PROVIDENCE

Head Coach Bob Deraney:

General Reflections on today's game:

"Terrific team we were playing, they are very talented and put the pressure on the puck all the time. They are so well balanced; they have a terrific goalie, and terrific defensemen...I couldn't be any more proud of my kids. The first ten minutes were huge. Our goalie came out big for us and we fed off of that momentum. Then we settled in and the game settled in. We got a couple chances at the end, and that's what we were playing for. When you play a championship game, it is very easy to beat yourself, and it is very easy to get caught up in the momentum and I am so proud of our kids, not only the way they stem the tie. At the end we had a better chance of scoring for the most part. And when you are trying to score that first goal, you are going to open yourself up to breaks. And that's the nature of that when you keep pressing and pressing as that clock rolls down. We gave up a couple of good opportunities, their goalie came out big. And then in the end, we were looking for the open guy and Kelly Herman made a tremendous save to keep the game at one nothing. Our kids gave terrific effort and ended with a terrific season, and a wonderful legacy that our seniors led us to."

At the end of the second period, there was a continuous power play of five minutes. Do you think that the girls were trying too hard to make something happen at that point?

"Yeah, its two completely different styles of hockey from yesterday to today and we talked about it. From Uconn's passive play to a very aggressive power play that UNH has takes a lot to adjust to that and I think that's what happened to that. We did have a lot of power plays, and they came in a row, and that sometimes is a bad thing too because you are using the same plays over and over again. I have to give credit to UNH's coach and staff for their strategy."

You did come back in the third and continued to press, and continued to be aggressive, not connecting there didn't discourage your group at all?

"The one thing that we are good at is competing to the end, until they say you can't compete any longer. I think our penalty kill is terrific. We are facing one of the best power plays in the nation and yesterday's game that was BU's downfall; when they took a penalty in the second period and kept scoring. Our penalty kill, our units were terrific, we kept them off of the boards on the power play, and I think we gained some momentum after third period that allowed us to keep going. We compete till the end, and that's what we did and we have things in place in the last minutes of the game. We had a couple opportunities there, and it just didn't go our way today. It's the oldest rivalry in women's ice hockey. And there have been some tremendous battles that have gone on throughout the years. It is a privilege to be a part of the UNH Providence rivalry and we just witnessed another classic today. And no one is going to back down and we are going to duke it out...We both have won three now...it doesn't get much closer than that."

No. 1 seed New Hampshire vs. No. 3 seed Providence
WHEA Championship Game
March 9, 2008 at Freitas Ice Forum

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Head Coach Brian McCloskey:

Opening Statement:

“Before the game I told our squad that it would be a hard fought battle and Providence would push us to the limit. That’s exactly what unfolded, goals were hard to come by and when we scored the first goal I certainly didn’t think that it was going to be enough. We did some very good things defensively and when we didn’t Kayley Herman came up with a big save in a play-off atmosphere. I told Bob Duraney that he should be proud of his team because they are warriors and our squad needed to be pushed which Providence did every time we played them. They were as tough an opponent that we faced all year.”

Is the UNH-Providence rivalry still as meaningful as it has been in previous years?

“I think the rivalry is still very much alive. There is a healthy respect for each other’s programs and I know that it brings out the best in both teams. Even when both of our teams are not at their best, they are still going to push each other to the max. I feel that Providence was a very deserving team had they won today because I know they would have represented the league well. They are a good program and I have a lot of respect for them.”

Freshman forward Jenn Wakefield

Can you talk about the third period because it seems like you guys struggled a little bit at the end?

“They were fore-checking really hard and they made us make more mistakes than we usually do, but our goalie Kayley Herman bailed us out. We just kept our feet moving and tried to work hard through their pressure.”

Junior forward Sam Faber

How do you think that this game helped prepare you guys to get ready for the NCAA Tournament?

“I think we really needed this kind of game. It was definitely a good atmosphere with the fans and the aggression on the ice. We struggled a little bit in the third period, but Kayley Herman came through in goal to save us. Hopefully we can be more accountable on the defensive zone next week.”

Is the UNH-Providence rivalry still as meaningful as it has been in previous years?

“Definitely, I think we all wanted to play Providence going into the finals. The rivalry has gone back for a long time, but even playing them last year in the finals was a great game. This year they held us to a tie and then they lost another one in overtime.”

Can you talk about the third period because it seems like you guys struggled a little bit at the end?

“They were playing with no tomorrow and we knew that we had another game, but we still didn’t want to be back on our heels. At one point they did put us back there, but as we’ve said over and over, our goalie was there to save us.”

Freshman goaltender Kayley Herman

What was going through your mind at the end when you made that big game-changing save?

“Well she came around and I couldn’t really see, then she waited and I was able to get my leg out in time and the puck hit my leg. It was a big adrenaline rush.”