

**2018 NCAA Division I Men's Hockey Midwest Regional  
Penn State Quotes  
March 24, 2018**

**Head Coach Guy Gadowsky**

**Opening Statement**

We got beat, and we got beat bad. They're an excellent team, and they're excellent in their skill and excellent in their work ethic. I give them a ton of credit, I think they really got to our net and we didn't get to theirs. I don't know enough yet to say if it was just what we didn't prepare for, or that we didn't do what we do well enough, or if they were just that much better. I don't know, I just do know we got beat, bad. It hurts because you look at how many great Penn Staters were here. Man, they're so good, it was such a good opportunity, and it's really tough to get here. I sort of feel like we didn't do what we had to do to take advantage of it. I know that's negative, but I'm just being honest.

***Q: On Tuesday, you said you were anxious to get another shot at Denver. Used as a measuring stick compared to last year, is it kind of hard to judge so quickly? What are your thoughts?***

**GG:** My thoughts on that are we possibly learned lessons on things that we could've done better, but we forgot a little what we did really well. I don't think that we did what we do well enough. I think that possibly, we knew what to expect a little bit more and prepared for what they did, and I think what lacked was a better commitment and better execution on what makes us really good. That's what's a little bit frustrating, like you said from the start, I give them a ton of credit, they're a great team. I don't know if we weren't able to do things that we're used to because we weren't prepared enough, or if it's something they did. Obviously, I said that on Tuesday, and the result is not what I expected.

***Q: What could you build off of a season like this for next season and the future?***

**GG:** You look at the programs that aren't in the tournament this year, and you look at the teams who haven't been in the tournament two years in a row, there's some great ones. So we could look at that and feel very good and be proud, but to build off this specific game, it's not necessarily what we could build off of, I think it's the lessons that we need to learn if we're going to compete with the legs of Denver, which right now is the top of the heap, and sort of what Penn State wants to do. We're not doing it yet, I don't know if it's a matter of building off of positives, but I think we have more lessons to learn for sure.

***Q: It seemed like Denver just pounced on every mistake you guys made tonight, do you feel like that was the case?***

**GG:** I actually think they caused a lot of them. I think there's a couple, it's hockey, it's fast, and pucks are rubber and they bounce. We maybe made a few mistakes, but it's not that they took advantage of our mistakes, they made us make mistakes. I thought they had the puck all the time at our end, and it's not because of mistakes we made, it's because they went and got the puck and they kept it. It wasn't just them being opportunistic at all, they made what they got, they deserved it.

***Q: You guys have had your lowest shot output since very early in the season, what do they do in the defensive end that just didn't allow your team to get any chances on net?***

**GG:** Couple things on that. One, they had the puck all the time. It's kind of difficult to shoot when you're playing defense in your end. I think that's the biggest part of that. But actually, we started to get some zone time, we had some chances and we missed the net a lot. If you look at the percentage of our shots, I thought that we had opportunities to get to the net, but we missed the net a lot. I do give them some credit, they blocked shots as well, but we did have opportunities that we didn't give ourselves a chance at second or third shots. If you look at the shot chart, it wasn't our lowest total, but it was probably the worst shot chart we had in a long time. They were able to get to the net, we weren't. When we did, it was really hard to get those opportunities. So I give them a ton of credit for controlling the puck, they played tight defense and blocked a lot of shots, but I think we need to do a better job of hitting the net when we had to.

***Q: How do you balance the disappointment of the season being over with maybe understanding a certain limitation of how far you can go 6 years with this still being a growing process?***

**GG:** I don't know. As I appreciate that question, I guess because of specifically what I mentioned on Tuesday, that I thought this was going to be an opportunity for at least the coaching staff, I don't know how the team felt, but they're really curious to see if we've learned something. We have to do a lot better of a job if we're going to compete at this level. So, I don't know that answer, I just know that we weren't prepared enough, we didn't do a good enough job as a staff to prepare the team and really find out the answers. If we played our very best, then I think we'd have more accurate answers.

***Q: The support from the community is something that's been important all season, to come here and see the crowd and hear them behind, what did that mean to you?***

**GG:** It's so amazing. The atmosphere that we have and the supporters that the students give us whether it's the student section, the community, the alumni, everybody that we get is so important to the success that we've had. It's huge. It's motivating, the atmosphere is tremendous, it's a big part of the success we have recruiting and a big part of the success we have, and we enjoy that at Pegula Ice Arena. To be able to come here, hearing everybody, I think that's why I'm just so disappointed. It's tremendous. I've been to a lot of regionals, working with the NCAA as a participant, I can tell you, I haven't seen an atmosphere in a regional like this. It was blue and white, it was great, I don't know. You never get used to it and they continue to surprise you about how great they are. When I saw them, I just thought we were set up to do really well, and that's probably why I feel so bad.

**Liam Folkes | Sophomore | F**

***Q: After playing a team like Denver, what have you learned about yourself as a hockey player? What have you learned about what you guys have to get better at?***

**LF:** Obviously, Denver is a heck of a hockey team. I think we never showed our best tonight. But, they did the little things right. They got shots when they needed shots. They got the puck out when they needed to get the puck out. Obviously, I don't think we were sharp off the bat. Just taking away from this, do the little things right, and I think next year will be a different outcome. But, I think we never showed our best, a little better than what we showed tonight.

***Q: How much of an impact, from the start, was the lack of momentum, and how did it impact you the rest of the game?***

**LF:** I think they, obviously, had a lot of momentum out of the first period. But, I think when we were down four-nothing it kind of shifted with the last five minutes in the second period and going into the third. I think we played how we should have been playing the entire game. Momentum is huge in hockey and they, obviously, contained us for most of it. But, we're going to take bits and piece from the last five minutes of the second period and going into the third period because I think we outplayed them and outhustled them the second half of the game there. But, we were already down four-nothing, so it's kind of hard to come back.

**James Robinson | Senior | F**

***Q: Having played your last game, how do you feel about the state that you'll leave this program in?***

**JR:** To build off what coach said, that's obviously a disappointing last game to have in the blue and white. But, when I leave this place I'm not going to reflect back on that game. I feel like seniors on this team, as well as every guy in that dressing room, had made this program better than it was at the start of the season. With our senior class, we couldn't be more proud of this school, this organization, this program, and we just can't wait to see where this program goes in the future.

***Q: Defensively, how difficult was it to try and contain that top line for Denver?***

**JR:** Three very good players, obviously. Our line has played a lot of good players all year, and they're no doubt, arguably, the best we have played. But, that's no excuse. It doesn't matter who you're playing, you need to come ready to match their intensity and outwork them. The three of us and the rest of our team did not do that tonight, and it's disappointing.

***Q: What do you think feeling this much disappointment about losing to a national championship team says about where the program is headed?***

**JR:** From looking at our program from where it is now to where it was when both [Erik] Autio and I first got here, I am very proud of where it is now. It's taken every person that's been through this program to get it to where it is now. We have a very bright future ahead of us. Unfortunately, both Autio and I and the rest of the seniors aren't going to be a part of it. But, we feel it's in great hands, and we can't wait to see what this program does.