



**2013 America East Men's & Women's Basketball Championship Presented by SEFCU
Women's Semifinal #1 : #2 Hartford 64, #6 Vermont 33**

Hartford Head Coach Jennifer Rizzotti's Opening Statement:

Thrilled to be sitting here today, ready to head to another America East championship game. I'm really proud of the team. In the first twenty minutes you could see that our team believed in our style of play and as a coach I am really proud and as a team you could see how we believe in each other and as a coach there's nothing more you can ask. I mean you like to be up at the half but it's good to see the style of play is successful and exciting to see how we utilize our depth. It helps that we can have a different player step up every night. So I am really proud of these guys, I'm really proud of our team, I'm really proud of our seniors and I know it'd been a difficult journey to get back to this point, but I think we're playing better at the right time

Hartford's Daphne Elliott on the defensive effort and turnovers:

Yeah, that was our game plan and we kind planned it all week to really step up our defense. Last time we played them we forced them to 36 turnovers and this time we forced them to 31. So it was a big team effort and something coach preached to us all week.

Hartford's Ruthanne Doherty on the team's depth

You can relax a little bit because once you go in you can go hard because you know you have another teammate coming in, so that's the great thing about our team. We can really use our depth against them cause you know sometimes other teams don't have a lot of people like we do, but that is one of our strengths.

Coach Rizzotti's closing statement:

To win the championship we need great senior leadership, girls that are playing with a sense of urgency and that have been there before. We need confidence and we have more confidence than we had all year. And of course we need to play well. I feel like having a chance to catch a breath for a week is going to make us ready for the next weekend. It worked to our advantage that we played them last weekend; we showed our kids why we had so many turnovers last time and what is going to work again. But our kids believed and they played together as a team. I can play all of my players, they are all ready.

It was amazing having our men's team there cheering for us. Their coach [John Gallagher] and I are family friends. He always gave our program a lot of credit and we would have stayed to cheer them on if we were in the same situation. This just shows what kind of school we are.

It doesn't matter who we get [in the finals], we will be ready for anyone. Both teams are really good and we played tough against both of them.

Vermont Head coach Lori Gear McBride's opening statement:

Well, things didn't go as planned today and we've really battled all season. I think that under the circumstances and given the lack of depth at our guard position and really having just one true point guard – who was a freshman – I thought that our team battled really hard. The ability to get to this day, I'm really proud of our seniors. I'm really proud of our young players. I thought today we did a much better job in the second half and we never gave up.

Vermont Forward Lauren Buschmann on the game:

Obviously the game didn't go as we had planned. We got out-toughed in the first half and it was just too much of a deficit to come back from. I'm proud that we fought back. We didn't give up.

Vermont Forward Niki Taylor on Lauren Buschmann:

“Well, L.B. [Lauren Buschmann] has definitely taught me so much about just being a true post player and being strong with the ball. If I ever had a bad day with not making layups or missing rebounds, you could just look to her and see what she does and overcome that. She helps you at practice with everything, not only on the court but also off the court. She's just a true captain and she shows the leadership that our team needs.

Buschmann on what she wants to be passed on:

Just keep working hard. We're capable of taking steps forward and rebuilding the program to where it once was and I think the group that we have coming in next year is more than capable of building off of what we did this year.

Gear McBride on Buschmann:

It is tough. I think coming in as a freshman, she was a key reserve on that team that did so well and won an NCAA tournament game. So she brought that experience with and through the complete rebuilding process, and was really the only player left from that team. She's had to shoulder so much of the burden and I just can't say enough about how she's handled that and the poise with which she's handled that.