

THE DAILY FREE PRESS

Hockey Supplement



Thursday October 6, 2011

Page 2:

*Men's
Season
Preview*

Page 4:

*Evolution of
Corey
Trivino*

Page 5:

*Captains'
Corner*

Page 7:

*Rise of
Justin
Courtnall*

Page 8:

*Women's
season
preview*



ALL PHOTOS BY AMANDA SWINHART/DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

The Redeem Team

Terriers look to regain championship form of years past

By Arielle Aronson
Daily Free Press Staff

Last season's Boston University men's hockey team was a disaster by program standards.

The only championship it won all year was the season-opening Ice Breaker tournament. It finished last in the Beanpot for the first time since 1980. It fell to Northeastern University in the Hockey East Quarterfinals at home and for the second time in as many years, it watched the NCAA tournament from the comfort of dorm room couches.

But last year's team was not lacking in talent or desire. They were simply too young.

Now a year older, the Terriers are more motivated than ever to become the top dog once more in Hockey East.

"This program is expected to be in the top 16 teams in the nation and make the national tournament year in and year out," senior captain Chris Connolly said. "I took it a little personally last year being one of the captains to not make it the second year in a row."

"The Beanpot and Hockey East and home ice is all very important, but I think this year we really want to focus on making it back to the national stage."

Joining Connolly as captains this season will be junior assistants Alex Chiasson and Justin Court-nall. Together, the trio will attempt to bring a national championship back to BU for the first time in three years.

Forwards

The Terriers lost little and return plenty, and this is especially true with the forwards.

Although BU lost former co-captain Joe Pereira and his 21 points (15 goals, 6 assists), its top five scorers all return. Headlining that list is Chiasson, who led the team in scoring last season with 14

goals and 20 assists.

"He's going to be a big part of the offense," coach Jack Parker said. "I don't think he has to be the guy that carries it because we have other guys that are talented too, but whatever line he's on is going to be a real good line. He's going to get an awful lot of ice time."

Along with Chiasson, the Terriers will look to Connolly (10g, 18a), senior Corey Trivino (8g, 20a), and sophomore Charlie Coyle (7g, 19a) to spark the offense. Coyle, a native of Weymouth, Mass., said he is especially motivated to have a better season this year after finishing last in the Beanpot, a tournament he grew up watching and hoping to play in, last season.

"It's pretty humiliating," Coyle said. "We're obviously forgetting about that. It's a new year."

"We're going to have to step it up this year. Through experience last year, we know what it takes. It's going to be a good Beanpot this year."

BU hopes experience will help its young offense be more productive this season. Five of its top 10 scorers last season were freshmen (forwards Coyle, Sahir Gill and Matt Nieto and defensemen Adam Clendening and Garrett Noonan). Those five Terriers opened last season ranging in age from 17 to 19, and Parker is hoping that with increased experience and age, they will be even more effective.

"Those guys for the most part were playing first or second lines all year long and they were 18-year-olds playing against 24-year-olds sometimes," BU coach Jack Parker said. "It's one thing for our 18-year-old freshmen to be playing

against 20-year-old freshman. It's another thing for them to be playing against 24-year-old seniors."

In addition to the returning offense, BU will add three freshmen forwards: Cason Hohmann, Evan Rodrigues and red-shirt freshman Yasin Cisse. By losing one and adding three, competition for playing time will increase and Parker is hoping that will help the team improve.

"When you only lose one forward and you add three, you're going to have more depth," Parker said. "You're going to have more

Nicastro finished tied for a team-worst minus-9.

"At times, those two looked like really top-notch defensemen, and other times they were less than that," Parker said. "There's inconsistency game-to-game and shift-to-shift. I think they both have the potential to be all-star defensemen. But more than anything else, they have to be consistent."

Sophomores Clendening (5g, 21a, plus-8) and Noonan (4g, 11a, plus-6) both had solid freshman seasons. They will have to take a step up this year as veteran blue liners.

Sophomore Patrick MacGregor saw limited ice time last season, and he will fight for playing time with freshman Alexx Privitera and junior Ben Rosen, who played as a forward last year, for one of the two remaining defensemen slots.

Goaltending

The Terriers return one of the best goaltenders in Hockey East in Kieran Millan, who was a runner-up for the Hockey East Player of the Year Award last year and won BU's Most Valuable Player Award.

Millan has yet to replicate his breakout freshman season, when he posted a 1.94 goals against average, but he had a record-breaking year last season. Millan set a program record for saves in a season with 1,085 and boasted a .919 save percentage, .002 points shy of his freshman year .921 save percentage. The Edmonton native enters the season one win shy of tying Sean Fields' program-record 62 career wins.

While Millan struggled in an exhibition game, allowing five

goals on 17 shots, the Terriers continue to have faith in Millan's ability between the pipes.

"Millan will be the number one goalie," Parker said. "[Grant] Rollheiser will get a chance to get in there and play, but it certainly will not be every other game."

"Millan has had a terrific career so far and he was our MVP last year. Given that he plays up to his ability, we expect him to play most of the games."

Backup goalie Adam Kraus graduated last season, so Rollheiser and sophomore Anthony Moccia will wait in the wings should anything happen to Millan.

League

Hockey East has changed quite a bit since the end of last season. Northeastern University, the University of Massachusetts-Lowell and Providence College all have new coaches, which makes them harder to scout since nobody knows their style of play.

Northeastern coach Greg Cronin departed after six years on Huntington Ave. for a job with the Toronto Maple Leafs, and former Northeastern player Jim Madigan replaced him after a stint as a scout with the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins.

Norm Bazin took over for Blaise MacDonald at UMass-Lowell and Nate Leaman succeeded Tim Army in Providence.

"It's kind of disheartening to tell you the truth, but that's the way college hockey is going," Parker said of the coaching changes. "Job security is not as good as it used to be."

