

**March 17, 2016**

#3 Penn State – 5  
Wisconsin - 2

Coach Mike Eaves  
Wisconsin Badgers

Coach Guy Gadowsky  
Penn State Nittany Lions

THE MODERATOR: Up first, we have Grant Besse, Cameron Hughes and head coach Mike Eaves. Coach, if you'd like to start with an opening statement.

COACH MIKE EAVES: Let me see here. It's always tough when the season ends and you've got to say goodbye to some seniors, but in terms of the game itself, I thought we came out and played real well. We were doing the things we wanted to. At the end of the first period, it didn't seem like it should have been a 2-0 lead for them, but that's athletics at times.

I thought they got a couple of fortunate goals. One off was going wide and hit our center, it hit (Jarod) Zirbel in the hand and went in. And another one hit Timmy Davison's leg, but you make your own luck. But I think we persisted and got that goal in the third period. That gave us a little spark and had we got a third one.

I think granted the cross bar there, would have made it 4-3, so our kids didn't quit. They haven't been close to doing that all year, so they can walk out with their heads high because of that.

THE MODERATOR: We'll now move to questions for players only.

**Q. This is for Grant, did you feel like momentum was still in there, in the third? Did you guys really have a chance to capitalize?**

GRANT BESSE: Yes, absolutely. I mean, you know, we were getting chances,



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obviously, you know, we scored, you know pretty early in the third period. So, I mean, that was one of the things we talked about, getting the lead, you know, came down as much as we could and you don't do that within the first, you know, four minutes or five minutes, I think was a good sign. And then, we were persistent but we weren't rewarded with that next goal.

**Q. Grant, what's another thing to come back against a Penn State team that has the lead on you in the second period?**

GRANT BESSE: I mean, they like to shoot the puck like Goliath and you know, when they do that, you know, it could get you scrambling around in your defensive zone, you know with rebounds and not knowing where the puck is necessarily. So I mean, you know, that was -- I think we dealt with it pretty well, but probably one of the biggest things that was tough for us.

THE MODERATOR: Any more questions for players?

**Q. Cameron, did tonight feel a little bit like the season in general? The team posted a lot of times, tossed it right around the net for you guys. You know, if it doesn't go in for you guys, then on the other end, it is -- it's your own player going to it.**

CAMERON HUGHES: Yeah, I don't know. I mean, I think as coach said, like you make your own luck. They were throwing pucks at the net, kind of throughout the whole game. So, when you do that, stuff kind of happens and I guess for us, when we were throwing to that end, it wasn't happening. But I thought, as a whole, that definitely was there and that's all we can do really is try our best and I thought we did that for 60 minutes.

**Q. I guess is this for any player, what lessons do you take away from the game?**

CAMERON HUGHES: I thought we were a pretty persistent team. We didn't give up

at all. So, just always being like, persistent and staying on top of it, that'll be probably one of the lessons I've learned.

THE MODERATOR: Grant, is there anything you'd like to add?

GRANT BESSE: No.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you guys. You may head back to the locker room. We'll move on to questions for Coach Eaves.

**Q. Coach Eaves, on that conference call you talked about zone entries, zone exits and not getting -- seeing opportunities in the transition. How do you feel that went in the game tonight?**

COACH EAVES: Just OK. I don't think we were great. I thought the first part of the third we did that. Excuse me, the first, we were doing a pretty good job and then we started turning some pucks over at our blue line and their blue line, so we fell away from that in the second half of the first.

In the second overall, I thought we were a little better. But, you know, it's interesting getting with young kids and having them understand and getting them to that point where they believe wholeheartedly what they tell -- they still want to test that.

So, you know, I thought we settled down in the second and third period.

QUESTION: Do you think that was a little bit playing on behind and trying to force something to happen?

COACH EAVES: No, I just think that those are the kind of guys that, you know, they're some guys that have some pretty good puck skills, and they want to test that water. And, you know, it happens at the next level, too, and trying to convince them to believe in that. There's a time and place.

We talk about taking what is given. And, you know, they try to force things in there. And to use a football term, it causes interceptions. And sometimes, it's a pick six when they do that.

