



ESPNU COLLEGE HOCKEY • JAN. 7, 2006

VERMONT CATAMOUNTS (13-4-1 OVERALL, 5-3-1 HEA) vs. NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDCATS (9-7-3 OVERALL, 7-3-2 HEA)

WHITTEMORE CENTER • DURHAM, N.H.

TALE OF THE TAPE

VERMONT CATAMOUNTS

NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDCATS

13-4-1 (.750) Overall Record 9-7-3 (.625)
5-3-1 (.611), 11 points/T-4th Hockey East Record/Place 7-3-2 (.667), 16 points/3rd
3rd INCH Power Rankings National Rank 17th INCH Power Rankings
3.11 GPG (4th HEA/T-24th NCAA) Scoring Offense (Rank) 2.95 GPG (5th HEA/32nd NCAA)
1.67 GPG (1st HEA/3rd NCAA) Scoring Defense (Rank) 2.68 GPG (6th HEA/21st NCAA)
25-108; 26.4% (1st HEA/4th NCAA) Power Play 22-124; 17.7% (4th HEA/26th NCAA)
76-84; 90.5% (2nd HEA/3rd NCAA) Penalty Kill 83-98; 84.7% (4th HEA/20th NCAA)

Torrey Mitchell, So., F (7-17-24; 4 PPG) Top Scorers Daniel Winnick, Jr., F (9-17-26; 4 PPG)
Brady Leisenring, Sr., F (8-13-21) Brett Hemingway, Jr., F (11-12-23; 6 PPG)
Peter Lenos, Fr., F (8-4-12; 6 PPG; 3 GWG) Brian Yandle, Sr., D (3-13-26)
Joe Fallon, So. (11-4-1, 1.61 GAA, .915 sv%) Top Goalies Jeff Pietrasiak, Sr. (7-2-1, 2.51 GAA, .919 sv%)
Travis Russell, Sr. (2-0-0, 2.02 GAA, .928 sv%) Kevin Regan, So. (2-5-0, 2.70 GAA, .909 sv%)

Kevin Sneddon (Harvard '92) Coach (Alma Mater) Dick Umile (New Hampshire '72)
43-40-9 (.516), Third season Career Record (Pct.), Years 362-180-57 (.652), 16th season
93-139-27 (.411), Seventh season Record at School, (Pct.), Years Same

The CATAMOUNT-WILDCAT Series

All-Time New Hampshire leads, 58-14-2
At Durham New Hampshire leads, 27-3-1
At Whittemore Center New Hampshire leads, 4-1-0
First Meeting Dec. 14, 1963 (HRV 5, @UND 2)
Last Meeting Dec. 2, 2005 (UNH 3, @UVM 3)
Current Streak Vermont, unbeaten 2 (1-0-1)

Special Series Notes:

- Vermont's 5-4 triumph over New Hampshire in Burlington last season snapped the Wildcats' eight-game winning streak against the Catamounts that dated back to Nov. 29, 1996 - the senior season of former UVM standouts Martin St. Louis and Eric Perrin.
• UNH is 8-1-1 against the Catamounts in the last 10 meetings between the two teams in Durham. In those 10 matches, UVM has scored one or no goals six times.

ABOUT LAST WEEKEND...

What these two teams did their last time out:

VERMONT: The Catamounts posted a pair of shutout victories against former ECACHL foes during the holidays en route to a first-place showing at the Sheraton/TD Banknorth Catamount Cup in Burlington. In the opening-round match, goaltender Joe Fallon posted his third shutout of the year, making 18 saves in a 1-0 whitewash of Dartmouth. UVM senior Mike Syroczyński scored the game's lone goal. Fallon duplicated the feat the following night, stopping 19 shots in a 3-0 win over Clarkson in the championship game. Torrey Mitchell, the Catamounts' leading scorer, notched a goal and an assists for the victors.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: The Wildcats were surprised by Niagara in the team's lone game during the holiday break, dropping a 6-2 decision to the visiting Purple Eagles. Niagara goalie Jeff Van Nynatten turned aside 49 UNH shots, and Vince Rocco scored two goals and added an assist for the visitors. Chris Murray and Michael Hutchins scored for the Wildcats.

