

PRESS RELEASE

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MAINE SWEEPS TO SET UP THRILLING FINAL WEEK Massachusetts, UMass Lowell clinch final playoff spots

The Maine Black Bears continued their recent hot streak (9-1-1) with back-to-back wins at Merrimack this past weekend (4-1, 2-1) to move within two points of first-place Boston College. Michel Léveillé led the way with three of the six Maine goals in the series, while rookie goaltender Ben Bishop allowed just one goal in each game for the second straight weekend. At the other end, Merrimack's Jim Healey was strong Saturday (31 saves), but just missed getting a point.

UNH picked up three points in a key weekend series vs. Providence, giving the Wildcats a two-point edge over the Friars for fourth-place, which carries with it a home ice berth in the Hockey East quarterfinal round. Kevin Regan was given back-to-back starts vs. Providence, and stopped 49 of the 52 shots he faced. Rookie Trevor Smith had two goals in Saturday's 4-1 win at UNH, while fellow rookie Cody Wild set up all three Friar goals in the two-game set.

Boston College dominated a Thursday match vs. Lowell, getting a hat trick from Brian Boyle and 26 saves from Cory Schneider en route to a 6-0 shutout win. The River Hawks solved Schneider in Saturday's rematch, however, notching five second-period goals and ending up with a 6-3 victory. Rookie goaltender Vinnie Monaco was outstanding with 36 saves in the win, which clinched a playoff berth for Lowell

That BC loss enabled both UNH and Maine to gain ground on BC, and stay in the hunt for the league title. Boston University also stayed within striking distance by recording two ties at Vermont, the first on a Dan Spang goal with just 27 seconds remaining on Friday. The Catamounts held one-goal leads headed into the third period both nights, but had to survive heavy BU barrages in each to preserve the ties.

UMass locked up a playoff spot with a win and a tie in a weekend series vs. Northeastern. P.J. Fenton was the biggest contributor, with a goal in each game and two assists in Saturday's 4-2 triumph.

HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

<u>Team</u>	<u>GP</u>	W	L	I	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Overall</u>	Remaining Games
Boston College #	25	17	7	1	35	20-10-2	UNH, at UNH
Boston University ^	25	15	7	3	33	19-9-4	at NU, NU
Maine ^	25	16	8	1	33	23-10-1	UMass (2)
New Hampshire ^	25	13	7	5	31	17-11-6	at BC, BC
Providence ^	25	13	9	3	29	16-13-3	at MC, MC
Vermont ^	25	10	9	6	26	18-10-6	at UML (2)
Massachusetts ^	25	10	14	1	21	13-18-1	at Maine (2)
UMass Lowell ^	25	9	14	2	20	12-18-2	UVM (2)
Northeastern	25	3	15	7	13	3-22-7	BU, at BU
Merrimack	25	2	18	5	9	5-22-5	PC, at PC

clinched home ice in the quarterfinal round ^ clinched playoff berth

CCM / RBK HOCKEY PLAYER OF THE WEEK

P.J. FENTON – Massachusetts

Sophomore Forward; Longmeadow, MA

Had a goal and two assists in a 5-2 win vs. Northeastern Saturday to lift UMass into the playoffs. Also scored a goal in Friday's 2-2 tie at Northeastern.

SUPERSKILLS HOCKEY ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

VINNIE MONACO – UMass Lowell

Freshman Goaltender; Andover, MA

Drew his first career start Saturday against first-place Boston College and responded with an impressive 36-for-39 performance in posting a 6-3 win.

