

Busenhart reacts to dramatic win over DeSmet

Sudden-death goal put SLUH in second ever semifinal

Editor's note: Hockey reporter Matt Beezely interviewed head hockey coach Charlie Busenhart after SLUH's victory over DeSmet this week sent the Hockeybills into the semifinals for the second time in the program's 37-year history. Below is the transcript of the interview.

PN: How did you feel about the capabilities of this team before the start of the season? Did you have any inkling that the club could make it this far in the playoffs?

Busenhart: The coaching staff felt that the team was quite capable of achieving our goal of making the semis. Now anything can happen, and it all depends on who wants it the most.

PN: What was it like to beat your archrival, DeSmet, in a sudden death overtime in the quarter finals?

Busenhart: Due to (Alex) Effinger's outstanding performance in the mini-game, the sudden death (victory) was really sweet. Because, if you think about it, if he didn't make a couple of those brilliant saves, we were dead.

PN: How does it feel to finally be going to the semifinals for the second time in the program's 37-year history?

Busenhart: We're aware that we are as capable of winning the champion-

ship as anyone else in the league. We've established a confidence in our ability to win.

PN: The team broke a lot of losing streaks this season: first win against CBC since 1995, not to mention the second time SLUH broke the railing at Affton. You defeated CCP twice, DeSmet four of out of six, the first time ever in the quarterfinals. What was the most meaningful game to you this season?

Busenhart: All of them. Beating CBC for the first time in twelve years and getting to the semis. And of course, the Jesuit Cup victory is always nice to have.

play at SLUH.

PN: What's it going to be like to play Chaminade, who has the arguably the

best player in Mid-states in Bret Gensler, on an Olympic-sized rink? **Busenhart:** They have two of the better forwards in the league,

but if we can adopt the defensive strategies necessary (when playing) on a bigger rink, we can shut them down. We have better goaltending and just as much speed as they do.

PN: What would you say to any doubters who don't believe SLUH can or will beat Chaminade again?

Busenhart: Given our playoff history, even with the No. 2 seed, many people feel we will fail to beat Chaminade. Come and see.



P N : W o u l d you consider this the best hockey team to ever gather under a SLUH logo?

Busenhart :

This team would be in the top two (the other is the 1995 team that also made the final four), but we have the potential to become the best to ever