



PROVIDENCE BRUINS

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER P-BRUINS TO FACE EX-TEAMMATE BINNINGTON IN FINALS

The Boston Bruins and St. Louis Blues will meet in the 2019 Stanley Cup Finals, and for P-Bruins fans there is an extra storyline to follow. Naturally it will be exciting to watch Boston's core who came up through the Providence pipeline, but in addition to the 17 current Bruins who started their career in Providence there is another player with P-Bruins ties. It just happens to be the Blue's starting goaltender and Calder Trophy Finalist Jordan Binnington. The 25-year old played all of the 2017-18 season for Providence, but will now look to defeat some of his former teammates for hockey's ultimate prize.

Though never property of the Boston Bruins, Binnington was assigned to Providence by St. Louis prior to the start of the 2017-18 season. Zane McIntyre was already the P-Bruins incumbent starter after a 2016-17 season in which he was named to the AHL's Second All-Star Team, but the team needed a backup option other than Dan Vladar who the organization wanted to get starter minutes in the ECHL. The Blues had a surplus of goaltending options in their organization but no AHL affiliate for them to play with, so Binnington was reassigned on October 9 to serve as Providence's backup.

Binnington and McIntyre formed one of the most dominant duos in the AHL, helping the P-Bruins to their fifth most wins and third most shutouts in franchise history. Providence ended the season allowing 2.46 goals per game, good for second in the AHL. The team essentially had two starting goalies, though Binnington proved to be the most impressive early on. Being Boston's prospect, McIntyre received two starts per week to Binnington's one, however, Binnington posted better numbers when called upon.

Through his first 12 games of the year, he went 9-1-1 with a save percentage of 94.1%. Despite not playing full-time, he was selected to the 2018 AHL All-Star Classic roster and was named the CCM Top Goaltender in the Skills Challenge. His dominance came at a good time as McIntyre experienced some early season struggles, though he found his groove mid-way through the season. McIntyre played his best hockey down the stretch, but Binnington remained good in his role. Each month he played three or more games, he posted a save percentage 94.1% or better.

Binnington finished the season second in the AHL with a 2.05 GAA and among all qualified goalies allowed the second fewest goals. He also ended the season fourth in the AHL in save percentage at 92.6% and once the postseason came around he took over as the P-Bruins starting goaltender. Once Providence's season ended, he returned to the organization that drafted him in the third round of the 2011 NHL draft and began this season with the Blues new AHL affiliate in San Antonio. He played just 16 games for the Rampage before seizing a full-time NHL gig, and is now on the cusp of the Stanley Cup.

Boston should have a good idea of Binnington's strengths and weaknesses thanks to their familiarity with him. The organization's goalkeeper development coach Mike Dunham worked with him last season in Providence, while Danton Heinen, Matt Grzelcyk, Connor Clifton and Karson Kuhlman all played in front of him. Now, the former P-Bruins teammates meet on the sport's biggest stage looking to cement their place in NHL history.

The Providence Bruins are the American Hockey League affiliate of the NHL's Boston Bruins, playing their home games at the Dunkin' Donuts Center in Providence, RI. Spanning more than 25 years, the Boston/Providence affiliation is one of the longest and most successful player development partnerships in professional hockey history.

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