



**2014 America East Men's & Women's Basketball Championship Presented by SEFCU
Women's Quarterfinal No. 4: #5 Hartford 63, #4 Maine 62
Postgame Quotes**

Hartford Coach Jennifer Rizzotti's opening statement:

We are happy to be playing another day, but we came up here with a mindset about taking care of business and trying to earn what we came here for. I feel like we did not play our best basketball today, but somehow found a way to win anyway. I do think that Maine had a lot to do with that. They were really tough to guard, Ashley Roberts made huge plays and I thought it was a battle of wills, with some cases between Ashley [Roberts] and Alyssa Englert, senior on senior. It's hard to pick a loser in this game because it was very well fought.

Hartford's Amber Bepko on keeping her head in the close game:

I figured we had to stay tough and stay focused. It's not the first time we went into overtime with Maine, but this team has come such a long way. The harder that we play the sharper we are within those minutes, and if we don't put that pressure on us we can stay relaxed and calm. I knew that if we just did that we would be fine. We had to keep our heads in the game, stay focused, do not panic and just relax.

Hartford's Deanna Mayza on her shot that beat the shot clock buzzer with:

I saw Liz Wood flying at me with seconds on the clock and I knew it had to get up. It went in and it was probably the biggest shot of my career.

Hartford's Amber Bepko on her 3-point shots:

That is my shot and I go into every game now needing to just stay relaxed, composed and confident in my shot. The coaches have been telling me all season that when I take a first good shot, I am most likely going to be hitting my next couple. That is what I did, and I just need to stay patient throughout these next couple of games and hopefully keep hitting them down like I was.



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Maine Coach Richard Barron opening statement:

It was a great game to watch, very exciting; however, for our team, we're tired of those this year, we have had enough. It was a game where they (Hartford) were extremely well prepared. Coach Rizzotti did a great job preparing them, not only for what we were going to do, but also to change things up in terms of their lineup that start. Our defense was not very aggressive starting out, but we did pick up the defensive intensity about halfway through the first half. That got us out in transition, we were able to get turnovers and stops which gave us a chance to get back in the game. We had a lot of opportunities in the second half that we didn't capitalize on. There seemed to be a lot of big plays due to the fact that the game became tight. I did believe we were going to win the game when we came back and took the lead. What has been the Achilles heel of our team all year is the way we finish a game. Our defensive effort was pretty solid throughout the game. It's hard to say this because there is nobody I love more than my own team and I am hurting because I wanted my team to win, but I am proud of Hartford as an America East coach.

Maine's Coach Richard Barron on where the team will be next year:

There a lot of things to be excited about coming back. We have a strong nucleus; there is a lot with Ashleigh (Roberts) here. She has left an impression on this team in terms of the transformation she has made in her time here. Those are lessons that everyone else here has learned with her which the team will use to motivate them next year. We have made a lot of great strides, but do have a lot more to work on moving forward; however, it is nice to have as much personnel coming back that we can build on.

Maine's Ashleigh (Roberts) on the impression she has left on the team:

This season, what we have been able to do to turn it around, is more than I could have ever hoped for. Although I did not want it to end the way it did I am so grateful for the opportunity that I got to play here.