

Penn State Men's Hockey

Vs. Minnesota – Head Coach Guy Gadowsky

March 3, 2018

Guy Gadowsky | Head Coach

Opening Statement

To quote Denis Smirnov, “that was a man’s game.” I thought it was an unbelievable hockey game. You really have to credit Minnesota. They played great and when we got up, they could have lightened up and they sure didn’t. The big story to me, home ice turned out to be massive because tonight, the crowd was so good and it turned out to be so important. We never would have gotten home ice if it wasn’t for our crowd and I don’t think we have a shot at winning tonight if it wasn’t for them. Students are on break and a whole bunch of them still showed up and the rest of the community filled the rest of the building in like that on such short notice was just unbelievable. From the program, from the team, we can’t thank the students and the community enough for their support tonight. They were absolutely huge.

Q. How does it feel to be moving on to the semifinals?

GG: I mean, it feels good. Minnesota is a tremendous team and I know you guys didn’t believe me, but we were still playing good hockey (during the losing streak), but they sure put it together (the last few weeks) and with the help of the crowd (tonight), they beat an excellent team in a series and it feels really good.

Q. What can you say about the Alex Limoges, Evan Barratt, and Liam Folkes line having 9 of your 21 goals against Minnesota in these last four games?

GG: I didn’t know it was that significant, that is quite a stat. I don’t think there is anything I can say right now that would do what they’ve done justice and in the clutch. I mean, very fitting that that line got the winner. They were awesome

Q. What was your sense of your team’s response after losing the lead and coming back again?

GG: I think that’s a big part of this story as well and obviously, we did some of it to ourselves through penalties that allowed them to get back into it. In terms of coming back, the mental toughness to do that was excellent and specifically, I think what we showed the most is when they called an icing that went against us and it should have gone the other way and Minnesota scored right after and I thought if we were going to come unraveled, that would be the time. You really have to give those guys a lot of credit for continuing to come back time after time. Sturtzy (Andrew Sturtz) said we were learning how to play with a lead (recently), well we got an opportunity tonight to learn how to comeback and I thought they were tremendous.

Q. Can you pinpoint what the difference is in your team now from two months ago?

GG: I don’t think I can put a finger on it. I think there’s a lot of experiences that we go through and you learn from very positive experiences, but you also learn from negative ones, and you learn from each other in practice and other places. You learn to gel and I think it’s really hard to put your finger on it, but all I can say is I think throughout, I don’t think we’ve had experiences that the effort wasn’t there. They played hard. We didn’t always get a positive result, but when you play hard you learn. I think they’ve learned a lot through wins and losses. I can’t put my finger on it, but they’ve learned a lot this year.

Q. How important is the Sturtz, Alec Marsh, and Chase Berger line and the depth your team has?

GG: I think it’s very important. The way we play, you have to get production from all lines and because they’re really producing right now, I think that has to cause a lot of problems on the other side. You look at a Sturtz, you look at a Smirnov and you try to key on those lines and then the other lines produce and I think it causes a lot of problems on what to do. I think it’s a huge part of our success this weekend and our success that last two weekends.

Q. In what may have been the last game of the year at Pegula Ice Arena, what does it mean to you and the program to see James Robinson tie the game up on his only shot of the night?

GG: When we were shaking hands, Jimmy (James Robinson) actually came up behind me and he said, “If this was the last night at Pegula, what a night!” It meant a lot to Jimmy, I’ll tell you that. When there was a couple of

minutes left, he was on the bench and he just looked up and I don't know if he knew I could hear him, I don't know if he was talking to himself or someone, but he said, "just look at this building," and I think it registered with him pretty strongly.