



Weekend Preview

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NOVEMBER 9, 2006

RELEASE #11

CHALLENGERS MAKE TRACKS TO BLACK BEARS' DEN Providence, Vermont seek reversal of fortunes; BC, BU, NU traveling

After a two-game swing through eastern Massachusetts, the top-ranked Maine Black Bears return to the comfortable confines of Alford Arena in Orono this weekend for a pair of league games. Coach Tim Whitehead may have to caution against complacency, though the Black Bears were served a quick reminder that nobody in Hockey East can rest easy, as Boston University stormed back from a 2-0 deficit to tie Maine last Saturday.

UMass Lowell, fresh off a three-point weekend, visits Maine on Friday. The league-leading River Hawks may have found their goalie of the future in freshman Carter Hutton (Thunder Bay, ON) who only allowed a single goal over two games last week (mirroring Maine, UML tied BU and beat Merrimack) to earn the Hockey East Rookie of the Week honors, while senior Jason Tejchma (Muskegon, MI) has had the hot scoring hand.

On Sunday in Orono, the UNH Wildcats come in riding the momentum of a home-and-away sweep of the Northeastern Huskies. New Hampshire took advantage of two three-goal periods to put away the Huntington Hounds, but Coach Dick Umile will be looking for more balanced scoring from start to finish.

The UMass Minutemen are also riding high after a two-game sweep of Providence, with sophomore Jon Quick (Hamden, CT) providing rock-solid goaltending and Chris Capraro (Medford, MA) and P.J. Fenton (Longmeadow, MA) leading the offensive charge. The four points gave the Minutemen a share of the league lead with UMass Lowell and Boston University. Still, UMass will have to

be ready to battle a scrappy Northeastern squad, led by senior captain Mike Morris (Braintree, MA), that played UNH tough.

At BU, Coach Jack Parker knows he can rely on stalwart netminder John Curry (Shorewood, MN) as the Terriers prepare to face New Hampshire in Durham on Friday. What Parker can't be as certain about is whether his hot-and-cold offense, which has only recorded three goals in the last two games, can shake off the doldrums against the Wildcats. However, the Terriers ability to claw back to tie Maine last Saturday was an encouraging sign.

In what is quickly becoming a rollercoaster season for Boston College, Coach Jerry York will have to get his Eagles focused for Merrimack after the Harvard Crimson whitewashed BC, 4-0, in Cambridge on Tuesday. Harvard freshman Kyle Richter stopped 36 BC shots to give Crimson Coach Ted Donato his first win on the season. The Eagles, meanwhile, are still searching for an identity and some offense. The same can be said for Merrimack Coach Mark Dennehy's Warriors, who've battled hard the past few games, but have had trouble putting the puck in the net. On the other end of the ice, Merrimack senior Jim Healey (Holyrood, NF) has kept his team close, and will have to be sharp again this weekend against the Eagles on Friday and Engineers on Sunday.

Finally, two teams looking to establish a rhythm – Providence and Vermont – face off at PC's Schneider Arena on Friday. Look for the Catamounts, who've lost four straight one-goal games, to drive hard to the net, while the Friars

hope to recapture the Halloween magic that helped them knock off Boston College, 5-3.

In other Hockey East news, four long-time league officials have been tabbed by USA Hockey to work International Ice Hockey Federation events next spring. Those selected are linesman Peter Feola of Rochester, NY, and referee David Hansen of Boston, MA, for the Men's World Championships in Moscow; linesman Steve Glines of Nashua, NH, for the Div. I Men's Championships in China; and linesman Joseph Ross of Litchfield, NH, for the World Junior Championships in Sweden.

RECENT RESULTS

Friday, November 3

Boston University 1, at UMass Lowell 1 *
 Maine 4, at Merrimack 1 *
 at Massachusetts 4, Providence 1 *
 at New Hampshire 6, Northeastern 3 *

Saturday, November 4

at Boston College 1, Vermont 0 *
 Maine 2, at Boston University 2 *
 Massachusetts 3, at Providence 2 *
 at UMass Lowell 5, Merrimack 0 *
 New Hampshire 3, at Northeastern 1 *

Sunday, November 5

at Vermont 5, Ottawa 2 (exh.)

Tuesday, November 7

at Harvard 4, Boston College 0

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, November 10

Boston College at Merrimack *
 Boston Univ. at New Hampshire * (NHPTV)
 UMass Lowell at Maine * (WABI)
 Northeastern at Massachusetts *
 Vermont at Providence * (CoxSports)

Sunday, November 12

New Hampshire at Maine (3pm) *
 Merrimack at Rensselaer

Tuesday, November 14

Boston University at Vermont * (CN8)
 Northeastern at Providence * (CoxSports)

* Hockey East game
 & Commissioner's Series Cup game
 # Hannaford/Kraft Kids' Club event
 Games start at 7pm EST unless indicated

2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Goals	Goals Against
Massachusetts	4	3	1	0	6	4-1-1	17	14
UMass Lowell	4	2	0	2	6	3-2-3	24	20
Boston University	5	2	1	2	6	2-1-3	16	13
Maine	3	2	0	1	5	7-0-1	35	12
Boston College	3	2	1	0	4	5-3-0	22	20
New Hampshire	3	2	1	0	4	4-2-0	25	16
Providence	5	1	3	1	3	2-6-1	20	33
Merrimack	4	1	3	0	2	1-6-1	11	31
Vermont	2	0	1	1	1	2-4-1	18	13
Northeastern	5	0	4	1	1	2-5-1	22	26