And again, the first part of the -- at first, we were pretty good and we got away from it. And they played some of their transition game on us because of what we were doing.

**Q. What did you think of the power play? What went wrong there?**

EAVES: I think that what happens is their pressure points that they had on their penalty killing, we didn't handle that well. And we tried to make adjustments, and we just didn't seem to get real comfortable with it.

**Q. This is the last scheduled Big Ten Tournament itself. Do you have any perspective on the future of conference tournaments?**

COACH EAVES: This is such a great building. I love coming here. You know, I think that there has been some rumors and talks about taking it back to campus, because of the atmosphere for the student-athlete. I mean, today we saw again -- I know it's Thursday afternoon, but I hope the crowds get bigger for tonight's game and the evening games.

But that's a point that's going to be discussed heavily when we get together as a group.

**Q. Mike, what did you tell the players after -- in the locker room?**

COACH EAVES: Well, it's always tough when somebody's college career closes, when a chapter of their bucket is done. And so first thing we do, we acknowledge our seniors; coaching staff gives them hugs. And the guys follow through and express their thankfulness to those young men that have given four years of their lives.

And it's interesting. You talk to those guys, and the message to their teammates is, "man, it goes fast." And that's what they should take when they listen to those young men, it goes quickly and enjoy every year, every moment, every weekend because it's gone in a heartbeat.

**Q. Is this program making progress like it needed to make this season?**

COACH EAVES: No question, yes.

**Q. Why do you think that?**

COACH EAVES: Did you watch us in the beginning of the year?

**Q. Yes.**

COACH EAVES: So, I -- I'll get more specific, but just from a naked eye, the way that we played here. You've got a new staff. You've got 10 young freshmen that are trying to insert into a lineup. And so the way that we moved up and down the ice; the way we played with and without the puck grew immensely.

And that is something that we will take with us next year.

**Q. What are you most proud of (these players just fighting back)?**

COACH EAVES: You know, this group of kids, there were many times that we were behind in a game and came back and tied and fought. And I think Paul Capobianco had a stat that 24 of our 36 games before coming in this weekend, we were tied or better going into the third period. They were a persistent group. They were a resilient group. And I think that's one thing that youth have. And this young group of people had that in spades.

**Q. Do you have any regrets?**

COACH EAVES: For this year?

**Q. Yes.**

COACH EAVES: I think you always wish that you could continue to play because longer in the season, because this is the fun part of the season. And I think that the longer you play, your kids grow immensely because there's so much focus and intensity on this time of the year that you can grow in quantum leaps because of that focus.

**Q. You talk about persistence. Did you feel that in the third period there? Is there (really transparent)?**

COACH EAVES: Yeah, when we got that second goal, there was spark. And that's what we're talking about on the bench -- get that

next goal; get a spark. Make it a fire. And then, you know, when Grant (Besse) hit that cross-bar, can you imagine the fire that would have been there if it's 4-3 now.

So, we hung around; just didn't (sink). Once again, we were close like all year, but just didn't get (to come) with it.

THE MODERATOR: We'll take one more question for Coach Eaves.

**Q. Mike, I know that you know there's a lot of talk about the future of the program. I wonder if you could address how you see your position in the future of this program going forward?**

COACH EAVES: Well, I think that the logical steps that we do every year is the fact that we'll go home and I'll meet with Jason King, who is my immediate adviser, and as we did last year and the year before and the year before, we'll talk about the season and how it went, what we liked, what we didn't like, and we'll assess where we're at and how we can grow.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, coach.

COACH EAVES: Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Just a reminder, before we get started, players and coaches are also available by the locker rooms. Up next, we have Coach Guy Gadowsky, Ricky DeRosa, and Eric Scheid. We will start with an opening statement from you, coach, and then move to player questions.

COACH GADOWSKY: Every win is a good win in the playoffs and I thought our penalty kill was really big tonight, but other than that, just happy to get the win.

THE MODERATOR: I'll move to questions for players.

Q: Eric, how important do you think it was getting that first goal and getting an early goal?

