



PRESS RELEASE

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110 Hockey East Alumni Begin Chase for 2026 Stanley Cup

52 Active Players Remain in Contention for NHL's Top Prize

AMESBURY, Mass. - The Hockey East Association is again the most well-represented college hockey conference in the Stanley Cup Playoffs with 110 league alumni set to battle for the NHL's top prize. Of the 110 products of league member schools, 52 are active players that appeared on the rosters of their NHL clubs this season and 59 include front office staff and coaches representing 11 different member institutions. The full list of players and staff is below.

All 16 teams that clinched a spot in the NHL playoffs have at least one Hockey East alumni on their roster and 15 of the 16 organizations have at least one Hockey East alumni on the coaching staff or in their front office. Of the 137 NCAA alumni on NHL playoff rosters, Hockey East accounts for nearly 38% of those battling for the Stanley Cup.

The 52 active players represent 11 different institutions with Boston College topping the league with 15 representatives. Boston University follows with nine products in the NHL playoffs, while Northeastern and Providence boast six each. Massachusetts sends three, while UConn, Maine, and New Hampshire are represented by two players each and Merrimack and Vermont have a lone alumnus playing for the Stanley Cup. Additionally, five Notre Dame products in the Stanley Cup playoffs played in Hockey East.

Hockey East was again the most well-represented college hockey league in the NHL, developing 38% of all college alumni that played in the sport's top league this season. In total, a record 127 Hockey East alumni appeared in at least one NHL game during the 2025-26 regular season, eclipsing the previous all-time record set last year with 123. Just two years ago the high-water mark stood at 109. It marks six consecutive seasons with over 100 Hockey East alumni playing at the game's highest level. All 11 current men's member institutions had at least one former player represented.

The Hockey East Association saw nine alumni raise the 2025 Stanley Cup, as the Florida Panthers claimed the National Hockey League's top prize for the second straight year. The league products included three players and six members of the Panthers front office staff and it marked the 15th straight year that at least one Hockey East alumnus had their name engraved on the Stanley Cup. The players included **Evan Rodrigues** (Boston University, 2011-15), **Brandon Montour** (Massachusetts, 2014-15), and **Ryan Lomberg** (Maine, 2012-14). Leading Florida in the front office was Assistant GM **Brett Peterson** (Boston College, 2000-04), Senior Advisor to the GM **Paul Fenton** (Boston University, 1979-82), Manager, Player Development **Mike Ryan** (Northeastern, 1999-03), Amateur Scout **P.J. Fenton** (Massachusetts, 2004-08), Amateur Scout Josh Monk (Providence, 2013-17) and Director of European Pro Scouting **Oleg Yevenko** (Massachusetts, 2011-15).

In addition to NCAA alumni dotting NHL playoff rosters, six of the teams competing in the Stanley Cup Playoffs are helmed by general managers who played college hockey: Buffalo's **Jarmo Kekäläinen** (Clarkson), Colorado's **Chris MacFarland** (Pace), Minnesota's **Bill Guerin** (Boston College), Montreal's **Kent Hughes** (Middlebury), Vegas' **Kelly McCrimmon** (Michigan), and Boston's **Don Sweeney** (Harvard).

Five of the qualifying teams are coached by former NCAA players: Carolina's **Rod Brind'Amour** (Michigan State), Minnesota's **John Hynes** (Boston University), Pittsburgh's **Dan Muse** (Stonehill), Montreal's **Martin St. Louis** (Vermont), and Vegas's **John Tortorella** (Maine). Additionally, Tampa Bay head coach **Jon Cooper** played club hockey at Hofstra.

