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P-BRUINS WEEK IN REVIEW: 3/16/17 – 3/20/17

Providence, RI – Barely holding onto a playoff spot, the Providence Bruins played three home games in one of their most crucial sets of action this season. The weekend started with Zane McIntyre shutting out Bridgeport 3-0 to jump them in the standings, as Providence holds a two-point edge on them for the final playoff spot. Malcolm Subban beat Hartford 4-2 in Saturday's contest before the team dropped the finale of their home stand 5-2 Sunday against Utica.

After a 2-1 weekend, Providence sits at 36-19-5-4 with 81 points. Though they are fourth in the Atlantic division, they are fourth in the Eastern Conference and would currently be leading the North division. They must remain above fourth in the Atlantic, as only the top four from each division will make the playoffs. With 12 games left, two of them against Bridgeport and the regular season finale against third place Hershey, the race for the playoffs remains wide open.

Providence went the weekend without leading scorer Jordan Szwarz, who missed time due to injury. Jake DeBrusk stepped up to replace his production, totaling a team-high five points with a goal and four assists. He also registered two multipoint games and was a plus-three for the weekend. Chris Porter and Sean Kuraly found the back of the net twice, tied for the team lead in goals.

Captain Tommy Cross made Providence history in Saturday's game against Springfield, becoming the franchise's all-time leader in games played. Cross, who has set career highs in all scoring categories this season, suited up for the 279th time to pass Jay Henderson for the all-time team lead. Cross was originally drafted in the second round (#35 overall) of the 2007 draft by Boston and has played parts of six seasons with Providence since graduating Boston College in 2012.

The roster saw a ton of turnover this week, as nine moves were made over four days. Austin Czarnik and leading goal scorer Peter Cehlarik were both sent back to Providence March 16 after brief stints with Boston. Spencer Asuchak was signed to a PTO that same day after playing 61 games for the Allen Americans of the ECHL. Asuchak had previously played for Providence in 2014, making his AHL debut also on a PTO. Justin Hickman and Ben Marshall were each loaned to the Atlanta Gladiators of the ECHL March 18, playing one game for them before being called back up the following day. It wasn't all additions, as the P-Bruins lost Noel Acciari and Kuraly to Boston when they were recalled on an emergency basis.

The P-Bruins hit the road for three games this week starting with a Friday faceoff with the Hartford Wolf Pack at 7:15pm. The team makes the trip to Albany for a 5pm matchup with the Devils Saturday before heading back to Hartford Sunday at 5pm to conclude their road trip.

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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 20 years, the Boston/Providence affiliation is one of the longest and most successful player development partnerships in professional hockey history.

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