"I do think that all three of those schools selected really good coaches that will give their team a different outlook that can then challenge incumbent coaches to figure them out and maybe push us a little differently. New blood always makes the old blood better coaches, I think."

“The Beanpot and Hockey East and home ice is all very important, but I think this year we really want to focus on making it back to the national stage.”

-Chris Connolly,
Men's hockey senior captain

fighting for positions, and you're going to have more skill. They'll be important because they'll give us new blood.

Defense

The blue line does not have the same depth and talent that the forwards possess this season, but it does have plenty of potential.

The Terriers lost defensive leader David Warsofsky, who left school early to pursue a professional career. Red-shirt junior Ryan Ruikka, the oldest defenseman on the team, will miss the first few weeks of the season with a hairline fracture in his foot. In their absence, juniors Max Nicastro and Sean Escobedo will take over as the elder statesmen of the blue line.

Neither Nicastro nor Escobedo enjoyed a solid season last year and their inconsistency proved problematic for the Terriers, as

For more of the best BU hockey coverage around visit:
www.thebostonhockeyblog.com
And follow on Twitter: @BOShockeyblog

Trivino Suave

Forward looks to come into his own in final collegiate season

By **Arielle Aronson**
Daily Free Press Staff

In his first three years at Boston University, Corey Trivino made a name for himself on campus.

There is the innocuous – a trademark fauxhawk that is consistently gelled to perfection – and the more objectionable – the clouds of scandal that almost cost Trivino his BU career at the end of his sophomore season.

But beyond those perceptions lies the real Corey Trivino – a talented college hockey player trying to make his mark with one of the best teams in Hockey East.

The dark-haired 21-year-old has been playing hockey for most of his life, but he has not always enjoyed it.

“I hated skating lessons when I was little,” Trivino said. “I cried the whole time I was on the ice. [The coaches] told my mom to leave the stands or else I wouldn’t do anything.”

But once Trivino scored his first goal, he fell in love with the sport.

Trivino grew up in Toronto where most young hockey players develop through the urging of their fathers. But his passion for hockey came from his mother since his father, Hugo Trivino, is a native Argentinian who is devoted to soccer more than the foreign sport on skates. A younger Corey played both hockey and soccer until he turned 16 and had to decide between the two.

“I enjoy playing soccer, but I decided that hockey would give me a better future,” Trivino said. “When I decided to play hockey, my dad was heartbroken but he got over it and he loves hockey now. Well, he loves watching me play hockey.”

After deciding to pursue hockey, Trivino joined the Stouffville Spirit of the Ontario Provincial Junior Hockey League. The forward totaled 65 points (25 goals, 40 assists) in his rookie campaign en route to capturing the OPIHL Co-Rookie of the Year award. In his second season with the Spirit, Trivino put up an astounding 91 points (24 goals, 67 assists) in 54 games.

His performance in juniors etched him toward the top of NHL draft lists, and Trivino reached a new high in his hockey career when he was drafted by the New York Islanders in the second round, 36th overall, of the 2008 NHL draft.

Trivino was 18 years old and newly drafted when he arrived in Boston for his first season as a Terrier. He was part of a talented freshmen class that included four other players (An-

drew Glass, Grant Rollheiser, Vinny Saponari and David Warsofsky) who had already been drafted.

As the highest-drafted freshman on the team, Trivino was supposed to headline the newest Terrier forwards. But just four games into the season, Trivino went down with a knee injury and missed a month of action.

“I think watching the team practice when you’re not practicing and gaining that experience, especially as a freshman, it was tough,” Trivino said. “Adjusting to the college game, you have to take it to another level that you have to commit to.”

“The decisions that you have to make on the ice are a little bit faster. Just not being able to adapt because you’re sitting on the sideline kind of put me back a little bit.”

Trivino returned to the lineup in late November as the center on a freshman line that featured Chris Connolly and Vinny Saponari as his wings. Trivino scored his first collegiate goal in just his third game back, a 3-1 win at BC on Dec. 6.

Although the Toronto native was back on the ice, he struggled to regain the scoring prowess from juniors that propelled him to the top of draft lists. In February, Trivino missed a few games with a shoulder injury and was a healthy scratch toward the end of the month.

By the time the Terriers reached the national tournament, Trivino became a key part of the offense. He scored goals in both of BU’s wins in the NCAA regionals in Manchester, N.H., including the game-winner in BU’s 8-2 drubbing of Ohio State University. In the national championship game, it was the freshmen line that was on the ice in overtime when defenseman Colby Cohen scored the game-winning goal.

“I remember we were looking at each other and we were like, ‘Man, if we go on the ice, we cannot lose it for the team. It cannot be our fault,’” Trivino said. “We went out there and had to kind of make sure we did everything possible to keep the pressure on them. Thankfully a goal came out of it.”

In the wake of the national championship, Trivino was part of a blur of celebrations both in the locker room and back on Comm. Ave, where he rode in a duck boat and celebrated at Marsh Plaza during the championship parade.

But when Trivino and the Terriers returned for the 2009-10 season, the euphoria from the national championship squad was gone. The Terriers struggled to live up to expectations



AMANDA SWINHART/DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

Corey Trivino rushes up the ice on a breakaway in an exhibition game against St. Francis Xavier last Saturday.

all season and Trivino continued to fail to put up the numbers he had in juniors. The then-sophomore scored just four goals and 11 assists before suffering a broken leg in February just as the Terriers started to regain steam for a late-season push.

“It was devastating,” Trivino said. “It was probably the worst moment of my hockey career. We were just starting to figure things out. We were dominating teams. And then I couldn’t do anything about it but watch from the sidelines.”

The rest of the team was just as devastated by the injury as Trivino was.

“We were really coming on in the second half of the season and Corey was definitely an important part of our team,” Connolly said. “For him to go down at that point, it was hard for us. It was a big hole for us to fill. We did the best we could but we would have been better off with him in the lineup, that’s for sure.”

