



Frozen Four Preview

Noah Smith
Director of Media Relations
Hockey East Association
 591 North Ave – #2
 Wakefield, MA 01880
 Phone: (781) 245-2122
 nsmith@HockeyEastOnline.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 5, 2006

FAMILIAR NCAA RIVAL AWAITS BC AT FROZEN FOUR Conference bragging rights at stake again for WCHA and Hockey East

For the sixth time in nine years, Hockey East is sending two teams to the Frozen Four, while the other two teams hail from the WCHA. Hockey East and the WCHA have dominated the Frozen Four since 1999, winning 25 of the 32 Frozen Four berths and all eight titles. No other conference has been represented in the title game in that span, as the WCHA has claimed six championships (including an active streak of four in a row)

while Hockey East has the other two. The twin titan conferences will go head-to-head once again in the sport's culminating tournament this season, with cross-conference pairings featured in each semifinal.

In what has become an almost annual rite, Boston College will take on North Dakota, marking a rematch of last year's East Regional final, won 6-3 by the Sioux. That's only the latest chapter in this amazing rivalry, however, as the teams met in three successive NCAA tournaments from 1999 to 2001, splitting championship game match-ups vs. each other. (North Dakota won in 2000 and BC won in 2001.) Last year's game had interesting significance, as it was the first-ever loss for BC goaltender Cory Schneider in an otherwise spectacular rookie season. Schneider exorcised a few familiar demons with last weekend's 5-0 whitewash of Boston U. and is looking to do the same against the Sioux come Thursday afternoon. He was named the Most Outstanding Player at the NCAA Northeast Regional, posting back-to-back shutouts, and had a record six shutouts in Hockey East play this season. He will be facing the nation's fifth-ranked offense, a unit that scored five goals in each game last weekend, mirroring BC's roll through regional play. The Eagles were very pleased to get contributions from several new sources last

weekend, as rookie Benn Ferriero had three goals and an assist in the two games and Joe Rooney put in a dominating effort against BU with two short-handed goals and two assists. Chris Collins has enjoyed a spectacular 60-point senior season and is one of three finalists for the Hobey Baker Award, which will be presented on Friday.

The other Frozen Four semifinal pits Maine against Wisconsin. The top seed and top-ranked Badgers needed three overtimes to finish up a 1-0 win vs. Cornell in the regional final to lock up their first trip to the Frozen Four since 1992. By contrast, Maine has been to the Frozen Four seven times since then, winning titles in both 1993 and 1999. Two years ago, the Black Bears wrote their own ticket to Boston's Frozen Four with a 2-1 OT win vs. Wisconsin in the regional final at Albany. Then-freshman Mike Hamilton was the hero of the game, scoring the overtime winner.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Friday, March 24

Northeast Regional at Worcester, MA
 Boston University 9, Nebraska-Omaha 2
 Boston College 5, Miami 0
West Regional at Grand Forks, ND
 Holy Cross 4, Minnesota 3 (OT)
 at North Dakota 5, Michigan 1

Saturday, March 25

East Regional at Albany, NY
 Michigan State 1, New Hampshire 0
 Maine 6, Harvard 1
Midwest Regional at Green Bay, WI
 Wisconsin 4, Bemidji State 0
 Cornell 3, Colorado College 2
Northeast Regional Final
 Boston College 5, Boston University 0
West Regional Final
 at North Dakota 5, Holy Cross 2

Sunday, March 26

East Regional Final
 Maine 5, Michigan State 4
Midwest Regional Final
 Wisconsin 1, Cornell 0 (3OT)

Thursday, April 6

Semifinals at Milwaukee, WI (ESPN2)
 Boston College vs. North Dakota (3pm)
 Maine vs. Wisconsin (8pm)

Saturday, April 8

Championship Game (ESPN - 7pm)

All times Eastern

USATODAY / USA HOCKEY MAGAZINE POLL

| Team | Rank |
|-------------------|------|
| Wisconsin | 1 |
| North Dakota | 2 |
| Boston College | 3 |
| Maine | 4 |
| Boston University | 5 |
| New Hampshire | 13 |

HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

| Team | GP | W | L | T | Pts | GF (Avg.) | GA (Avg.) | Overall |
|----------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----------|-----------|---------|
| 1. Boston University | 27 | 17 | 7 | 3 | 37 | 89 (3.40) | 67 (2.48) | 26-10-4 |
| 2. Boston College | 27 | 17 | 8 | 2 | 36 | 86 (3.19) | 58 (2.15) | 25-12-3 |
| Maine | 27 | 17 | 8 | 2 | 36 | 93 (3.44) | 60 (2.22) | 28-11-2 |
| 4. New Hampshire | 27 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 34 | 85 (3.15) | 63 (2.33) | 20-13-7 |
| 5. Providence | 27 | 14 | 10 | 3 | 31 | 78 (2.89) | 67 (2.48) | 17-16-3 |
| 6. Vermont | 27 | 10 | 11 | 6 | 26 | 65 (2.41) | 62 (2.30) | 18-14-6 |
| 7. UMass Lowell | 27 | 11 | 14 | 2 | 24 | 74 (2.74) | 96 (3.56) | 14-20-2 |
| 8. Massachusetts | 27 | 10 | 15 | 2 | 22 | 60 (2.22) | 77 (2.85) | 13-21-2 |
| 9. Northeastern | 27 | 3 | 17 | 7 | 13 | 57 (2.11) | 88 (3.26) | 3-24-7 |
| 10. Merrimack | 27 | 3 | 19 | 5 | 11 | 43 (1.59) | 92 (3.41) | 6-23-5 |