

Penn State Men's Hockey
Vs. Minnesota – Head Coach Guy Gadowsky
March 2, 2018

Guy Gadowsky | Head Coach

Opening Statement

Obviously, this was a quick turnaround and the students are on break and for us to come out of the tunnel and see a lot of students here in the student section filled so well. The community and the students did a great job and that felt really really good. It was a big part of the game tonight for sure and one of the biggest parts of the game was at the end of the second (period). Two great goals by Denis (Smirnov) and Sturtzy (Andrew Sturtz). To me, that was the difference and maybe a little bit of inspiration we got from men's basketball closing it out, but that doesn't mean anything. We've got another one tomorrow.

Q. How do you think Brett Murray played tonight in an unfamiliar position?

GG: I thought he did extremely well on the first faceoff and then I thought he played really well in his defensive zone. He's a big, tough guy so I think he fits really well there when Pav (Nikita Pavlychev) is out. I think he's a pretty common-sense switch and I thought he did really well and I thought he killed really well too. It's an unfamiliar position for him, he's been playing wing for two years so for him to come into a playoff game like that against such a great team, I thought he played extremely well.

Q. What did you think of the team's effort on the penalty kill tonight?

GG: Looking at the stats, I thought we killed really well and obviously, we gave up two (goals) and usually when you give up two, you feel bad. I thought we killed really well.

Q. What's the value in getting ahead in the series?

GG: I don't know because the only win that matters is the last one in a series and that's how we're looking at it.

Q. How big were those two goals at the end of the second period?

GG: To me, that was the difference. You could just feel that it was a really tight game and it was basically who was going to blink and we got fortunate. A great shot by Denis and then a really great individual effort by Sturtzy. The end of the second was the difference in the game. I mean, it was extremely close and that game could have gone either way, but that was the difference.

Q. How big is it to beat a team to keep momentum at this point in the season?

GG: It's really nice and momentum is very real and I think you could say especially in the playoffs and tonight, we took advantage of momentum. It's certainly a very fragile thing. It turns on a dime, but tonight we had it on our side and I thought we used it well.

Q. What are you seeing from Kris Myllari this late in the season?

GG: More leadership. Comfort on the ice and he's getting his shots through, he's got a big shot. He was excellent on the penalty kill as well and really, I thought he showed leadership throughout the game. I thought what he brought and his attitude and just his leadership was extremely good. I mean, he's an all-around player and he's a tough tough kid and I think guys like that, playoff hockey suits them and it certainly does for Myllari.

Q. What'd you think of Cole Hults' goal tonight and was it good to see him get on the score sheet again?

GG: Yeah, he's been playing really well. The thing about Cole Hults is Cole doesn't have to score to be an excellent player and he's been an excellent player in games when he's gotten points and when he hasn't. But that goal was absolutely a great team goal because it was an excellent battle in the corner by Limo (Alex Limoges), (Brett) Murray, Denis was in there and then a great pass by Denis once we won the puck and obviously a tremendous shot. You see him do that and you wonder why it's been so long (since his last goal). He's a great player and a great goal, but he doesn't necessarily have to score to play great. He's a 200-foot player for sure.