The Terriers’ season ended with a loss to the University of Maine in the semifinals of the Hockey East tournament, and BU could do nothing more but watch from the sidelines as Boston College won the national championship.

But for Trivino, the worst was yet to come.

The trouble started in March when, according to sources, a group of Terriers had been out drinking on St. Patrick’s Day, a night when the team was not allowed to go out. To complicate matters, Trivino was underage at the time.

BU head coach Jack Parker reportedly punished the team with a series of bike rides. Trivino and Saponari allegedly showed up extremely late to one of the rides despite a warning from Parker saying if anyone was late, they might as well not show up at all because they would be kicked off the team.

Trivino and Saponari were immediately suspended. To worsen matters, a video of Trivino and Saponari performing a vulgar rap song titled “Party like a Puckstar” surfaced on the Internet around the same time that his other troubles were developing.

In early May, Saponari and his brother Victor were both kicked off

the team. Trivino was suspended indefinitely for the incident. According to a press release from the team, the Saponaris were punished more severely because of “cumulative instances in which Victor and Vinny Saponari have displayed conduct unbecoming of a Boston University hockey player.”

Because Trivino apparently did not share the same behavioral history as the Saponaris, he was given a second chance.

Before their final punishments were meted out, Trivino said he “definitely” thought he would be kicked off the team.

“You don’t know what kind of consequences you’re going to get for your actions,” Trivino said. “I’m thankful that [Parker] gave me a second opportunity to stay on. Hopefully I can make sure that it’s not a decision he’ll regret.”

The second chance proved to be a learning experience for Trivino, as he accepted his punishment and matured from the incident.

“I think he took that to heart a little bit that one of his better friends – Vinny at the time was his roommate – didn’t do the right things and left the program,” Connolly said. “I think that was a little bit of a shock for Corey and I think he’s matured a lot over the last couple of years.”

Trivino was suspended for the first two games of his junior season, but since that time, Trivino rebounded, enjoying his best season in a BU jersey last year, as well as improving his behavior off the ice.

Trivino tied Connolly as the second-leading scorer on the team last season with eight goals and 20 assists. He continued to play well defensively, finishing second among forwards with a plus-4.

But his most important breakthrough came when January ended and February began, as Trivino rode a five-game point streak one year removed from his devastating leg injury.

Trivino explained the offensive outburst by saying he finally felt confident that once the puck was on his stick, he could do something with it rather than simply pass it away. He said his lack of confidence came from his string of injuries.

“You get injured and you’re like ‘Oh, I have to get back to what I was before, not better than I was before,’” Trivino said. “I was always trying to play catch-up with my body and it came to a point where finally I knew what the rhythm was on the ice and what I was going to do. You’re a totally different player when you play with confidence.”

Parker offered a bit more praise than Trivino was willing to give himself when explaining why Trivino lacked confidence through his first two-and-a-half seasons.

“He came in as a very young freshman and it took him a while to get adjusted here,” Parker said. “Confidence-wise, I don’t think he’s ever given himself credit for that. I don’t think he realizes how good he is.”

There’s no better time than the present for Trivino to blossom. After two seasons without any significant championships, Trivino and the Terriers are hungry for some trophies.

“It’s been a big slap in the face especially because we haven’t made the tournament since freshmen year,” Trivino said. “You want that feeling again where you win the championship, you win it all, and you’re the best team in the NCAA’s. Hopefully we can get that feeling back because I know how it feels to not win it for the past two years and it’s not a good feeling at all.”

If the Terriers are able to make an extended postseason run this season, Trivino will have to be a major factor for the team. Although Trivino has proven he can play defense the way Parker demands from his forwards, both the head coach and the center are hoping he will be more of a presence on the score-sheet.

“We won the national championship his freshman year, and he was a third-line center who didn’t have to be the guy [on offense],” Parker said. “This year, we need him to be the guy. We think he has that capability, but we have other guys that can do it too.”

“If he’s just a third-line center, he’ll be the best third-line center in college hockey. But I think this year he will finally evolve into the player everybody perceived coming in.”



AMANDA SWINHART/DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

Meet your new favorite cup.

(Second favorite if you count a certain Beanpot.)



Portable Cooler

Keeps cold drinks cold. It's a smaller, more portable version of your dorm fridge.



Self-Warming System

A cup that keeps drinks hotter than other cups. Take a cautionary sip before you start swigging.



Eternity Warranty

Every Tervis tumbler is guaranteed for life. That's eleventy-zillion beverage sips, give or take.



Virtually Unbreakable

Your Tervis tumbler won't crack, melt, chip, or fail any other final exam.



Identity Protection

More than 1,000 designs to choose from. So, you can change your emblem as often as you change your major.



Looking for more smart cup fun?



Use your smartphone to get tailgating tips, games, and recipes.

No QR reader? Visit tervis.com/college

© 2011 Tervis

tervis®

The world's first **smart cup**.



tervis.com/smartcup

Captains' Corner: Connolly, Courtnall and Chiasson hungry after two down years

By Tim Healey
Daily Free Press Staff

On April 11, 2009, the Boston University men's hockey team was on top of the college hockey world.

Then-sophomore Colby Cohen netted the game-winning goal against Miami University to capture a 4-3 overtime win and a national championship. It spurred a parade days later that closed Commonwealth Avenue from Kenmore Square to Marsh Plaza as the team rode by on duck boats.

Understandably, Terrier Nation was in a frenzy.

Senior forward and captain Chris Connolly, just a freshman at the time, was on the ice for the Cohen goal and can still remember it vividly.

"It was a really strange play," Connolly said. "I remember watching Colby wind up for the big slap shot, it hit another guy and I realized the goalie had no idea where the puck was. I was just watching it quickly and said, 'Well, this has a chance to go in.'"

