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# Weekend Preview

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# UNH-UVM, BC-BU TILTS HIGHLIGHT WEEKEND SLATE NU, MC battle; UVM at UML; Friars face Maine; UMass hosts Niagara

Boston will be the hub of college hockey this weekend, as Boston University and Boston College collide in two seismic tilts, and Northeastern welcomes Merrimack in the first of back-to-back games. And just to the north, the top-ranked UNH Wildcats welcome the red-hot Vermont Catamounts on Sunday.

Earlier this week, UMass rebounded from two tough losses with an inspired effort against Boston University in a 2-2 overtime tie, while UNH blanked Merrimack, 5-0, and Vermont edged Harvard, 2-1, in overtime.

On Friday, expect Boston College's Conte Forum to be rocking, as the Eagles face off against the Terriers in a nationally televised (CSTV) match, the first of this home-and-home series. BC hasn't played since before Thanksgiving (a 3-1 home loss to UNH), so the Eagles should be raring to go. Likewise, BU may be playing with a chip on it's shoulder, as the Terriers let a third-period lead slip away on Tuesday and had to settle for a 2-2 tie at home against UMass. On Saturday, the two Boston teams will resume play on BU's home ice, Agganis Arena.

Also on Friday, NU's Huskies are looking for their first Hockey East win, and hope to ride the hot hands of Mike Morris (Braintree, MA) and Chad Costello (Johnston, IA) when they meet the Merrimack Warriors at Matthews Arena. The Warriors will be looking to get their offense in gear, after getting white-

washed by the Wildcats. On Saturday, the two teams complete a home-and-away series when they meet in Andover.

In Lowell, the River Hawks will suare off against Vermont at Tsongas Arena on Friday. The Catamounts are riding a six-game win streak after a well-deserved 2-1 overtime victory against Harvard. Reigning Hockey East Player of the Month Dean Strong (Mississauga, ON) made a nifty move out of the corner and swept the puck past Harvard's Justin Tobe for the win. The River Hawks are hoping that home ice will work in their favor after dropping a tough 4-2 decision in Providence a week ago.

Last Tuesday, BU goalie John Curry (Shorewood, MN) was at his best in OT, making seven stops, after UMass senior Kevin Jarman (Aurora, ON) slapped home a Matt Anderson (West Islip, NY) rebound to knot the game. UMass netminder Jon Quick (Hampden, CT) was also superb, registering 33 saves on the night. On Friday, the Minutemen host the Purple Eagles of Niagara at the Mullins Center in Amherst.

In Orono, the Black Bears will aim to reverse a three-game skid in Hockey East when the Providence Friars come to town on Friday. Providence had mixed results following Thanksgiving, beating UMass Lowell at home, 4-2, before dropping a tough 2-1 decision to cross-town rival Brown.

Sunday's UVM-UNH tilt, another nationally televised game (ESPNU), could be billed as "the irresistible force meets the immovable object," matching UNH's high-powered offense against UVM's airtight defense. Both teams have scorers — Torrey Mitchell (Greenfield Park, QC) and Strong from UVM, Trevor Smith (North Vancouver, BC) and Matt Fornataro (Calgary, AB) for UNH — and solid goaltending. It ought to be a great finish to a great weekend of college hockey.

#### RECENT RESULTS Tuesday, November 21

Vermont 3, at Massachusetts 0 \* at Boston University 2, Harvard 1

Wednesday, November 22 New Hampshire 6, at Boston College 3 \*

Friday, November 24 at Providence 4, UMass Lowell 2 \*

#### Saturday, November 25

at Vermont 3, Maine 2 \*
New Hampshire 3, at Northeastern 1 \*
at Boston University 2, Yale 1 (OT)
at Union 4, Massachusetts 3

**Sunday, November 26** at Brown 2, Providence 1 (Mayor's Cup)

#### Tuesday, November 28

Massachusetts 2, at Boston University 2 \* # at New Hampshire 5, Merrimack 0 \* Vermont 2, at Harvard 1 (OT)

### UPCOMING GAMES Friday, December 1

Providence at Maine (WABI) \*
Vermont at UMass Lowell \*
Merrimack at Northeastern \* #
Boston Univ. at Boston College (8pm/CSTV) \*
Niagara at Massachusetts

#### Saturday, December 2

Boston College at Boston University (CN8) \* Northeastern at Merrimack \*

Sunday, December 3

Vermont at New Hampshire (3pm/ESPNU) \*

\* Hockey East game # Hannaford/Kraft Kids' Club event Games start at 7pm EST unless indicated

## 2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

<u>Team</u>	<u>GP</u>	W	L	I	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Overall</u>	Goals	Goals Against
New Hampshire	10	8	1	1	17	10-2-1	60	28
Vermont	7	5	1	1	11	8-4-1	36	20
<b>Boston University</b>	9	3	2	4	10	5-2-5	28	23
Boston College	7	4	2	1	9	7-4-1	35	33
Massachusetts	7	4	2	1	9	6-3-2	32	25
Maine	7	3	3	1	7	8-3-1	46	28
Providence	9	3	5	1	7	4-9-1	31	45
UMass Lowell	8	2	4	2	6	3-6-3	29	37
Merrimack	7	1	6	0	2	1-10-1	14	47
Northeastern	9	0	7	2	2	2-8-2	30	38