

Weekend Preview

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"FIGHTING" WORDS DOMINATE WEEKEND SLATE River Hawks go on stampede; UNH on the road; BU eyes milestone

"Fighting" appears to be the buzzword in Hockey East this week. Notre Dame's hockey team may not carry the same cachet as the school's football team, but the Fighting Irish skaters can still draw a crowd. This weekend, Notre Dame takes a short swing through New England, facing off against Boston College on Friday and Providence on Saturday.

The Eagles, in their first action since slipping past the U.S. Under-18 National Team, 5-4, in overtime, aim to tighten their defense while maintaining the balanced scoring attack that propelled them past Northeastern, 5-2, for Coach Jerry York's 750th career win. On Saturday, the Eagles host the Falcons of Bowling Green, York's former team.

Providence, having split with ECACHL opponents Clarkson and St. Lawrence last week, takes on the Falcons on Friday, before matching up against Notre Dame (and former Friar Coach Paul Pooley) the next night. Friar forward Jon Rheault (Deering, NH) has had the hot hand of late (two goals against St. Lawrence), and freshman goalie Ryan Simpson (Bow, NH) got his first win, giving Coach Tim Army two strong netminders to choose from.

Meanwhile, on the road, the season isn't getting easier for battle-tested Maine as the team heads into the weekend's marquee match-up. Undefeated in their first three games, including a win over Minnesota, the 4th-ranked Black Bears travel to North Dakota to rub elbows with the 2nd-ranked Fighting Sioux. The Maine defense, led by Bret Tyler (Maynard, MA) and goalie Ben Bishop (Des Peres, MO), will need to be sharp to contain high-flying Jonathan Toews (3rd pick in the NHL draft last spring) and Darcy Zajac (three goals in four games).

New Hampshire, fresh off a 7-1 pasting of the U.S. U-18 squad, opens its regular season away from home, traveling to the Rocky Mountain State to battle Colorado College in back-to-back games on Friday and Saturday.

UMass Lowell is also away, as red-hot forward Jason Tejchma (Muskegon, MI) leads the River Hawks against Northern Michigan in the opening round of the Mutual of Omaha Stampede at Nebraska-Omaha on Friday. Depending on the outcome of that game, the Hawks will then face either Niagara or host Nebraska-Omaha on Saturday.

Closer to home, on Friday at Boston University, the Northeastern Huskies will look to build on the momentum gained when they pocketed a well-deserved 2-2 tie against 9th ranked Vermont on a third-period goal by David Strathman (Tempe, AZ). However, the Huskies better be sharp on D, as the Terriers, who are three goals shy of the program's 10,000 goal, will have extra incentive to put the puck in the Northeastern net.

If the Terriers don't get three on Friday,

2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

<u>Team</u>	<u>GP</u>	W	L	Τ	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Overall</u>	Offense/All	Defense/All
Boston College	1	1	0	0	2	1-0-0	5.00 GPG	2.00 GAPG
Vermont	1	0	0	1	1	2-0-1	4.00 GPG	1.50 GAPG
Northeastern	2	0	1	1	1	0-1-1	2.00 GPG	3.50 GAPG
Boston University	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-1	4.00 GPG	4.00 GAPG
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	3-0-0	5.33 GPG	1.66 GAPG
Massachusetts	0	0	0	0	0	1-0-1	3.00 GPG	2.50 GAPG
Merrimack	0	0	0	0	0	0-2-0	1.00 GPG	5.50 GAPG
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
Providence	0	0	0	0	0	1-1-0	2.50 GPG	4.00 GAPG
UMass Lowell	0	0	0	0	0	0-1-1	3.00 GPG	5.00 GAPG

they'll be even hungrier on Saturday, when they head to North Andover to face Merrimack for the Warriors' Hockey East home opener.

In Burlington, Vermont Coach Kevin Sneddon will have his Catamounts ready to go for a tough weekend doubleheader against Michigan Tech. The UMass Minutemen, who garnered three of a possible four points last weekend, have the weekend off.

RECENT RESULTS

Friday, October 13 at Massachusetts 3, Sacred Heart 2 at Maine 7, Bemidji State 1 UMass Lowell 3, at Minnesota-Duluth 3 at Boston College 5, U.S. U-18 4 (exh.) Clarkson 6, at Providence 1 at Alaska-Anchorage 6, Merrimack 2 &

Saturday, October 14 Northeastern 2, at Vermont 2 * Boston University 4, at Rensselaer 4 # at Maine 6, Bemidji State 3 at Providence 4, St. Lawrence 2 at Massachusetts 3, Clarkson 3 at Minnesota-Duluth 7, UMass Lowell 3 at New Hampshire 7, U.S. U-18 1 (exh.) Colorado College 5, Merrimack 0 &

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, October 20 Northeastern at Boston University * Notre Dame at Boston College Michigan Tech at Vermont Bowling Green at Providence # Maine at North Dakota (8:30pm) UNH at Colorado College (9:30pm) # UMass Lowell vs. N. Michigan (5pm) %

> Saturday, October 21 Boston University at Merrimack *

Boston University at Merrimack * Michigan Tech at Vermont # Bowling Green at Boston College Notre Dame at Providence (7:30pm) # Union at Northeastern # Maine at North Dakota (8pm) New Hampshire at Colorado College (9pm) Lowell vs. Niagara/Neb-Omaha (5/8pm) %

* Hockey East game

& Nye Frontier Classic at Alaska-Anchorage % Mutual of Omaha Stampede at Neb-Omaha # Commissioners' Cup Series game Games start at 7pm EST unless indicated

BOSTON COLLEGE • BOSTON UNIVERSITY • UNIVERSITY of MAINE • UNIVERSITY of MASSACHUSETTS • UMASS LOWELL MERRIMACK COLLEGE • UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE • NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY • PROVIDENCE COLLEGE • UNIVERSITY of VERMONT