

HOCKEY EAST SEMIFINAL POSTGAME QUOTES
UMASS LOWELL RIVER HAWKS VS NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH
Friday, March 17, 2017

NOTRE DAME COACH Jeff Jackson

Opening statement on game

(This is) Familiar territory for us. UMass Lowell is a great team and they certainly have our number. They have ever since we started playing them 3-4 years ago. Same thing tonight.

You mentioned Lowell has owned you the past few years. Were there any adjustments tonight or just sticking to your guys needing to execute even better than usual against a team like this ...

They certainly create a lot of pressure to make bad decisions. We were our own worst enemy tonight. We made a lot of turnovers in key areas of the ice and in our coverage in our defensive zone. Those two things stand out to me and are uncharacteristic of us over the last two months.

You came into Hockey East coming off a CCHA championship, can you talk about the frustrations of not winning a Hockey East title in your tenure here....

I have mentioned it several times - the teams that were the top teams in the CCHA have all struggled ever since that league disbanded. It's not really being at home and its happened to all of us. If you look at what's happened to Michigan State, Michigan, Miami of Ohio and ourselves, we've been successful in Hockey East, but not to the point where we've won championships. At times, we've been close both conference-wise and playoffs, but it's a great conference. The depth of the conference is extremely good. There are no easy nights in the conference and you can't beat up on the lower level teams because they just aren't there. It's a different environment. As much as we've been proud to be a member of Hockey East, its never felt like we've belonged here. It's a crazy thought, but it's just the way it is. It's certainly not by anyone's actions or anything like that. You just don't feel like you necessarily belong.

In the first period it looked like you had trouble getting the puck out of the defensive zone, going into the second period down 2-1, what was the team's mindset....

The goal we scored was a gift, just a bad bounce on the goaltender. (It was) A lot of uncharacteristic things. Give Lowell their due because they create a lot of those situations. We turned pucks over in our own end. We turned pucks over in the offensive end too that led to goals. We've been doing a much better job of is managing the pucks over the last 6-8 weeks, and tonight we didn't. I'll take responsibility for it. I guess I didn't have them prepared to do it well enough.

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