"I was standing off to the side near the wall and watched it drop in. I couldn't believe it. After that it was kind of a blur because I was just overwhelmed with adrenaline."

But since then, the Terriers have won nothing substantial. No Beanpots. No Hockey East Championships. No NCAA tournament appearances. Nothing.

"It sucks," said Alex Chiasson, forward and one of two assistant captains on this year's team. "For myself, the junior class, I've been here for two years and I haven't really won anything."

Chiasson is one of nine members of BU's junior class, a group too young to have been members of the 2009 championship team but too old to sit back and hope that BU's rich hockey tradition alone will take the team places.

Junior forward Justin Courtnall, the other assistant captain, has had enough of it too.

"I think especially the junior [and] sophomore classes are really hungry to come out of our little slump," Courtnall said. "Our class specifically is really hungry to get



AMANDA SWINHART/DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

Junior forward Alex Chiasson, senior forward Chris Connolly and junior forward Justin Courtnall are expected to lead this year's team.

something under our belt, especially a Hockey East [championship] win or something to do with that."

With April 2009 just another BU hockey fairytale for the underclassmen and a memory in the now-distant rearview mirror for the seniors, Connolly and his assistants agree it's time to put an end to this trend.

"You play for the end of the year, [so] come April you want to be one of those teams still playing," Connolly said. "We've been very close the last two years, I think we were the last team out. It comes down to the little things, so we really need to tighten up and focus on those close, one-goal games."

If the Terriers fail to be one of the teams playing when the calendar flips to April, it won't be because of a lack of leadership – all parties agree BU has tons of it.

It starts at the top with Connolly,

one of the final five remaining members of the national championship team.

After serving as captain last year, a team vote last spring was overwhelmingly in favor of giving Connolly another season with the big red 'C' on his chest, according to coach Jack Parker.

"He's a real good example of what we want in a player, kid, student and teammate," Parker said. "He's also real important ice-time-wise, he's real important skill-wise."

"He's a very good player for us over these past three years. He is obviously a guy we can follow and count on to keep us on the right track."

It was harder for the coach to pick the assistants. Most years the team vote indicates a secondary player or two that the athletes look up to as leaders, but with Connolly

garnering most of the captain votes, Parker chose to put off picking assistants so he could see who pulled the team together over the summer and early fall.

Parker finally announced on Sept. 27 that he settled for Courtnall and Chiasson, though "settle" doesn't nearly do the selection justice.

"Both those guys are vocal guys that will help Chris out, and they're both hard-working guys that show the way not just by saying it, but doing it," Parker said.

Courtnall in particular will compliment Connolly's leadership style, one that is mostly "by example," be it on the ice, in the weight room or around the classroom.

Courtnall described himself as a very talkative guy, constantly cheering teammates on and unafraid to resolve an issue between teammates.

Parker backed that up.

"There's no question in my mind that [Courtnall is] a vocal leader in the dressing room, he's a vocal leader in the dorm rooms," Parker said. "He knows when he needs to step in with somebody, and I think having the A on his shirt will make it that much easier for him."

Chiasson, on the other hand, wasn't a natural locker room pacesetter from the start like Courtnall. In his early days with BU, Parker said Chiasson battled to find his groove as a leader. He has always been a vocal player, but it used to make his teammates "jumpy," whereas it is now a guiding light that makes the team better, not nervous.

Chiasson, though, said the affective factor has always been a part of his game.

"I've been an emotional guy since I was young," Chiasson said. "It's something that I can't really change, but you have to be careful with how guys take it and how guys see you as a leader."

It's something that I've been working on. I try to be more positive this year. Obviously, I know it's going to happen one time that I'm going to get mad and it's going to come out. At the same time, I have to make sure that everyone stays calm and plays with confidence in themselves."

With the captain and assistants in place – and a bevy of other unofficial leaders on the team – the senior class is ready to go out with a bang, and the underclassmen are looking to put that first notch in their belt.

Parker said that due to the incredible competitiveness of Hockey East, he would be happy with a third-place regular season finish for the Terriers, which would ensure home-ice advantage for BU during the Hockey East quarterfinals in March.

But that doesn't mean his players agree. Connolly for one was concise when it came to his conference hopes.

"I'm going for first," Connolly said quickly. "[Parker] is right in saying that a third place would be a good finish with the competitiveness of this league, but I'd like to finish a little higher, so we'll shoot for first."



AMANDA SWINHART/DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

Seven Questions with. . .Sean Escobedo

Compiled by Arielle Aronson, Daily Free Press Staff

1. What's the best prank you pulled on a teammate?

We'll get tape and put it on the front of the helmet. We'll put a name on it or something like that or make fun of something they did that week and they'll skate around practices the whole time so it's pretty funny. It's pretty good.

2. Favorite pregame meal?

Chicken cutlets and penne with a peach Snapple from T. Anthony's.

3. Favorite sport other than hockey?

Definitely basketball. I'm from Queens, New York and my whole family just played basketball and I'm always at the park in the summer playing basketball.

4. If you were to go into a profession other than hockey, what would it be?

Brain doctor. I think I could do that.

5. Favorite NHL player?

Henrik Lundqvist. He's probably the best player on the Rangers and that's the only reason they make the playoffs.

6. Favorite subject in school?

Calculus. I just had my first midterm. I didn't do too good [sic] but I'm pretty sure I could do it.

7. Favorite chant from the Dog Pound?

Ugly goalie. I like that one. When they lift up their mask, they go 'Ugly goalie.'



AMANDA SWINHART/DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

Junior defenseman Sean Escobedo plays keep away with an X-Man in between studying for his calculus midterm and pursuing a career in neurosurgery.

BU tops Hockey East preseason Power Rankings

Compiled by Arielle Aronson, Daily Free Press Staff

1. Boston University

The Terriers return all but two of last season's regular players, and they should be hungry following a disappointing run in the Beanpot and Hockey East tournament. Senior Kieran Millan returns for a final season in net for the Terriers, and last season's leading scorer Alex Chiasson and Hockey East Rookie of the Year Charlie Coyle headline a deep offensive attack.



