



PRESS RELEASE

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BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: NORTH DAKOTA VS. MAINE *Whittemore Center readies for the Ice Breaker*

Yes, it's very early in the season, but few can suggest this weekend's two-game series between third-ranked Maine and fifth-ranked North Dakota won't feature two of the best games of the year.

North Dakota brings the best offense of 2003-04 (4.44 GPG) into Alford Arena, home of 2003-04's best defense, the Black Bears' 1.57 goals-against-per-game. The teams ranked 1-2 in scoring margin, with North Dakota way ahead of the pack with a mighty 2.24 goals-per-game differential.

The ferocious Sioux attack was led by a

trio of superstars, two of whom have left the team after signing pro contracts in the offseason. WCHA Rookie of the Year Brady Murray is back, but he may be the only true sniper left on the roster.

Maine, on the other hand, was led by its goaltenders, the outstanding tandem of Frank Doyle and Jimmy Howard. Doyle has graduated, but Howard is coming off a record-breaking year that suggests he is the top goaltender in the nation, easily capable of excelling in a full slate of games.

Maine was outstanding at home last year, going 17-1-1. North Dakota will have two chances to topple the Black Bears in their own building, but Boston College had the same opportunity last March and was swept at Alford Arena on the final weekend of the regular season.

The series has all the makings of a great weekend of hockey, but so too does the Ice Breaker Tournament, featuring one team from each of the four "senior" college hockey conferences. The annual tournament, now in its eighth year, will be hosted by UNH this season and will open with St. Cloud (WCHA) taking on St. Lawrence (ECACHL). In Saturday's nightcap, No. 10 UNH (Hockey East) faces No. 12 Ohio State (CCHA). Hockey East teams have dominated the Ice Breaker recently, winning two consecutive

and three of the last four.

Boston University and Northeastern are both headed to Dayton, Ohio, for the Lefty McFadden Invitational, and each will get a crack at top-ranked Michigan and its CCHA sibling Miami. Merrimack has also accepted a tournament invitation and will be opening the Maverick Stampede at Nebraska-Omaha against Rensselaer. After not playing in any tournaments last year, the Warriors are slated for four tourneys this season.

The four other Hockey East schools will break into their 2004-05 schedules relatively slowly. Both Massachusetts and Providence will host Clarkson, while Boston College has only an exhibition game on its slate, Saturday against New Brunswick. UMass Lowell head coach Blaise MacDonald will have a homecoming of sorts, travelling to upstate New York to take on his former squad at Niagara.

IN THE POLLS

Team	USAT	USCHO
Boston College	2	2
Maine	3	3
New Hampshire	10	10

Others receiving votes:

Boston U., Massachusetts, UMass Lowell

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, October 8

Clarkson at Providence
 North Dakota at Maine (8pm - CSTV)
Lefty McFadden Invitational at Dayton, OH
 Northeastern vs. Michigan (5pm)
 Boston University vs. Miami (8pm)

Saturday, October 9

UMass Lowell at Niagara
 Clarkson at Massachusetts
 North Dakota at Maine (WABI)
Lefty McFadden Invitational
 Boston University vs. Michigan (4:30pm)
 Northeastern vs. Miami (7:30pm)
IceBreaker Tournament at New Hampshire
 St. Cloud vs. St. Lawrence (2pm)
 Ohio State vs. UNH (5pm - NHPTV)
Maverick Stampede at Nebraska-Omaha
 Merrimack vs. Rensselaer (5:30pm)
 Connecticut vs. Nebraska-Omaha (8:30pm)
 New Brunswick at Boston College (exh.)

Sunday, October 10

IceBreaker Tournament (2/5pm)
 Ohio State vs. St. Cloud/St. Lawrence (2pm)
 UNH vs. St. Cloud/St. Lawrence
 (5pm - NHPTV)
Maverick Stampede (4/7pm)

* Hockey East game

Games start at 7pm unless indicated.

All game times are Eastern Time.

2004-05 STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Offense	Defense
Boston College	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
Boston University	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	1-0-0	7.00 GPG	1.00 GAPG
Massachusetts	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
UMass Lowell	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
Merrimack	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
Northeastern	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
Providence	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-