

2010 America East Women's Championship presented by Newman's Own
Saturday, March 13
Final: #2 Vermont 55, #1 Hartford 50

Vermont Head Coach Sharon Dawley

Opening remarks:

"Obviously, we're ecstatic to beat such a tremendous team in Hartford. They had a tremendous season and they're just a phenomenal team. It was just a great battle. We knew when we got a lead that it was far from over. They're too good for that. And they came back, as we figured they would. It was a great battle. I'm just happy for the program. We've had a wonderful day at the University of Vermont. Our men won. Shortly after their game, we got texts from the men's team saying ok, it's your turn. We felt like we had to finish the job for our school and our program."

On the difference between tonight and first two games against Hartford:

"Well the first matchup at our place, we called it the Super Bowl. It was 16-14 at halftime. That's two good defensive teams going at it, so no one scored. So the final, being 38-36, who would have figured? After it, you look at that game, that's two programs that love defense and work on defense and pride themselves on defense, so that's what you're going to get. The second game here, we just really didn't take care of business. We were outrebounded by 18. Ironically, we said to the girls, as poorly as we rebounded, we came back twice and we were in the game, so let's take care of business and see what we can do if we're rebounding. So it's been a priority."

Vermont senior Guard Courtney Pilypaitis

On the first-half run:

"I think we said to ourselves we had to lock down defensively. Once we did that, it turned into great offense."

Vermont senior guard May Kotsopoulos

On winning back-to-back championships:

"I think the big thing is that it shows what our program has become, from where we first came in as freshmen, we kind of turned the program around, with our six sophomores and us four freshmen. And as we're leaving now, we know we're leaving a legacy. We're not leaving us going downhill. Our freshmen gained experience from this tournament and this whole year and they are going to continue with that experience and that confidence, the legacy of Vermont basketball."

Hartford Head Coach Jen Rizzotti

Opening remarks:

"We obviously are disappointed. It's a long year and you work really hard for a chance to win a championship. When you come up short, it's really tough to take. The investment of these kids, mentally and physically, since we lost last year in the tournament, has been as good as any team I've ever had. So I think it took us a while to figure out who we were in that game. I was definitely very proud of us getting back to what we're good at and finding a way to get back in that game, even when things weren't going our way. So as disappointed as I am and as frustrated as I am about who we were and how we played in the first half, there's certainly a lot to build on in terms of what we were in the second half. These kids are disappointed, but they

also understand that we get another shot. Last year, when we had another shot, we didn't end the way we wanted it to and so this year, we need to make sure we go out on our terms."

Hartford junior guard Jackie Smith

On adjustments for the second half:

"We just weren't playing our ball. We were playing selfish. Diana only had two shots. We just had to get back to what we do best, and that's playing defense and scoring inside out. Once we started getting stops, that's when we started making our comeback. It was just too little, too late."

On the effect of Vermont's long threes at the ends of the shot clock:

"Courtney is a great player. You have to respect her as soon as she crosses half court. She had some lucky ones in there and obviously it's tough. But it affected us more than it should have. It was her day and things were falling, but that shouldn't affect us too much. They got too many layups. If we didn't give up so many layups, the long threes really wouldn't affect us."

Hartford senior forward Diana Delva

On playing without Erica Beverly:

"Erica definitely has an impact on the game. That's definitely evident today. They got a lot of offensive rebounds. It would have helped having Erica there. I don't know. It's supposed to be a team effort. It's never been about one or two players on this team. It's always been about the whole team. So it's definitely evident she wasn't there, but it really should have been about every single other person on the team."