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Hockey East Players in the 2026 Stanley Cup Playoffs

Player	Hockey East	NHL	Pos.	Nation	Draft	Years in College
Matt Boldy	Boston College	MIN	F	US	1st	2
Brian Dumoulin	Boston College	LAK	D	US	2nd	3
Jacob Fowler	Boston College	MTL	G	US	3rd	2
Cutter Gauthier	Boston College	ANA	F	US	1st	2
James Hagens	Boston College	BOS	F	US	1st	2
Noah Hanifin	Boston College	VGK	D	US	1st	1
Kevin Hayes	Boston College	PIT	F	US	1st	4
Drew Helleson	Boston College	ANA	D	US	2nd	3
Chris Kreider	Boston College	ANA	F	US	1st	3
Mike Matheson	Boston College	MTL	D	CAN	1st	3
Jack McBain	Boston College	UTA	F	CAN	3rd	4
Alex Newhook	Boston College	MTL	F	CAN	1st	2
Steven Santini	Boston College	TBL	D	US	2nd	3
Jack St. Ivany	Boston College	PIT	D	US	4th	4
Alex Tuch	Boston College	BUF	F	US	1st	2
Cameron Crotty	Boston University	OTT	D	CAN	3rd	3
Jack Eichel	Boston University	VGK	F	US	1st	1
Jordan Greenway	Boston University	BUF	F	US	2nd	3
Lane Hutson	Boston University	MTL	D	US	2nd	2
Clayton Keller	Boston University	UTA	F	US	1st	1
Charlie McAvoy	Boston University	BOS	D	US	1st	2
Jake Oettinger	Boston University	DAL	G	US	1st	3
Brady Tkachuk	Boston University	OTT	F	US	1st	1
Trevor Zegras	Boston University	PHI	F	US	1st	1
Viking Gustafsson-Nyberg	UConn	MIN	D	SWE	FA	3
Tage Thompson	UConn	BUF	F	US	1st	2
Ben Hutton	Maine	VGK	D	CAN	5th	3
Jeremy Swayman	Maine	BOS	G	US	4th	3
Mitchell Chaffee	Massachusetts	TBL	F	US	FA	3
Cale Makar	Massachusetts	COL	D	CAN	1st	2
Frank Vatrano	Massachusetts	ANA	F	US	FA	2
Declan Carlile	Merrimack	TBL	D	US	FA	3
Casey DeSmith	New Hampshire	DAL	G	US	FA	3
Warren Foegele	New Hampshire	OTT	F	CAN	3rd	1
Jordan Harris	Northeastern	BOS	D	US	3rd	4
Justin Hryckowian	Northeastern	DAL	F	CAN	FA	3
Michael Kesselring	Northeastern	BUF	D	US	6th	2
Josh Manson	Northeastern	COL	D	CAN	6th	3
Ryan Shea	Northeastern	PIT	D	US	4th	4
Jayden Struble	Northeastern	MTL	D	US	2nd	4
Jake Evans	Notre Dame	MTL	F	CAN	7th	4
Dennis Gilbert	Notre Dame	OTT	D	US	3rd	3
Andrew Peeke	Notre Dame	BOS	D	US	2nd	3
Cal Petersen	Notre Dame	MIN	G	US	5th	3
Bryan Rust	Notre Dame	PIT	F	US	3rd	4
Noel Acciari	Providence	PIT	F	US	FA	3
Max Crozier	Providence	TBL	D	CAN	4th	4
Mark Jankowski	Providence	CAR	F	US	1st	4
Kevin Rooney	Providence	UTA	F	US	FA	4
Brandon Tanev	Providence	UTA	F	CAN	FA	4
Jake Walman	Providence	EDM	D	CAN	3rd	3
Ross Colton	Vermont	COL	F	US	4th	2

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Hockey East Staff in the 2026 Stanley Cup Playoffs

Anaheim Ducks

Assistant Coach Tim Army – Providence (1981-85)
Scout Steve Lyons – New Hampshire (1980-83)
Scout Gabriella Switaj – Boston College (2014-18)
AHL Assistant Coach Michael Babcock – Merrimack (2015-19)

Boston Bruins

President, Boston Bruins Foundation Bob Sweeney – Boston College (1982-86)
Assistant Coach Jay Leach – Providence (1997-2001)
Goaltending Development Coach Mike Dunham – Maine (1990-93)
Skating and Skills Coach John McLean – Boston College (1983-87)
Skating and Skills Consultant David Breen – Merrimack (2002-04)
Player Development Coordinator Ben Smith – Boston College (2006-10)

Buffalo Sabres

None.

