

Dateline: RIT – The Podcast (March 13, 2008) (Season 2, Episode 10)

ANNCR: Welcome to Dateline: RIT with Mike Saffran.

HOST: Dateline: RIT (March 13, 2008)

The RIT Tigers men's hockey team heads to Blue Cross Arena and the Atlantic Hockey Championship Tournament semifinal round this weekend, with the Tigers vying for the conference title and a berth in this year's 61st annual NCAA Division I Ice Hockey Championship tournament beginning later this month.

For seven Tigers teammates—all of them seniors whose collegiate hockey careers began at the Division III level at RIT—playing in the D-I postseason might've been most unanticipated just a few short years ago. Among them is forward, captain and leading scorer—with 51 points heading into the weekend—Simon Lambert. Simon, first of all, congratulations to you and your teammates on a great season so far.

ACTUALITY [SIMON LAMBERT]: Thank you very much.

HOST: Tell me, what's it like to have reached this level, especially for the seniors on the squad—those who, like yourself, originally came to RIT to play D-III hockey?

ACTUALITY [LAMBERT]: I think, first of all, when I came to RIT it was mostly for school, you know, the reputation of RIT—and I'm currently studying civil engineering. So it was a great fit for me academically. And then in the hockey, you know, it's always fun to come into a program to win, you know, I mean that's what you want to do—you want to win whether it's D-I or D-III. So I think, looking back at it, you know, I chose RIT to win at the D-III level and get a great education. Now, with D-I, we made the move and I think it's just great to now figure out that we can play D-I, have a great education and still win. So I think it happened to be a great move for me.

HOST: Coach Wilson made a great point recently when he told the Democrat and Chronicle that for some players—those who might not go on to play professionally—this year's postseason games could mark the end of competitive hockey. Does that factor in emotionally, or is it something that players put out of their minds—at least for the time being while focusing on the matter at hand: winning the next game?

ACTUALITY [LAMBERT]: Well, I think it's always something that's in the back of your mind that it might be your last game, you know, playing competitive hockey, and to a certain extent it's a great motivation for all the seniors, or even, like, if you're talking about the juniors and the guys that have been here for a while. Like, you never know when that opportunity is still going to come. You never know what's going to happen next year. So I think it's a great opportunity for everybody. You never know when it's going to be your last chance to win a championship. So I think it's very, very hard to have a competitive team every year. I think RIT has been doing a good job. But, like I said, you never know what happens in the future and I think you have to make the best

of the opportunity you have right now in front of you.

HOST: And what about the RIT men's hockey program—not just the players who've been here since the D-III days, but the program as a whole. How, in your view, has it matured over these past few years.

ACTUALITY [LAMBERT]: I think that school has done a lot of good things for us as a hockey program. A lot of stuff has been done the past few years just to make sure the program's going in the right direction. I'm talking, like, just the personnel—you know, we have three great coaches and a part-time coach right now that is working with our goalies. And we have a great equipment manager, a great trainer. Everything we have is top of the line, and I think the school is putting the best foot forward to make sure the program's going to go in the right direction in the future years—and I think it starts with great personnel, and we have that right now with our coaches and our trainers.

HOST: And on a slightly more lighthearted note, Simon, anyone who's attended at least a few Tigers games in recent years knows that whenever you score a goal—and that's more than 20 times this year alone—Ritter Arena public-address announcer Rocky Perrotta uses the familiar, "RIT goal by #18 Simooooonnn Lambert!" Is that something you even notice in the excitement of the moment and, if so, how does it feel?

ACTUALITY [LAMBERT]: [Laughter] I like what he does. I think he's a great, great announcer. He's one of the best I've probably ever heard. So every time he gets to announce something—especially if it's my name—I always like to listen because I think he's a great guy and he does his job really, really well. So I think I'm really enjoying listening to what he says—especially when it's my name, especially when I score. [Laughter]

HOST: Well speaking of that scene in Ritter Arena, you and some of your teammates have now played for the final time in the now-famous—across the conference actually—the famous electric atmosphere of the Ritter. But are you looking forward to skating again in Blue Cross Arena, where last fall RIT beat Cornell before more than 5,000 fans?

