



Weekend Preview

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RELEASE #25

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 4, 2007

UNH, VERMONT KICK OFF NESN TELECASTS Full league slate features UML, Maine in throwback games

The post-holiday season kicks into high gear this weekend with a full slate of league games, highlighted by the opening NESN telecast of the UNH-UVM tilt on Friday, and a pair of "old time hockey" games between UMass Lowell and Maine.

On Friday, league-leading New Hampshire travels to Burlington for the first of a two-game set against the 2nd-place Catamounts. Both teams went 1-1 in recent holiday tournaments, with Vermont being edged by St. Cloud State in the finals of the Catamount Cup. UVM and its superb goaltender, Joe Fallon (Bemidji, MN), whitewashed Rensselaer, 3-0, in the opening round – Fallon's fourth shutout this season – to reach the finals. UNH, meanwhile, dropped a tough contest to Cornell in the first round of the Florida College Classic before bouncing back to defeat Western Michigan, 5-2. However, the Wildcats will face Vermont without forward Mike Radja (Yorkville, IL), as the reigning Hockey East Player of the Month suffered an injury against the Broncos.

Maine travels to UMass Lowell for a two-game set against the River Hawks at the venerable Tully Forum. As befits the venue – Lowell's former home ice before the construction of Tsongas Arena – the teams will wear "throwback" uniforms. The Black Bears come in with momentum after taking the Florida College Classic in Estero, silencing Cornell, 6-3, behind Teddy Purcell's (St. John's, NF) two goals, including the game-winner, and Brent Shephard's (Shawigan Lake, BC) three assists. The Black Bears got to the finals by sweeping past Western Michigan, 8-4, on Friday, when junior Bret Tyler (Maynard, MA) broke open a 3-3 game with two goals in the third period. Meanwhile UMass Lowell suffered a tough 2-1 loss

in the Wells Fargo Denver Cup finals despite outshooting the DU Pioneers, 37-23. The River Hawks tied Brown in the first round, 1-1, but advanced after winning the shoot-out. UML's Jeremy Dehner (Madison, WI) potted the shootout winner.

Also Friday, BU will travel to Providence to take on the Friars. The Terriers finished the tournament season with a convincing 3-0 shutout over host Dartmouth in the Ledyard Classic, leaving Coach Jack Parker just a single victory shy of win No. 750. BU freshman Luke Popko (Skillman, NJ) got the game-winner, while goalie Karson Gillespie (Mankota, SK) earned the shutout. In the Badger Hockey Showdown, the Friars dropped a pair, to Lake Superior State, 2-1, in the first round, and to Wisconsin in the consolation game, 5-0.

Boston College will trek across town to face Northeastern on Friday. While the Eagles were idle during the holidays, NU shrugged off its opening round loss to Colgate in the Toyota UConn Classic to shut down the Crusaders of Holy Cross, 7-2. NU's Ryan Ginand (Milford, MA) had a goal and an assist to lead the Huskies.

Massachusetts and Merrimack will be aiming to get back on the winning track when the two teams face-off for a home-and-home set, starting at the Warriors home ice in North Andover. UMass tied Ferris State, 1-1, in the opening round of the Mariucci Classic in Minnesota, but were relegated to the consolation game after FSU won the shootout. In the second game, the Chargers of Alabama-Huntsville got the jump on UMass, and cruised to a 5-2 win. Merrimack garnered a tie in the first of a two-game set against Robert Morris, 2-2, on the road, but dropped the rematch, 3-0. On Saturday, the teams meet again in Amherst.

Media conference call set for January 9

Media representatives who cover Hockey East are invited to participate in a media conference call featuring the league's 10 coaches on Tuesday, Jan. 9. For details, contact Brion O'Connor, Hockey East director of public relations, at (781) 245-2122, or via email at boconnor@hockeyeastonline.com.



NESN launches its Hockey East coverage with a new pregame show, *Hockey East Friday Night Live*, at 7:00 p.m. this Friday, followed by the league-leading UNH Wildcats vs. the #2 Vermont Catamounts at 7:30.

2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Goals	Goals Against
New Hampshire	12	10	1	1	21	14-3-1	77	38
Vermont	9	6	2	1	13	11-6-1	48	29
Boston College	10	6	3	1	13	9-5-1	42	37
Boston University	11	4	3	4	12	7-4-5	38	30
Maine	9	5	3	1	11	12-3-2	71	37
Massachusetts	10	5	4	1	11	8-6-3	45	42
Providence	11	3	7	1	7	4-13-1	34	59
UMass Lowell	10	2	6	2	6	3-11-5	41	55
Northeastern	12	2	8	2	6	5-10-2	46	53
Merrimack	10	2	8	0	4	2-13-2	20	58

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, January 5

New Hampshire at Vermont (7:30pm) * NESN
 Boston College at Northeastern *
 Boston University at Providence * %
 Maine at UMass Lowell *
 Massachusetts at Merrimack *

Saturday, January 6

Maine at UMass Lowell (3pm) *
 Northeastern at Boston University *
 Merrimack at Massachusetts *
 New Hampshire at Vermont * CN8

Sunday, January 7

Providence at Boston College (3pm) * ESPNU %

* Hockey East game
 % Hannaford Kids Club event
 All games Eastern Standard Time