

# Merchant grads help teams advance in NCAA

Darren (Mini) Haydar's playoff prowess continues.

New Hampshire's electrifying winger — who as a freshman last year guided them to the national finals — helped get the team off to another productive post-season start.

The Milton Merchants graduate assisted on both game winning goals in the Wildcats' Hockey East quarterfinal sweep of Merrimack late last week.

Each time he set up linemate Mike Souza.

The best-of-three series highlight came just under eight minutes into overtime during game two at New Hampshire's Whittmore Center. Before a spirited crowd of 6,266, Haydar carried the puck deep into enemy territory on an even-man rush and drew in both defencemen before dishing off a perfect pass to Souza.

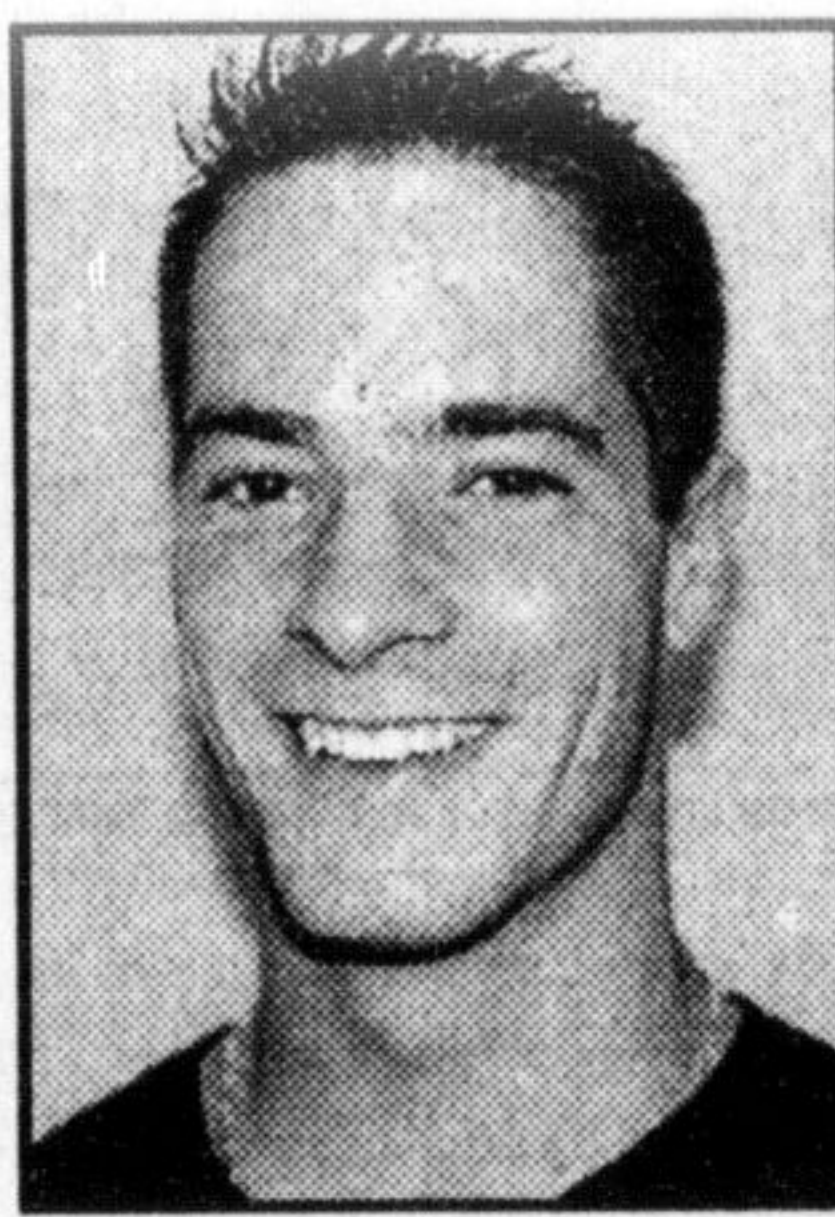
A split second later the red light flashed and

his team had advanced to the conference semifinals, which will be played today at Boston's Fleet Center.

