



MINNESOTA DULUTH

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THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011

National Semifinal #1

#3/#11 Minnesota Duluth (25-10-6) 4, #4/#9 Notre Dame (25-14-5) 3

Justin Faulk (Fr., D)

On taking the scoring lead for NCAA defensemen:

"It's a pretty good feeling. I go out there and try to play pretty solid defensively against the other team's top lines and when points come offensively, they come."

On how the team is playing:

"We're playing very well right now at all ends of the rink, offensively and defensively. We're playing simple hockey and you have to like it."

Kenny Reiter (Jr., G)

On the first two goals:

"They came in and penetrated the slot and [Wade Bergman] went down to block it so I didn't get a good look at it until late and it snuck through my six-hole. I wasn't too happy about it. On the second one, the shot went wide and I was a little bit lazy getting back and I caught [T.J. Tynan] coming in late and I didn't realize that he beat our D to the net. I got up with the wrong leg. I don't want that to happen on Saturday so I have to erase those and move on."

On moving past allowing the first two Notre Dame goals:

"You want to stop the bleeding. I'm playing my best when I'm on top of my crease being aggressive. That's what I try and focus on no matter what happens."

Mike Connolly (Jr., F)

On Minnesota Duluth's special teams:

"[It was important] to continue responding after they scored their early goals—to get that power-play goal after they got an early goal. When the penalty kill is needed they go out there and do their job and it's nice to get one early on the power play and build some confidence. It's a special teams game and I think we won the battle tonight."

On who he wants to face on Saturday:

"Both teams are good. Obviously we're down to the last three teams in the country, so whoever we play it's going to be a tough battle. It'd be nice to see an all-WCHA final to send a message to the country, but Michigan's a great team and it'll be interesting to see who comes out of that game."

J.T. Brown (Fr., F)

On the power of their first line

"You have got to take care of every opportunity you get. Like most teams, trying to shut down a first line which is powerful, that will hopefully open up a few more opportunities. Today we took our chances."

On the UMD defense

"I think defense is definitely something that people can overlook especially because we have so much power and are in the offensive for most of the game. I definitely think we might get overlooked sometimes but it is something we pride ourselves on. We have been playing good defensively."

On the power play

"We definitely realized right away that they were giving us more time than most teams would. Not pressuring us let us take our time with the plays we were going to make. It definitely helped us out. If they put on more

pressure, we would have approached it differently. We just did a good job today on the power play and finding the open man.”

On the early penalties

“When you take penalties early on in the game it kind of slows you down physically. It was just lucky for us that we capitalized early in the game to keep ourselves in the winning position.”

On rebounding after the first goal on Kenny Reiter

“We were definitely there to back him up but at the same time everyone was getting their jitters out. We are one of the final four teams playing. I think after the first half of the period we settled down. I think that was the main thing; just getting the nerves out and going from there.”

Mike Montgomery (Sr., D)

On the experience

“It is huge. This is what we worked all year for and for me for four years. It is just real special having all the fan support that we have right now. I am from the area too so that just adds even more incentive. It is just real special for all of us.”

On nerves toward the end

“There are always nerves but we were confident in Kenny [Reiter] and confident in our abilities. We have been in tight games all year. We have been in probably a dozen overtime games this season so our guys are familiar with that kind of pressure. I think they handled it well and now we are just getting ready for Saturday.”

On having the tournament in a local area

“It is unbelievable. You grow up playing high school hockey. This is like a gem for us: this building and having the championships in here. It is another go at another championship so we are really excited about it. Like I said before, we are glad to have so many friends and family in the area that can take part in it as well.”