



# Weekend Preview

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## YORK SEEKS 700<sup>TH</sup> AGAINST SIOUX BU, Maine lock horns for first time in 2004-05 season

With the entire region celebrating the Red Sox' first World Series title since 1918, chances are that few folks are focusing on college hockey. The show must go on for Hockey East, however, and that means a full slate of games as the 2004-05 season hits its full stride.

Three weeks ago, North Dakota strutted into Hockey East territory and took both games of a two-game set at Maine. Emboldened by this, the Sioux will have nothing but confidence at Boston College on Friday in a game that will be seen by a national television audience on CSTV.

But don't expect the Eagles to be in awe of their strangely familiar opponents. The two national powerhouses have met five times over the past six seasons, beginning with the

1999 NCAA West Regional, from which the Eagles emerged victorious with a 3-1 win over No. 1 seed North Dakota. Thus began a heavyweight fight that awarded Round 2 (the 2000 NCAA championship game) to North Dakota and Round 3 (the 2001 title game) to BC. The belated continuation of the battle was a two-game set at North Dakota early last season that ended with a split following two thrilling hockey games. This cross-conference rivalry could be the best in the nation right now, and envisioning these teams pitted against each other in the 2005 NCAA tournament would hardly be a stretch.

Of extra significance in this round will be the potential for a BC victory that would count as the 700th of head coach Jerry York's storied career. His next win will make him just the third coach in history to reach the milestone, with BU's Jack Parker right behind at 694 and counting.

Whatever North Dakota has left after Friday's game will be taken to the ice at Northeastern on Saturday. The Huskies' grueling schedule to start the season has featured five ranked opponents (including previously top-ranked Michigan and defending NCAA champ Denver) in the first six games.

In other non-conference action, UMass Lowell will be looking to rebound from two close 3-2 losses in league play last week with

two non-conference games in New York's capital district. ECACHL foes Rensselaer and Union will host the River Hawks on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

On the league docket, Maine will play its first Hockey East contest at Merrimack on Friday. The Black Bears have reeled off seven straight victories against the Warriors, capped by a two-game sweep in last year's Hockey East quarterfinals. A day off will benefit Maine in Sunday's afternoon game vs. the BU Terriers, a young team that has gotten quickly back on track following a rough opening weekend.

UMass and Providence take to the ice for the first of several home-and-home weekends for Hockey East teams. The Minutemen lost the first game of the set last year, 6-2, but rebounded immediately to register two road wins and clinch the season series.

### WEEKEND SCHEDULE

#### Friday, October 29

Maine at Merrimack \*

Massachusetts at Providence (CoxSports) \*

UMass Lowell at Rensselaer

North Dakota at BC (8pm - CSTV) #

#### Saturday, October 30

Providence at Massachusetts \*

UMass Lowell at Union

North Dakota at Northeastern

#### Sunday, October 31

Maine at Boston University (1pm - NESN) \*

\* Hockey East game

# Commissioner's Cup series

Games start at 7pm unless indicated.

All game times are Eastern Time.

### IN THE POLLS

Team	USAT	USCHO
Boston College	2	2
Maine	9	7
New Hampshire	7	9

Others receiving votes:

Boston University, Massachusetts, UMass Lowell, Providence

## HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Offense	Defense
Boston College	1	1	0	0	2	2-1-0	3.67 GPG	2.33 GAPG
Boston University	1	1	0	0	2	2-2-0	2.50 GPG	3.75 GAPG
Massachusetts	1	1	0	0	2	3-2-0	2.60 GPG	2.20 GAPG
Providence	2	1	1	0	2	2-1-0	3.67 GPG	3.00 GAPG
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	4-3-0	3.57 GPG	2.43 GAPG
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	3-1-1	3.80 GPG	3.20 GAPG
Northeastern	0	0	0	0	0	2-3-0	3.20 GPG	4.40 GAPG
Merrimack	1	0	1	0	0	2-3-0	3.60 GPG	4.20 GAPG
UMass Lowell	2	0	2	0	0	1-2-0	2.33 GPG	2.67 GAPG