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Weekend Preview

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TOP-RANKED EAGLES FACE TOUGH TEST AT NORTH DAKOTA *Friday's game will be televised nationally on CSTV*

Hockey East's first appearance on CSTV will be a memorable one as No. 1 Boston College faces off at No. 3 North Dakota on Friday. CSTV, a new national sports network, will carry the game live throughout the country starting at 8:00 p.m. Eastern. It is the first of several scheduled CSTV broadcasts involving Hockey East teams.

One round may not be enough for these teams – they'll face-off again in a rematch on Saturday. The two-game series has the potential to shake up the rankings at the top, where four Hockey East teams have entrenched themselves in the early season. Maine helped itself mightily by shutting out previously top-ranked Minnesota last weekend to move from No. 13 all the way up to No. 5. That enabled BC to maneuver into

the No. 1 spot with a title at the Ice Breaker tournament. UNH moved ahead of Michigan into the No. 2 spot, right behind BC, while Boston U. rose one spot to No. 6.

Rankings aside, Hockey East teams rolled through the first weekend, compiling a 9-0-2 record against non-conference opponents. That unblemished record will be put to the ultimate test on the road this weekend. Not only does BC visit North Dakota, but Northeastern visits ranked opponent Denver and Providence plays at Minnesota State (all two-game series) in a feature weekend for Hockey East on WCHA ice. Last season, Providence swept Minnesota State at Schneider Arena while Denver earned a split in Boston, winning at Northeastern after dropping a 4-2 decision at Boston College.

UMass Lowell has the longest trip of any team, going all the way to Anchorage for the Nye Frontier Classic, whose draw includes Air Force and Miami. It will be the River Hawks vs. the RedHawks (Miami) in the first game, and that may be Lowell's toughest challenge of the weekend – Miami split with Michigan last weekend.

The weekend faces off tonight, however, with Game No. 2 of the 108-game Hockey East league schedule – Merrimack at UNH. The Wildcats humbled the Warriors with a sweep in last season's series by a combined score of 18-7, and have won eight straight in the overall series. As a matter of fact, UNH has put together an incredible run of 24-0-3 vs. Merrimack since March 2, 1996, the last

time the Warriors emerged triumphant. Add the reality that UNH still has its prime stopper in Mike Ayers, while Merrimack mainstay Joe Exter has graduated, and you've got an uphill climb for the Warriors tonight. But this is Hockey East – anything can happen. New Hampshire's Whittemore Center usually draws capacity crowds but tonight's game could be a tougher sell considering it's going head-to-head against Game 7 of the Red Sox-Yankees series!

AHCA / USA TODAY POLL

Team	Rank
Boston College	1
New Hampshire	2
Maine	5
Boston University	6

Others Receiving Votes:
 Massachusetts, Providence

EYE ON THE NHL

Former Terrier **Keith Tkachuk** recently potted his 400th career NHL goal. He is the most prolific goal-scorer in NHL history among all former Hockey East players. One-time BU linemate **Tony Amonte** is next at 372. Former Eagle **Joe Mullen** had 502 career NHL goals, but played for BC before Hockey East was founded.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 16

Merrimack at New Hampshire *

Friday, October 17

BC at North Dakota (8pm) (CSTV)

Providence at Minnesota State (8:30pm)

Northeastern at Denver (9pm)

Nye Frontier Classic at Alaska-Anchorage

UMass Lowell vs. Miami (8pm)

Air Force at Alaska-Anchorage (11pm)

Black Bear Classic at Maine

Holy Cross vs. Sacred Heart (4pm)

U.S. Under-18 Team at Maine (exh. - 7pm)

Saturday, October 18

St. Lawrence at Massachusetts

Boston University at Vermont

Merrimack at Union

Boston College at North Dakota (8pm)

Providence at Minnesota State (8:30pm)

Northeastern at Denver (9pm)

Nye Frontier Classic (8/11pm)

Black Bear Classic at Maine

U.S. U-18 vs. Holy Cross / Sacred Heart (4pm)

Holy Cross / Sacred Heart at Maine (7pm)

* Hockey East game

Games start at 7pm EST unless indicated.

All game times are Eastern Standard Time.

2003-04 STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Offense	Defense
Massachusetts	1	1	0	0	0	2-0-0	4.00 GPG	2.50 GAPG
Boston College	0	0	0	0	0	2-0-1	3.67 GPG	2.00 GAPG
Boston University	0	0	0	0	0	1-0-0	5.00 GPG	2.00 GAPG
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	2-0-0	5.00 GPG	1.00 GAPG
Merrimack	0	0	0	0	0	1-0-0	4.00 GPG	2.00 GAPG
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	1-0-0	3.00 GPG	0.00 GAPG
Northeastern	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-1	3.00 GPG	3.00 GAPG
Providence	0	0	0	0	0	2-0-0	6.00 GPG	2.00 GAPG
UMass Lowell	1	0	1	0	0	0-1-0	2.00 GPG	3.00 GAPG