HOCKEY 10/26/2016 A.SAUERWEIN

 As the leaves begin to fall, hockey season continues to inch its way closer and closer every day. For a preview on the U-W-R-F hockey teams, here is Ace Sauerwein.

MP3 RUNS 1:10 O/C: STD.

ACE SAUERWEIN: BOTH THE MEN’S AND WOMEN’S HOCKEY TEAMS START THEIR RESPECTIVE SEASONS IN LESS THAN A WEEK. THE WOMEN’S TEAM IS COMING OFF A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP APPEARANCE. HEAD COACH JOE CRANSTON DOESN’T THINK THERE WILL BE ANY ADDED PRESSURE.

JOE CRANSTON: I ALWAYS DOWNPLAY IT AND WE JUST MOVE ON. WE DON’T LOOK BACK. AS A COACHING STAFF IT’S NICE TO GET TO THAT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME SO YOU CAN LEARN FROM IT.

ACE SAUERWEIN: CRANSTON SAYS IN ORDER TO MOVE ON, IT ALL STARTS WITH THE PLAYERS.

JOE CRANSTON: THE GIRLS, WE JUST START OVER AND WE START OUR JOURNEY, STARTED IT ON MONDAY, AND JUST TAKE IT ONE DAY AT A TIME.

ACE SAUERWEIN: THE MEN’S SEASON ENDED IN THE WIAC (WHY-ACK) CHAMPIONSHIP GAME LAST YEAR. AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF LAST YEAR’S STARTING GOALIE, TANNER MILLIRON, THE FALCONS WILL HAND THE NET OVER TO ALEX OKICKI (O-KICK-E). COACH STEVE FREEMAN EXPRESSES FAITH IN HIS NEW GOALIE.

STEVE FREEMAN: HE’S READY TO TAKE THAT STEP AND STEP IN, AND I FEEL VERY CONFIDENT THAT HE’S GONNA HAVE A GOOD SEASON.

ACE SAUERWEIN: OKICKI STARTED TWO GAMES LAST YEAR AND DIDN’T ALLOW A GOAL. COACH FREEMAN THINKS THE WAY HIS DEFENSE PLAYS WILL HELP EASE A NEW GOALIE INTO THE GAME.

STEVE FREEMAN: WE PLAY A VERY STRUCTURED DEFENSIVE STYLE. YOU KNOW WE TRY AND TAKE AWAY THE MIDDLE OF THE ICE AS MUCH AS WE CAN AND KEEP SHOTS TO THE OUTSIDE. AND I THINK THAT’S REALLY HELPFUL.

ACE SAUERWEIN: ACCORDING TO THE WIAC COACHES POLL, BOTH TEAMS ARE PROJECTED TO WIN THE CONFERENCE. FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M ACE SAUERWEIN.

 The Falcons start their seasons this weekend.

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