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Weekend Preview

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UNH, BOSTON COLLEGE STAGE INSTANT CLASSIC *UMass breaks ranks at No. 9 – hosts No. 3 BC*

Make it 6-0-2 for the UNH Wildcats in their last eight games against Boston College. The Eagles finally seemed to have UNH's number last night at Manchester's Verizon Wireless Arena, jumping to a 2-0 lead in the first period and controlling the tempo of play. But late in the third period, with BC leading 2-1, the 'Cats got a huge save from Mike Ayers on a wide open short-handed bid by Patrick Eaves. Nathan Martz connected on the equalizer minutes later and the teams headed to overtime. Although overtime was merely an encore for Ayers (six of his 34 saves came in OT), BC's Matti Kaltiainen had a gem of his own, stopping UNH captain Steve Saviano on a 2-on-1 break to preserve the tie and secure a Hockey East point for each team.

The 'Cats are now undefeated in their last 10 Hockey East games (6-0-4), dating back to February 9 of last season, a 5-2 loss at Providence. Friar Nolan Schaefer outshined

Ayers in that one, stopping 46 of 48 UNH shots in a regionally-televised contest. Schaefer has since departed from the Friar ranks, so Providence will rely on either Bobby Goepfert or David Cacciola to repeat the feat when UNH visits on Friday. Both goaltenders have had strong starts this season.

Boston College also emerges from the tie with a formidable road game on tap. The Eagles travel to UMass on Friday to face the 7-1 Minutemen, who currently stand atop the Hockey East standings. UMass has reached its highest-ever national ranking (No. 9) and has plenty of special incentive in facing third-ranked BC. The Eagles tattooed UMass with its worst losses of last year, 6-0 in Amherst and 9-0 in Chestnut Hill, to sour an otherwise successful 19-win season. Sandwiched between those blankings, however, was a 3-2 triumph for the Minutemen at BC, a point of strength to draw upon for UMass this weekend.

Having already played twice, UMass and Providence will complete their season series on Saturday. Providence dealt the Minutemen their only loss of the season so far with a 6-2 win in Amherst on Oct. 31. Six different Friars scored. Two more Friars found the net the following night vs. UMass in Providence, but Thomas Pöck's two power play goals provided the difference for the Minutemen in a 4-2 win. Pöck is the leading scorer in Hockey East play with five goals and nine points over the first five games.

Merrimack and Boston University will trade their first dates this weekend. The Ter-

riers are looking for some goals, any goals, following a 2-1 loss at Maine and another shutout at the hands of Ayers. BU's power play is off to a slow start (2 for 26) and likely won't get much relief facing Merrimack's respectable 84 percent penalty kill.

Maine will host Northeastern on Friday night and then UMass Lowell for an unusual 2:30 p.m. faceoff on Sunday. The Black Bears had little trouble with Northeastern last season, outscoring the Huskies by a combined score of 18-4 over three victories. However, NU had a 3-4-4 record vs. Maine in the 11 previous contests and has won the season series seven times. The Black Bears scored two wins and a tie vs. Lowell in 2002-03, but only outscored the River Hawks by a single goal over two games in Orono. After electrifying starts, UML's Ben Walter and Maine's Todd Jackson have both quieted down offensively. The two snipers combined for 17 goals over the first seven games of this season.

RESULTS / SCHEDULE

Tuesday, November 11

at UMass Lowell 5, Bentley 2

Wednesday, November 12

New Hampshire 2, Boston College 2 (OT) *
 (at Manchester, NH)

Friday, November 14

Boston College at Massachusetts *
 Boston University at Merrimack *
 Northeastern at Maine (WABI) *
 New Hampshire at Providence (COX3) *

Saturday, November 15

Massachusetts at Providence *
 Merrimack at Boston University (FSNE) *

Sunday, November 16

UMass Lowell at Maine (2:30pm) *

* Hockey East game

Games start at 7pm EST unless indicated.

All game times are Eastern Standard Time.

IN THE POLLS

Team	AHCA	USCHO
	Poll	Poll
New Hampshire	2	2
Boston College	3	3
Maine	4	4
Massachusetts	9	9
Boston University	10	10

2003-04 STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	HE Offense	HE Defense
Massachusetts	5	4	1	0	8	7-1-0	3.20 GPG	2.60 GAPG
New Hampshire	4	3	0	1	7	6-1-1	4.00 GPG	1.50 GAPG
Boston College	3	2	0	1	5	5-2-2	3.33 GPG	1.33 GAPG
Maine	4	2	2	0	4	7-2-0	3.00 GPG	3.25 GAPG
UMass Lowell	4	2	2	0	4	4-3-2	3.25 GPG	2.75 GAPG
Providence	5	1	2	2	4	5-2-2	2.80 GPG	2.80 GAPG
Merrimack	6	1	4	1	3	2-6-1	1.67 GPG	3.17 GAPG
Boston University	3	1	2	0	2	2-2-1	2.33 GPG	3.33 GAPG
Northeastern	4	0	3	1	1	0-5-2	2.00 GPG	4.00 GAPG