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PAIRINGS SET FOR CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND AT TD GARDEN

- #8 Notre Dame Knocks Off #1 BC; Irish to Play #2 Lowell In First Semifinal –**
- #3 Providence Sweeps #6 Maine; Friars Meet #4 UNH in Friday’s Nightcap –**

For the fifth time in Hockey East history, the #8 seed has advanced to to the conference semifinals with a victory over the top ranked team. This time it is the University of Notre Dame, in its first year in the conference, knocking out #1 seed (and #2 in the nation) Boston College, 7-2, 2-4, and 4-2. With Sunday’s win, the Irish earned the right to meet defending Hockey East Tournament champion UMass-Lowell, 2-1 victors over the University of Vermont on Sunday. UMass-Lowell will face off with Notre Dame at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 21 at the TD Garden.

The #4 seed Wildcats of the University of New Hampshire survived a grueling three-game series with #5 Northeastern University, taking the third and deciding game on Sunday by a 5-4 score. UNH will face #3 Providence College, the only school to sweep its two-game series (against Maine), in the 8:00 p.m. semifinal on Friday.

This year’s field marks the fourth time that the #2, #3, #4 and #8 seeds have advanced. In the other three years, the #2 seed has won twice (Maine in 2004 and BC in 2010) and the #3 seed has won once (Boston University in 1991).

30th Annual Hockey East Tournament

Opening Round (Single Elimination)

Friday, March 7

#7 Vermont 2, #10 Massachusetts 1

Saturday, March 8

#8 Notre Dame 3, #9 Boston University 2

#6 Maine 2, #11 Merrimack 0

Quarterfinal Round (Best-of-Three Series)

Friday through Sunday, March 14-16

#8 Notre Dame defeated #1 Boston College, 7-2, 2-4 and 4-2

#2 UMass Lowell defeated #7 Vermont, 3-2, 2-3 (OT) and 2-1

#3 Providence defeated #6 Maine, 3-1 and 4-2

#4 New Hampshire defeated #5 Northeastern, 1-0, 4-5 (OT) and 5-4

Semifinals at TD Garden

Friday, March 21

#2 UMass Lowell (23-10-4) vs. #8 Notre Dame (23-13-2) at 5:00 p.m. (NESN and NBC Sports Network)

#3 Providence (21-9-6) vs. #4 New Hampshire (21-17-1) at 8:00 p.m. (NESN Plus and NBC Sports Network)

Championship Game at TD Garden

Saturday, March 22

Face-off at 7:00 p.m. (NESN Plus and NBC Sports Network)

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