RECENT RESULTS

Thursday, February 23 at Boston College 6, UMass Lowell 0 *

Friday, February 24

at Vermont 1, Boston University 1 (OT) *
Maine 4, at Merrimack 1 *
at Northeastern 2, Massachusetts 2 (OT) *
at Providence 2, New Hampshire 2 (OT) *

Saturday, February 25

at UMass Lowell 6, Boston College 3 * at Vermont 2, Boston University 2 (OT) * Maine 2, at Merrimack 1 * at Massachusetts 4, Northeastern 2 * at New Hampshire 4. Providence 1 *

UPCOMING GAMES

Thursday, March 2
UNH at Boston College (CN8 - 7:30 pm) *

Friday, March 3

Providence at Merrimack *
Massachusetts at Maine *
Vermont at UMass Lowell (NESN) *
Boston University at Northeastern *

Saturday, March 4

Merrimack at Providence (6:30 pm) *
Massachusetts at Maine (WABI / WPFO) *
Vermont at UMass Lowell *
Northeastern at Boston University *
Boston College at UNH (NHPTV) *

* Hockey East game Games start at 7pm EST unless indicated

PURE HOCKEY DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

KEVIN REGAN – New Hampshire

Sophomore Goaltender; South Boston, MA

Stopped 49 of 52 shots faced in a vital weekend set vs. Providence, picking up a 2-2 tie on the road and a 4-1 win in the rematch at home.

HONOR ROLL

- Ben Bishop, Maine (Fr. G; Des Peres, MO) Allowed just one goal in each of two wins at Merrimack, totalling 29 saves in the sweep.
- Brian Boyle, BC (Jr. F; Hingham, MA) Hat trick led 6-0 win vs. UML Thursday and he added another goal in Saturday's rematch.
 John Curry, BU (Jr. G; Shorewood, MN) Stopped 37 of 40 shots faced over back-to-back ties at Vermont.
- Joe Fallon, UVM (So. G; Bemidji, MN) Shut out BU for 59:33, totalling 25 saves in a 1-1 tie on Friday.
- Jeremy Hall, UML (Jr. F; Mays Landing, NJ) Scored twice to lead a five-goal second-period outburst in a 6-3 win vs. BC.
 Jim Healey, MC (Jr. G; Holyrood, NF) Stopped 31 of 33 shots faced in a narrow 2-1 loss vs. Maine Saturday.
- John Hopson, Maine (Sr. F; Prince George, BC) Had a goal in each game of a sweep at Merrimack, including the short-handed game-winner in the third period of Saturday's 2-1 win.
- Michel Léveillé, Maine (Jr. F; Levis, QC) Scored three of Maine's six goals in a sweep at Merrimack.
- Torrey Mitchell, UVM (So. F; Greenfield Park, QC) Set up both UVM scores in a 2-2 tie vs. BU on Saturday.
- Mike Radja, UNH (So. F; Yorkville, IL) Had a goal in each game plus one assist over a win and a tie vs. Providence.
- Cory Schneider, BC (So. G; Marblehead, MA) Stopped all 26 shots he faced in a 6-0 win vs. Lowell.
 Trevor Smith, UNH (Fr. F; No. Vancouver, BC) Scored twice to lead UNH's 4-1 win over Providence Saturday.
- Cody Wild, PC (Fr. D; No. Providence, RI) Rookie blueliner set up all three Friar goals in a two-game set vs. UNH.
- Gabe Winer, UMass (Sr. G; Stoughton, MA) Preserved a 2-2 tie at Northeastern Friday with 34 saves.

LEADING SCORERS (League games only)

	Player, School	CI	GP	G	Α	Pts
1	Chris Collins, BC	Sr	25	18	20	38
2	Brian Boyle, BC	Jr	25	16	15	31
3	Daniel Winnik, UNH	Jr	24	9	18	27
4	Brett Hemingway, UNH	Jr	23	13	13	26
	Greg Moore, Maine	Sr	25	17	9	26
6	Jacob Micflikier, UNH	Jr	22	7	18	25
	Josh Soares, Maine	Jr	25	8	17	25
8	Peter MacArthur, BU	So	25	10	14	24
	Torrey Mitchell, UVM	So	25	8	16	24
	Chase Watson, PC	Jr	25	5	19	24
11	Torry Gajda, PC	Sr	25	9	14	23
12	Kenny Roche, BU	Jr	24	12	10	22