ACTUALITY [LAMBERT]: Oh, definitely, definitely. And last time was just amazing—the fans and the band and all that stuff. So I think it's going to be better this weekend—definitely more intense. We've had some great crowds at the Ritter, and sometimes we have to turn people away to the games because, you know, couldn't put any more fans in there. So I think if we can get, you know, few more thousands in there it could be awesome. So that's why I think the Blue Cross is going to be a great fit for the playoffs since I think the Ritter would've been maybe a little too small for what's up next this weekend.

HOST: Well, looking ahead to this weekend and looking back on the season as a whole, how do you think you'll remember it all?

ACTUALITY [LAMBERT]: I think it's a great opportunity for us to prove ourselves. I think we did a lot of good things here and we're really proud of what we accomplished, even though we still have a couple games to go, hopefully. But, very proud of what we've accomplished and what RIT's done for us and hopefully we're going to bring them back a championship this weekend.

HOST: Well, Simon, best of luck to you and your teammates this weekend and hopefully beyond.

ACTUALITY [LAMBERT]: Thank you again.

HOST: That's RIT Tigers men's hockey forward and co-captain—scoring a spot on "Dateline: RIT – The Podcast," #18 Simooooonnn Lambert. And a reminder that the second-seed Tigers meet the third-seed Air Force Falcons at 7:35 p.m. this Saturday, March 15, at Blue Cross Arena. Go Tigers!

On the RIT campus this week . . . Chief Communications Officer Bob Finnerty introduces RIT's next provost and announces the major sponsor for this spring's Imagine RIT festival . . . and News & Events managing editor Vienna Carvalho has highlights from the latest issue.

SEGMENT [BOB FINNERTY]: This is Bob Finnerty. RIT has a new provost. Jeremy Haefner, from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, has been appointed provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. Haefner begins his new role on July 1st. He currently serves multiple appointments in Colorado: associate vice chancellor for research and innovation, dean of the Graduate School and dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science. He replaces RIT Provost Stanley McKenzie, who has served in that position for 14 years. . . . PAETEC is the premier sponsor of Imagine RIT, the inaugural Innovation and Creativity Festival. RIT President Bill Destler introduced the festival to the Rochester community at a March 11th news conference. PAETEC, the Rochester-based telecom firm, was joined by nearly 20 other sponsors, including Toyota and Xerox. Imagine RIT will take place Saturday, May 3rd. It will feature more than 400 interactive exhibits and displays. For more information, visit the Web at rit.edu/Imagine. . . . 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 . . . RIT will honor James DeCaro and student Angelina Faulkner with this year's Alfred L. Davis Public Service Awards. DeCaro, senior research professor for NTID, has earned the Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service Award, which recognizes a faculty or staff member who has demonstrated a commitment to public service. Faulkner, a senior visual media major in RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, is the recipient of the Bruce R. James Distinguished Public Service Award. DeCaro and Faulkner will receive their awards during a ceremony held later this month. . . . Also in the current issue of News & Events, meet RIT's resident pop-culture expert. Laura Cummings, marketing communications writer and editor in RIT's University Publications, is producing a series

of non-fiction books written for children. Cummings' first book, a biography of "American Idol" winner and country superstar Carrie Underwood has been published, and her second book, about actress and goodwill ambassador Angelina Jolie, has just been completed. Also in the works for Cummings are plans to write children's books about popular Food Network chefs. . . . And, read our Viewpoints essays—two in this issue—written by Dawn Soufleris, assistant vice president for student affairs, and Susan Watson Moline, executive director of foundation relations. . . . Read more about these stories and other RIT news in the March 14th issue of News & Events. This is Vienna Carvalho on the RIT campus.

HOST: This has been Dateline: RIT (March 13, 2008). I'm Mike Saffran on the RIT campus.

ANNCR: For more on these stories and other RIT news, visit www.rit.edu/news.
Dateline: RIT is produced by RIT University News Services.

NOTE: Dateline: RIT (March 13, 2008) audio podcast available at:
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