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74 Hockey East Alumni Begin 2023-24 NHL Season

Every Member School Represented as Professional Season Begins

AMESBURY, Mass. – There were 74 Hockey East alumni named to National Hockey League rosters for opening night of the 2023-24 season, it was announced this week by the NHL. In total, 31 of the 32 member clubs carry at least one Hockey East alumnus on their roster. A full list of players can be found below.

The 74 players represent every Hockey East member institution, led by Boston University (17), Boston College (16), and Massachusetts (8). Rounding out the schools are Providence (7), Northeastern (7), New Hampshire (5), Maine (4), UMass Lowell (3), UConn (1), Merrimack (1), and Vermont (1). Additionally, four Notre Dame skaters who competed in Hockey East earned NHL roster spots.

The Boston Bruins boast seven Hockey East alumni and the Montreal Canadiens boast six Hockey East players on their rosters, the most of any NHL club while 20 of the 32 clubs carry at least two league products.

The roster data includes players who are on injured reserve or long-term injured reserve to open the season, or who have been designated injured non-roster.

The Hockey East Association saw 21 current players and recruits selected in the 2023 National Hockey League Entry Draft, representing eight of the 11 Hockey East member schools. The selections were highlighted by six picks in the first round and 12 in the first three rounds. Hockey East's 21 selections were once again the most of any college hockey conference and represent 45% of the 46 NCAA players and recruits chosen.

Forty-four NCAA Division I programs – representing all six NCAA Division I men's conferences – boast at least one former player on an NHL roster, led by Michigan's 25. Other schools with 10 or more alums on NHL rosters include: Minnesota (21), Boston University (17), Boston College (15), Wisconsin (13), Harvard (11), Minnesota Duluth (10) and North Dakota (10).

The Buffalo Sabres enter the season with a league-leading 12 former college hockey players on their opening night roster, followed by the New York Rangers (11), Vancouver Canucks (11), Boston Bruins (11) and Colorado Avalanche (10).

Also of note, half of the NHL's 32 current general managers played college hockey, as did 13 of the league's current head coaches, including 2023 NHL Coach of the Year Jim Montgomery (Maine '93).

More NCAA alumni are playing in the NHL than ever before, as evidenced by the record 349 who appeared in the NHL during the 2021-22 season. NCAA Division I men's hockey successes also extend beyond the ice, where the sport enjoys a 92-percent graduation rate that ranks among the top five of all NCAA Division I men's sports.

The puck drops tonight with a triple-header on ESPN/ESPN+ featuring Nashville at Tampa Bay, Chicago at Pittsburgh, and Seattle at defending Stanley Cup champion Vegas. Those six rosters showcase a combined 38 former NCAA standouts, including Kraken forward and 2023 NHL Rookie of the Year and Matty Beniers (Michigan).

ABOUT THE HOCKEY EAST ASSOCIATION

The Hockey East Association is an 11-team Division I college men's hockey conference founded in 1984 and a 10-team Division I women's league which began play in 2002-03. The men's league has won 10 NCAA championships, most recently in 2021. Since 1999, Hockey East has won eight men's NCAA Championships with 17 NCAA Championship Game appearances, while placing 29 teams in the Frozen Four and 79 teams in the NCAA Tournament. Overall, Hockey East has sent 123 teams to the men's NCAA Tournament since its inaugural season, more than any other conference in that span. Hockey East is home to 11 Hobey Baker winners and four Patty Kazmaier winners.

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Hockey East Alumni on NHL Opening Night Rosters

Player	School	NHL Team	Pos.
Cam Atkinson	Boston College	Philadelphia	F
Matt Boldy	Boston College	Minnesota	F
Patrick Brown	Boston College	Boston	F
Thatcher Demko	Boston College	Vancouver	G
Brian Dumoulin	Boston College	Seattle	D
Johnny Gaudreau	Boston College	Columbus	F
Noah Hanifin	Boston College	Calgary	D
Kevin Hayes	Boston College	St. Louis	F
Chris Kreider	Boston College	NYR	F
Mike Matheson	Boston College	Montreal	D
Jack McBain	Boston College	Arizona	F
Alex Newhook	Boston College	Montreal	F
Alex Tuch	Boston College	Buffalo	F
Oliver Wahlstrom	Boston College	NYI	F
Joseph Woll	Boston College	Toronto	G
Miles Wood	Boston College	Colorado	F
Nick Bonino	Boston University	NYR	F
Charlie Coyle	Boston University	Boston	F
Jack Eichel	Boston University	Vegas	F
Dante Fabbro	Boston University	Nashville	D
Joel Farabee	Boston University	Philadelphia	F
Jordan Greenway	Boston University	Buffalo	F
A.J. Greer	Boston University	Calgary	F
Matt Grzelcyk	Boston University	Boston	D
Clayton Keller	Boston University	Arizona	F
Charlie McAvoy	Boston University	Boston	D
Matt Nieto	Boston University	Pittsburgh	F
Jake Oettinger	Boston University	Dallas	G
Evan Rodrigues	Boston University	Florida	F
Kevin Shattenkirk	Boston University	Boston	D
Brady Tkachuk	Boston University	Ottawa	F
Alex Vlasic	Boston University	Chicago	D
Trevor Zegras	Boston University	Anaheim	F
Ben Hutton	Maine	Vegas	D
Ryan Lomberg	Maine	Florida	F
Gustav Nyquist	Maine	Nashville	F
Jeremy Swayman	Maine	Boston	G
Mario Ferraro	Massachusetts	San Jose	D
Joel Hanley	Massachusetts	Dallas	D
Zac Jones	Massachusetts	NYR	D
Cale Makar	Massachusetts	Colorado	D
Brandon Montour *	Massachusetts	Florida	D
Jonathan Quick	Massachusetts	NYR	G
Conor Sheary	Massachusetts	Tampa	F
Frank Vatrano	Massachusetts	Anaheim	F
Johnathan Kovacevic	Merrimack	Montreal	D
Casey DeSmith	New Hampshire	Vancouver	G
Warren Foegele	New Hampshire	Edmonton	F
Brett Pesce	New Hampshire	Carolina	D
James van Riemsdyk	New Hampshire	Boston	F
Trevor van Riemsdyk	New Hampshire	Washington	D
Matt Benning	Northeastern	San Jose	D
Jordan Harris	Northeastern	Montreal	D
Devon Levi	Northeastern	Buffalo	G
Josh Manson	Northeastern	Colorado	D
Jamie Oleksiak	Northeastern	Seattle	D
Cayden Primeau	Northeastern	Montreal	G
Ryan Shea	Northeastern	Pittsburgh	D
Jake Evans	Notre Dame	Montreal	F
Dennis Gilbert	Notre Dame	Calgary	D
Andrew Peeke	Notre Dame	Columbus	D
Bryan Rust	Notre Dame	Pittsburgh	F
Noel Acciari	Providence	Pittsburgh	F
Jacob Bryson	Providence	Buffalo	D
Vincent Desharnais	Providence	Edmonton	D
Brandon Duhaime	Providence	Minnesota	F
Kevin Rooney *	Providence	Calgary	F
Brandon Tanev	Providence	Seattle	F
Jake Walman	Providence	Detroit	D
Tage Thompson	UConn	Buffalo	F
Connor Hellebuyck	UMass Lowell	Winnipeg	G
Andre Lee *	UMass Lowell	Los Angeles	F
Chad Ruhwedel	UMass Lowell	Pittsburgh	D
Ross Colton	Vermont	Colorado	F

* Injured Reserve

