

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

Steve Rohlik | Head Coach

Opening Statement

Certainly, on behalf of our program, our university, we're happy to be here. It's been a journey and a process and you've got to enjoy that. We understand how hard it is to get here and we do understand that any one of these 16 teams can win it all. We're here, we're excited, and we're looking forward to our matchup tomorrow afternoon.

Q. Can you talk about special teams matchup, their power play, your penalty kill. I know it's maybe a fun thing for the media to talk about, but for you, in general, is it a tall task going up against Princeton special teams wise?

SR: Most times you can pick up the paper and look at the special teams and probably have a good idea of what happened in the game. I say that a lot. It's certainly a big part of every contest. We respect Princeton. Obviously, the video we have and the bit we know, they have an outstanding power play. They have some high-end guys and we have to be at our best. Again, we have to be disciplined and stay out of the box and at the same time take advantage of the opportunities we get on our power play.

Q. You've had pretty good success all season long going against high-end top lines, how do you balance trying to shut that high-end top line down, and still play your game and go on?

SR: We can't just concentrate on one line. We have to be concerned about their team. We understand that we have to go out and play our game. Certainly, we respect those guys, but when you look up and down their lineup, they have some guys scoring big goals that aren't necessarily on that top line. We have to understand where they're at, but we have to be concerned about stopping their whole team and not just one line. If we just stop and try to concern ourselves with one line, we're going to get beat.

Q. Can you talk about what Tanner Laczynski has meant to this team, I know a lot of fans are looking forward to seeing him as a Flyers prospect in the area?

SR: Tanner, obviously has been outstanding since he's come to us. The one thing I give Tanner is he shows up every day. It's his practice habits, it's how he trains, it's what he does, it's what he prepares himself for during the week that's why the weekends he has that much success. It's what he does Monday through Thursday every week. I think that's the biggest thing that has impressed me. He's never satisfied with where he's at, which is the sign of, obviously, a very good hockey player. He's got tremendous upside. I think he's just scratching the surface right now, to be honest with you.

Q. [Inaudible]

SR: To me, I guess it's not about scoring goals, it's about winning games. If we can score three to two that's just as good as winning seven to six. I think we can still score goals. I think we're still up there in the country offensively, we're still up there in the country in power play. We've really decided, as a team, to be better defensively. I think that's the consistency you've seen out of our team all year. I think that's a big credit to that, that our whole team has bought into being good defensively.

Q. What was your reaction to the field when you found out who was going to be here competition wise?

SR: Like I said earlier, I think any one of these 16 teams can win, so pick your poison on what region you want to be in. We're playing one of the hottest teams in the country off the bat, Princeton, you've got the defending champs and obviously, Penn State who we've seen all year. So, four unbelievable teams in this region and I think everybody probably feels that across the country.

Tanner Laczynski | So. | F

Q: Do you want to talk about just being here and having the chance to compete here at the regional?

TL: Obviously, it's just unbelievable experience in general, but this program, our players being able to come here and play in this arena, that's pretty cool for me. But at the same time, my main focus is the team now and the game at hand that we have tomorrow.

Q: I know that last year you were in the NCAA tournament. With that experience, was there any difference in how you approached this year?

TL: Obviously last year, guys were definitely a little bit nervous. No one had ever been there before. Definitely just nerves, but I think we should be here this year. Last year we were on the bubble about whether or not we should be there but I think this year, we just know we're good and we're coming in with a little bit of swagger. You know, not look out for teams, but have teams look out for us and really set the tone early in games and throughout the tournament.

Q: Can you talk about special teams matchups, their power play, your penalty kill. I know it's maybe a fun thing for the media to talk about, but for you, in general, is it a tall task going up against Princeton special teams wise?

TL: Obviously, special teams are one of the biggest parts of the game. Especially in playoffs, you might not get many power plays or penalty kills, but the ones you do get, you have to take advantage of and those are usually the teams that are going to end up on top so, we definitely have to take advantage of them.

Q: Can you comment on your season? I know that obviously your team got you here, but how well you've been playing and progressing in the year?

TL: Last year, it was kind of an up and down season for me. But this year, I've been trying to work on a bit more consistency and playing more defensively and worrying about our own zone and that will come in my offense. Also, kind of working on different things, playing more physical, trying to keep my game more simple this year. I think it's definitely been more beneficial to me in the long run and beneficial to the team as a whole.

Q: What was your reaction to the field when you found out who was going to be here competition wise?

TL: Penn State plays playoff style hockey, we've played them a couple times this year, we have good games with them. Denver we obviously haven't played this year, but their resume speaks for itself. They're a good team. Like coach said, Princeton just came off of a ECAC title, and they're feeling good about themselves. Every team is going to be dangerous this time of year, everyone just has to play their best game.

Q: [Inaudible]

TL: I think these are the games that big players show up for. If you're not ready for this, I don't really know what to say. These are the games that really defines who you are as a hockey player, everyone should be ready for games like these. Playing on a big stage in front of a bunch of people, so I think as far as pressure goes, I don't think there's pressure for any given person. I think being ready and playing your best so your team has the best chance to move forward.