2. Boston College

The Eagles always field a quality squad, but they also lost four of their top five scorers and their two-time national champion goaltender in John Muse. Junior Parker Milner is certainly capable between the pipes and they still have star forward Chris Kreider, who was a first-round draft pick of the New York Rangers. Senior Tommy Cross and junior Brian Dumoulin will lead the defense.



3. University of New Hampshire

The Wildcats lost its four top scorers from last season who together provided close to 50 percent of UNH's total offense. They return senior goaltender Matt DiGirolamo, who led the league in save percentage (.923) last season. Senior forwards Stevie Moses and Mike Borisenok will have to step up on offense, but UNH also has a solid incoming freshman class. Three of their freshman scored 70 points in their junior leagues last year.



5. University of Maine

The Black Bears lost their star on offense when Gustav Nyquist left for the NHL. They do return their second and third top scorers, Spencer Abbott and Brian Flynn. But Maine's goaltending last season was suspect, and they have nobody new coming in to improve the situation. Maine also does not have a lot of big game experience recently.



7. University of Vermont

The Catamounts will have Rob Madore (.907 save percentage last season) back in net for his senior season, but aside from him, they are a question mark. Vermont won eight games last season and finished second-to-last in Hockey East in scoring. This season, they will rely on eight freshmen to bring them back to relevance in the league.



6. University of Massachusetts

The Minutemen, like the Terriers, were a very young team last season, but they have a lot of talent. Its top four scorers return, and both Danny Hobbs and Michael Pereira could be stars. The Minutemen will have to see how sophomore goaltender Jeff Teglia adapts to the starting role in net, but they have freshman Steve Mastalerz coming in as a backup, and he was a prep school All Star last year.



8. Northeastern University

Northeastern is an unknown in terms of playing style now after losing coach Greg Cronin. They also lost their top line to graduation last season, and freshman star Brodie Reid bolted for the professional ranks. Most of their highly touted recruits decommitted, but former Terrier Vinny Saponari will play for the Huskies this season. Northeastern will also look to sophomore defenseman Anthony Bitetto and junior goalie Chris Rawlings as leaders.



9. University of Massachusetts – Lowell

The only reason the Riverhawks are not last is because Providence has even less to work with than Lowell does. The Riverhawks also have a new coach this season as former assistant coach Norm Bazin returns to take over for the departed Blaise MacDonald. The Riverhawks did not necessarily lose a whole lot – top scorers David Vallorani, Riley Wetmore and Matt Ferreira all return. They have yet to prove, however, that they can compete in Hockey East.



10. Providence College

The Friars have a decent goalie in senior Alex Beaudry, but that is about all Providence has going for it. Their offense was the worst in Hockey East last season, and they lost their top three scorers. They have a new coach in former Union College bench boss, and while he will bring a new style to Providence, he does not have much talent to work with.

All in the family: Courtnall uses roots to drive success

By Tim Healey
Daily Free Press Staff

Chances are, if you grew up in Canada, you learned how to ice skate at a relatively young age.

Chances are, if you have relatives playing professional sports, you have a pretty athletic set of genes.

And, chances are, if those relatives were your father Geoff and uncle Russ Courtnall, and when you were born, they were in the midst of 17- and 16-year NHL careers, respectively, you wouldn't have much of a choice but to play the sport yourself.

But Boston University men's hockey forward Justin Courtnall beat chance: He did have a choice.

"I think that you have to love the game to be good at it, and you have to have fun playing it," Geoff said. "So that's why I didn't push [Justin and his brother, Adam] when they were young."

But, given the choice, Justin responded exactly the way you would expect the son and nephew of NHL players to respond – he picked hockey.

Justin got skates for Christmas at age two, and realized his intense level of sibling competitiveness about a year later. During the warmer months of their early years, he and Adam – 20 months Justin's elder – ditched the ice skates for a different kind of blade.

"Even in the summer we'd have our roller blades on and get all marked up," Justin said. "My dad was always there helping us and making sure we were learning. From a really young age we always wanted to play hockey."

Justin's obsession was fed by Geoff bringing his sons to the rink on game days on a regular basis, and slowly but surely Justin let other sports – soccer, baseball and golf among them – fall by the wayside in favor of Canada's favorite.

But the factor that got Justin so close to the game at such a young age, his father's career, proved to be a double-edged sword. Due to the travel, Geoff had to leave his family for weeks at a time during the season, leaving a heavier load for his wife Penni, who had to handle the crazy youth hockey schedule on his own.

The mother's effort certainly didn't escape her younger son.

"She's always been behind the scenes a little bit; she was the one taking my brother and I to 6 a.m. practices," Justin said laughing. "I was fortunate to have my mom, who

has been there for me. She's been a great mom and has helped raise my brother and I when my dad was gone for those long periods of time."

Just as his mom's remarkable commitment didn't escape Justin, his family's notoriety didn't escape him either. Starting around early adolescence, players on other teams went after Justin "because of the name on

2011-12 season at BU, Justin continues to use those lessons to benefit his play.

The 6-foot-3, 215-pound junior fought for ice time his freshman season, playing in 21 games but scoring no points, a trend that continued through the beginning of his sophomore year.

Then he got his opportunity.

education in SHA, with aspirations of opening his own restaurant – again following in the footsteps of his father, a former restaurant owner.

That said, although his professional prospects aren't as bright as those of some of his teammates, there is still a bit of hope that Justin will continue the family trend and make the NHL.

The Tampa Bay Lightning drafted him in the seventh round and 210th overall in the 2007 NHL draft. Since the two parties didn't come to agreement on a contract, Tampa Bay has since lost his rights, but Justin still talks to some teams as a free agent.

