



**PENN STATE MEN'S HOCKEY MEDIA DAY  
TOMMY OLCZYK & NATE JENSEN PRESS CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 8, 2012**

**#14 Tommy Olczyk  
So., Forward**

***Q: Was it a goal of yours to be named captain?***

A: I don't feel like it was one of my original goals. To be captain of this team eventually was one of my goals. I didn't expect it to come this soon. Like you said, I am very humble and it is an honor. I'm going to do everything I can to be the best leader that I can be.

***Q: Can you talk about the difference between playing at the club level last year and what you'll face this season?***

A: I don't know how different it's been yet. Especially until we face live bullets, you know, especially guys with no NCAA experience, guys like myself. It's just a matter of getting in there, getting reps, making the most out of every shift, working hard and then getting into a rhythm and realizing that it is a lot different than past here. The hockey is going to be more physical. It's going to be faster so it's just a matter of getting better every week in practice and obviously getting better in the games every week.

***Q: What kind of systems have you been working on?***

A: We haven't really done much system work yet just because of the limitations we've had. We were able to do some stuff during our seniors' and captains' practices, similar to what we did last year. I think our systems are going to be the same, but we're still going to work as hard as we possibly can. We're still going to backcheck. We're still going to drive the net really hard and push the defensemen back and push the goalie back, get him back on his heels.

***Q: Can you talk about facing future Big Ten teams like Michigan State and Wisconsin?***

A: We don't see those teams until later so as of right now we're just trying to take one game at a time. Right now our focus is on Friday. But as you said, it is going to be very important. Those are going to be two of our huge rivalries. There will only be six teams in the Big Ten hockey conference, so seeing those teams is going to be a good gauge of what we need to accomplish, and they're both really established, very good hockey programs. That'll give us a good direction to reach but at the same time we want to create our own identity for ourselves.

***Q: Can you talk about practice so far?***

A: We've only had that one (Midnight Ice Breaker) – that was our only official practice. We've had some other practices with (assistant coaches Matt Lindsay and Keith Fisher) around the ice –those have definitely been more up-tempo. Once the coaches start getting out there, guys start working harder and especially with Coach Gadowsky on the ice. He's the most passionate guy on the ice every time he steps

out there. He's a guy that gets the players going and it's just a lot of fun when he's out there to make plays and score goals, backcheck, all that good stuff.

***Q: What was it like being at the Carolina Hurricanes' conditioning camp?***

A: It was a whole different experience. It was a lot of fun, something that I'll never forget. It was really off-ice intensive; it was more of a conditioning camp. We had like three workouts a day and then we'd skate for an hour. It just gave me a good idea of how good of shape NHL players are in because we did a lot of off-ice tests that they do. Then during the on-ice sessions it was a lot of fun. I didn't feel out of place at all. You had Rod Brind'amour and Cory Stillman out there running the skate so it was an unbelievable experience and, like I said, I will never forget it.

***Q: Can you talk about some of the bigger guys on the team?***

A: We definitely have some big bodies. Kids like Kenny Brooks – he played a couple years in Tri-City and he's a big body; he can play physical. Then you got Jonathan Milley, who's also a very big, strong guy. A guy like Max Gardiner, Casey Bailey – all those guys are big, strong guys. If they're driving the net hard it's definitely going to push the (defensemen) back and put the goalie back on his heels. When everyone's backchecking, it's going to leave more offensive chances for us.

***Q: What are you looking forward to the most?***

A: I think just what I'm looking forward to the most is Friday. It is my first NCAA game. I've waited a long time to play hockey – I've played four years of juniors and played a year of club hockey last year. I'm just going out there and want to set an example. Nate (Jensen) and I both know the systems and we know the style that Coach Gadowsky likes. We're two guys that can go out there and guys will look up to us, and if we're doing something hopefully they'll follow us. We're just going to try to do our best leading by example.

***Q: Do you lead by example or by words?***

A: I try to do a little bit of both. Some guys don't say much and just go out there and let their play speak for them. I'm really not the most skilled guy, I can say that. I like to go out and try to work as hard as I possibly can. Block shots, kill penalties, I'd love to score goals. For guys not performing up to standards, I'll say something to them but I'm not going to yell at them. I'm going to do it the right way – maybe pull them aside but I do like to yell a little bit and get the boys pumped up. But in regards to your question, I think I'm a little bit of both.

**#24 Nate Jensen**

**Jr., Defenseman**

***Q: What are you most excited about?***

A: Well, we've been practicing for a month so we're pretty excited to put the jersey on. There's a little bit of nerves, but we're pretty excited to get out there and play a couple games, get a couple hits in and get the crowd involved. It's going to be a fun night for us.

***Q: Talk about the amount of support the team received during the midnight practice.***

A: It was a lot of fun to see how many people came out and supported us. I feel like this college could become a hockey-school college, where you get a lot of people to come check out games especially once we get the new rink. It was also really nice to interact with our fans, see how they are excited for our new season and our new D-I program, so we're looking forward to this Friday and getting out there and showing all we got for our fans.

***Q: Can you talk about the differences between Penn State and Mercyhurst?***

A: Coming to Penn State – it's great academics, great atmosphere, a lot of tradition here. That's one of the biggest differences. Now with the new hockey program, we're going to start new traditions with hockey. We're obviously going to be in a different conference than (Mercyhurst) but Division I on any level is great hockey. You play a lot different teams in (Atlantic Hockey) and then you play non-conference teams, so playing at Mercyhurst I got a lot of experience. We play a lot of (Atlantic Hockey) teams, but I also played Michigan and Boston College, so I've played those big schools. It's not much difference. I mean once you're out on the ice it's Division I hockey.

***Q: What are your expectations?***

A: Well, we're going to take it one game at a time. We're going to get our feet wet. We have a lot of young talent and then some older guys with experience so I think game-by-game we'll get better. Then by the end of the year, like you said, we'll play some Big Ten opponents so we'll see where we're at with those teams. But we're going to take one game at a time and hopefully win some games.