



WISCONSIN

PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

Saturday, March 21, 2009

Head Coach MARK JOHNSON

Opening remarks...

Winning the semifinal game makes for a relaxing and enjoyable Saturday and having Jessie [Vetter] win the award this morning makes it that much more enjoyable. I think everyone is excited about getting another opportunity to play for a championship, certainly our senior class is doing something very special because it's their fourth in a row and we're going to have fun with the game tomorrow and hopefully it is successful.

On facing Mercyhurst rather than a WCHA opponent in the championship...

I tell my teams every season you have to respect your opponent no matter who or where you are playing and what the program looks like and we certainly respect Mercyhurst and what they have done in the last four or five years. They lost a couple heart-breakers in the quarterfinals I've said that is the toughest one to win and they certainly beat a very good hockey club last night in Minnesota who we've seen five times and we are certainly going to respect our opponent

On what his team needs to do to win...

I think the formula for success is to come out a be very competitive, our good players have to play well and this time of the year as we saw in yesterday's game, special teams is a big factor and if you kill penalties and contribute on your power play those are usually the biggest different in post-season play. The other variable is how are kids going to handle the pressure and we won't know that until we drop the puck, I thought we came out a little bit nervous yesterday in the first six to eight minutes and then we settled down.

Senior Goaltender Jessie Vetter

On being in the championship for the fourth time...

As one of the members of the senior class we've won, we've lost and it's a lot more fun to be on the winning side and we're excited to play the last game of our career and have it be for a national championship, we're just going to go have fun tomorrow and see what happens.

On playing a team you know versus a team you're not familiar with...

Personally I like to play different teams, I was excited to play Dartmouth in the quarterfinals because we didn't know anything about them. You don't think too much when you don't know anything about them, you just go out there and play and that is one of the things we do best is we really love to play hockey and we have a lot of fun and I think not knowing is going to be a good thing because we can just go out there and react instead of over thinking it.

Junior Forward Meghan Duggan

On playing Mercyhurst for the title...

We got a chance to watch some of the game last night, I've actually never seen them play but we know a lot about the Gophers and have played them five times this season and to see them get up on the Gophers 5-1 last night I was surprised and I think they are a great team and like coach said you can't underestimate your opponent.

On playing an unfamiliar team...

The element of surprise is great in this game and I am really looking forward to playing Mercyhurst. We've played Minnesota and Minnesota-Duluth a bunch of times this season and in my career and before we play them it's always we breakdown and know everything about them and sometimes when I'm out on the ice I feel like I'm thinking too much and I think it will be exciting to play against players we never see I think not knowing a team can actually be a good thing.