



# PRESS RELEASE

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## NESN ANNOUNCES BROADCAST TEAM *Hockey East alum to host Friday night pre-game show*

WAKEFIELD, MA – Hockey East officials today applauded the broadcast team selected by the New England Sports Network to present *Hockey East Friday Night*. NESN announced Wednesday that Tom Caron (play-by-play) and Jeff Norton (color analyst) will call the games for NESN's *Hockey East Friday Night* broadcasts, while former Hockey East players Bob Beers (studio host) and Tom Fitzgerald (studio analyst) will deliver NESN's new pre-game show *Hockey East Friday Night Live* before every game from the NESN HD Television Center in Watertown, MA.

"This on-air team combines experience with a fresh, new look," said Hockey East Commissioner Joe Bertagna. "They all know the game and the culture, and I think they'll give our viewers everything necessary for a winning broadcast."

NESN's first *Hockey East Friday Night* broadcast will be Friday, Jan. 5, 2007, when the 13th-ranked Vermont Catamounts host the 2nd-ranked New Hampshire Wildcats in Burlington, VT.

"Friday night on NESN means Hockey East, the best college hockey in the country and one of the pillars of our NESN University programming," said Joel Feld, NESN vice president of programming and executive producer. "With the addition of a pre-game show before every game and this talented team of hockey experts working the games, our goal is to deliver the most in-depth coverage of Hockey East in NESN's history."

*Hockey East Friday Night Live*, NESN's new pre-game show will feature two former NHL players and Hockey East alums – Beers and Fitzgerald. Beers played his college hockey at Maine and spent eight years in the NHL with four different teams, including the Bruins. He is currently in his eighth season as the color analyst on WBZ radio's Boston Bruins coverage. Fitzgerald completed a 17-year NHL career with the Bruins last season and now serves as a studio analyst during NESN's Bruins coverage. The Billerica, MA, native played his college hockey at Providence College.

Caron joined NESN in 1995 and has served in many different roles including his current role as the studio host of Boston Red Sox baseball. The Lewiston, ME, native has served as NESN's college hockey play-by-play announcer since 1996, and for the past five years he's voted for both the USCHO and USA Today national college hockey polls. Norton, an Acton, MA, native who played his college hockey at the University of Michigan, played 15 years in the NHL as a defenseman for eight different teams before retiring in 2003.

This past summer, Hockey East and NESN entered into a new three-year agreement that annually features a live, prime-time lineup of nine regular season games, four league tournament games including both semifinal matches and the championship tilt at TD Banknorth Garden, and the Women's Hockey East championship game. The men's 2007 championship tournament is set for March 16-17, while the Women's Hockey East championship weekend will be March 3-4.

### **About Hockey East**

The Hockey East Association is a 10-team, Division I college hockey conference, with offices based in Wakefield, MA. Founded in 1983, the league has won four NCAA championships in the past 13 years. The league also sponsors an eight-team women's league which began play in 2002-03.

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