



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: FEBRUARY 12, 2004

## BC TAKES BEANPOT MOMENTUM TO WESTERN MASS

### Home-and-home series between top two teams headlines weekend action

They're in first place in Hockey East, they're the No. 1 team in the nation, and they're the new Beanpot champions. They're the Boston College Eagles – and they represent the biggest test of the season for the rejuvenated UMass Minutemen.

UMass has at least one win against every Hockey East opponent this season except for BC. In their only prior meeting in 2003-04, BC got two early goals from John Adams and limited the Minutemen to just 15 shots on their home ice en route to a 4-1 triumph. The game took place in front of a Mullins Center hockey record crowd of 7,113, and one can expect a similar total in Friday's match in Amherst.

UMass is just one point behind BC in the league standings. Not only are the Minutemen almost assured of their first-ever home ice berth in the Hockey East quarterfinals, they are legitimately threatening to win the league's regular season title. (The highest they've ever finished before was sixth.) The Eagles have the one-point advantage as well as two games in hand, but those games-in-hand will be

drawn from a remaining schedule that includes a home-and-home series vs. UNH and a final weekend road trip to Maine. UMass, meanwhile, has two games each with Boston University and Northeastern, two teams that have struggled throughout the 2003-04 season.

BU and Northeastern are both fighting to make the playoffs, and neither has an easy draw this weekend. The Terriers have two road games vs. teams that are also looking to guarantee playoff invitations: Merrimack on Thursday and Providence on Saturday. That will make it a busy three-game week for BU, while their opponents have the luxury of focusing solely on the Terriers during game preparation, as those are the only games of the week for those squads.

Though playing both contests on home ice, Northeastern has drawn No. 3 Maine this weekend. The Black Bears are not out of the hunt for first place and they're especially motivated by the prospect of controlling their own destiny in that final weekend vs. BC. Even the current four-point deficit headed into that series could reasonably be overcome, so the Black Bears must only keep pace for now. The NU Huskies, though several seasons removed from their last victory at Alford Arena, have been quite successful vs. Maine at Matthews. A five-game unbeaten streak (3-0-2) at home vs. Maine was broken in their only meeting in Boston last season, a dominating 8-2 triumph for the Black Bears in mid-November of 2002.

UMass Lowell and UNH round out the weekend slate with a home-and-home series between two teams that could potentially meet in the quarterfinals for the third time in four seasons.

#### RANKINGS

TEAM	PWR	AHCA	USCHO
Boston College	2	1	1
Maine	3	3	3
New Hampshire	7	11	10
Massachusetts	13	13	13
Providence	18	–	–
UMass Lowell	22	–	–
Boston Univ.	25	–	–
Northeastern	30	–	–
Merrimack	–	–	–

#### ON THE RADIO

The New England Hockey Journal Radio Show will have UMass head coach Don "Toot" Cahoon as its guest this Saturday from 11:20 to 11:50 a.m. Listeners can catch the show at 1510 AM (or online at 1510thezone.com) and can call in to talk to Coach Cahoon on the air at (866) 337-9663.

#### TOP FAN AWARD BALLOT

Online voting for Hockey East's Top Fan concludes this Saturday at midnight. Five finalists have been selected in two categories. Results of fan voting will be used in conjunction with a league committee vote to determine the winners. Each winner will receive a championship weekend package include accommodations, event tickets and memorabilia. Voting links are available at the league web site, HockeyEastOnline.com.

#### RESULTS / SCHEDULE

##### Monday, February 9

*Beanpot Tournament at the FleetCenter*  
 Northeastern 3, Harvard 1  
 BC 2, BU 1 (OT)

##### Thursday, February 12

Boston University at Merrimack \*

##### Friday, February 13

Boston College at Massachusetts \*  
 Maine at Northeastern (NESN) \*  
 New Hampshire at UMass Lowell \*

##### Saturday, February 14

Boston University at Providence \*  
 Maine at Northeastern \*  
 UMass Lowell at UNH (NHPTV) \*  
 Massachusetts at Boston College (8pm) \*

\* 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	16	12	1	3	27	21-3-4	3.69 GPG	1.81 GAPG
Massachusetts *	18	12	4	2	26	16-6-5	2.17 GPG	2.06 GAPG
Maine	16	11	4	1	23	20-6-2	3.38 GPG	1.94 GAPG
New Hampshire	17	8	6	3	19	16-10-3	3.47 GPG	3.06 GAPG
Providence	18	5	8	5	15	13-9-6	2.61 GPG	2.83 GAPG
UMass Lowell *	16	5	9	2	12	8-18-4	2.44 GPG	2.38 GAPG
Merrimack *	19	4	11	4	12	9-16-4	2.11 GPG	3.53 GAPG
Boston University	16	4	10	2	10	8-12-6	2.19 GPG	3.06 GAPG
Northeastern	16	2	10	4	8	8-13-5	2.12 GPG	3.25 GAPG

\* records reflect forfeits by UMass Lowell