

CHAMPIONSHIP NOTEBOOK

SEMIFINAL RECAP

at #1 Vermont 84, #7 Binghamton 51

- #1 Vermont (26-6) used a 26-2 first-half run to build an insurmountable lead on #7 Binghamton and cruised to an 84-51 win in the #AEPlayoffs semifinals.
- The Catamounts advanced to championship game for the fourth-straight year and 13th overall.
- Vermont is the 6th #AEHoops team to reach a fourth-straight championship tilt and the first since the Catamounts themselves accomplished the feat in 2006.
- After jumping out to a 10-point lead, Binghamton cut the advantage to 22-17 with 9:27 left in the first half before the Catamounts went on its 26-2 spurt.
- Vermont shot 58 percent from the field and hit 14 three pointers, an #AEPlayoffs semifinals record.
- Stef Smith scored 23 of his game and career-high 28 points in the first half to set the tone.
- Smith's eight three pointers set a new #AEPlayoffs semifinal record and are tied for the second most in a tournament game all time.
- America East Player of the Year Anthony Lamb added 18 points and seven assists.
- Caleb Stewart paced Binghamton (10-23) with 16 points.

at #3 UMBC 90, #4 Hartford 85 (2OT)

- #3 UMBC (21-12) built a 26-point second-half lead before Hartford stormed back to force overtime, but the Retrievers prevailed in double overtime for a 90-85 win over the #4 Hawks in the #AEPlayoffs semifinals.
- The Retrievers are in the championship game for the second-straight year and fourth time in program history.
- It was the first double overtime playoff game since Vermont beat Hartford in the 2012 semifinals.
- UMBC scored 21 of the game's first 27 points and led by as many as 20 in the first half.
- After UMBC led 50-24 with 15:09 to go, Hartford closed the half on a 44-18 run to force overtime.
- Brandon Horvath's free throws with 51 seconds left put UMBC ahead 87-85 as they scored the game's final five points to end it.
- K.J. Jackson led UMBC with 21 points and eight rebounds. Joe Sherburne added 12 points and 12 boards.
- Travis Weatherington's 22 points led Hartford's (18-15) scoring as all five starters scored in twin figures.

QUARTERFINAL RECAP

at #1 Vermont 73, #8 Maine 57

- #1 Vermont (25-6) got a 34-point effort from #AEHoops Player of the Year Anthony Lamb to cruise to a 73-57 win over #8 Maine in the #AEPlayoffs quarterfinals.
- The regular-season champion Catamounts advanced to the semifinals for the 17th time in the last 18 seasons.
- Vermont shot 52 percent for the game, including 55 percent in the first half, and led by 19 at halftime.
- Lamb shot 12-of-23 from the floor and added six rebounds. Fellow first-team All-Conference choice Ernie Duncan added 12 points.

#7 Binghamton 78, #2 Stony Brook, 72

- #7 Binghamton (10-22) held #2 Stony Brook to only 39 percent shooting en route to a 78-72 win in the #AEPlayoffs quarterfinals.
- The Bearcats made the semifinals for the first time since 2009 and it was first playoff win since 2012.
- Binghamton joins Hartford (2016) and UAlbany (2009) as #7 seeds that knocked off a #2 seed.
- Binghamton built a 24-point second-half lead before Stony Brook cut it to three in the final minute before the Bearcats pulled away for the six-point win.
- America East Rookie of the Year Sam Sessoms led Binghamton with 26 points, nine rebounds and four assists. J.C. Show added 19.
- Elijah Olaniyi, a third-team All-Conference choice, had

At #3 UMBC 62, #6 UAlbany 54

- #3 UMBC (20-12) scored 15 of the second half's first 21 points and led by as many as 18 in the frame to down #6 UAlbany, 62-54, in the #AEPlayoffs quarterfinals.
- With the win, the reigning league champion Retrievers advanced to the semifinals for a second-straight season for the first time since the 2008-09 campaign.
- The victory gives UMBC 20 wins for the third-straight season, a first in its Division I program history.
- Arkel Lamar and second-team All-Conference selection K.J. Jackson each scored 11 points to lead a balanced Retriever attack.
- Freshman Malachi de Sousa had a game-high 15 points for UAlbany (12-20).