VERMONT ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.
1	Jeff Hill	G
2	Slavomir Tomko	D
3	Peter Lenes	F
	Note: His 6 PPGs are the most among Division I freshmen, an honor he shares with Niagara's Ted Cook, T.J. Oshie of North Dakota and Minnesota's Phil Kessel.	
4	Jeff Corey	F
5	Ben Driver	F
6	Kenny Macaulay	D
7	Dan Owens	F
8	Dean Strong	F
9	Torrey Mitchell	F
	Note: Ranks tied for 10th in the country in assists along with UNH's Daniel Winnik and Jonathan Matsumoto of Bowling Green.	
10	Joey Gasparini	F
11	Brady Leisenring	F
	Note: Scored career point no. 100 on Nov. 11 to become the 39th player in Catamount history to join the century club.	
12	Evan Stoflet	D
13	Corey Carlson	F
14	Mike Atkinson	F
15	Art Femenella	D
16	Baron Becker	F
17	Mark Lutz	D
18	Jaime Sifers	D
19	Andy Corran	F
20	Reese Wisnowski	F
21	Chris Myers	F
22	Mike Arcieri	F
23	Tom Collingham	F
24	Tim Geverd	D
25	Phil Youngclaus	D
26	Ryan Gunderson	D
27	Kyle Kuk	D
28	Matt Syroczyński	F
29	Joe Fallon	G
	Note: Last weekend's shutouts were the eighth and ninth of his career, putting him one behind Tim Thomas (1993-97) on UVM's all-time list in that category.	
33	Travis Russell	G

Head Coach: Kevin Sneddon

Assistants: Damian DiGiulian, John Micheletto, Terry Lovelette

VERMONT NEED TO KNOW...

IN-FALLON-ABLE: Sophomore goaltender Joe Fallon entered the weekend ranked fifth nationally with a 1.61 goals against average and, following last weekend's back-to-back blankings, shares the NCAA lead with four shutouts. He's the first goaltender in UVM's Division I era to record consecutive shutouts.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT TIME...?: Though Fallon is the first Catamount to backstop the team to two straight SHO's, it's the second time in school history that UVM has strung together two whitewashes. Vermont held Union and Rensselaer scoreless last season (Jan 7-8, 2005), but Travis Russell got the win against the Engineers.

PHENOM-ENAL! The freshman trio of Dean Strong (5-10-15), Peter Lenes (8-4-12) and Corey Carlson (3-6-9) all rank among the top 10 Hockey East rookies in points. Strong leads the league's freshman in both points and assists while Lenes paces conference newcomers in goals and ranks third in scoring.

ROAD WARRIORS: Vermont enters the weekend with a sparkling 7-1-0 record away from Burlington, a mark that includes a 4-3 neutral-site win against Michigan Tech in Anchorage, Alaska. The Catamounts' lone road blemish came on Nov. 4, when Boston University handed UVM a 4-2 defeat at Agganis Arena.

ISN'T THAT SPECIAL?: Vermont's special teams units have played a major role in the Catamounts' success this season. Coming into the weekend, UVM boasts the nation's fourth-best power play (25-108, 23.1%) – nearly half the team's goals have come on the power play. Vermont also owns the country's third-best penalty kill (76-84, 90.5%).

PAGING LADY BYNG: Making the Catamount penalty kill even more effective is the fact that Vermont averages the fewest penalty minutes in the NCAA (12.7 PIM per game). UVM has 228 PIMs, which is two more than Dartmouth, but the Big Green has played four fewer games.

