



# MINNESOTA

## PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

Friday, March 20, 2009

### **Head Coach BRAD FROST**

#### ***Opening Comments***

Well obviously we're extremely disappointed. We felt like we were playing extremely well coming in and were hoping for a better result. It may look like I'm 22, but I've been coaching for 13 years now and I can't say I'm any more proud of a team than this one that competed tonight. Unfortunately in the game of hockey and every other athletic event, there has to be a loser and tonight we were on the wrong end of it. There's no question that we dug a pretty big hole that was tough to get out of and ultimately we never did get out of it. But the last 40 minutes, I thought we played as well as we played all year. It's tough when you're down, 3-1, but the kids continued to battle and never gave up. I thought we had some great chances in the second period and all of a sudden it's 5-1 instead of 3-3 going into the third. It just speaks to the character of our players and our staff and our team that we were down, 5-1, and didn't give up. It's really easy I think to just fold the tent and pack it up and go home and hop on the plane back to Minneapolis, but they didn't.

They never lost heart and to me that speaks more to them as people and what they're all about as people and hockey players. It's going to be a great life lesson here for them after they're done playing hockey.

#### ***What did you say to team after second period?***

We were creating some great chances by getting pucks and bodies to the net. We noticed that their gap was not real strong and so I talked to them about cutting to the net and getting some shots. I thought we did a better job of that in the third. The other thing we talked about was never losing heart. We have that in our locker room: Never Lose Heart Gophers. We knew there may come a time where we'd really have to fight through, and as a group we locked arms and said, "...arm in arm, shoulder to shoulder, back to back, we're together in this thing and we're not quitting", and the kids believed it and they battled.

#### ***On the goalie change***

Alyssa's (Grogan) had food poisoning the last two days and hasn't been eating. Obviously we didn't want to tell anybody. She got an iv today and she felt like she could go and we had confidence in her. Maybe it was a coaching mistake on my part, but I believed in her and still do. But after the first she couldn't go, she didn't have the energy. We felt confident with Jenny (Lura) in there, but we wanted to give Alyssa the opportunity to start the game.

### **Senior Defenseman MELANIE GAGNON**

#### ***Did the five-on-three penalty kill lead to a loss of momentum?***

We came out a little flat. We scored our first goal and we were pumped, and then I think we laid back. We knew it was going to bite us eventually this year. We said it was Gopher hockey for 60 minutes and unfortunately we took 20 off today and it showed. There was a deficit and we couldn't climb out of it.

#### ***On the team's attitude down 5-1, coming out on ice for third***

Believe it or not, we were really upbeat. Unfortunately we came in 5-1, but we thought we were playing Minnesota hockey in the second. They got some lucky goals; one got batted out of the air, nice goal on her part. We were really upbeat, we knew we weren't down. Last weekend we scored four goals against [Boston College] in 10 minutes, so we had 20 minutes to work with. I think it showed. We never gave up; we knew we had it in us. We were one goal away from sending it to OT and extending out season.