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# WOMEN'S LEAGUE

# PRESS RELEASE



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## UNH HEADS INTO NCAA TOURNAMENT AS NO. 1 SEED *Boston College edged out of field by Harvard's run to the ECACHL title*

Four years into a new era, Hockey East is on the cusp of leaving a huge footprint on the national map of women's hockey.

The University of New Hampshire Wildcats, wrapping up a 27-0-1 streak with a convincing 6-0 Hockey East championship game win vs. Boston College, enter the 2006 NCAA Championship Tournament as the No. 1 overall seed. Hockey East got its first bid last year with a No. 8 seed for three-time defending champ Providence, but the Friars were ousted quickly, suffering a 6-1 loss against top-seeded Minnesota.

This year, Hockey East holds the ace in No. 1 UNH.

The Wildcats will host a quarterfinal round game on Friday night against Harvard, who secured its berth in the field thanks to an impressive run through the ECACHL tourney. The Crimson defeated Clarkson, St. Lawrence and Brown en route, but is 0-2 against UNH this year. Wildcat Leah Craig scored two goals and assisted on the other in a 3-0 whitewash at Harvard on December 10, the first shutout suffered by the Crimson since 2002. Tandem snipers Jennifer Hitchcock and Sadie Wright-Ward had two points each in that match and each player added one more point in UNH's 5-1 home triumph over Harvard on January 11. Shannon Clement, Lindsay Hansen and Jackie Wedster each contributed one goal and one assist in the second win. Goaltender Melissa Bourdon stopped 40 of 41 shots faced over the two games.

But this may be a different Harvard team coming into the Whittemore Center now. A 3-6-2 run near the end of the regular season put the Crimson on the ropes, but the team rebounded to win five of its last six, including two gutsy OT wins vs. Clarkson. Its ECACHL title soured BC's hopes of gaining a bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Eagles were a team right on the bubble following the loss in the Hockey East championship game, but had a much better shot of getting in had Harvard fallen in the ECACHL tourney.

The winner of Friday's semifinal advances to Minnesota for the Frozen Four, and will face the winner of the Princeton-Minnesota quarterfinal, also on Friday. The other side of the bracket features No. 2 seed Wisconsin, who will host Mercyhurst on Saturday, and St. Lawrence, who hosts Minnesota Duluth.

### HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	GF (Avg.)	GA (Avg.)	Overall
1. New Hampshire	21	19	1	1	39	107 (5.10)	23 (1.10)	32-2-1
2. Boston College	21	16	4	1	33	62 (2.95)	43 (2.05)	20-11-4
3. Providence	21	11	8	2	24	69 (3.29)	50 (2.38)	17-14-4
4. Maine	21	9	8	4	22	58 (2.76)	48 (2.29)	17-9-6
5. Connecticut	21	10	11	0	20	44 (2.10)	47 (2.24)	12-21-1
6. Boston University	21	6	13	2	14	36 (1.71)	66 (3.14)	12-17-4
7. Northeastern	21	6	14	1	13	43 (2.05)	79 (3.76)	8-24-1
8. Vermont	21	1	19	1	3	13 (0.62)	76 (3.62)	3-29-2

### HOCKEY EAST TOURNAMENT

**Saturday, March 4**

*Semifinals at Northeastern*

*New Hampshire 6, Maine 0*

*Boston College 3, Providence 1*

**Sunday, February 26**

*Championship Game at Northeastern*

*New Hampshire 6, Boston College 0*

### NCAA TOURNAMENT

**Friday, Mar. 17 – Quarterfinals**

*Harvard at New Hampshire (7pm)*

*Princeton at Minnesota (8pm)*

**Saturday, Mar. 18 – Quarterfinals**

*Minnesota Duluth at St. Lawrence (7pm)*

*Mercyhurst at Wisconsin (8pm)*

**Friday, Mar. 24**

*Semifinals at Minnesota (5/8pm)*

**Sunday, Mar. 26**

*Championship Game at Minnesota (4pm)*

All times Eastern