



Weekend Preview

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SHOWCASE WEEKEND STARTS WITH BC AT MAINE *Hot Terrier squad heads to Manchester to take on UNH*

A hat trick of Hockey East marquee matches is on tap for this weekend, headlined by top-ranked Boston College's Friday night face-off at Maine. A rematch of the prime time NCAA semifinal at the Fleet-Center last year, this one has all the makings of a classic.

BC brings sniper Patrick Eaves and his NCAA best 2.75 points-per-game average. Of 16 BC goals scored this season, Eaves has had a hand in 11 of them. Maine will counter with goaltender Jimmy Howard, whose 1.19 goal-against-average and .956 save percentage last year set new all-time national records. He'll have his hands full with Eaves and the rest of the Eagle offense.

BC and Maine met three times in the regular season last year, with the Black Bears taking the series, 2-1, thanks to an overtime

goal by John Ronan in the season finale. Nevertheless, BC won the Hockey East regular season title, but it was Maine that advanced to, and eventually won, the Hockey East championship game. As for this year, BC was the favorite in the Hockey East pre-season coaches' poll, only narrowly edging Maine for that designation.

Interestingly, Maine is off to a modest 5-4 start, and will be challenged to maintain a .500 record through this weekend based on its opponents. After hosting BC, the Black Bears get a one-day break before UNH skates in for a Sunday afternoon tilt, to complete another thrilling weekend of college hockey at Alford Arena.

Alford will be packed for both games, but the attendance peak for the weekend will be set at Manchester's Verizon Wireless Arena on Friday night when Boston University takes on UNH. Over 10,000 fans are expected for the event, which will be televised live across the country on CSTV.

It's the first league game for the Wildcats, who have opened the season with a respectable 3-1-1 record in non-conference play. That includes a title at the Ice Breaker Tournament (which UNH hosted) and a 4-4 tie on the road against previously top-ranked Michigan.

Boston University was humbled by the Wolverines on the first weekend of the sea-

son, but the ordeal wasn't a total loss. Relatively unknown sophomore goaltender John Curry was inserted midway through the game (with BU trailing 7-0) and proceeded to shut out Michigan for the remainder. Since then, Curry has been given three straight starts and has won all three, including a narrow 2-1 victory over Maine last Sunday. He was named ITECH Goaltender of the Month.

While attention may be focused on those matches, UMass and Merrimack have their own business to attend to with a home-and-home series. The Minutemen have won four straight vs. the Warriors, including a sweep of last season's series. Merrimack is already in an 0-2 hole in Hockey East play and is looking for at least two points against UMass.

A relatively quiet non-conference weekend features only a two-game set for Wayne State at Providence and a solo contest for UConn at Northeastern.

IN THE POLLS

| Team | USAT | USCHO |
|----------------|------|-------|
| Boston College | 1 | 1 |
| New Hampshire | 7 | 8 |
| Maine | 9 | 9 |

Others receiving votes:
 Boston University, UMass Lowell,
 Northeastern, Providence

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, November 5

- Merrimack at Massachusetts *
- Boston College at Maine (WABI) *
- Boston University vs. New Hampshire *
(8pm - CSTV – at Manchester, NH)
- Connecticut at Northeastern
- Wayne State at Providence (CoxSports)

Saturday, November 6

- Massachusetts at Merrimack *
- Wayne State at Providence

Sunday, November 7

- New Hampshire at Maine (2pm) *

* Hockey East game

Games start at 7pm unless indicated.

All game times are Eastern Time.

HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

| Team | GP | W | L | T | Pts | Overall | Offense | Defense |
|-------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|---------|----------|-----------|
| Boston University | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3-2-0 | 2.40 GPG | 3.20 GAPG |
| Massachusetts | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4-3-0 | 2.43 GPG | 2.43 GAPG |
| Providence | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3-2-0 | 3.40 GPG | 2.60 GAPG |
| Boston College | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3-1-0 | 4.00 GPG | 2.50 GAPG |
| Maine | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5-4-0 | 3.22 GPG | 2.11 GAPG |
| New Hampshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3-1-1 | 3.80 GPG | 3.20 GAPG |
| Northeastern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2-3-1 | 3.17 GPG | 4.17 GAPG |
| Merrimack | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2-4-0 | 3.00 GPG | 4.00 GAPG |
| UMass Lowell | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3-2-0 | 3.00 GPG | 2.60 GAPG |