



# WISCONSIN PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

Friday, March 20, 2009

## **Head Coach MARK JOHNSON**

### ***Opening remarks ...***

I think after six games against Duluth and I think as you enter into the playoffs and the Frozen Four your special teams are going to be a key ingredient. Certainly the second period was a strange period in regards to every hockey game has its own story and I think the changing of the momentum happened during that period of time and we were certainly pleased to come out of the period up 3-0. We're excited for the opportunity to play for the national championship. I know our players are excited and I'm very happy for our Eastern kids as I'm sure they were under quite a bit of pressure coming into today's game, playing in front of their friends and family. I told the team before the game that I wanted to practice again so we have one more practice and that's tomorrow.

### ***On the importance of the Jessie Vetter and the senior class ...***

If you look at Jessie (Vetter) and what she's done for four years, she's really a wall back there in keeping the other team off the scoreboard. We're excited for this senior class and it's a great way for them to finish their careers as Badgers.

### ***On how he felt the power play changed the momentum of the game ...***

I think the first ten minutes of the game; we were a little bit nervous. I thought by getting a power play and an opportunity to score, at least if you don't score the team gets a bit of energy going. I think after the 10-minute mark we did some nice things fore-checking wise and in these types of games your power play and if you do get multiple power plays you have to take advantage. The second period just changed the momentum, sometimes you get a break and you get a bounce. For us, I think the most important moment was that third goal because there is a big difference having a three-goal lead at the end of two periods.

## **Wisconsin Senior Forward Erika Lawler**

### ***On scoring her first goal ...***

Hilary (Knight) passed the puck to me and I looked to the net but saw that there really wasn't much there. I could see that everyone was going to the net so I was kind of hoping to shoot it on net and create a rebound out front to either of our point players, but she was off her angles and it just hit off her skate and into the net. It was kind of one of those weird goals, but that just goes to show how important it is to get anything you can in on net and funny things happen. We were fortunate enough to get that first goal and I think it was really helpful throughout the rest of the period.

### ***On the feelings of both student-athletes from Massachusetts playing in front of home crowd ...***

Any opportunity we have to play in the Frozen Four is really special and I think that that is what our main focus is now. We're happy to be here and honestly as Meghan (Duggan) and I were coming off the ice we were just talking about how we have a shot at another championship. It doesn't really matter where we are playing it, I think what is on our minds is to win the championship and to get the opportunity to play our game.

## **Wisconsin Sophomore Forward Hilary Knight**

### ***On the things she did differently on the power play in the second period ...***

I think that they just started to pressure one side a little bit more and that opened up a lane for me. I was glad that that happened and fortunate enough that the puck went to the net and had Meghan (Duggan) and Erika (Lawler) there to put it in.

### ***On how the major penalty in the second period seemed to set the tone for the Badgers ...***

Whenever you're up a man it's always helpful, fortunately we had more opportunities. Definitely being up a man helps.

**Wisconsin Senior Goaltender Jessie Vetter**

*On her feelings of her 115-minute shutout streak ending with Minnesota-Duluth's 3<sup>rd</sup> period goal ...*

There's not usually too many hard feelings when your team is up by five goals when you let a goal in. I try and get a shutout every game as I always say, but sometimes there are funky bounces and they happened to get one. Our team played great in front of me today and we're just happy to be able to play on Sunday.