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Weekend Preview

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CSTV TO AIR CLASSIC: BU VS. BC *UMass Lowell and UNH venture into the North Country*

The first meeting of the season in the top-tier rivalry between Boston College and Boston University will carry additional significance this season – it's being carried on national television. College Sports Television (CSTV) will be in BC's barn on Friday night to carry the event live for an audience around the country.

As if that wasn't enough to further spice the drama, this is also the first meeting between the two teams since an instant classic 6-5 2OT victory for BU in last year's Hockey East semifinal. BC's Tony Voce tied the score at 4-4 with a power play goal at 7:18 of the third period and put the Eagles ahead just three minutes later, only to be outdone by BU's Justin Maiser, who notched the equalizer at 16:38 and the winner at the five minute mark of the second overtime session to complete a semifinal hat trick. BU goaltender Sean Fields racked up 46 saves in the contest, stopping all 17 shots he faced in overtime, and was later named the Tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Fields will have to be completely on his game again in this one, facing an Eagle offense averaging four goals per game in league play. Conversely, the BU attack is only averaging a modest 2.71 goals per game

thanks to a power play unit that is still looking to get on track. Last year, Boston College swept the three-game league series for the first time since 1990-91, but lost to BU in both the Beanpot final and the Hockey East tournament semifinal.

After dusting themselves off following Friday's bout, the Terriers will host Massachusetts in a Sunday matinee. Head coach Don "Toot" Cahoon has the Minutemen primed to challenge the established league powers, represented this weekend by Boston University. At 5-2-1 in league play, the Minutemen are tied for second place with Maine (who they played to a 1-1 tie) and UNH (who they host next Thursday). They are ranked 10th overall in the nation, five places above perennial power BU.

UNH and UMass Lowell share a trip to the North Country this weekend, taking on both Clarkson and St. Lawrence. These matchups are now annual events for all four schools as they have traded home dates the past two seasons. UMass Lowell has owned the series so far, having shut out Clarkson at home last year and St. Lawrence on the road the year before, and having won all four contests.

Maine and Merrimack will finish off their season series this weekend in Andover. The Black Bears won the first meeting by a final of 6-2. Todd Jackson and Greg Moore had two goals each for Maine, but Merrimack's Marco Rosa also scored twice.

In a battle of two teams still seeking their first wins of the season, Northeastern (0-9-2) will host Vermont (0-10-2) on Friday.

IN THE POLLS

Team	AHCA	USCHO
	Poll	Poll
Boston College	2	2
Maine	3	3
New Hampshire	5	5
Massachusetts	10	9
Boston University	15	15

CHAMPIONSHIP TICKETS ON SALE

Tickets for the 20th Anniversary Hockey East Championship Tournament are now on sale through Ticketmaster (617-931-2000) and at the FleetCenter. Tickets can be purchased online at Ticketmaster.com or HockeyEastOnline.com.

The league recommends that fans reserve their seats as soon as possible as initial ticket sales have been more brisk than ever before. Over 4500 tickets were sold on Monday, the first day of sales, representing an increase of 40 percent over last season's first-day numbers.

ON THE RADIO

The New England Hockey Journal Radio Show will have UMass 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 Cahoon on the air at (866) 337-9663.

RESULTS / SCHEDULE

Friday, December 5

Maine at Merrimack *
 Boston U. at Boston College (8pm - CSTV) *
 New Hampshire at Clarkson
 UMass Lowell at St. Lawrence

Saturday, December 6

Boston College at Providence *
 Maine at Merrimack *
 Vermont at Northeastern
 New Hampshire at St. Lawrence
 UMass Lowell at Clarkson

Sunday, December 7

Massachusetts at Boston U. (1pm -FSNE) *

* 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	7	5	0	2	12	9-2-3	4.00 GPG	2.00 GAPG
Maine	8	5	2	1	11	10-2-1	3.12 GPG	2.25 GAPG
Massachusetts	8	5	2	1	11	9-3-2	2.62 GPG	2.50 GAPG
New Hampshire	8	5	2	1	11	9-3-1	4.00 GPG	2.75 GAPG
UMass Lowell	8	4	3	1	9	6-5-3	3.00 GPG	2.88 GAPG
Boston University	7	2	3	2	6	4-4-4	2.71 GPG	2.71 GAPG
Providence	9	2	5	2	6	6-5-3	3.22 GPG	3.44 GAPG
Merrimack	9	1	5	3	5	4-9-3	1.78 GPG	3.33 GAPG
Northeastern	8	0	7	1	1	0-9-2	2.00 GPG	4.12 GAPG

THE AMERICAN HOCKEY COACHES ASSOCIATION

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For immediate release:

Thursday, December 4, 2003

American Hockey Coaches Association To Honor Career Achievement With Lou Lamoriello Award

The American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) has announced the creation of a new annual award that will honor a former college hockey player or coach who has gone on to a successful post-college career in or out of athletics. The award will be named in honor of former Providence College player, coach, and athletic director Lou Lamoriello, now the President and General Manager of the New Jersey Devils.

In announcing the award, AHCA Executive Director Joe Bertagna said, "Lou Lamoriello has been a leader in every phase of his adult life. Who better exemplifies the values and character that our game embodies? And what better example is there of taking what you learned from one's college hockey experience and applying it in the world beyond?"

The idea for the Lamoriello Award came from a group of retired coaches who meet regularly in Naples, FL, when the AHCA holds its annual convention. Lamoriello has been particularly supportive of the retired coaches over the years, acknowledging their help to him when he was starting out in the coaching business many years ago.

"Lou has always been there for us," said Charles "Lefty" Smith, former head coach at Notre Dame. "Whether bringing a group of us to New Jersey to see a Devils game or supporting our small gatherings in Naples, he has never been anything but generous to us old guys. Few people have had the success he has had but he has never forgotten where he came from."

A native of Johnston, RI, Lamoriello graduated from Providence College in 1963, having played baseball and hockey and serving as hockey captain as a senior. A member of the Providence College Hall of Fame, Lamoriello compiled a record of 248-179-13 in 15 seasons as head coach and then spent five years as Director of Athletics. It was during that period that he was the driving force behind the creation of the Hockey East Association, serving as conference commissioner for three years.

In the summer of 1987, Lamoriello left the college ranks and began his now 17-year tenure as President and General Manager of the New Jersey Devils of the National Hockey League. He has led the Devils to three Stanley Cup titles and has also served as General Manager of Team USA for the 1996 World Cup and the 1998 Olympic Games. In 2002, the title of CEO of the NBA's New Jersey Nets was added to his resume and his influence was immediately felt in that organization.

The first Lou Lamoriello Award will be presented at a reception planned for Saturday, April 10, at Boston's Royal Sonesta Hotel, during this year's NCAA Men's Division I "Frozen Four." More details will be made available in January.

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