ERIC SCHEID: Yes, I think getting out to a quick start is always really big. It's good to get the first goal and then to get it early like that, it plays a huge role in the momentum of the

game and I thought our guys responded well in the first period after that goal and I think we continue to roll from there and a few lapses here and there, gave them a chance to come back, but overall, we found a way to win and that's what's important.

**Q. Do you think he'd break free on that one with the big kind of...**

ERIC SCHEID: Yes, I could tell that Luke (Juha) saw me and their D-man, he was turned facing Luke and I don't think he saw me coming by him at all, so I trusted that he was going to either dump it in or do something with it so I just kept my speed going and just trusted him on that and he made a really nice play.

**Q. You guys were able to make them play to the blue line to put you in transition. Is that part of your team plan is to make turnovers at that part of the rink?**

THE MODERATOR: Ricky, we'll start with you.

RICKY DEROSA: Yes, I think so. Our game plan is, we like to back check a lot and we can cause a turnover right around there. We definitely try to transition down there right quick and get some opportunities.

THE MODERATOR: Eric, anything to add?

ERIC SCHEID: Not really, just, quick transition, that's one thing that we've been focusing on a lot this year and I thought our D-man did a nice job, having a good gap tonight, our fourth came back hard.

**Q. Did you dream about playing in this building?**

ERIC SCHEID: Yes, obviously, it's always good to come home and play at the XL. It's obviously something you dream about in high school, playing here, and to come back here and have a nice night is special, but at the end of the day, it's just a big W for everyone. I think it's special for everyone.

**Q. Ricky, maybe just that third period, it just kind of seemed like you guys were holding on at all. What was the feeling like there, that period as they were pressing?**

DEROSA: Yes, we know, I mean, in between second and third, I think we know that they were going to throw everything they had at us. It's not an easy task to end anyone's season and yes, they kind of threw everything they had at us and there's times where we had to hold on but I think Eamon McAdam stood on his head a few times there and certain guys just made some big time plays and won some puck battles that eventually led us to Eric getting the empty netter there.

THE MODERATOR: We'll take one more question for players. That's all. You guys can head back to the locker room. Thank you. We'll move to questions for Coach Gadowsky please.

**Q. Coach, Eamon McAdam kind of struggled a little lately. How important was it for him to get his confidence back?**

COACH GADOWSKY: Well, I don't think he struggled lately. We've --

**Q. Or he's been pulled.**

COACH GADOWSKY: Yeah, but we hit a stretch where we had -- I mean, we were playing three short and had moving guys all over from D to forward. It wasn't him, I think our team struggled. So I think for our team, it was nice to get some confidence back, but I don't think Eamon struggled at all. I thought he was really good in every game that he was pulled, actually. So it's nice for the team to come back and play well for him, but he's been -- he's been good all along.

**Q. With the way that you did have kind of at the end there, how did you kind of get them to re-focus?**

COACH GADOWSKY: It wasn't me getting them to re-focus, it was mostly due to us getting some bodies back was the biggest factor by far. And we played a couple of really, really, good teams and it was just -- it was -- it was a number of factors that just made it difficult for us at the time. But getting bodies back was the biggest factor.

**Q. (OFF-MIKE) in transition was such a (inaudible) for you guys. How were the**

**kids able to do that tonight (inaudible) factor for you?**

COACH GADOWSKY: Well, getting Luke back into the lineup means a lot. I mean, he had some -- I mean, when you talk about transitions, he had a few tremendous plays that way. Defensemen that have the ability to move the puck are really important, but then ones that can also see the ice very well are really exceptional in transition. And that's a big part of his game as well as his partner.

**Q. You mentioned the penalty kill. What do you think you guys were able to do there to take that away from them?**

COACH GADOWSKY: Well, your goaltender is your best PK guy, and he was tonight. And that was the biggest factor, was Eamon. But I thought every -- I thought -- I thought we stayed fairly composed on the PK, even though we had to kill a lot; four penalties compared to one. But I don't think we got flustered.

A lot of that credit can go to Eamon as well. The way he was playing, not just the saves he was making, but he looked very calm. And when he's like that, it certainly helps our defensive zone.

THE MODERATOR: That's all. Thank you, Coach.

COACH GADOWSKY: Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: And again, coaches and players are available by the locker room.