LEADING SCORERS (All games)

	Player, School	CI	GP	G	Α	Pts
1	Chris Collins, BC	Sr	32	26	25	51
2	Brian Boyle, BC	Jr	32	17	23	40
3	Torrey Mitchell, UVM	So	34	12	25	37
4	Daniel Winnik, UNH	Jr	33	12	24	36
5	Brett Hemingway, UNH	Jr	32	18	17	35
	Greg Moore, Maine	Sr	34	22	13	35
7	Torry Gajda, PC	Sr	32	14	20	34
	Brady Leisenring, UVM	Sr	33	11	23	34
9	Jacob Micflikier, UNH	Jr	31	10	23	33
10	Chase Watson, PC	Jr	32	6	26	32
	Josh Soares, Maine	Jr	34	12	20	32









LEADING GOALTENDERS (League games only)

	Player, School	CI	GP	Min	W	L	Т	GAA	SP
1	Cory Schneider, BC	So	24	1436	16	7	1	1.84	.935
2	Joe Fallon, UVM	So	21	1245	7	9	5	2.02	.904
3	John Curry, BU	Jr	24	1382	15	5	3	2.04	.926
4	Tyler Sims, PC	So	24	1377	13	9	2	2.13	.925
5	Ben Bishop, Maine	Fr	18	1000	12	5	1	2.22	.905
6	Jeff Pietrasiak, UNH	Sr	13	669	7	2	2	2.24	.927
	Kevin Regan, UNH	So	15	857	6	5	3	2.24	.925
8	Gabe Winer, UMass	Sr	17	883	7	7	1	2.38	.919
9	Patrick Watson, PC	Fr	10	516	1	4	3	2.67	.922
10	Jon Quick, UMass	Fr	12	620	3	7	0	3.00	.923

LEADING GOALTENDERS (All games)

	Player, School	CI	GP	Min	W	L	Т	GAA	SP
1	Matt Lundin, Maine	So	15	731	7	4	0	1.72	.934
	Joe Fallon, UVM	So	29	1725	14	10	5	1.77	.914
3	Ben Bishop, Maine	Fr	23	1303	16	6	1	2.12	.909
4	Cory Schneider, BC	So	29	1732	18	10	1	2.15	.925
5	John Curry, BU	Jr	29	1686	17	7	4	2.24	.920
6	Tyler Sims, PC	So	30	1715	16	12	2	2.27	.918
7	Gabe Winer, UMass	Sr	22	1141	9	9	1	2.31	.926
8	Jeff Pietrasiak, UNH	Sr	19	938	10	4	2	2.37	.925
9	Kevin Regan, UNH	So	20	1131	7	7	4	2.49	.916
10	Patrick Watson, PC	Fr	14	667	1	7	3	2.70	.920

TEAM STATISTICS (League games only)

TEAM OFFENSE Team	GF	o G	Ć	iPG	
1.Maine	25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	86 81 79 77 70 66 61 55 51	3. 3. 3. 2. 2. 2.	44 24 16 08 80 64 44 20 04	
TEAM DEFENSE Team	GP	GA	GA	I PG	
1.Boston College 2.Vermont 3.Maine 4.New Hampshire 5.Providence 6.Boston University 7.Massachusetts 8.Northeastern 9.Merrimack	25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	50 54 55 58 60 61 70 78 84 92	2. 2. 2. 2. 3. 3.	00 16 20 32 40 44 80 12 36 68	
POWER PLAY Team	GP	PPG .	Att	SHGA	Pct
1.Maine 2.New Hampshire 3.Vermont 4.Providence 5.UMass Lowell 6.Boston University 7.Massachusetts 8.Boston College 9.Northeastern	25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	26 28 22 19 20 18 21	156 124 146 132 123 137 124 149 143 130	8 2 0 2 1 3 6 3 2 4	.218 .210 .192 .167 .154 .146 .145 .141 .133 .123
PENALTY KILL Team	GP	OPPG	Att	SHG	Pct
1.Boston College 2.Maine 3.Providence 4.New Hampshire 5.Vermont 6.Boston University 7.Northeastern 8.Merrimack 9.Massachusetts 10.UMass Lowell	25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	14 15 18 18 17 24 30 33 22 32	131 115 104 141 171	5 3 5 4 1 2 3 2 3	.896 .877 .863 .843 .837 .830 .825 .810 .807
PENALTY MINUTES Team	GP	Р	PiM	1 PN	1PG
1.Vermont	25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	143 163 167 168 198 195 167 232 238 229	346 375 383 446 455 458 459 554 626	5 15. 3 15. 0 17. 6 18. 8 18. 0 18. 22. 5 25.	00 32 60 20 32 36 16

