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PRESS RELEASE

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WEEKLY RELEASE #13

AYERS STOPS 44 OF 47 IN LOSS AT MINNESOTA Five holiday tournaments commence next Saturday

It was a rematch reminiscent of the original.

The two-time defending NCAA champion Minnesota Golden Gophers unloaded shot after shot (48 total) against the two-time defending Hockey East champion UNH Wildcats. And much like their last meeting, the 2003 NCAA championship game, All Star goaltender Mike Ayers kept the 'Cats in the contest as long as he could.

Ayers finished with a career-high 44 saves in Sunday's Dodge Holiday Classic final at Mariucci Arena, allowing UNH to nearly erase the 3-0 lead that host Minnesota had built. Preston Callander scored twice in the attempted comeback, but UNH nemesis Thomas Vanek sealed the win with an empty net score in the final second. Both Ayers and Callander were named to the All-Tournament Team.

UNH can take some solace in coming away from the weekend with one win, a 3-1 triumph over Miami. The enigmatic Wildcats have managed only a .500 record (5-5-2) to wrap up 2003 since starting the season with six wins in their first seven games.

The Dodge Holiday Classic was just a teaser for the six other holiday tournaments, five of which begin on Saturday. Northeastern will play in the Rensselaer Holiday Tournament starting on Sunday. The Huskies have posted two straight shutouts (both vs. ECAC opponents) and will aim for another vs. Colgate, their first tourney draw.

The highest-profile events will likely be the Great Lakes Invitational, opening with No. 2 Boston College vs. No. 8 Michigan, and the Everblades College Classic, which features four ranked teams and one other (Notre Dame) just outside the Top 15.

The inaugural Dunkin' Donuts Coffee Pot Tournament promises to be an instant classic, pitting New England representatives Harvard and Providence against St. Cloud State and Clarkson, respectively, in the first round. UMass will have its hands full with Dartmouth in the first round of the Sheraton Banknorth Classic at Vermont, but UMass Lowell will have an even tougher draw at Wisconsin should the squad come head-to-head with the hosts. The Badgers have risen to a No. 4 national ranking thanks to a 14-game unbeaten streak.

2003-04 STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	HE Offense	HE Defense
Boston College	8	6	0	2	14	11-2-3	4.12 GPG	2.00 GAPG
Maine	9	6	2	1	13	11-2-1	3.11 GPG	2.11 GAPG
Massachusetts	9	5	2	2	12	9-4-3	2.56 GPG	2.44 GAPG
New Hampshire	10	5	3	2	12	11-6-2	3.60 GPG	3.10 GAPG
UMass Lowell	8	4	3	1	9	7-7-3	3.00 GPG	2.88 GAPG
Merrimack	11	2	6	3	7	5-10-3	2.18 GPG	3.18 GAPG
Boston University	8	2	4	2	6	5-5-4	2.62 GPG	3.00 GAPG
Providence	9	2	5	2	6	6-5-3	3.22 GPG	3.44 GAPG
Northeastern	8	0	7	1	1	2-9-2	2.00 GPG	4.12 GAPG

CCM HOCKEY PLAYER OF THE WEEK

PRESTON CALLANDER – UNH
 Junior Forward; Regina, SK

Scored three goals at the Dodge Holiday Classic, including both of UNH's goals vs. host Minnesota, and was selected to the All-Tournament team.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

MIKE AYERS – UNH
 Senior Goaltender; Hingham, MA

Stopped 60 of 64 shots in the Dodge Holiday Classic, tying a career high with 44 saves vs. host Minnesota. He was named the All-Tournament goaltender.

RECENT RESULTS

Saturday, December 20

Dodge Holiday Classic at Minnesota

New Hampshire 3, Miami 1
 at Minnesota 9, Princeton 0

Sunday, December 21

Dodge Holiday Classic

Minnesota 4, New Hampshire 2

UPCOMING GAMES

Saturday, December 27

Great Lakes Invitational at Detroit, MI

Boston College vs. Michigan (4pm)
 Michigan Tech vs. Michigan State (7pm)

Everblades Classic at Estero, FL (CSTV)

Maine vs. Ohio State (4pm)

Cornell vs. Notre Dame (7pm)

Dunkin' Donuts Coffee Pot at Providence, RI

Harvard vs. St. Cloud State (5pm)

Providence vs. Clarkson (8pm)

Badger Showdown at Wisconsin

UMass Lowell vs. Ferris State (5:30pm)

Union at Wisconsin (8:30pm)

Sheraton Banknorth Classic at Vermont

Massachusetts vs Dartmouth (4pm)

Minnesota State at Vermont (7pm)

Sunday, December 28

Great Lakes Invitational (1:30/5pm)

Everblades Classic (1/4:30pm - CSTV)

Dunkin' Donuts Coffee Pot (5/8pm - COX3)

Badger Showdown (5:30/8:30pm)

Sheraton Banknorth Classic at Vermont

Minnesota State vs Dartmouth (4pm)

Massachusetts at Vermont (7pm)

Rensselaer Holiday Tournament

Northeastern vs. Colgate (4pm)

Mercyhurst at Rensselaer (7pm)

Monday, December 29

Rensselaer Holiday Tournament (4/7pm)

* Hockey East game

Games start at 7pm unless indicated

All times Eastern