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PRESS RELEASE

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2009 WHEA CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRINGS SET **~Host No. 1 seed UNH faces Providence; No. 2 seed BC plays BU~**

WAKEFIELD, Mass. -- The Women's Hockey East Association announced on Saturday night the pairings for the upcoming seventh annual WHEA Tournament on Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8 hosted at the Whittemore Center on the campus of the University of New Hampshire.

No. 1 seed and host New Hampshire (22-5-5, 16-2-3 WHEA) will face No. 4 seed Providence College (17-5-3, 12-8-1 WHEA) on Saturday afternoon (12pm) in the first WHEA semifinal, while No. 2 Boston College (21-7-5, 14-5-2 WHEA) will square off against cross-town rival No. 3 seed Boston University (18-10-7, 14-6-1 WHEA) in the late game (3pm). The Friars earned a 3-0 shutout on No. 5 seed Connecticut in the first WHEA quarterfinal game in league history on Saturday at Schneider Arena, while BU edged No. 6 seed Northeastern, 2-1, at Walter Brown Arena in the second match up.

The Wildcats and Eagles earned first round byes, as they finished in the top two spots in the league standings. UNH was victorious the season series with PC, 2-1, which included a series sweep for the 'Cats in final weekend of the regular-season vs. UConn. BC went 1-1-1 vs. BU this year, but won the shootout vs. the Terriers in the one tie in the regular season finale between the two schools.

The WHEA Championship Game will be played on Sunday, March 8 at 12:30 p.m. The game will be tape delayed on the New England Sports Network (NESN) at 4 p.m. Both WHEA semifinals games will be broadcast live on the internet by B2 Networks at www.b2tv.com.

Providence College won the first three WHEA Tournament Championships (2003, 2004, 2005) and New Hampshire has won the last three league tournament titles (2006, 2007, 2008).

Tickets for the 2009 Women's Hockey East Championship are on sale now. Tickets may be purchased through the Whittemore Center Box Office, by calling 603-868-7300 or by logging on to www.unhwildcats.com. Student from Hockey East schools are eligible for a complimentary ticket, with a valid student ID, at the box office on game day.

The Women's Hockey East Association is an eight-team, Division-I college hockey conference which began play in 2002-2003, with offices based in Wakefield, Mass. The league also sponsors an 10 team men's league which began play in 1984-1985.