



www.HockeyEastOnline.com

# Weekend Preview

**Noah Smith**  
**Director of Media Relations**  
**Hockey East Association**  
 Phone: (781) 245-2122  
 Fax: (781) 245-2492  
 nsmith@HockeyEastOnline.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 15, 2004

## BC-BU: THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE HOME-AND-HOME SERIES *UMass returns to Alford Arena for first time since quarterfinal sweep*

The first full-slate weekend of Hockey East league games has finally arrived – and it's a beauty. Headlining three home-and-home series this weekend is arguably the most classic of all college hockey rivalries: Boston College vs. Boston University. The Terriers hold a slight advantage in the 85-year history of the matchup, with 110 wins to BC's 92, including an incredible 6-5 overtime win in the semifinals of last year's Hockey East tournament. But Boston College swept the 2002-03 three-game league series and already won the first game of the 2003-04 slate. Tony Voce had a hat trick and Patrick Eaves had a pair of goals to lead the Eagles to a 5-2 win on December 5. Game Two of the season series, Friday night at BC, will be featured as the second installment of the NESN/Hockey East "Friday Night Ice" package.

Maine will have revenge on its mind when the UMass Minutemen skate into Alford Arena for two games. UMass rocked the Hockey East foundation with a sweep of last year's quarterfinal series at Maine to earn its first-ever trip to the FleetCenter. Prior to those contests, Maine had been 21-0 at home all-time in the Hockey East playoffs and UMass held an unenviable 0-18 record overall at Alford.

That all changed in a span of just over 24 hours last March, and Maine would like to change it back. The two teams have already met once this season, and both came away with one point following a 1-1 tie in front of over 6,000 fans in Amherst.

Consistently one of the most underrated rivalries in league play is Merrimack vs. UMass Lowell, whose home rinks are within a 20-minute drive of one another. Friday's battle in North Andover will be the first of their three-game series this season. The River Hawks won the series by the slimmest of margins last year, registering a 6-5 win at home to go with two ties vs. Merrimack. The stakes may be even higher now, as UMass Lowell finds itself in a battle for one of the top four spots in the Hockey East standings while Merrimack needs to keep its pace ahead of Northeastern.

The Huskies take on Providence in a home-and-home set opening Friday in Boston. Both teams have struggled in league play this season (3-14-4 combined), but have been remarkably adept against non-conference foes (11-3-2 combined). They have played once this season (a 2-2 tie) and both realize the increased value of points in this series considering it could come down to head-to-head competition for the final playoff spot. This reality is especially sharp for the Huskies, who lost such a tie-break just last season.

UNH has already started off its non-conference week with a convincing 5-0 win over a Dartmouth squad that opened this season with a seven-game unbeaten streak. The Wildcats may face an even tougher test Saturday against Yann Denis of Brown, who leads the nation with a 1.42 GAA and .953 save percentage.

### RANKINGS

| TEAM           | PWR | AHCA | USCHO |
|----------------|-----|------|-------|
| Boston College | 2   | 2    | 2     |
| Maine          | 3   | 3    | 3     |
| New Hampshire  | 8   | 9    | 9     |
| UMass Lowell   | 17  | –    | –     |
| Providence     | 17  | –    | –     |
| Massachusetts  | 19  | –    | –     |
| Boston Univ.   | 21  | –    | –     |
| Northeastern   | 28  | –    | –     |

### NHL SUCCESS STORIES

**Dwayne Roloson**, MVP of the 1994 Hockey East tournament as backstop for runner-up Lowell, is No. 1 in both goals-against-average (1.84) and save percentage (.940) among NHL goalies who have appeared in at least 20 games this season and is in the top five among all goalies in both categories. Former Boston University blueliner **Adrian Aucoin** currently ranks No. 2 in the NHL in plus/minus with an outstanding +23, just one behind leader Todd Bertuzzi. BC's one-time big gun **Bill Guerin** is still shooting well in the NHL and has 20 goals to show for it so far this season, ranking him in the top 10 in that category. Close to home, 2000-01 BU captain and Framingham native **Carl Corazzini** was called up from Providence yesterday and may make his NHL debut tonight when the Bruins face-off against the Buffalo Sabres. A total of eight former Hockey East players have appeared in uniform for the Bruins' AHL affiliate this season.

### RESULTS / SCHEDULE

#### Tuesday, January 13

New Hampshire 5, Dartmouth 0  
*(at Manchester, NH)*

#### Friday, January 16

Boston Univ. at Boston College (NESN) \*  
 Massachusetts at Maine \*  
 UMass Lowell at Merrimack \*  
 Providence at Northeastern \*

#### Saturday, January 17

Boston College at Boston Univ. (FSNE) \*  
 Massachusetts at Maine (WABI) \*  
 Merrimack at UMass Lowell \*  
 Northeastern at Providence \*  
 Brown at New Hampshire (NHPTV)

\* Hockey East game

Games start at 7pm unless indicated  
 All times Eastern

### 2003-04 STANDINGS

| Team              | GP | W | L | T | Pts | Overall | HE Offense | HE Defense |
|-------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|---------|------------|------------|
| Boston College    | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 16  | 14-3-3  | 3.70 GPG   | 1.90 GAPG  |
| Maine             | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 15  | 15-4-1  | 3.30 GPG   | 2.10 GAPG  |
| New Hampshire     | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 15  | 13-7-3  | 3.50 GPG   | 2.92 GAPG  |
| Massachusetts     | 12 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 14  | 10-6-5  | 2.08 GPG   | 2.25 GAPG  |
| UMass Lowell      | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 13  | 11-9-3  | 2.80 GPG   | 2.30 GAPG  |
| Boston University | 10 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8   | 6-6-6   | 2.60 GPG   | 2.90 GAPG  |
| Providence        | 11 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 7   | 8-7-4   | 3.00 GPG   | 3.36 GAPG  |
| Merrimack         | 13 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 7   | 7-12-3  | 2.00 GPG   | 3.38 GAPG  |
| Northeastern      | 10 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 3   | 6-10-2  | 2.20 GPG   | 3.70 GAPG  |