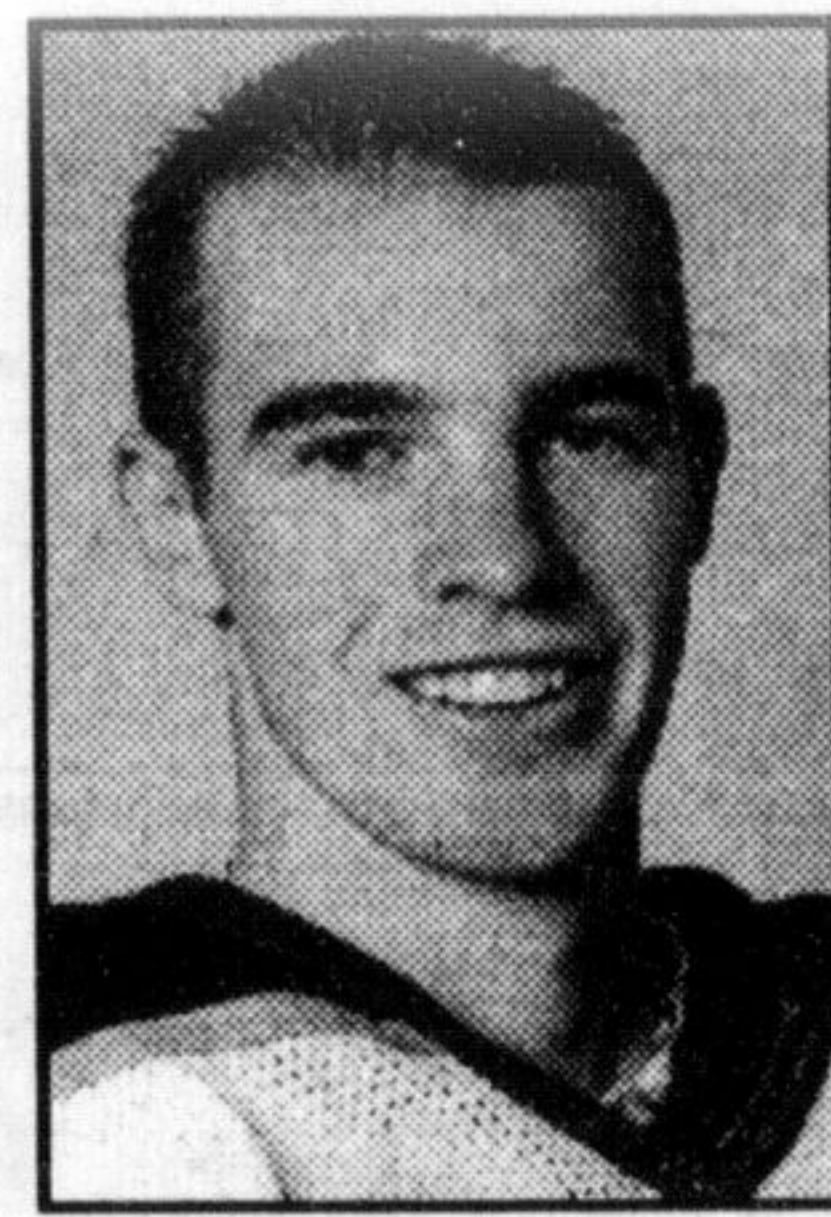
New Hampshire — who knocked off Merrimack with 5-2 and 3-2 decisions — battles hometown favourite Boston College tonight while in afternoon action it'll be Boston University squaring off against Maine.

The winners will meet in the championship tilt tomorrow evening, also at the home of the Bruins.

Property of the NHL's Nashville Predators, Haydar finished the regular season with 21 goals



Darren Haydar



Kevin O'Flaherty

and 17 assists in 34 games.

Nationally, he was top 15 in goals and top 20 in overall scoring.

Among other former Merchants, Kevin O'Flaherty has also shone in recent weeks.

The Clarkson rookie didn't do an awful lot of scoring through the regular season — but in the final game before playoffs proved he's still good for the occasional offensive outburst.

Within the friendly confines of the Golden Knights' Cheel Arena March 4, O'Flaherty delivered a pair of third-period markers just half-a-minute apart to eclipse Dartmouth 5-4.

This secured the team home-ice advantage for first round play versus Princeton.

Clarkson capitalized on that and swept their Ivy League visitors with scores of 3-2 and 2-1.

In the clincher Saturday, O'Flaherty assisted on the game winning tally late in the second period.

His Golden Knights took on ECAC rival Cornell in preliminary competition last night.

But results of the game weren't available at press time.

If victorious, they'll be back on the ice tonight for the division semifinals against St. Lawrence. Championship play is set for tomorrow night.

All ECAC games will be held in Lake Placid.

O'Flaherty — who delivered arguable the biggest reversal of fortune goals in Merchants' history three years ago\* — finished the regular season with just a handful of goals.



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TBA	MAJOR ATOM	DIRECT T.V. VS. REBEKAH LODGE		
TBA	MINOR PEE WEE	GOLD CONNECTION VS. ABSOLUTE TRANSPORT		
TBA	MAJOR PEE WEE	PRESSE LAW VS. KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN		
TBA	MINOR NOVICE	GOOD LIFE RED VS. GOOD LIFE BLACK		
TBA	MAJOR NOVICE	HUNT CHRYSLER JEEP VS. SHOPPERS DRUG MART		
TBA	BANTAM	MILTON DODGE JEEP VS. ABSOLUTE TRANSPORT		

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