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# MEN'S PRESS RELEASE

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## **THREE HOCKEY EAST TEAMS EARN BERTHS IN NCAA TOURNAMENT PLAY ~BC, UNH, Vermont extend their seasons this coming weekend~**

**WAKEFIELD, Mass.** -- The NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Selection Committee announced on Sunday the 16-team field for the upcoming NCAA Tournament live via selection show on ESPN2 this morning, which included three Hockey East teams in Boston College, New Hampshire and Vermont.

No. 3 seed UNH will open the NCAA schedule for Hockey East teams in the East Regional on Friday night at 6:30pm vs. No. 2 seed Cornell at the Times Union Center in Albany, N.Y. The game will be broadcast live on ESPNU. UNH and Cornell will meet in the NCAA Tournament for the third time. The Wildcats won the two previous NCAA meetings (4-3 in 2002 second round, 3-2 in 2003 national semifinal). These teams met earlier this season at Whittemore Center with Cornell using a three-goal third period to capture a 5-2 win on January 3. UNH owns a 13-23 all-time record in the NCAA playoffs, which includes an 11-15 all-time record under head coach Dick Umile.

In the other first-round game in Albany, top-seeded Denver University (27-9-4, second overall seed) will play Atlantic Hockey champion Rochester Institute of Technology, RIT, (26-11-1). The winners from both games will meet in the regional final in Albany on Saturday, March 27 (6:30 p.m.) live on ESPNU.

No. 4 seed Vermont will also open its schedule on Friday night in the West Regional against No. 1 seed Wisconsin at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minn. at 9pm EST. The NCAA bid is the fifth in school history for the Catamounts, who advanced to the Frozen Four last season. Vermont is 3-5 all-time in the NCAA Men's Hockey Tournament. The Catamounts advanced to the Frozen Four last season with a 4-1, win against Yale and a 3-2, double overtime win against Air Force in the East Regional at Bridgeport Arena at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport, Conn. Vermont lost to eventual national champion Boston University, 5-4, in the Frozen Four at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C.

The other half of the West Regional bracket has second-seeded St. Cloud State (23-13-5) meeting third-seeded Northern Michigan (20-12-8) on Friday at 5:30 p.m. (EST). The winners of the Vermont-Wisconsin and St. Cloud State-Northern Michigan match-ups will meet in the West Regional championship game on Saturday at 9 p.m. (EST).

The Boston College Eagles won their league-record ninth Hockey East Tournament Championship and earned the league's automatic qualifier on Saturday night with a 7-6 overtime victory against Maine at the TD Garden in Boston. The No. 1 seeded Eagles will open its tournament schedule against No. 4 seed Alaska in the Northeast Regional on Saturday, March 27 (1:30pm) at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass. The game will be live on ESPN 360.

Saturday's meeting will mark the first time in BC's 87-year hockey history that the two teams will meet. Alaska, which earned an at-large berth to the NCAA Tournament, has an 18-11-9 record. It will mark BC's 29th appearance in the NCAA Tournament and will mark the program's 11th appearance in the last 13 years

Saturday's second Worcester regional contest features No. 2 North Dakota against No. 3 seed Yale at 5 p.m.

Hockey East Teams own a 107-89-1 record since the league's inception in 1984. The league has won six NCAA Championships, including the last two with Boston College in 2008 and Boston University in 2009. In the last two seasons, Hockey East teams own a 11-4 record in the NCAA Tournament.

The winner of each regional will advance to the 2010 Frozen Four at Ford Field in Detroit, Mich. The Frozen Four is set for April 8-10.

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