



# WISCONSIN PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

Sunday, March 22, 2009

## **Head Coach MARK JOHNSON**

### *Opening remarks ...*

I want to congratulate Mike Sisti, I know I've been on that side of the equation. They've got a very good team; they're very well coached. Certainly they're going to be back here in the very near future. It was a tough game and obviously we're really excited about being victorious. Last year we came up a little bit short, and I know our senior class wanted to get to this game and certainly when we got ourselves in a position, I told them we needed to play to win. I felt we did that for most of the game today. With Jessie in net, when we did break down, we bended for a while, what she's done for four years, you saw today.

It's going to be tough to duplicate this senior class. We've been to four-straight Frozen Fours and won three of them.

It's exciting to win this; it's tough to get here. Obviously the coaches within our league and certainly throughout the country understand all the time and effort that these young kids put into it. It's a long six months' journey, and it's just nice to take the trophy back to Madison.

### *On his talented group of players*

It's nice kids to see work extremely hard and then they go out and get rewarded. I like to see that because it shows other kids within our group and within our school that if you're willing to put the time and effort in and commit yourself, you have a chance to really become the best player you can become. The team's done that in the last for years, I told someone earlier, each group has really come together at different times in the season, some earlier, some later.

### *On the second period showing the youth*

The first goal in these types of game is huge. If you score it, obviously your team settles down a little bit more and gets a little bit more comfortable in the standpoint of you're going to play in the way you're normally going to play. Up to that point, especially early in the first period, similar to our game against Duluth, we were a little tentative, it was like a game of chess going back and forth. They got a power play partway through the first and they didn't score on it obviously but they created some energy and put us on our heels a little bit.

The first goal is huge. When you have young players, you have freshmen, you don't know how they're going to react in this environment. If you score, like Mercyhurst did yesterday... they got excited. It creates energy, it makes you play a little bit stronger. Obviously the first goal for us helped today.

## **Senior Center ERIKA LAWLER**

### *On winning in front of friends and family*

It's awesome. It's hard to express your emotions sometimes. It all just happened so fast that you know, you're just standing out on the ice taking it all in. It hasn't really hit me yet that I'm a senior and that was my last one. I'm sure when it does it'll hit hard. It's definitely a really exciting time. Like I was telling everyone, the feeling of winning is awesome, but the feeling of so much worse. I don't want to have that feeling. The feeling of winning is so great, but I definitely don't want to feel what it feels like to lose. We're all just really excited right now. It was the ideal way to go out, playing in front of all my family and friends.

### *On the team's attitude headed into the second period*

I think the team was excited to go into the second period. As we've seen this season, the second period seems to be our thing. And I guess we should've come out a little harder, but we were really excited – it might be a mental thing, I don't know – but when that second period hits, we all get extra excited because for some reason that's when they start to go in for us.

## **Sophomore Forward HILARY KNIGHT**

### *On playing in front of Vetter*

I'd say definitely a lot more confidence. You go a lot harder into that 50-50 battle and you still know you've got a great goaltender behind you and she's going to come up with some great saves.

## **Senior Goaltender JESSIE VETTER**

### *On her career, capped by today's shutout win*

The main thing I try to focus on is being consistent every night and being focused and ready to play. Obviously being in these types of games I love them, having the chance to help my team if they need it. If you're playing for a trophy, it's so much better. I've enjoyed my career and this was a great way to go out.