#5 Hartford 78, #4 UMass Lowell 70

- John Carroll's three-pointer with 40.8 seconds left broke a 67-all tie and lifted #4 Hartford (18-14) to a 78-70 win over #5 UMass Lowell in the #AEPlayoffs quarterfinals.
- Hartford made the semifinals in consecutive seasons for the first time since 2012.
- The Hawks outscored the River Hawks, 47-33, in the second half behind 58 percent shooting.
- Carroll finished with a double-double of 17 points and 13 rebounds while J.R. Lynch led Hartford with 21 points.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

- Since America East began seeding teams in 1983, the No. 1 seed is 83-14 (.856) and has won conference titles in 22 of the 36 years teams have been seeded.
- The No. 1 seed has won three of the last four titles (Albany, 2015; Stony Brook, 2016; Vermont, 2017) but was unable to come home with the crown last year as No. 1 Vermont fell to No. 2 UMBC in the final.
- Prior to 2015, the No. 1 seed failed to win the title each year from 2009-14.
- The top seed has advanced to the championship game every season but six since 1990.
- No. 1's were victorious in every championship between 1994-2001, but have only won six times in the last 14 years.

THREE OF KIND

- The No. 3 seed has reached the conference title game 10 times, including four of the past five years.
- Just 36-35 overall in tournament play, one No. 3 seed won a championship as No. 3 Delaware won the 1993 title with a 67-64 win at No. 1 Drexel.
- Boston U. (2011), Maine (2004) and Niagara (1988) reached the league title game from the fourth position in addition to Albany's title runs.

ONE PLUS THREE EQUALS 10

- This will be the fourth time in the last five years and 10th time overall the the No. 1 and No. 3 seeds meet in the conference championship game.
- The top seed has won all but one of the prior nine meetings between the No. 1 and No. 3 seeds.
- Delaware is the only school to win the title as the No. 3 seed, doing so in 1993.

No. 1 vs. No. 3 in AE Title Games

2017 - #1 Vermont 56, #3 UAlbany 53
2016 - #1 Stony Brook 80, #3 Vermont 74
2015 - #1 UAlbany 51, #3 Stony Brook 50
2000 - #1 Hofstra 76, #3 Delaware 69
1995 - #1 Drexel 72, #3 Northeastern 52
1993 - #3 Delaware 67, #1 Drexel 64
1987 - #1 Northeastern 71, #3 Boston U. 68
1986 - #1 Northeastern 68, #3 Boston U. 54
1983 - #1 Boston U. 63, #3 Holy Cross 62

ALL-TIME CHAMPIONS

Year	(Seed) Team
2018	(2) UMBC
2017	(1) Vermont
2016	(1) Stony Brook
2015	(1) Albany
2014	(4) Albany
2013	(4) Albany
2012	(2) Vermont
2011	(2) Boston U.
2010	(2) Vermont
2009	(1) Binghamton
2008	(1) UMBC
2007	(2) Albany
2006	(1) Albany
2005	(1) Vermont
2004	(2) Vermont
2003	(2) Vermont
2002	(2) Boston U.
2001	(1) Hofstra
2000	(1) Hofstra
1999	(1) Delaware
1998	(1) Delaware
1997	(1) Boston U.
1996	(1) Drexel
1995	(1) Drexel
1994	(1) Drexel
1993	(3) Delaware
1992	(1) Delaware
1991	(1) Northeastern
1990	(2) Boston U.
1989	(1) Siena
1988	(2) Boston U.
1987	(1) Northeastern
1986	(1) Northeastern
1985	(2) Northeastern
1984	(1) Northeastern
1983	(1) Boston U.
1982	Northeastern
1981	Northeastern
1980	Holy Cross

WILL HISTORY BE MADE?

While the team that wins the conference tournament gets crowned league champion and receives the league's automatic berth, earning one of the top seeds during the regular season has been crucial. Only four times in America East's 39 previous tournaments has a team finished outside the top two and gone on to win the league title. However, that has happened twice in the last six years as fourth-seeded and could happen this should should UMBC win the title. Albany became the lowest seeded team to win the title, accomplishing the feat in both 2013 and 2014. Delaware did so as the No. 3 seed in 1993, and Holy Cross finished third in 1980 and went on to win the tournament.

HOME COURT MATTERS

Having home court advantage has proven crucial in the first five years of the #AEPlayoffs, in which each round has been played at the higher seed. Home teams are 28-6, an 82 percent clip, the last five years. Furthermore, the No. 1 seed has won the league title three of the last four years, but Vermont fell as the No. 1 seed to No. 2 UMBC a year ago.