

Dateline: RIT – The Podcast (Oct. 25, 2007) (Season 2, Episode 4)

ANNCR: Welcome to Dateline: RIT with Mike Saffran.

HOST: Dateline: RIT (Oct. 25, 2007)

The RIT Tigers men's hockey team hosts Cornell Oct. 27 at Blue Cross Arena—a story that garnered front-page coverage in a Democrat and Chronicle preview on Oct. 22nd. The last time team members were there for a game—for last season's postseason—they were spectators because, despite winning the regular-season crown, RIT was ineligible for postseason play. Head Coach Wayne Wilson, how excited is the team at playing in this big game—which is big not only because it's against Cornell, but also because they'll be playing in Blue Cross Arena? Are players pumped up?

ACTUALITY [WAYNE WILSON]: Well, yeah, I think all those are big factors on our excitement level. One, playing Cornell—another ranked season for them, they always seem to be in the top 20. So just the game—our opponent itself is big. Playing at Blue Cross Arena at this stage is certainly exciting for a team, hoping that it's going to be a great crowd down there, which we anticipate it will be, and also in preparation for us just to play in a big building—and hopefully foreshadows March for us, when we're going to have a chance to play down there again. So I think it's important for our team to get in the building and get used to it as soon as possible, and the fact Cornell would come and visit us and play us down there just adds to the excitement for us.

HOST: Just how important overall is venue, be it home versus away or, in this case, Ritter Arena versus Blue Cross Arena? I imagine the team's preparation is fairly consistent from game to game.

ACTUALITY [WILSON]: Yeah, it will be very similar. I guess, if anything it'll be kind of more the mindset of our team. I was talking to someone yesterday—one of our vice presidents—and they're talking about the movie "Hoosiers," where Gene Hackman went out and measured the height of the basket and the width and the length of the court, and it's all the same, so to speak. And that's it for us, as well—is that there's no difference really in the ice and how we're going to play the opponent, but it's just the atmosphere around it, the bigger facility and the opportunity for more people to come and watch. I think as long as we're not distracted by those outside influences and just keep our mind on the task at hand, which is on the ice and Cornell, I think things should go well for us.

HOST: And what about the influence of crowd size? Last week, the Tigers played before a standing-room-only, sell-out crowd of 2,100 in what has become, over the last couple seasons at least, the "cozy" Ritter Arena—whereas more than 3,000 fans are anticipated for the Cornell game in the more spacious Blue Cross Arena. Does crowd size matter?

ACTUALITY [WILSON]: Well, I think it's important in a lot of different factors. It's just our

first game down there. We'd like to build off of this and be able to attract big-name opponents such as Cornell or nationally ranked teams to Rochester and showcase not only RIT but college hockey to the general public and people that might not be able to get into our games because they're sold out now. So we really would like to showcase college hockey and all the positives that go along with it, and Blue Cross is an outstanding facility. But it's important, if we do well attendance-wise, that we can attract other opponents and say, "This is our track record." So this is probably the first, I think, of hopefully more dates to follow, but the first of a foundation for us to build and hopefully improve upon the attendance each year, where people then when we ask them if you're interested in coming to Rochester to play us at Blue Cross Arena, they'll jump on it knowing that there's going to be a big crowd and exciting for their team, as well.

HOST: Well, good luck this weekend, Coach, and I hope you get the chance to play again in Blue Cross Arena, in the postseason come March.

ACTUALITY [WILSON]: Yup, so do I [laughs]. Thank you very much.

HOST: That's RIT Tigers men's hockey Head Coach Wayne Wilson talking about this weekend's showdown against Cornell at Blue Cross Arena.

On the RIT campus this week . . . The inauguration of RIT's ninth president and the university's first innovation and creativity festival—Chief Communications Officer Bob Finnerty has details on both . . . and News & Events managing editor Vienna Carvalho has highlights from the latest issue.

SEGMENT [BOB FINNERTY]: This is Bob Finnerty. The Call for Proposals has begun. On May 3rd, 2008, RIT will host "Imagine RIT," its inaugural innovation and creativity festival showcasing exhibits and activities by students, faculty and staff. Over 30,000 visitors from the Rochester community and beyond are expected to come to campus that day to see what RIT is all about. Now, RIT is calling for proposals for projects, activities, research, artistic creations, unusual feats or skills, and any kind of creative/innovative work or activity that can be exhibited. Please visit the president's Web site at rit.edu/president. Entries are due by Dec. 17th. . . . Nov. 9th—save the date. The formal inauguration of President Bill Destler as RIT's ninth president will take place on Nov. 9th from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center. Other activities will take place throughout the day. The event is open to the RIT community. Dr. David J. Skorton, president of Cornell University, will be the inauguration's keynote speaker. Visit rit.edu/inauguration for more details. . . . This is Bob Finnerty on the RIT campus.

SEGMENT [VIENNA CARVALHO]: This is News & Events Managing Editor Vienna Carvalho. In the current issue of News & Events . . . A team of researchers, led by an RIT scientist, are working to advance the implementation of telemedicine technology. The group is hoping to further enhance the use of radio-frequency identification systems into cardiac sensor networks to remotely monitor a patient's vital signs and transfer the

information to doctors and hospitals at a different location. The effort is being supported by a \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Cyber Trust program. . . . And, read our Student Spotlight that this week shines on Asmah Abushagur, a Saunders College of Business student who is anxious to leave her mark on the fashion industry. . . . Read more about these stories and other RIT news in the Oct. 19th issue of News & Events. This is Vienna Carvalho on the RIT campus.

HOST: This has been Dateline: RIT (Oct. 25, 2007). I'm Mike Saffran on the RIT campus.

ANNCR: For more on these stories and other RIT news, visit www.rit.edu/news.

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NOTE: Dateline: RIT (Oct. 25, 2007) audio podcast available at:
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