

The UMBC men's soccer team (12-5-0) will compete in its fourth America East Conference Tournament as they open play on Saturday, Nov. 7, when they travel to Binghamton (9-7-1) for a 7:00 p.m. kick-off in Vestal, N.Y. The Retrievers are seeded fifth and the Bearcats are the fourth seed and the winner of the contest will travel to top-seeded New Hampshire for a noon match on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Live stats for the game are available at <http://www.bubearcats.com/sports/msoc/live/xlive.htm> and a live video broadcast is available at <http://bubearcats.tv>.

UMBC sophomore forward Andrew Bulls (Millersville, Md./McDonogh) and junior midfielder Levi Houapeu (Germantown, Md./Watkins Mill) were named America East Conference Men's Soccer Striker and Midfielder of the Year respectively in voting done by the league's eight head coaches.

Both players were also unanimous America East First-Team selections after they each earned the league's Player of the Week honor on two occasions during the campaign. Freshman defender Liam Paddock (Worcestershire, England) and first-year goalkeeper Phil Saunders (Perry Hall, Md./Perry Hall) were both selected to the league's All-Rookie Team.

The Retrievers played at the same venue last Saturday, dropping a 4-0 decision to the Bearcats. UMBC outshot their hosts, 19-11 and had several excellent opportunities to tie the score at 1-all early in the second half before Binghamton scored in the 63rd, 84th and 88th minutes.

Due to injuries and cautions, UMBC started six freshmen in the game against the Bearcats. The Retrievers do not have a senior on their active roster.

UMBC has now reached the America East post-season in 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2009. The Retrievers have yet to win a tournament game and have been eliminated in the semifinal round in all three previous attempts. UMB is 0-2 vs. Binghamton in post-season play.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Result/Opponent</u>	<u>Round/Misc.</u>
2003	1-0 L/Northeastern	Semifinals
2005	4-1 L/Binghamton	Semifinals
2007	1-1 T/at Hartford	Quarterfinals/UMBC advanced on penalty kicks
	1-0 L/at Binghamton	Semifinals

Houapeu produced his second three-goal game of the season as host UMBC clinched a spot in the America East playoffs with a 5-1 win over Albany at UMBC Soccer Stadium on Oct. 24. For the second time this season, Houapeu was named America East Conference Men's Soccer Player of the Week, for games ending Oct. 24, 2009. He was also the ECAC Co-Offensive Player of the Week.

Houapeu became the first Retriever to post multiple hat tricks in a season since Derek McElligott had a pair in 2001... His seven-point game (3 goals, 1 assist) is the most for a Retriever since McElligott tallied seven vs. Central Connecticut on Sept. 28, 2001.

Junior midfielder **Dustin Dzwonkowski** (Baltimore, Md./Archbishop Curley) added the other two UMBC goals against the Great Danes. Bulls had a career-high three assists in the game. Houapeu's previous three-goal game occurred on Sept. 19 in a 3-0 win over Drexel. Albany had only permitted two three-goal games during the season before UMBC's outburst. The five goals scored by UMBC is the most for a Retriever team in America East play since a 5-2 season ending win over Hartford in 2006 and ties UMBC's best-ever offensive output in seven league seasons.

Dzwonkowski, who had two career goals entering the week, had tremendous back-to-back games, drawing an assist and scoring the game-winning goal at Boston, and then posting his first career two-goal effort vs. Albany.

Head Coach Pete Caringi is two wins shy of 200 (198-126-37) in his 19 seasons at UMBC.

Bulls is UMBC's first Striker of the Year since the Retrievers joined the conference in the fall of 2003. He currently leads the nation in scoring with 2.35 points per game (40 points/17 games), a position he has held since the first week of NCAA reporting. Eight of Bulls' 15 goals this season are game-winning scores and the 15 goals scored is tied for the sixth-most in school history and the most since Derek McElligott tallied 15 in 2003.

Houapeu amassed 39 points (14 goals, 11 assists), including five goals and three assists in America East play. He is second in the nation in scoring (2.29 ppg) and second in assists (0.65 per game). Houapeu produced a pair of three-goal games this season in wins over Drexel and Albany and the 11 helpers tie him with John Samarztis (1990) for the fourth-most in a single season at UMBC and are the most since Ty Engram recorded 13 helpers in 1999.

