



Weekend Preview

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BC HOPES TOP SEED TRANSLATES TO FROZEN FOUR Maine gets toughest draw as No. 4 seed at Minnesota

For the second straight season, Boston College has earned a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament, and this year the Eagles are No. 1 overall. With a relatively favorable draw in the East regional, and with leading scorer Patrick Eaves back in the mix, the Eagles are optimistic of advancing to their second straight Frozen Four and sixth in the last eight years.

But first, they'll have to get past Atlantic Hockey champion Mercyhurst in Friday's regional semifinal and then defeat the winner of the other semifinal featuring Boston University and North Dakota. Either of those potential match-ups would have plenty of history behind it. The BC-BU rivalry needs no introduction whatsoever, and the BC-North Dakota rivalry is one that is rich in recent NCAA Tournament

history. The Eagles won the 2001 title with a 3-2 overtime win vs. North Dakota, avenging a 4-2 loss to the Sioux in the 2000 championship game. The Sioux also soured Boston University's last trip to the NCAA title game in 1997, scoring five second-period goals en route to a 6-4 triumph.

BC and BU cannot both advance to the Frozen Four, but UNH and Maine can. Sent to the West regional, arguably the toughest grouping of them all, the low seed Black Bears open against Minnesota on the Gophers' home ice. No strangers at this time of the year, the teams have met seven times in the NCAA tournament, and Maine holds a 5-2 advantage. But the last meeting was the biggest, the 2002 championship game, and went in favor of Minnesota, 4-3 in overtime. Should Maine defeat its host, the winner of the Cornell vs. Ohio State semifinal awaits, leaving the Black Bears with very little margin for error.

UNH, ranked second in the nation with a 4.03 goals-per-game average, draws ECACHL runner-up Harvard in the first round of the Northeast regional at UMass' Mullins Center. The Crimson has had mixed results vs. Hockey East this season, posting victories over powerhouses BC, BU and Maine early in the season before losing to Merrimack and Northeastern and then BC in the rematch. This will be Harvard's fourth straight trip to the NCAA tournament but each of the previous three has been short-lived with the Crimson losing to a Hockey East team in

the first round in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

A dominating force in the NCAA Tournament, Hockey East has sent 13 teams to the Frozen Four over the last seven years and has been represented in each of the last eight championship games.

RANKINGS

TEAM	PWR	USAT	USCHO
Boston College	1t	2	2
New Hampshire	7	6	6
Boston University	10t	10	11
Maine	12t	12	12
UMass Lowell	16t	-	-
Northeastern	21	-	-

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Friday, March 25

East Regional at Worcester, MA

BC vs. Mercyhurst (4:30 pm - NESN)

BU vs. North Dakota (8pm - CN8)

Midwest Regional at Grand Rapids, MI

Colgate vs. Colorado College (5pm)

Wisconsin vs. Michigan (8:30 pm)

Saturday, March 26

Northeast Regional at Amherst, MA

Denver vs. Bemidji State (12 noon)

UNH vs. Harvard (3:30 pm - CN8)

West Regional at Minneapolis, MN

Maine at Minnesota (2:30 pm)

Cornell vs. Ohio State (6pm)

East Regional Final (8pm - CN8)

Midwest Regional Final (5pm)

Sunday, March 27

Northeast Regional Final (12 noon - CN8)

West Regional Final (3:30 pm - CN8)

Thursday, April 7 – Semifinals

at Columbus, OH (2/7pm - ESPN2)

Saturday, April 9 – Championship Game

at Columbus, OH (7pm - ESPN)

Most regional games on ESPNU

All times Eastern

OFFICIALS IN THE NCAA'S

Hockey East is proud to announce that nine of its officials have been selected to work the NCAA Tournament:

Colorado College vs. Colgate

Conrad Hache, Kevin Shea, Jack Millea

Wisconsin vs. Michigan

Scott Hansen, Joe Andrews, Tom Fyrer

Denver vs. Bemidji State

Jeff Bunyon, Bob Bernard, Tim Low

Additional assignments will be made on a game-by-game basis.

HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	GF	GPG	GA	GAPG
1. Boston College	24	14	3	7	35	25-6-7	78	3.25 (2)	47	1.96 (1t)
2. Boston University	24	15	5	4	34	23-13-4	76	3.17 (3t)	54	2.25 (23)
New Hampshire	24	15	5	4	34	25-10-5	90	3.75 (1)	59	2.46 (5)
4. Maine	24	13	6	5	31	20-12-7	75	3.12 (5)	47	1.96 (1t)
5. UMass Lowell	24	11	10	3	25	20-12-4	76	3.17 (3t)	66	2.75 (6)
6. Northeastern	24	10	10	4	24	15-18-5	66	2.75 (6)	58	2.42 (4)
7. Providence	24	6	14	4	16	12-20-4	54	2.25 (7)	73	3.04 (7)
8. Massachusetts	24	6	16	2	14	13-23-2	48	2.00 (8)	96	4.00 (8)
9. Merrimack	24	1	22	1	3	8-26-2	41	1.71 (9)	104	4.33 (9)

^ league games only ^