



For Immediate Release

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## #5 MASSACHUSETTS AND #8 NEW HAMPSHIRE FACE-OFF IN NESN'S FIRST *HOCKEY EAST FRIDAY NIGHT* BROADCAST OF THE SEASON



BOSTON, MA – NESN, New England's most watched sports network, will televise the first *Hockey East Friday Night* game of the season on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> between two of the nation's top ten teams when #5 Massachusetts hosts #8 New Hampshire at the Mullins Center in Amherst, MA. Coverage begins at 7:00 PM with *Hockey East Friday Night Live*, the network's half-hour Hockey East pre-game show now in its second season.

"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.

Tom Caron (play-by-play) and Tim Sweeney (color analyst) will call the games for NESN's *Hockey East Friday Night* broadcasts with Bob Beers (studio host) and newcomer Brendan Walsh (studio analyst) delivering *Hockey East Friday Night Live* before every game from the NESN HD Television Center.

"This has got to be one of the most competitive starts to a Hockey East season in recent memory," said NESN play-by-play announcer Tom Caron. "For NESN to kick-off our coverage in Amherst is perfect as Massachusetts currently enjoys their highest national ranking in the history of the program and the game is a re-match of last year's Hockey East semifinal game that UNH won in double overtime."

Tom 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, Maine native has served as NESN's college hockey play-by-play announcer since 1996 and for the past 6 years has voted for both the USCHO and USA Today national college hockey polls. His partner in the booth will be Boston College alum Tim Sweeney. A former Boston Bruin, Sweeney has served as a college hockey commentator on NESN and other networks since 1999.

*Hockey East Friday Night Live*, NESN's half-hour pre-game show will feature two former Hockey East alums – Bob Beers and Brendan Walsh. Beers played 4 years at Maine and spent 8 years in the NHL with 4 different teams including the Bruins. He is currently in his ninth season as the color analyst on WBZ radio's Boston Bruins coverage. Walsh played at both Boston University and Maine, winning a national championship with the Black Bears in 1999. The Dorchester, Massachusetts native played 5 years of professional hockey and served as an assistant coach at Northeastern University for a year and a half.

NESN, New England's most-watched sports network, is owned by the Boston Red Sox and Boston Bruins and delivered to over 4 million homes throughout the six-state region. *NESN University* is the unifying theme for all of NESN's college sports programming delivering more local college sports action than any other network with over 100 events.