Former Retriever Matt Watson was the America East Midfielder of the Year in both 2004 and 2005. UMBC has not had two first-team all-conference selections since the 2005 campaign, when Watson and defender Marcus Gross earned top league honors.

UMBC's 12 wins is the most since a 15-5-0 mark in 2000 and tied for the fifth-most in 24 years of Division I competition.

On Oct. 7, Bulls scored the game's first goal vs. Stony Brook, producing a point in his 11th consecutive game. That tied the mark set by Retriever all-time great, Giuliano Celenza, who scored in 11 consecutive contests in 2000.

Houapeu's multiple-point effort vs. Albany was his eighth of the season.

Freshman netminder **Phil Saunders** recorded his sixth shutout of the season in the win over Stony Brook. Saunders had posted four straight shutouts in wins over CAA foes Towson (1-0) and Drexel, Loyola and La Salle. The four consecutive shutouts are UMBC's first-such streak since a similar string in 2007. Saunders started all 17 games in the nets for UMBC and posted six shutouts in his initial campaign. He was America East's Rookie-of-the-Week in back-to-back weeks in mid-September

The Retrievers' 9-0-0 start was the best in school history and the longest winning streak since 1999, when the NCAA-bound team won 13 straight contests. The 1977 team (15-2-0) started its NCAA Division II tournament-bound season at 7-0-0, while the 1999 Retriever Division I squad opened with six straight wins en route to the nation's best record that campaign at 19-1-2.

Rankings

The Retrievers were ranked 18th overall nationally by the NSCAA and also debuted at No. 25 in *Soccer America* and at No. 21 in *Soccer Times* on Sept. 28.

Other Game Reviews and Notes

Bulls scored a pair of first half goals, leading the visiting Retrievers to a 3-0 victory over La Salle in the team's first road contest of the season on Sept. 26. Bulls netted his 11th and 12th goals of the season in the 22nd and 29th minutes and freshman **Matt Knight** added an insurance goal in the 89th minute to extend UMBC's school-record winning streak to start a campaign. UMBC freshman goalkeeper **Phil Saunders** made five saves to record his fourth consecutive shutout and his fifth of the season. UMBC snapped an 11-game road winless streak, which dated back to the 2007 season.

Bulls scored on a free kick in the 44th minute and Saunders made three outstanding saves in the final two minutes as UMBC edged Loyola, 1-0, before 1,505 fans at UMBC Stadium on Sept. 22. Saunders finished with six saves. It was UMBC's first-ever win over Loyola on home turf. The Greyhounds lead the series, 18-2-2, with the Retrievers' lone previous win occurring at Towson in 2003.

Houapeu recorded the Retrievers' first three-goal game in three years, leading the Retrievers to a 3-0 win over Drexel on Sept. 19. The team's seven wins to start a season broke the school Division I record of the 1999 team, which played Fairleigh Dickinson to a 1-1 draw in the seventh game of the season were 6-0-1 after seven games. Houapeu recorded UMBC's first three-goal game since Kevin Mezzadra scored three times in a home win over Howard on Sept. 20, 2006. The win was UMBC's first-ever over Drexel, which leads the all-time series, 4-1-1. Bulls did not score a goal for the first time this season, but his assist on Houapeu's final goal kept his scoring streak alive. Bulls scored goals in UMBC's first six games and his eight goals in six games was the fastest to get to that plateau in UMBC's Division I history. Ty Engram scored 11 goals through the first eight games of the 1999 campaign.

For the second consecutive year, UMBC won both games in its adidas Kick-Off Classic, but placed second to Navy. The Mids also defeated Mount St. Mary's and St. Francis and allowed only one goal, compared to two allowed by the Retrievers.

UMBC has outscored its opponents, 38-21, through 17 games this season... the Retrievers are 8-2-0 at home this season and 17-6-5 vs. America East opponents at home in six-plus seasons of league play... Four of UMBC's five losses this season have occurred against teams which had a .500 or losing record at the time of the contest.

