

March 18, 2016

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An interview with:

**Penn State Nittany Lions
Coach Guy Gadowsky
David Goodwin**

THE MODERATOR: Up first, we have Penn State's David Goodwin and head coach Guy Gadowsky. Coach, if you'd like to start with an opening statement.

COACH GADOWSKY: Sure. I just have, I mean, two thoughts. One is that it is a tremendous year by our team and the seniors, obviously, took a long way, a lot further than I think anybody thought they would. So very proud of that.

The second thing is I -- I mean, Michigan is just really, really good. I think they're really, really good, they're really scary. Their offense is tremendous, it's as explosive an offense as I've, I think, coached against in college.

THE MODERATOR: We'll open the floor to questions for David. If you could please raise your hand, we'll bring a mic around.

Q. Obviously in the standings, you guys moved up quite a bit, but in terms of actual team, how much improvement did you really see in them from, I guess, this year from last year?

GOODWIN: Yeah. I mean, it was a -- it was a huge season for us. You know, we reached 20 wins, we had some big wins, some momentum throughout the year. And, you know, obviously, it's tough to turn the page on this season, but, you know, I think there's a lot of positives going into next year.



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Q. Just how talented is this Michigan team offensively? Have you seen a team like this in your career?

GOODWIN: The only line that comes to mind is playing against Johnny Gaudreau and Arnold and Hayes a couple of years ago, but I -- I'm a firm believer that Kyle Connor is the best player I've ever played against, and I even told him that in the handshake line. And it's fun to watch, but yeah, they're pretty incredible.

Q. Coach, what is it about this Michigan team that just makes you guys struggle -- that struggles -- that you struggle so much against and the way that they are able to kind of pressure you so much?

COACH GADOWSKY: Maybe it's just a guess, but actually, we've had some success against them and in very important times in the past year. So I think that -- I think that we keep their attention.

I think they're really good. I can see them doing to other teams what they did to us. I think, you know, like I said, I think we keep their attention and they -- they keep the pedal down and that's the result.

Q. David, you've been with this program. What's been the biggest transition for this program to get from where you started to 20 wins this year?

GOODWIN: I think just, you know, building that foundation and then getting to the point where we're able to do those things consistently that we believe in. I think obviously the first couple of years, it's tough. You know, we're still adapting and stuff. But now that a lot of the guys have the experience of the Big Ten Tournament, whether it be here or at the Joe Louis, I think just kind of feeling comfortable and consistently doing the things that have brought us success.

THE MODERATOR: Take one more

question.

Thanks, David. You can head back to the locker room.

DAVID GOODWIN: Thanks, guys.

THE MODERATOR: Take questions for coach?

Q: Coach, with Kyle Connor, it seems like he picks up, you know, where the opening is. And it might not even have to be a big opening, and also has -- does that quickly and has the quick shot. What of all of his tools makes him -- which of all of his tools is most impressive?

COACH GADOWSKY: Probably the one that's hardest to define, like he just -- he does everything very, very quickly. But he just seems to have that innate ability that he just -- he puts himself in such -- like, it's amazing how he just gets himself into such an offensive advantageous position. And it's just -- I can't explain it. I don't know, but it's just that. I think it's what you can't really explain that just makes him so darn good.

Q: Coach, this isn't to say that this is Red Berenson's last year as a college hockey coach, but what has he meant to you and what has he meant to the game of college hockey?

COACH GADOWSKY: Oh, boy. That would be a long answer. He was extremely generous to me when I first came into the CCHA, and he was very generous with his time and his thoughts with me. And, I mean, he's a -- I mean, he's a legend not only in college hockey. He's a legend in hockey. And I think he's done a tremendous amount for our game.

But when you asked me personally, I just -- I love the fact that he's just so competitive. Like, he's such a gentleman off the ice and so willing and so generous to you when you're away from the rink. But then when you get, you know, when you're on the other bench like he -- it's very evident, like, there's no quarter asked or given. I mean, he's there to win and there to beat you bad and I really respect that.

He's always just such a gentleman, you know, away from the competition. But when the

puck drops, he's as fierce as they get and it's very evident how much he hates to lose. And I really appreciate that very much from him.

Q: David talked about consistency being the biggest thing transitioning this program as it built to where it is now. What do you see as the biggest thing for this program?

COACH GADOWSKY: Well, I mean, I'm very proud of where we are right now. So to start with, I mean, I think we've -- we've improved our win total and point total every year. So we're definitely doing the right thing step by step. And I think everybody buys into improving not only on the ice and as individuals, but as a team, and improving off the ice in our training and how we represent ourselves.

And, you know, our GPA is going up, too. So I think they're doing a lot of good things in all areas and that's very important to Penn State University and us and how we run our program. So -- the reason I explain that is, so when you ask, what do you need to do to get better -- everything.

We try to get better at academics, we try to get better at training, we try to get better individually and as a team. And, they've been able to do it year after year, so we just want to make sure it continues.

Q. Speaking of improvement, what do you think -- how close do you think the team is to being a top-tier program or do you think they're there already?

COACH GADOWSKY: That's a tough -- no. We have a ways to go. I don't know how close. I think Penn State University is a top-tier university and it's going to happen. I'm not sure how close we are, but it's really fun to keep on improving and to have all the support that we get; it's fun to keep striving to get there.

Q. Coach, what is your lasting memory from the season?

COACH GADOWSKY: Right now, I mean -- right now, I think anytime a college team can get 20 wins I think it's something special. And it just seems to be that number that a lot of people have looked at. I certainly didn't see this

coming this quickly so I think that, not only the seniors, but the entire team, is very proud of that. And I think that's probably what I'm going to remember.

Right now that feels like my answer anyway.

THE MODERATOR: We'll take one more question.

Q. Coach, this is the last Big Ten Tournament schedule at the Xcel. What was your perspective on your experience and the tournament moving forward?

COACH GADOWSKY: Well, Xcel did a tremendous job. Like a tremendous job and I've been fortunate enough to work regionals in this building and everything they do is very, very professional. And a lot of what you don't see beside -- behind the scenes, they have a great attitude. They're detailed, they do a tremendous job. It's always -- it's a great experience to play in this building. I really love it from every aspect. They are extremely professional.

Q. And is the team moving forward?

COACH GADOWSKY: That's above my pay grade, I don't know.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you coach.

COACH GADOWSKY: Thank you.