



MINNESOTA DULUTH

QUOTE SHEET • XCEL ENERGY CENTER • ST. PAUL, MINN.

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Head Coach – Scott Sandelin

On being in the Frozen Four

“I think it’s a special time for our program, it’s our fourth time here in our program’s history. This group has had a goal to get here since last season. I’m extremely happy for these two seniors here that came back and have led us to this point. It’s a great opportunity for them to finish their careers on a note that we all want and that’s winning two hockey games. I know our community is excited and everyone associated with our program is excited to be here, but there is certainly a lot of work to be done here.”

On intensity in postseason compared to regular season

“I can tell you that the last week of practice has been extremely fun for us as coaches. We’ve had the players’ attention and focus. It’s a lot different than a weekend off in November or January. I was very pleased with how our guys came to the rink and practiced. They’re excited and they should be, but it was nice not having to get too mad.”

On what it takes to win with the competition here at the Frozen Four

“It’s going into the weekend as playing as a team and doing the things you need to do to win a hockey game. I thought that two weeks ago, I don’t think we played our best. I think we did what we needed to do and we played very well, but this team has a lot that they can still give. I think to do that you have to be very disciplined over the course of the game. It’s like any weekend, you have to play as close to 120 minutes of hockey if you are going to try to win a national championship. You can’t get too far ahead of yourself. We’ve got a very good opponent and a very good game tomorrow. We’ve got to focus on what we need to do in those 60 minutes, after that we’ll worry about the possibility down the road. It’s kind of what your year prepares for yourself, it’s two games at the most and you have to be at your best. Hopefully our guys can continue to step up like they did and elevate their game, which I feel they will do.”

On outlook against Notre Dame

“We’ve pretty much have been a team that concerns ourselves all year with how we need to play. Obviously, Notre Dame poses some different things. They’re very good defensively, so that’s going to be a challenge. I thought watching the games in the regional that they played extremely well. I was very impressed with their team after watching the Miami game the week before. They didn’t have their best outing in that game, and that happens to teams, but with how they responded. They have some good young players. They have a good mixture of young and old guys. In some ways their similar to our team, they like to play aggressively, they forecheck aggressively. So it’s going to be critical to get pucks out of the zone and to try and challenge them defensively. A lot of times, five on five is always tough as the year goes on, so special teams are going to be big. Even though their power play is at 16 percent, they do some different things that we’ll have to be aware of. Again, hopefully we can win the special teams game and chip one in here five on five. I think it’s going to be a great game, both teams like to get up and down.”

Kenny Reiter

Opening Statement

“I think it will be a good game. We have all of our families in town for the game. I’m really looking forward to the game tomorrow.”

On UMD’s end-of-the-season run

“We just picked up our intensity at the end of the season. We’ve paid extra attention to special teams and systems because special teams are obviously important to have clicking at the end of the year.”

On early season view that goaltending wasn't as important to team's success

"I definitely use that to inspire me. Some people questioned our goaltending coming into the year and hopefully I have silenced some of those critics. I just try and go out there and do my job. I don't need to go out there and win games by myself. I am just trying to give our team the best chance to win every night."

On added pressure being the only team from the state of Minnesota at Frozen Four

"I don't see that we have any added pressure being the home state team. There are four good teams in the tournament. We are comfortable with the support we are going to have. We are just approaching the Frozen Four with a business-like attitude."

On building off strong play in goal during regional

"I think we would have liked to play these games last weekend just to keep our momentum going coming off the regional. I am playing with confidence right now. I have confidence in my teammates. It hasn't been too hard. I'm just trying to go out there and stick to the basics and I think that is what helped me play so well at the regional."

Justin Fontaine

Opening Statement

"It's been a great ride this whole year. We've had some ups and downs, but showed a lot of character when it counted and it got us this far. Only two games left and it's going to be a good weekend."

Playing in your home state

"I don't think we have added pressure. We are familiar with the building, playing a few games here the past couple of years. I think everyone is ready to get this thing going."

On staying for senior year

"We've come up short the last two years. But had the edge to come back and be in our building. It was an exciting time to come back early August to come for our goal and that's being here and that's where we made it and it's been a great ride."

Intensity in the playoffs

"This time of year you need everyone buying into the system of what we're doing. We showed in the regional we were able to do the things that counted. Our forwards and defense stepped up and blocked a lot of shots and kept it simple."

Mike Montgomery

Intensity in the Playoffs

"In our league it's a battle every night and it turns into a grind by the end of the year. It's just a mentality thing. As soon as we got into the playoffs everyone buckled down and knew their role and that is how they have been playing."

Playing in your home state

"We are just really excited to be here. We know we have a good following. We are excited to go out there and showcase our team."

On staying for senior year

"We both knew we had guys coming back and it was going to be a big year. It's a good time to be a Bulldog. There was too much here to let go and we weren't happy how last year ended. There is more work to be done."

On Kenny Reiter

"As a defenseman, it starts with him. When he is confident it brings confidence to the rest of the D-core. We feel we can play more aggressive and know Kenny has got our backs. He has been solid all season, but really been something else this postseason."