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Weekend Preview

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OCTOBER 23, 2003

SIX OF NINE TEAMS RANKED IN NATION'S TOP 15 *Lofty standard led by Boston College and UNH*

Voters in two different polls agree that Hockey East has the two best teams in the nation – the only debate remaining is which one of the two teams is better.

With a split at No. 3 North Dakota last weekend, Boston College retained its hold on the No. 1 spot in the AHCA poll, but dropped to No. 2 in the USCHO poll, displaced by Hockey East rival New Hampshire. And thanks to a sweep by Providence at Minnesota State and a strong 3-0 start by Massachusetts, Hockey East now has six teams ranked in the Top 15.

Two of those go head-to-head Friday as BU visits Providence in a rematch of last year's quarterfinal series. The Terriers look very similar to the squad that came to Schneider Arena and ousted their hosts in early March, but the Friars look much different. And yet even without their top three scorers and No. 1 goaltender from last year, they've steered to a 4-0 start, three short of equalling last year's impressive 7-0 start. Rookie Chase Watson has been instrumental with four goals and three assists so far

and is tied for third in the nation in points. The underrated rivalry between BU and Providence has yielded a head-to-head quarterfinal series in each of the last three seasons and four of the last five.

Boston College will be challenged by Notre Dame Friday night, a teaser for Saturday's main event football game between the two. The hockey game will be televised live by CSTV. It is the first of four games from Hockey East arenas over the next seven weeks that will featured as CSTV's Game of the Week.

New Hampshire, meanwhile, will return to the site of the 2003 Frozen Four, taking on Canisius and Niagara in the Xerox Punch Imlach Showcase. UMass Lowell will also represent Hockey East at the event.

Merrimack hosts Providence on Saturday following a dedication ceremony for the re-naming of its rink to the J. Thom Lawler Arena, in honor of the legendary coach who led the Warriors to the 1978 Division-II NCAA championship. Merrimack will also play at Northeastern on Friday and will be three games into its league schedule at the conclusion of the weekend, while Boston College and Maine will still be looking forward to Game No. 1.

Fifth-ranked Maine has two more non-league events this weekend, a pair at St. Lawrence. Next weekend, the Black Bears break into league action, hosting Merrimack and Boston U. BC's first league game isn't until Nov. 5 vs. UMass Lowell.

IN THE POLLS

Team	AHCA	USCHO
	Poll	Poll
Boston College	1	2
New Hampshire	2	1
Maine	5	5
Boston University	7	8
Providence	13	13
Massachusetts	15	–

ON THE RADIO

The New England Hockey Journal Radio Show will have BC head coach Jerry York 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 York on the air at (866) 337-9663.

TIME CHANGE / BROADCAST

The face-off time from Friday's game at Boston College (vs. Notre Dame) has been moved from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. CSTV will broadcast the game live to a national audience.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, October 24

- Boston University at Providence *
- Merrimack at Northeastern *
- Maine at St. Lawrence
- Holy Cross at Massachusetts
- Notre Dame at BC (CSTV – 8pm)
- Punch Imlach Showcase at Buffalo, NY*
- UMass Lowell vs. Niagara (5pm)
- New Hampshire vs. Canisius (8pm)

Saturday, October 25

- Providence at Merrimack *
- Maine at St. Lawrence
- Xerox Punch Imlach Showcase*
- New Hampshire vs. Niagara (4pm)
- UMass Lowell vs. Canisius (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	2	3-0-0	4.67 GPG	2.00 GAPG
New Hampshire	1	1	0	0	2	2-0-0	3.50 GPG	0.50 GAPG
Boston College	0	0	0	0	0	3-1-1	3.40 GPG	2.60 GAPG
Boston University	0	0	0	0	0	1-0-1	3.50 GPG	2.00 GAPG
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	3-0-0	5.67 GPG	0.67 GAPG
Northeastern	0	0	0	0	0	0-2-1	2.67 GPG	4.67 GAPG
Providence	0	0	0	0	0	4-0-0	4.75 GPG	2.00 GAPG
UMass Lowell	1	0	1	0	0	0-2-1	2.00 GPG	2.67 GAPG
Merrimack	1	0	1	0	0	1-2-0	2.00 GPG	3.00 GAPG