



PRESS RELEASE

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UNH NEXT UP TO TRY TO CRACK BU'S WIN STREAK Maine looks to derail first-place Boston College in Orono

With its 3-2 Beanpot championship win vs. BC Monday, BU extended its win streak to 11 straight, the best active streak in the nation. Nine of those wins have come in Hockey East play, marking BU's best run ever. Already, the Terriers have the longest win streak in league play in 10 years, and one more victory will give them just the fourth 10-game win streak in the history of Hockey East conference play.

Getting there will be no easy task, however, as Friday's opponent is UNH. The Terriers were notoriously snakebit by UNH late in the 2002-03 season (suffering four straight shut-outs) and have won just twice in their last 11 meetings vs. the Wildcats, the final regular season game in each of the last two years. Interestingly, both of those games were at the Whittemore Center. Their last win vs. UNH in Boston was in January of 2003 and the 'Cats

have a 1-0-1 record at the new Agganis Arena, the win coming earlier this season. The drama will unfold live on NESN as part of the Hockey East Friday Night Ice package.

On this double marquee weekend, BC will visit Maine for a two-game set. The Eagles are trying to hold onto a once-safe first-place lead while a revitalized Maine squad (5-1-1 in its last seven) is engaged in a fierce battle for playoff positioning with three other teams. BC had just four losses in its first 23 games this year, but one came against Maine, 2-1 on Oct. 28. That was only one of two games this season that the Eagles have been held to under two goals.

The other teams involved with Maine in the close race for home ice advantage are UNH, Providence and Vermont. Maine and UNH obviously have very tough draws this weekend, while UVM will play two road games at UMass, and Providence will swap an unusual Thursday-Friday home-and-home vs. Northeastern. The NU Huskies are traditionally quite comfortable playing a spoiler role, but a win vs. Lowell last week re-ignited their playoff possibilities. Earlier this season, they narrowly missed a win vs. Providence, losing 2-1 in overtime. Massachusetts' odd season has included recent wins vs. both BC and UNH, so the Minutemen are far from an easy mark.

The UNH-BU and BC-Maine series will

overshadow what may be the most underrated rivalry in Hockey East: Merrimack vs. UMass Lowell. The proximity of these schools, and the intimacy of Merrimack's Lawler Arena, seem to create an air of extra intensity. Add to the circumstances that both teams are desperate for points in the standings, and it will be quite a wild weekend ride for fans of both programs.

Team USA suffered somewhat of a disappointing 3-3 tie vs. Latvia yesterday at the 2006 Winter Olympics. Brian Gionta, the greatest goal-scorer in Hockey East history, had one of the three U.S. goals. Former BU wunderkind Rick DiPietro was not in net for the tie, but will likely see action before the tourney concludes. In all, at least 20 individuals with direct connections to Hockey East are involved in the Olympic Games. See related release for additional details.

RESULTS / SCHEDULE

Monday, February 13

Beanpot Tournament

Harvard 5, Northeastern 0

Boston University 3, Boston College 2

Thursday, February 16

Providence at Northeastern *

Friday, February 17

New Hampshire at Boston U. (NESN) *

Vermont at Massachusetts *

UMass Lowell at Merrimack *

Northeastern at Providence *

Boston College at Maine (CSTV - 8pm) *

Saturday, February 18

Boston College at Maine (WABI / WPFO) *

Boston U. at UNH (NHPTV / ESPNU) *

Vermont at Massachusetts *

Merrimack at UMass Lowell *

* Hockey East game

Games start at 7pm EST unless indicated

RANKINGS

TEAM	PWR	USAT	USCHO
Boston University	4	5	5
Boston College	6	4	4
Providence	11	14	16
Maine	15	11	11
New Hampshire	19	ORV	17
Vermont	22	13	15

ORV – others receiving votes

HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	HE Offense	HE Defense
Boston College ^	21	16	4	1	33	19-7-2	3.33 GPG	1.76 GAPG
Boston University ^	21	14	6	1	29	18-8-2	3.29 GPG	2.33 GAPG
New Hampshire ^	21	11	6	4	26	15-10-5	2.95 GPG	2.29 GAPG
Providence ^	21	12	7	2	26	15-11-2	3.05 GPG	2.43 GAPG
Maine ^	21	12	8	1	25	19-10-1	3.48 GPG	2.43 GAPG
Vermont ^	21	9	8	4	22	17-9-4	2.62 GPG	2.19 GAPG
Massachusetts	21	8	13	0	16	11-17-0	2.10 GPG	3.00 GAPG
UMass Lowell	21	7	13	1	15	10-17-1	2.52 GPG	3.76 GAPG
Northeastern	21	2	13	6	10	2-20-6	2.10 GPG	3.19 GAPG
Merrimack	21	2	15	4	8	5-19-4	1.43 GPG	3.38 GAPG

^ clinched playoff berth