



**2013 America East Men's & Women's Basketball Championship Presented SEFCU
Men's Quarterfinal #1: #2 Vermont 61, #7 New Hampshire 42
Postgame Quotes**

Vermont Coach John Becker's opening statement:

Second half was tremendous for our team; I give them a lot of credit for it. We were frustrated the first half and came out the second half and played with energy and passion and we overcame our mistakes. I think offensively Sandro [Carissimo] made a couple of huge plays and Candon Rusin had 14 points. It is good to have him back. Great game against a tough UNH team and we got our 20th win this year, it is a great accomplishment and it says a lot about our program.

Vermont's Candon Rusin on this being his first America East tournament game:

We have been working hard all year, I just wanted to come see what this is all about, the atmosphere was amazing, a lot of our fans came out and supported. We appreciate that a lot. Our first half wasn't really Vermont basketball but second half definitely was and we finally started playing full speed.

Vermont's Sandro Carissimo on the frustrated first half and six turnovers for the team today:

I don't really know why we usually play bad in the first half. I guess it's better to play better in the second half than in the first one. I think I just have to come out more aggressive. I guess today I came out aggressive but I was just not able to get some of those easy shots. Hopefully tomorrow I will regroup and get in the game from the beginning and make the shots when I get the opportunity. Taking care of the ball is a big part of winning games, our biggest problem in the first half was our lack of pace on the offensive end and we really didn't make a lot of the shots we made later on in the second half.

Carissimo on the last game they played at Albany versus this game and their mood:

Yes, we only had four guys scoring the last game we played here. It's a great thing we started playing and 'sharing the wealth', everyone on our team is a threat to score and make plays that is one of the reasons why we have been successful this year. We were in this situation last year, I think we were down against Maine at the half time, our coaches told us and we told ourselves we have to come out and play a better basketball. And I think it doesn't really matter who we play tomorrow, either way it's going to be a battle. At this time of year, nothing is for sure, anything can happen. We are going to be prepared.

Rusin on his confidence today and his injury:

I definitely felt more confident, I played basketball in this area before and I have been to this gym couple of times before so it wasn't new to me. The biggest thing is the confidence my coaches gave me in the last year and a half, just working hard with them in the off season, coach was always behind me and that helped a lot.

Vermont's Coach Becker on the game overall:

We know we didn't play well in the first half and UNH played great and we just talked about going back to what we do, having the sense of urgency. We have a lot of competitive people in the lockerroom, as a collective unit we made a decision to go out there and play a better half and be the aggressor. Tomorrow is going to be a dog fight; we need to play with more energy. I think Trey played like a senior today with that sense of urgency. Our captain didn't get to play a lot this year so we needed that sense of urgency on the court and they did a great job today. We have amazing fans, best ones in the conference. They travel everywhere with us. We appreciate that so much and you can't have a successful program like this without a great administration and support.

New Hampshire head coach Bill Herrion's opening statement:

I think when you get to this time of the year in the conference tournament and it's one and done, we try to play to win and survive. When you're a lower seed like we are, you've got to play great basketball. I thought our game plan was right, I thought we confused them a little bit in the first half. I thought defensively we were good, we switched a lot of their ball-screens, and they kind of struggled with it. I told our guys, when we started practice at the beginning of this week to get ready for Vermont; I think the biggest hurdle that we had to overcome was that. When you play a team that is the defending league champs and is experienced in going to the NCAA tournament, and has tasted that experience, once you get there, you always want to go back...

New Hampshire Forward Patrick Konan on playing his best toward the end of the year:

I think I put a lot of work into it, so the first half of the season I was trying to prove myself, but it wasn't working that way. So I sat down with coach [Chris] Mohr one day and he said 'take your time,' and we be working on it, so we take our time on offense and executing.

Forward Ferg Myrick on reflecting about his career:

No reflections.

Coach Herrion on who he thinks the best team in this league is:

The thing about our level of basketball is when you can perform over a 16 game conference season, and be the best team...Stony Brook, I think has proven, through the conference year and with their non-conference that they're a really good basketball team. I think when you look at the key statistical categories that you need to win championships, is your defense, they have great team defense and great field goal percent defense, they rebound the ball, I think their rebound margin is probably tops in the league, and they don't turn it over. Those are three great qualities to have to win a championship.