Series Notes

UMBC snapped a four-game losing streak to Binghamton with a 1-0 win over the Bearcats at UMBC Soccer Stadium last season. Junior defender **Chris Williams** scored the game's lone goal in the 57th minute. The Bearcats just posted a 4-0 win over UMBC on their home turf on Oct. 31. Binghamton holds a 6-2-1 series lead and is 4-1 vs. UMBC in Vestal.

The Bearcats

Freshman Jake Keegan leads a balanced attack with six goals. Defender Liam Carson was an America East First Team selection and the Bearcats had five Second Team honorees. The Bearcats are undefeated (6-0-1) at home this season.

National Leaders: (as of Nov. 2, 2009)

Scoring Offense:	6. UMBC 2.29 goals per game
Points per game:	1. Andrew Bulls, 2.35 ppg; 2. Levi Houapeu, 2.29 ppg
Goals per game:	2. Andrew Bulls, 0.88 gpg (15) 6. Levi Houapeu 0.82 (14)
Assists per game:	2. Levi Houapeu 0.65 apg (11) 8. Andrew Bulls 0.59 (10)

2009 Honors Won

Andrew Bulls	NSCAA Player of the Week	Sept. 1-7
	College Soccer News' Player of the Week	
	College Soccer News' Team of the Week	
	America East Conference Player of the Week	
	adidas Kick-Off Classic Most Valuable Player	Sept. 8, 10
	America East Conference Player of the Week	Sept. 8-13
	Soccer America's Team of the Week	
	America East Conference Striker of the Year	
	America East Conference First Team	
Levi Houapeu	adidas Kick-Off Classic All-Tournament Team	Sept. 8, 10
	College Soccer News' Team of the Week	Sept. 14-20
	Soccer America's Team of the Week	
	America East Conference Player of the Week	
	America East Conference Player of the Week	Oct. 19-25
	ECAC Co-Offensive Player of the Week	
	America East Conference Midfielder of the Year	
	America East Conference First Team	
Liam Paddock	America East Conference All-Rookie Team	
Phil Saunders	America East Conference Rookie of the Week	Sept. 14-20
	America East Conference Rookie of the Week	Sept. 21-27
	America East Conference All-Rookie Team	
Vince Savarese	adidas Kick-Off Classic All-Tournament Team	Sept. 8, 10
Chris Williams	adidas Kick-Off Classic All-Tournament Team	Sept. 8, 10

Andrew Bulls, The NSCAA Player of the Week (Sept. 8) posted his third consecutive two-goal game in the 3-1 win over St. Francis (PA)... Bulls was named America East Conference Men's Soccer Player of the Week for games ending Sept. 13, 2009, earning the league's top honor for the second consecutive week... He also was named to *Soccer America's* Team of the Week (Sept. 15)... Bulls now has 23 career goals in 34 games.

Levi Houapeu, who also earned All-Tournament team honors, assisted on all three UMBC in the 3-1 win over St. Francis (Pa.)... It was UMBC's first three-assist effort since Powell Cucchiella posted four in a 10-0 win over NJIT in the opener of the 2004 campaign.

A pair of UMBC defenders, junior **Chris Williams** and sophomore **Vince Savarese** also were named to the All-Tournament team of the adidas Kick-Off Classic. Williams suffered an injury in the latter stages of the Oct. 10 game vs. UNH and has not appeared in the last two contests.

Freshman midfielder **Milo Kapor** scored his first collegiate goal (85') in the win over the Red Flash, just 29 seconds after Bulls' second goal of the game.

RECORD SITUATIONS

At Home: 8-2-0
On Road: 2-3-0
In Overtime: 0-0-0
Neutral: 2-0-0

On Grass: 8-3-0
On Artificial: 4-2-0

Day Games: 9-3-0
Night Games: 3-2-0

On Tuesday: 2-0-0
On Wednesday: 3-1-0
On Thursday: 1-0-0
On Friday: 1-0-0
On Saturday: 4-4-0
On Sunday: 1-0-0

When Scoring First: 10-1-0
When Allowing First: 2-4-0
One Goal Games: 4-1-0
Decided by >1 goal: 8-4-0
Outshooting Opp.: 9-3-0
Outshot: 3-2-0

In September: 9-0-0
In October: 3-5-0
In November: 0-0-0