This past summer, Justin attended a week-long training camp with the Vancouver Canucks, one of the premier organizations in the NHL and a team fresh off of a Stanley Cup Finals appearance.

"Canucks camp was great," Jus-

I had some guys rooting against me just because of who I was.

**-Justin Courtnall,
Men's hockey assistant captain**

my back," he said.

"I had some guys rooting against me just because of who I was," Justin said. "That will always kind of be there, but I notice . . . guys are much more skilled and that's not really much of a problem [at BU] because you're just worried about going out there and playing your position and focusing on the game."

The pseudo-bullying likely wasn't helped by the fact that for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons Justin was a member of his hometown Victoria Grizzlies of the British Columbia Hockey League, under the tutelage of none other than his dad himself, the team's head coach.

Both father and son agreed that Geoff was harder on Justin than any other player, but with reason – Justin was simply one of the best.

"You feel like when you're coaching your own son you don't want to be easy on him, you don't want people basically pass judgment that he's getting a free ride," Geoff said. "And then also from basically raising him you want the best for him, and I was trying to push him to be a better player."

Justin harbors no hard feelings or bitter resentment, though. In fact, he was grateful that he had the opportunity for his life-long mentor to coach him on the ice, and learned lessons he carries with him today.

"I definitely am glad that he was like that," Justin said. "He taught me a lot and made me a better player and person. I learned a lot from him in both aspects, especially around the rink. I get a lot of my work ethic from him."

Now an assistant captain for the

"Fortunately [BU coach Jack] Parker gave me a break and put me in a lot of games and started putting some more confidence in me," Courtnall said. "It was a lot easier to play once I had a few games under my belt and definitely became more comfortable in the lineup."

According to Parker, Justin – a self-described "late bloomer" – started improving, showing a ton of effort and physicality whenever he put on skates. Justin's ability doesn't always shine through during practice, Parker said, but once he gets on the ice during a game he becomes a critical slice of the BU offense.

Justin tallied three goals and three assists in 32 games last year, with two goals and one assist coming during the Hockey East quarterfinals against Northeastern University, a series BU ultimately lost two games to one. Hitting his stride right as the team's season ended was a frustrating climax for the then-sophomore on a rather young team, but he's using it to motivate him this year.

Justin's evolution as a player has even led Parker to second guess his own role in the Victoria, British Columbia native's development.

"He's a piece of the puzzle for a certain line or the piece of the puzzle for the team, and all of those things added up to him performing better and getting more confident," Parker said. "Maybe we should have given him more games earlier to let him show us that."

For now, both father and son insist Justin is focusing on his studies. After taking a School of Hospitality Administration introduction class last year, Justin decided to focus his

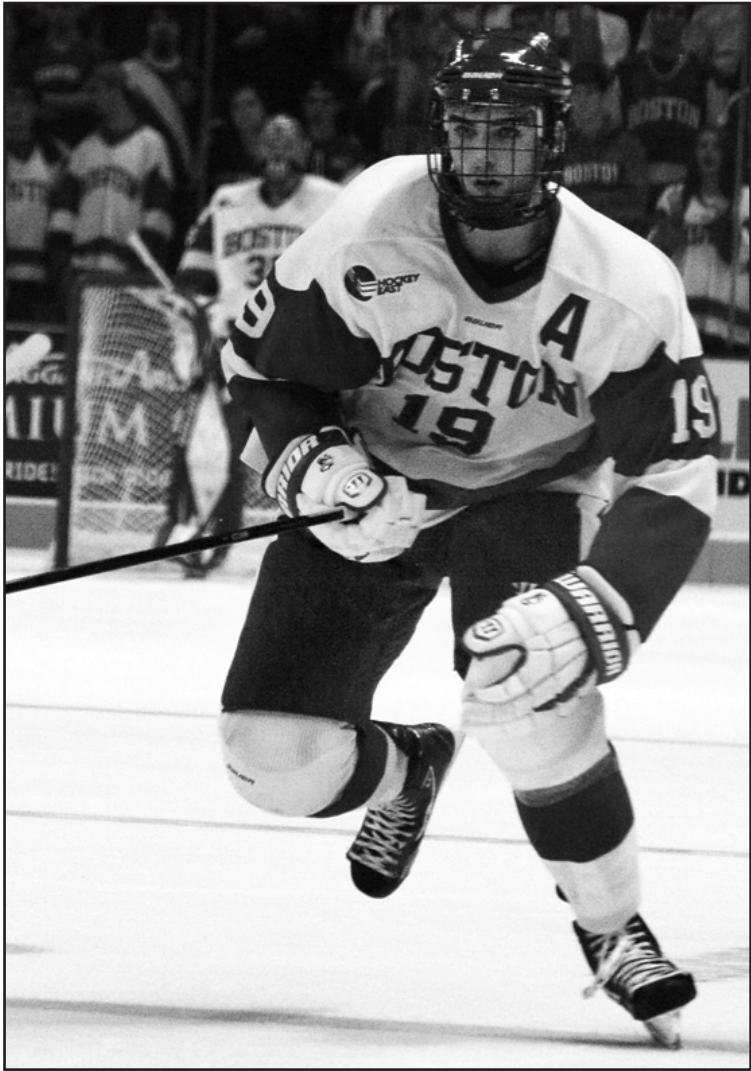
tin said. "I was fortunate enough to learn a lot and have a lot of good experiences while I was there. Going to those camps opens your eyes to a lot of new things – it shows you how hard you need to work."

Geoff's career itself – all 17 years, 1,048 games, 367 goals and 1,462 penalty minutes of it – stands as a source of inspiration for Justin. Geoff successfully climbed the ranks of professional hockey as an undrafted free agent, giving the pair even just a sliver of hope that Justin can do the same.

Chances are, Justin won't make the NHL, just like a vast majority of college hockey players. Chances are, he'll graduate from SHA and, by applying the determination and hard work that has gotten his hockey career this far, he'll eventually own his own restaurant.