TEAM STATISTICS (All games)

TEAM OFFENSE Team	GF	o G	(GPG	
1.Boston College 2.Maine	32 34	110 114	. 3.	.44 .35 .19	
3.Boston University 4.New Hampshire	32 34	102 104	3.	.06	
5.Providence 6.UMass Lowell	32 32	96 90	2.	.00 .81	
7.Vermont	34 32	89 70		.62 .19	
9.Northeastern	32 32	61 57	. 1.	.91 .78	
TEAM DEFENSE Team	GP	GA	. GA	APG	
1.Vermont	34	65		.91	
2.Maine	34 32	70 73		.06 .28	
4. Boston University	32	78	2.	.44	
5.New Hampshire Providence	34 32	86 81	2.	.53 .53	
7.Massachusetts	32	88	2.	. 75	
8.Merrimack Northeastern	32 32	110 110		.44 .44	
10.UMass Lowell	32	120		.75	
POWER PLAY Team	GP	PPG	Att	SHGA	Pct
1.Maine	34	_	219	9	.210
2.Vermont	34 34		196 188	1 3	.204
4.Providence	32		172	2	.180
5.UMass Lowell 6.Boston College	32 32	_	153 192	1 4	.163 .161
7.Boston University	32	27	177	3	.153
8.Massachusetts 9.Merrimack	32 32		158 179	6 4	.152
10.Northeastern	32	_	185	3	.114
PENALTY KILL Team	GP	OPPG	Att	SHG	Pct
1.Maine	34	16		3	.907
2.Vermont	34 34	19 23	_	1 5	.874 .865
4.Boston College	32	28	_	8	.850
5.Providence6.Boston University	32 32	28 29		6 3	.841 .837
7.Massachusetts	32	26	151	4	.828
8.Northeastern 9.Merrimack	32 32	43 47		4 2	.815 .807
10.UMass Lowell	32	39		4	.797
PENALTY MINUTES Team	GP	Р	PiN	1 PI	ИРG
1.Vermont	34	200			. 85
2.Boston University 3.Providence	32 32	205 217			. 34 . 62
4.Massachusetts	32	211	558	3 17	.44
5.New Hampshire	34	238	613	3 18	.03
6.Boston College 7.Maine	32 34	262 261			.56 .71
8.UMass Lowell	32	271	713	3 22	.28
9.Northeastern 10.Merrimack	32 32	302 322		5 25	. 47 . 50

TEAM NOTES

Boston College: Chris Collins registered his eighth multiple-goal game this season with two goals Saturday at Lowell ... Brian Boyle has 11 goals in eight career games vs. Lowell, including two hat tricks this season ... Cory Schneider has six shutouts this season, a new BC record.

Boston University: BU is unbeaten versus Vemont in their last seven meetings (4-0-3) ... BU was held to under three goals in both games at Vermont this weekend (1-1 and 2-2) after scoring three or more in 13 straight ... BU outshot Vermont 25-5 during the third period and overtime in this past weekend's series.

