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PRESS RELEASE

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PLAYOFF PAIRINGS SET FOR 25TH ANNUAL HOCKEY EAST TOURNAMENT

WAKEFIELD, Mass. - *The Hockey East Association has announced the field for the upcoming 25th annual Hockey East Tournament, which begins on Friday, March 13 on the campus sites (best of three series) of the top four seeded teams. All series begin on Friday and are best of three series in the quarterfinal round of the playoffs. All quarterfinal games will begin at 7 p.m., except for the NESN game on Saturday night, which begins at 7:30 p.m (UMass at NU).*

No. 1 seed Boston University (27-5-4, 18-5-4 HEA) will host No. 8 Maine (12-20-4, 7-17-3 HEA) at Agganis Arena in Boston. The Terriers won the season series with the Black Bears, 2-0-1. The teams last met in the playoffs in March of 2004 in the HEA semifinals (Maine shutout BU, 1-0). The Terriers clinched their eighth Hockey East regular-season title in school history on Sunday afternoon with a 3-0 shutout of Providence. BU enters the tournament unbeaten in its last 16 games (13-0-3)

No. 2 seed Northeastern (23-9-4, 18-6-3 HEA) will entertain No. 7 seed Massachusetts (15-18-3, 10-14-3 HEA) at Matthews Arena in Boston. NESN will broadcast Game 2 of the series live on Saturday night with a special start time of 7:30. The Minutemen won the season series, 2-1-0. The two teams have never met in the Hockey East playoffs.

No. 3 seed New Hampshire (19-10-5, 15-8-4 HEA) will match up against No. 6 Boston College (16-13-5, 11-11-5) at the Whittemore Center in Durham, N.H. UNH took the season series with the Eagles, 2-1-0. BC has won three of the last four Hockey East Tournament titles.

No. 4 seed Vermont (20-9-5, 15-8-4 HEA) plays host to No. 5 seed UMass-Lowell (17-15-2, 14-11-2 HEA) at Gutterson Fieldhouse in Burlington, Vt. The season series was a deadlock at 1-1-1. These two teams also meet for the first time in league tournament play.

Hockey East Tournament games will be available for viewing by a worldwide audience through B2 Networks and will be aired through www.hockeyeastonline. com as well as www.b2tv.com. Fans wanting to watch hockey games via B2 Networks will need a high-speed Internet connection and a current version of Microsoft Windows Media Player. Games will be sold on an individual basis for $8 (US). The Hockey East Tournament pass for viewing all games broadcast by B2 Networks will be $40, which includes every game except the Saturday night NESN game (UMass at NU).

The winners of each quarterfinal series will advance to the TD Banknorth Garden in Boston for the 25th annual Hockey East Championships on Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21. The semifinals will be played Friday at 5 and 8 p.m. and the title game will be played on Saturday night at 7 p.m. in Boston. All three games will be broadcast live on NESN.

The Hockey East Association is a 10-team, Division-I college hockey conference, with offices based in Wakefield, Mass. Founded in 1983, the league has won five NCAA championships in the past 14 years. The conference also sponsors an eight-team women's league which began play in 2002-03.

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