Carolina Hurricanes

Director of Player Development Peter Harrold – Boston College (2002-06)

Colorado Avalanche

Director of Amateur Scouting Nick Pryor – Maine (2009-13)
Scout Rob Riley – Boston College (1974-78)
Scout Neil Shea – Boston College (1982-86)
AHL Assistant Coach Derek Army – Providence (2010-24)

Dallas Stars

Scout Bob Emery – Boston College (1982-86)
Pro Scout Matt Mangene – Maine (2009-12)

Edmonton Oilers

Skills Coach Conor Allen – Massachusetts (2010-13)
Pro Scout Dani Rylan Kearney – Northeastern (2010-12)
Amateur Scout Scott Harlow – Boston College (1982-86)
College Scout Ron Anderson – Boston University (1969-72)

Los Angeles

Goaltending Development Coach Danny Tirone – New Hampshire (2014-18)
ECHL Head Coach/General Manager Chad Costello – Northeastern (2006-08)

Minnesota Wild

GM/President of Hockey Operations Bill Guerin – Boston College (1989-91)
Assistant General Manager Chris Kelleher – Boston University (1994-98)
Head Coach John Hynes – Boston University (1994-97)
Associate Coach Jack Capuano – Maine (1985-88)
Pro Scout Mark Mowers – New Hampshire (1994-98)
ECHL Assistant Coach Brett Boeing – Michigan Tech (2015-16), Massachusetts (2016-19)

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Hockey East Staff in the 2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs

Montreal Canadiens

Head Coach Martin St. Louis – Vermont (1993-97)
Coach Consultant Roger Grillo – Maine (1982-84)
Director, Player Evaluation/Amateur Scout Billy Ryan – Maine (2004-08)
Assistant Director, Hockey Development Scott Pellerin – Maine (1988-92)
Player Development Consultant Marie-Philip Poulin – Boston University (2010-15)
Pro Scout Gordon Clark – New Hampshire (1971-74)
Pro Scout Teddy Purcell – Maine (2006-07)
Scout Mark Mullen – Boston University (2000-04)
Chief North American Scout Albie O'Connell – Boston University (1995-99)
Ambassador Chris Nilan – Northeastern (1976-79)

Ottawa Senators

Professional Scout Steve Stirling – Boston University (1968-71)
ECHL Assistant Coach Lily Martinson – Providence (2021-25)

Philadelphia Flyers

Special Advisor, Hockey Operations John LeClair – Vermont (1987-91)
Special Advisor, Hockey Operations Patrick Sharp – Vermont (2000-02)
AHL Head Coach Terrence Wallin – UMass Lowell (2011-15)

Pittsburgh Penguins

Vice President, Player Personnel Wes Clark – Maine (2004-08)
Assistant Coach Nick Bonino – Boston University (2007-10)
Special Assignment Scout Kevin Stevens – Boston College (1983-87)
AHL Assistant Coach Nick Luukko – Vermont (2011-15)

Tampa Bay Lightning

Pro Scout Stephen Gionta – Boston College (2002-06)
Pro Scout Brian Putnam – New Hampshire (1993-97)
AHL Assistant Coach J.D. Forrest – Boston College (2000-04)

Utah Mammoth

Assistant General Manager John Ferguson – Providence (1985-89)
Pro Scout Eric Boguniecki – New Hampshire (1993-97)
Amateur Scout Teal Fowler – Merrimack (1989-93)
AHL Goaltender Development Coach Jeff Hill – Vermont (2004-08)

Vegas Golden Knights

Head Coach John Tortorella – Maine (1978-81)
Assistant Coach Dominique Ducharme – Vermont (1991-95)
European Scout Peter Ahola – Boston University (1989-91)

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