But, chances are, one can never rule out the possibility for such a driven player, and a Courtnall at that.

"I think that we'd definitely love to see another Courtnall in the NHL someday, and hopefully it's Justin," Geoff said. "You just never know."



AMANDA SWINHART/DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

Junior Justin Courtnall is an assistant captain this season.

Terriers return most of strong defensive core

PRIVIEW: From page 8

Jenelle Kohanchuk, who finished the season with 10 goals and a career-high 21 assists in 36 appearances.

On the blue line, the Terriers are returning six players from last year's team that ranked seventh in the nation for team defense.

Seniors Tara Watchorn and Kasey Boucher lead this year's defensemen.

Last season, Watchorn netted six goals and had 19 assists for a total of 25 points on the season. Boucher, who was named one of the team's assistant captains for this season, finished last season with four goals and 10 assists.

"They're slightly different hockey players," Durocher said of Watchorn and Boucher. "Tara is a kid who has tons of range, a

tremendous shot, all the skill in the world. Kasey probably plays a little more of a defenseman's style."

Tara Watchorn has yet to play a game this season, however, because of the lingering effects of a concussion that she suffered while at the Canadian national team's camp in August.

Rounding out the team's defense are junior Kathryn Miller, who was named the team's Most Improved Player last season, sophomore Kaleigh Fratkin, who had one goal last season along with nine assists, and senior Carly Warren, who is the other assistant captain on the team.

"I see people every year that I'm hoping to see step forward and without a doubt Kathryn Miller on the blue line last year

was our Most Improved Player and had a fantastic sophomore year," Durocher said. "Kaleigh Fratkin is a talented defenseman and Carly Warren is someone who's been kind of a steady eddy all throughout her career."

In the net, sophomore Kerrin Sperry will look to repeat a strong rookie season where she won the title of starting goaltender on her way to 21-4-3 record. The netminder was 14th in the nation last season with a .929 save percentage in 28 appearances.

"Kerrin Sperry certainly established herself as the number one kid last year," Durocher said.

Junior Alissa Fromkin and sophomore Braly Hiller will also most likely get some time in net.

The Terriers welcome four new faces and one redshirt fresh-

man to the squad this year. Most notable are Shannon Stoneburgh, who will join the team's group of defenseman, and forward Kayla Tutino.

"Shannon, she's a kid with her best days ahead of her," Durocher said. "I think through the work of Darcy Gould and our strength and conditioning program, she will get nothing but better in her balance, agility and movement."

"Kayla Tutino is an extremely hard working kid. Very strong, very competitive . . . We think she's going to be somebody people recognize here quickly at BU."

Redshirt freshman Caroline Campbell will also help out on the blue line as soon as she recovers from an ankle injury that will likely keep her out of play for an-

other three weeks. Campbell was out for the entirety of last season because of a concussion.

"I expect her to be more than a freshman, more than somebody playing her first game, because she's been around for a while," Durocher said.

While Durocher is confident in his team's talent, he believes the team will need more than that to compete against the other Hockey East teams this season.

"We work hard every day," Durocher said. "We prepare for what's going on in games and certainly we know that we've got a very talented league here – a league that continues to grow with more and more elite players that are choosing schools here in the Hockey East."

A Wake to Remember: Transfer to captain in 12 months

By Meredith Perri
Daily Free Press Staff

Roughly a year ago, the Boston University women's hockey team started off its season on the road against the University of North Dakota. In the two-game series, which the Terriers would split with the Fighting Sioux, a new addition to the team began the process of integrating her name into the BU record books.

The player, a transfer from the University of New Hampshire, had a history of being a strong athlete and displayed her talent the first time she officially donned a BU uniform.

In the second period of that first game against North Dakota, then-junior forward Jenn Wakefield notched her first goal as a Terrier to give BU its first lead of a game that it would go on to lose.

The next day, in BU's first win of the season, Wakefield would score two more goals and have two assists to cap-off a five-point weekend that earned her the title of Hockey East's Pure Hockey Player of the Week.

During the course of the next six months, Wakefield recorded at least one point in 29 games, established career highs in assists and points,

matched a career high in goals and became the record holder for the BU single-season goals and points record with 32 goals and 54 points.

"She is a very, very hard worker and also a very intense individual as far as preparation, focus and her goals," said BU coach Brian Durocher of Wakefield. "I think it stands out on the ice, it stands out in the weight room and it even stands out in the way she carries herself around campus."

These were the reasons that led to Wakefield being named the captain of the 2011-12 Terrier squad – a squad that has a target on its back because of extreme success last season.

"On the ice, she is a courageous kid, very tough," Durocher said. "We've talked about the obvious skills that she has: size, hands, speed and a tremendous shot."

"But I look from a personality standpoint. She's a very focused person and that's the reason her team saw her as a good prospect to be a captain here."

This on-ice ability is what led to Wakefield starting off her collegiate career with New Hampshire and the Canadian national team in 2007.

In her rookie season with the

Wildcats, Wakefield had more goals, 27, than any other rookie in the nation, leading her to the title of Hockey East Rookie of the Year. Wakefield's efforts assisted her team in making it to the Frozen Four.

In UNH's 3-2 loss to the University of Minnesota during the Frozen Four, Wakefield netted the Wildcat's first goal to give the team an early, but temporary, lead.

During the same season, Wakefield experienced her first Four Nations Cup with the Canadian national team.

"It's been a long ride with them," Wakefield said of her time with Team Canada. "You never know kind of where you're sitting just 'cause there are so many good Canadian players coming up the system. It's just been amazing to be able to travel all over the country."

The next season, Wakefield continued to improve, leading the conference in goals and finishing as a top-10 finalist for the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, an honor presented to the best Division I women's hockey player.

"She has a lot of experience," said current teammate and assistant captain Kasey Boucher. "I think she always comes to the rink, to the games, ready to play. She's a really intense player."

