



HOCKEY EAST WOMEN'S PRESS RELEASE

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WEEKLY PREVIEW #9

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LEAGUE HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL "SKATING STRIDES" THIS WEEKEND **~Six sites raise breast cancer awareness on Saturday and Sunday~**

WAKEFIELD, Mass. -- Women's Hockey East will host its 2nd Annual "Skating Strides Against Breast Cancer" on February 16-17, 2008. Six games have been designated as "Skating Strides" games. All eight teams in WHEA will participate, and will be wearing pink and white jerseys. Selected players will also be using pink sticks. Special events are planned for each arena, including ceremonial puck drops, check presentations, raffles and silent auctions. Proceeds raised from each of the events will be split between, and donated to, two local breast cancer charities: Friends of Mel Foundation (Melrose, Mass.) and the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" New England divisions.

On Saturday, February 16th, the following four games have been scheduled: Boston University will travel to Storrs, Conn. to face the Huskies at the University of Connecticut in a 1:00 p.m. start. Providence College will travel to the Northeastern University in Boston for a 2:00 p.m. face-off at Matthews Arena. The University of Vermont will head south to the University of New Hampshire for a 2:00 pm tilt at the Whittemore Center in Durham, N.H., and Boston College will travel to Orono, Maine for a 7:00 p.m. face-off at the University of Maine.

On Sunday, February 17th there are two games scheduled. Northeastern will travel to Providence College for a 2:00 p.m. game against the Friars at Schneider Arena and, at 3:00 p.m., the UConn Huskies will face-off against Boston University at Walter Brown Arena in Boston.

In addition to the eight women's programs, all 10 men's teams will join the effort to raise money with special events scheduled at each of their respective arenas during the month of February. Hockey East referees have already raised over 2,000 dollars for the "Skating Strides" program. The officials will present their check on Feb. 17 at Walter Brown Arena, prior to the start of the BU/Conn match up.

WHEA's Skating Strides Against Breast Cancer was created to both raise money and create awareness in the fight against the devastating disease. "The special thing about this program is that it's a league-wide initiative that encompasses all 18 of our programs. We are proud that they recognize and are involved in raising awareness for breast cancer. The idea came originally from our coaches as a way to establish a greater fan base and work with charities to raise awareness for both the causes and the conference", said Commissioner Joe Bertagna. "The results from the inaugural events last season vastly exceeded our expectations and we are looking forward more great results this year."

Last year, the program was recognized by the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators at their annual meetings in June of 2007, which awarded the league a gold medal for Single Day Attendance Promotion of an Olympic Sport.

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