



**2012 America East Men's and Women's Basketball Championship  
presented by Newman's Own**

**Sunday, March 4: West Hartford, Conn.: Men's Semifinal #2  
Final Score: #2 Vermont 77, #6 Hartford 73**

**Vermont head coach John Becker, opening remarks:**

"(I) tip my hat to Hartford, that was a heck of a game. Just a great basketball game. I guess our offense got fixed quickly and our defense broke quickly. Gutsy performance for our guys just making big plays. Sandro (Carissimo) making big plays, Matt Glass making big plays, Luke knocking down free throws. I couldn't be more proud of my guys. Another great team win. Tip my hat to Hartford. Tip my hat to Hartford. It was a great college environment and it was really just great to be part of it."

**Becker on Carissimo's big game tonight:**

"Those buckets were huge for us. We were struggling offensively, I couldn't draw any plays up that were working and it came down to our guys having to make some plays and Sandro made some huge plays. In the first half, he knocked down some jumpers and he continues to develop."

**Becker on Stony Brook:**

"They are a veteran group, they were in the championship game last year so I think that experience will help them this year. But they are an experienced group, they play like that, they have a confidence about them and they are playing at home so it will be tough."

**Vermont senior forward Matt Glass, on the atmosphere:**

"I've been playing a long time and I haven't been a part of something like that in a while. Very special game as far as the competitiveness of it, going back and forth, different guys making big plays down the stretch for both teams. Very fortunate we pulled it out and happy we made enough plays."

**Vermont sophomore forward Luke Apfeld, on the Vermont fans:**

"Great thank you to our fans, they've been great all year, at Patrick, on the road, they travel really well. They are a big inspiration for us when we see the numbers they come down in and it makes playing basketball so much more fun and winning so much easier so a great thank you to our fans."

**Vermont sophomore guard Sandro Carissimo, on his night:**

"I don't think that was the play we drew up. Our original play broke down and I just saw a lane to the basket, I had confidence in the shot and I'm happy it went in."

**Glass, on facing adversity this weekend:**

"I think we've grown up a lot this weekend. These last couple games have tested us more than we've been tested in a long time. We've been put in situations where early in the season we might have gotten



the best of us. But we've been able to rally and been working on that in practice. We obviously faced some adversity this weekend and we're very happy to have come out on top."

**Hartford head coach John Gallagher, opening remarks:**

"I took over this program two years ago and there are certain things that we are going to be known for and one of them is energy. First and foremost our students were tremendous. We are going to get them back next year and I thought they were great. I want to credit Vermont basketball. They made the play at the end so I give them credit. John Becker has done a great job this year and his players. And I want to thank my senior class. Starting out 0-13 and just not even blinking. Those for guys will be severely missed and our program is better for them."

**Hartford senior guard Andres Torres, on the effort tonight:**

"Definitely tough watching from the bench the last ten minutes and I wanted to be out there with my teammates. At the same time, I trusted them and believed in them. Tonight was a great game, a war in there. They made the tough shots in the end. It's sad to go away because I wanted to go to Stony Brook on Saturday but I've never been so proud of a team that I have been on."

**Hartford freshman forward Mark Nwakamma, on everyone stepping up:**

"They started to double in the second overtime so I just tried to look for the open guy. I was rattled at first but we really held our ground and I was able to find people."