University of Maine: Maine is 17-0-0 this season when entering the third period with the lead ... Maine has swept the season series against three Hockey East opponents this year, including first-place Boston College.

University of Massachusetts: Gabe Winer earned his 50th career win Saturday in his last Mullins Center appearance ... Prior to Friday's 2-2 tie at NU, UMass was the only D-I team in the nation without a single tie this season ... Stephen Werner's goal on Saturday was his 12th of the season, but first on the power play and first game-winner.

UMass Lowell: After notching just one multiple-point outing in his first 25 games this season, Jeremy Hall has three in his last five games. In his last six games, he has doubled his season goal total from five to 10.

Merrimack College: Jim Healey stopped Maine's Mike Hamilton on a penalty shot Friday. Healey is a perfect 3-for-3 against the penalty shot this season ... Derek Pallardy scored Merrimack's second short-handed goal of the season in Friday ... Merrimack was held to a season-low 13 shots-on-goal Saturday vs. Maine.

University of New Hampshire: Rookie Trevor Smith has five goals and seven points in his last seven games ... The Wildcats have outscored their opponents 34-16 in the third period in 25 league games so far this year ... UNH is the only Hockey East team that has not lost a season series this year ... Senior defenseman Brian Yandle needs only four points to reach the 100-point plateau for his career.

Northeastern University: Dennis McCauley had a modest three-game goal scoring streak snapped on Saturday at UMass. Josh Robertson had the first assist on all three goals, which included a game-winning goal and a game-tying goal ... NU is 2-6-3 this season when having equal or less penalty minutes than its opponent and 1-15-4 when having more penalty minutes than its opponent.

Providence College: Junior Tony Zancanaro has 11 goals this season. He totalled seven over his first two seasons ... Cody Wild's six goals is the most by a PC rookie defenseman since 1984-85 (Sean Whitham) ... With 13 league wins, the Friars are two shy of tying the school record for most Hockey East victories in one year, set in the inaugural season of 1984-85.

University of Vermont: Six of Vermont's last nine games have gone to overtime. The Catamounts are 3-0-6 in overtime this season and 5-0-10 in their last 15 overtime games dating back to January of 2004 ... Vermont is tied with Miami for the No. 1 defense in the country, allowing just 1.91 goals per game this season ... Vermont sold out all 20 games at Gutterson Fieldhouse this season and has sold out 37 straight home games dating back to last season.

WHO'S HOT

- Ben Bishop, Maine (Fr. G; Des Peres, MO) Is 8-0-1 in his last nine starts, and has limited his opponent to just one goal in four straight games and five of the last six.
- Michel Léveillé, Maine (Jr. F; Levis, QC) Has at least one point in eight straight Maine games, and has a personal 14-game personal point streak that pre-dates a recent injury absence.
- Kevin Regan, UNH (So. G; South Boston, MA) Has a 3-1-1 record in his last five starts with a 1.97 GAA and a .934 save percentage in that span.
- **BC Penalty Kill** Has killed off 41 of the last 43 penalties, including a perfect 9-for-9 in a split vs. Lowell this past weekend.
- Maine Black Bears Boast a four-game winning streak, a six-game undefeated streak and a 9-1-1 record in their last 11 games.

ITECH THREE STAR LEADERS

At the conclusion of each Hockey East game, the ITECH "Three Stars of The Game" are selected. The player earning the most points over the course of the season will be honored at season's end. The leaders to date:

<u>Name</u>	<u>CI</u>	<u>Pos</u>	<u>Schoo</u>
Chris Collins	Sr	F	BC
Jeff Corey	Sr	F	UVM
Torry Gajda	Sr	F	PC
Adam Geragosian	Jr	G	NU
Jacob Micflikier	Jr	F	UNH
Torrey Mitchell	So	F	UVM
Kenny Roche	Jr	F	BU
Cory Schneider	So	G	BC
Tyler Sims	So	G	PC

The 2006 Hockey East

CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

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