



# PRESS RELEASE

contact: Brian Smith | bsmith@hockeyeastonline.com | 339.227.2988 | @brismi22

591 North Avenue #2 | Wakefield, MA | 01880 | 781-245-2122

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## **Hockey East Represented in Stanley Cup Finals** *Alumni of Four Member Schools Seek NHL's Top Prize*

**WAKEFIELD, Mass.** - Five alumni of Hockey East member institutions are set to square off in the Stanley Cup Finals beginning Wednesday (June 3) as the Tampa Bay Lightning and Chicago Blackhawks will battle for the National Hockey League's top prize.

Tampa's **Ben Bishop** (Maine) and **Brian Boyle** (Boston College) will clash with Chicago's **Scott Darling** (Maine), **Patrick Sharp** (Vermont) and **Trevor van Riemsdyk** (New Hampshire) in the 2015 Stanley Cup Final. Four players are aiming to capture their first Stanley Cup title while Sharp seeks his third.

Bishop makes his first appearance in the Stanley Cup Final after becoming the first NHL goaltender to post two Game 7 shutouts in the playoffs. The Lightning backstop will also be the fifth goaltender from a Hockey East member school to play in the finals in the last five seasons, following **Tim Thomas** (2011/Boston Bruins/Vermont), **Corey Schneider** (2011/Vancouver Canucks/Boston College) and **Jonathan Quick** (2012, 2014/Los Angeles Kings/UMass).

Boyle returns to the Stanley Cup Final for the second time in as many years after reaching the final round with the New York Rangers in 2014. In 19 games this postseason, Boyle has potted one goal and one assist on 31 shots. The former Eagle notched 15 goals and 9 assists in 82 regular-season contests.

One of the most unique stories of the 2014-15 season, Darling made a splash in the Chicago net during the Western Conference Quarterfinals against the Nashville Predators. He collected his first NHL playoff win in Game 1 after making 42 saves in a relief appearance as the former Black Bear went on to win another two games to push his team into the next round.

Sharp has collected four goals and eight assists for 12 points in 17 games this postseason. Chicago's alternate captain appeared in 68 regular-season games for the Blackhawks, posting 16 goals and 27 assists for 43 points. Sharp has engraved his name on the Stanley Cup twice previously, winning with Chicago in 2010 and 2013.

Van Riemsdyk has yet to appear in the playoffs for the Blackhawks, but the former New Hampshire Wildcat made his NHL debut in 2014-15, skating in 18 games with Chicago. In those contests, he picked up his first NHL assist and first NHL point.

Five other players with Hockey East ties ended their seasons in the conference finals, including Boston College's **Kevin Hayes** and **Chris Kreider**, Northeastern's **Josh Manson**, Notre Dame's **Kyle Palmieri** and Vermont's **Martin St. Louis**, who played for the Catamounts prior to their move into Hockey East.

# HEA #