HOW VERMONT WINS

A current coach, on the condition of anonymity, tells us how the Catamounts win this game:

- **Quiet Winnik.** Big center Daniel Winnik is the distributor for UNH's first line, which provides the bulk of their offense.
- **Natural Born Killers.** Vermont has the nation's third-best penalty kill, but gave up two goals on three opportunities to UNH in their first meeting.
- **Keep Up the D.** Not only was Joe Fallon great in the Catamount Cup, but he only faced 37 shots in two games.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.
1	Kirk Manke	G
2	Jamie Fritsch	D
4	Craig Switzer	D
6	Michael Hutchins	D
7	Joe Charlebois	D
8	Greg Collins	F
9	Jacob Micflikier	F
	Note: Has scored 23 points in 19 games this season – 16 of them coming in 12 Hockey East contests.	
10	Alan Thompson	F
11	Jerry Pollastrone	F
12	Mike Radja	F
14	Josh Ciocco	F
15	Brett Hemingway	F
	Note: Has at least one point in 14 of UNH's 19 games this season and started the year with a seven-game point streak.	
17	Thomas Fortney	F
19	Brad Flaishans	D
20	Chris Murray	D
21	Brian Pouliot	F
22	Brian Foley	F/D
23	Trevor Smith	F
24	Shawn Vinz	F
26	Kevin Kapstad	D
27	Daniel Winnik	F
28	Andrew Leach	F
29	Jeff Pietrasiak	G
	Note: The senior is 7-2-1 overall with a 2.51 goals against average and a .919 save percentage, but owns a 5-0-1 mark, a 2.14 GAA and a .932 sv% against Hockey East foes.	
32	Kevin Regan	G
	Note: Made 31 saves in the first meeting between UNH and UVM this season, a 3-3 overtime tie at Gutterson Fieldhouse in Burlington on Dec. 2.	
33	Brian Yandle	D
	Note: Enters the weekend tied for ninth among NCAA blueliners in scoring with three goals and 13 assists in 16 games.	
36	Mark Kolanos	F
39	Matt Fornataro	F

Head Coach: Dick Umile

Associates: Scott Borek, David Lassonde

NEW HAMPSHIRE NEED TO KNOW...

CONFERENCE CALL: New Hampshire's overall record stands at 9-7-3 entering the weekend series with Vermont, but the Wildcats are an admirable 7-3-2 against Hockey East opponents. And though UNH has played 63% of its games against league foes, the team's leading scorers have fared much better against Hockey East competition:

Player	Pts/All Gms	Pts/HEA Gms	Pct. of Total
Winnik	9-17-26/19 GP	7-11-18/12 GP	69.2%
Hemingway	11-12-23/19 GP	6-9-15/12 GP	65.2%
Micflikier	7-16-23/19 GP	5-11-16/12 GP	69.6%
Yandle	3-13-16/19 GP	3-9-12/12 GP	75.0%
Switzer	2-10-12/19 GP	2-9-11/12 GP	91.7%

THREE 'CAT NIGHT: The trio of Brett Hemingway, Jacob Micflikier and Daniel Winnik has been one of the college game's most dangerous lines. Through 19 games, the three junior forwards have accounted for 72 of New Hampshire's 156 points – that's 46.2% of the team's scoring.

RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED FROM: New Hampshire has given up 22 first-period goals, the most in Hockey East, while scoring 12 goals. However, the Wildcats have scored a league-best 26 goals in the second period while allowing 16 opponent scores.

THE 600 CLUB: Friday's game with UVM marks coach Dick Umile's 600th game behind the Wildcat bench. The 1972 UNH grad ranks ninth among active Division I coaches with 362 career wins.

MORE MILESTONE MADNESS: It could be a busy winter for Durham-area engravers, as four UNH skaters could score their 100th career point this season. Micflikier needs just seven points to hit triple digits for his career, while both Hemingway and senior defenseman Brian Yandle enter the Vermont series 15 points shy of the century mark. Winnik is the longest shot to reach 100 – he's 20 points short with 17 regular-season matches remaining.

HOW NEW HAMPSHIRE WINS

A current coach, on the condition of anonymity, tells us how the Wildcats win this game:

- **Throw a Fish.** Scoring just one goal is an accomplishment against Vermont goaltender Joe Fallon these days. Even better if UNH can get a lead early.

- **In a Second.** The Wildcats are desperately seeking second-line support behind the Winnik-Hemingway-Micflikier group.

- **Take Advantage.** Vermont is the least-penalized team in the nation, and kills penalties well. Getting a couple power-play goals, as UNH did in the first meeting, is a big bonus.