



Weekend Preview

Noah Smith
Director of Media Relations
Hockey East Association
 591 North Ave – #2
 Wakefield, MA 01880
 Phone: (781) 245-2122
 nsmith@HockeyEastOnline.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DECEMBER 9, 2004

HOT SQUADS MEET AT HARVARD

Northeastern hopes to make a move with back-to-back league games

The first half of the 2004-05 schedule winds down with three league games and seven non-league games this weekend. Afterwards, most of the teams will be out of action until the holiday tournaments begin on December 28. The only exception is Merrimack, who will play in the Mariucci Classic at Minnesota on Dec. 22-23. But first, the Warriors will host Princeton for two this weekend. The Tigers evened their record at 4-4-1 with a 6-3 home win over Yale on Nov. 23, but have since lost three straight (all on the road) by a combined score of 16-6. The Warriors, on the other hand, won the Dunkin' Donuts Coffee Pot Tournament two weeks ago and managed a tie in a two-game set at Maine last weekend, marking their first point against the Black Bears in nine games.

Speaking of the Black Bears, they are undefeated in their last six games (4-0-2) and seem fully recovered from a modest 6-6 start. Their streak will be put to the test Saturday at Harvard, which has won eight of its last nine games and is 6-0 at home. The Crimson has already beaten both Boston College and Boston University, and it's most recent triumph was Tuesday against Vermont, who came into the game with an 11-game unbeaten streak.

The recent history between Harvard and Maine includes two NCAA Tournament regional matchups, both won in heart-breaking fashion by the Black Bears. In 2002, John Ronan potted an overtime winner to down Harvard, 4-3. Last year, the Crimson seemed set to even the score with a 4-1 lead in the third period before surrendering four unanswered goals that delivered a 5-4 win to the Hockey East champs. Yes, that was last year, but there are still plenty of players on the Harvard roster for whom that wound is still open.

With a .500 record in league play and games-in-hand over each of the teams ahead of them, the Northeastern Huskies will hope to gain some ground with back-to-back Hockey East games, at BC on Friday and hosting Lowell on Saturday. BC has already claimed one victory over Northeastern this year, putting away the host Huskies 4-1 just two weeks ago, and the Eagles are still undefeated at home this year. The rivalry between Northeastern and UMass Lowell has been ferocious since former River Hawk head coach Bruce Crowder took

the reins at NU in 1996-97. Crowder's former squad has a 20-9-2 edge over him in eight seasons, including two quarterfinal series victories. The River Hawks currently have a five-game undefeated streak in the series vs. the Huskies and are hoping that whatever ails them in league play this season (0-5-1) will be cured with a visit to Northeastern. UML has a perfect 7-0 record in non-league play and will be happy to put that on the line at Dartmouth on Friday.

UMass and UNH also have a pretty impressive recent rivalry, with back-to-back meetings in the Hockey East semifinals. UNH triumphed in 2003 en route to its second straight title, but UMass eliminated the Wildcats last year with four third-period goals. Tonight's reunion is at UNH's Whittemore Center, where the Wildcats are off to a 7-0 start thanks to a 30-16 scoring advantage. UMass has won just once in 15 tries at the Whit, and has lost the last two in OT.

Rensselaer evened its record to 2-2 against Hockey East teams this year with a 4-3 comeback win over visiting Providence on Wednesday. The BU Terriers will visit the Engineers Saturday in the rubber match of the five-game series for Hockey East vs. RPI.

RESULTS / SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 8

at Rensselaer 4, Providence 3

Thursday, December 9

Massachusetts at New Hampshire *

Friday, December 10

Northeastern at Boston College *

UMass Lowell at Dartmouth

Princeton at Merrimack

Saturday, December 11

UMass Lowell at Northeastern *

Boston University at Rensselaer

Maine at Harvard #

Sacred Heart at Massachusetts

Princeton at Merrimack

U.S. U-18 Team at UNH (2pm - exh.)

* Hockey East game

Commissioners' Cup series

Games start at 7pm unless indicated.

All game times are Eastern Time.

RANKINGS

Team	USAT	USCHO
Boston College	5	5
New Hampshire	7	7
Maine	10	11
Boston University	14	14

HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	HE Offense	HE Defense
Boston University	9	8	1	0	16	9-6-0	4.33 GPG	2.22 GAPG
Maine	10	6	3	1	13	10-6-2	3.60 GPG	2.10 GAPG
New Hampshire	7	5	1	1	11	10-3-2	3.57 GPG	2.71 GAPG
Boston College	7	3	1	3	9	6-3-3	2.57 GPG	1.86 GAPG
Massachusetts	9	4	4	1	9	7-9-1	2.89 GPG	3.67 GAPG
Northeastern	6	3	3	0	6	6-7-1	3.33 GPG	3.17 GAPG
Providence	10	2	6	2	6	5-8-2	2.50 GPG	3.10 GAPG
Merrimack	10	1	8	1	3	4-10-2	2.00 GPG	4.30 GAPG
UMass Lowell	6	0	5	1	1	7-5-1	2.67 GPG	4.33 GAPG