



PRESS RELEASE

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HOCKEY EAST OFFSEASON ALIVE WITH ACTIVITY ***Several coaching changes in men's and women's leagues***

As usual, the Hockey East offseason has provided only a minor reprieve from the on-ice action. Here are just some of the highlights since the 2003-04 season concluded:

- Boston University announced that its women's program will be upgraded from club to varsity starting with the 2005-06 season. Brian Durocher, associate head coach of the BU men's team, was recently named the first head coach of the varsity program. Replacing him alongside Jack Parker behind the men's bench is David Quinn, captain of the 1987-88 Terrier squad and former assistant at Northeastern.
- Len Quesnelle has succeeded Bill Gilligan as assistant coach for Don Cahoon at the University of Massachusetts. Quesnelle was Cahoon's assistant at Princeton before taking over for him when Cahoon left for UMass for the 2000-01 season.
- Bruce Racine, the 1988 Hockey East Tournament MVP, was named as an assistant coach at his alma mater, Northeastern.
- Guy Perron, an assistant with Maine's men's team, will replace Rick Filighera as the new head coach of Maine's women's team. There has been no announcement yet on a replacement for Joy Woog, who resigned the women's head coaching position at Northeastern.
- Seven former Hockey East players were selected to represent the U.S. in the 2004 World Cup of Hockey. The tournament, played in September, showcases the most elite hockey talent in the world.
- Former Maine Black Bear John Tortorella coached the Tampa Bay Lightning from a 3-2 final series deficit to a 4-3 Stanley Cup triumph.
- In the American Hockey League, former Wildcat Darren Haydar led his Milwaukee Admirals to the Calder Cup championship, leading all playoff scorers with 11 goals and 26 points. Ryan Whitney, who recently elected to forego his senior season at BU, was an immediate force in the AHL playoffs, helping his Wilkes-Barre Penguins to the final.
- Merrimack has made another in a series of significant renovations to its rink, moving the home bench to the opposite side of the ice, right in front of the recently expanded Warrior locker room. The adjustment will bring both benches closer to center ice, so that neither encroaches on the attacking/defensive zones.
- Over 100 student-athletes were named to Hockey East's All-Academic teams, which honor players who achieve a 3.0 or better in each semester of competition. UNH senior Allison Edgar and UConn junior Lisa Beck dominated the list, each recording a perfect 4.0.
- 14 current and future Hockey East players were selected at the NHL's annual entry draft earlier this week. BC incoming freshman Cory Schneider was the first taken, at No. 26 overall, making him the 10th first-round pick for Hockey East in the last five drafts.