

2018 NCAA Division I Men's Hockey Midwest Regional Denver Quotes March 23, 2018

Jim Montgomery | Head Coach

Opening Statement

Really impressed with the facility here, great rink, great environment. It's awesome that Penn State has stepped up and created a new environment for the regionals because this is a great tournament. The atmosphere here tomorrow night, I imagine, is going to be filled with Penn State fans, so we have to prepare for a road game here. With the way we have been playing, we're excited about this challenge.

Q. What do you think has made you guys so good from day one to today?

JM: It's a hard question to answer. I think there's a lot of things that go into it, but I think that we've always been able to get better throughout the year. This year is no different. This year is probably, actually, the most challenging one to get better because of the expectations early, despite the fact that we're a really young team and we had to grow. But, we've grown and become tougher and that's where we needed to grow the most was toughness mentally and toughness physically on the ice.

Q. Are you surprised that this is Penn State's second NCAA Tournament appearance in just six years of being around, knowing how hard it is to get in?

JM: It's really hard, but Guy Gadowsky is a great coach and his staff is really good. It's not a surprise to me, having coached against him when he was at Princeton, I was at RPI [Rensselaer Polytech Institute]. The success he had at Princeton, you knew it was only going to be a matter of time before Penn State became a perennial power house.

Tariq Hammond | Sr. | D

Q: When you look over the course of your career and how successful you guys have been, what have been some of the ingredients to the success you guys have had?

TH: I think it starts with our culture. We recruit not only good hockey players, but good people. I think that's one of the biggest parts of it. Every one of our teammates is a great guy, and they're also great hockey players, so I think one of the main reasons is that.

Q: Penn State likes to shoot the puck a lot and get to the net. Do you see a bigger importance for what you do as a defenseman tomorrow against a team like them?

TH: I think we just have to make sure we're blocking out. TJ [Goaltender Tanner Jaillet] is going to make a great first save and we just have to make sure that they're not getting second chances and we're beating their guys to our net.