For the second-straight year, Wakefield participated in the Four Nations Cup. However, her involvement with the national team was about to reach a whole new level. The 20-year-old took a year off from college to play for the Olympic team.

Despite her obvious abilities, the Pickering, Ontario native was cut from the team in late December due to a broken wrist. She did, however, remain with the team as an alternate.

After her year off, Wakefield had to make a decision on what she wanted to do. UNH was no longer a part of that picture.

"I liked it," Wakefield said of playing for New Hampshire. "I don't regret it. We had a very good team, we were able to go to the Frozen Four... Just after the year of centralization, I just don't think it was the right fit for me anymore. I wanted more of a city atmosphere."

While making her decision, Wakefield turned to a couple of teammates from the Canadian squad.

"I really wanted to stay in Hockey East and I really kind of like the area just being in the city and just Boston," Wakefield said. "I played with Tara Watchorn and Jenelle Kohanchuk and I talked to them a bit before contacting



U-JIN LEE/DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

The women's hockey team celebrates a goal during the 2010-11 season.

Boston University and they had nothing but good things to say."

Thus began Wakefield's career with the Terriers.

"It's honestly such a pleasure to be able to work with somebody with her work ethic," said senior defender and assistant captain Carly Warren. "She came into our program and she's been a part of Team Canada for such a long time."

"I think the caliber of that and the effort she's put into that transferred over when she came into our program."

Wakefield's efforts last season culminated in BU's first ever conference title and its first berth into the Frozen Four. In the NCAA quarterfinals, Wakefield notched two goals to help the Terriers surpass Mercyhurst College and advance to the Frozen Four.

At the team's annual banquet in May, Wakefield was named captain, an honor that came with an understanding of the responsibilities the job would entail.

"I was very excited," Wakefield said. "I know I've heard a lot about previous captains, and I was able to be on the team when Holly Lorms was captain so I know it's a big responsibility, so hopefully I'll be able to fill those shoes."

Warren didn't seem concerned about her teammates' ability to lead the Terriers.

"It's just how she presents herself that you know that you have to give it to her," Warren said.

"She's a good leader because when you're on the ice with her and stuff she's so passionate about the game and she's so passionate about our team that everybody wants to work hard and be good for her, be good for themselves and be good for our program."

After all this, Wakefield's senior year began just like her first year with the Terriers. The captain started off her second season with BU against North Dakota, this time in the confines of Walter Brown Arena. The team split the series and Wakefield had three points in the win, with two goals and an assist. For her efforts, Wakefield was named the Hockey East Player of the Week.

For Wakefield, her goals for her senior season are the same as her goals for the team as its captain.

"I feel like my goals for myself and the team are just to be better than last year," Wakefield said. "Hopefully build another contender for the national championship and hopefully win the Beanpot and hopefully Hockey East."



U-JIN LEE/DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

Senior captain Jenn Wakefield has emerged as a leader for the Terriers.

Unfinished business: Women return after loss in championship game

By Meredith Perri
Daily Free Press Staff

With a Hockey East title and an NCAA championship game in its recent history, the No. 2 Boston University women's hockey team has successfully emblazoned a target on it's back for the upcoming season.

The Terriers, who were picked as the preseason favorite in Hockey East, were ranked second in the nation by U.S. College Hockey Online – the highest national preseason ranking in the team's seven years of existence.

"We've had two seasons of pretty high recognition," said BU coach Brian Durocher. "That obviously creates a bit of a target for your opponents. We also returned a pretty good group of talented players here that are going to make our team on paper a pretty good team."

In the season following the team's most successful campaign

as of yet, BU will return most of its high-caliber players despite losing four to graduation. Missing from the team's roster this year are forwards Holly Lorms, Jillian Kirchner, Lauren Cherewyk and defenseman Catherine Ward, the latter of whom was named the program's first All-American.

Even though they have lost three forwards, BU can still be expected to have one of the most dynamic offensive lines in the nation.

Leading the charge is senior forward and captain Jenn Wakefield, who comes into the season after a career year where she broke the BU single-season records for goals with 32 and points with 54.

"Jenn is one of the best goal

scorers anywhere," Durocher said. "[She's a] big strong kid who's hard to match up against because she can be a line in herself sometimes. She just has a lot of talent, a lot of individual goals

“We also returned a pretty good group of talented players here that are going to make our team on paper a pretty good team.”

-Brian Durocher, women's hockey coach

and strengths."

Expected to help lead the team in points was sophomore forward and assistant captain Marie-Philip Poulin who, despite missing nearly a month last season because of a wrist injury, still netted the second highest amount of goals on the team with 24.

Wakefield and Poulin account-

ed for 56 combined goals last season, which makes up more than 42 percent of the teams offensive output.

"Marie-Philip Poulin is another highly decorated player that can do everything in the game," Durocher said.

The Terriers, however, will likely be without Poulin until December because of an abdominal injury that the standout player suffered in the first weekend of games.

Despite the dent that would put in the team's offense, Durocher is convinced that it shouldn't hurt the team too much.

"I think it has to be done by committee," Durocher said of how the team will make up for the offensive loss. "If [Poulin] was to give us 'X' amount of points and

by committee we can get 60, 70, 80 percent of those points and play hard and play tough defensively, I still think there's an awful lot of talent here to succeed."

One of the players that may pick up some of the slack from the Poulin injury is transfer student Isabel Menard. The junior forward, who played at Syracuse University the past two seasons, has already proved that she can handle the Terriers' pace with four points in her first weekend of play.

"[Menard] is a very accomplished college hockey player," Durocher said. "She will be somebody that comes into the lineup not as a typical freshman with their eyes uncertain of what's ahead of them, but somebody who comes here with plenty of knowledge of college hockey."

Flying "under the radar," according to Durocher, is senior

PREVIEW, see page 7