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WOMEN'S LEAGUE

WEEKEND

PREVIEW



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DECEMBER 7, 2006

RELEASE #20

UCONN TAKES OUT HARVARD; BC, NU SQUARE OFF

Hockey East, ECACHL renew rivalry; Sacred Heart visits BU

Expect movement in the national rankings as several top-flight teams from the ECACHL challenge Hockey East in a week full of non-conference action. Boston University and Connecticut already got things started with match-ups against Brown and Harvard, respectively, and the upcoming slate features six clashes between the rival leagues as Harvard and Dartmouth square off against Providence and New Hampshire and St. Lawrence visits Maine for a two-game set.

The fourth-ranked Crimson began a three-game tour of Hockey East with a visit to Storrs on Thursday where the Huskies registered a dramatic 3-2 victory. UConn sophomore Kristen Russell (Dauphin, MB) potted the game-winner, her first of the season, with just over three minutes left and Defensive Player of the Week Brittany Wilson (Nepean, ON) did the rest, making 25 stops for the win. The triumph marked UConn's first-ever victory over Harvard. Coach Heather Linstad's squad can enjoy a long winter break alone atop the Hockey East standings before hitting the ice for the Nutmeg Classic at the end of the December.

Third-ranked New Hampshire gets the next shot at the Cambridge crew as Harvard hosts the Wildcats on Friday night. There will certainly be some emotion in the building after UNH ended Harvard's season last year with a 3-1 victory in the NCAA quarterfinals. Jennifer Hitchcock (LaSalle, ON) and Martine Garland (Toronto, ON) each picked up a goal and an assist in the win to propel New Hampshire to the Frozen Four. The 'Cats

return to the Whittemore Center on Sunday for an intrastate collision with sixth-ranked Dartmouth. UNH earned statewide bragging rights last season after Melissa Bourdon (Ile Bizard, QC) twice shut down the Big Green.

Coach Bob Deraney's Friars will also face-off against Dartmouth, trekking to Hanover on Friday. PC is riding a three-game winning streak, but has yet to solve an Ivy League opponent this season, dropping decisions at Yale and Brown. The team will take a detour on the drive home for an evening in Boston as they meet up with Harvard on Saturday. The Friars are finally getting balanced scoring to complement their airtight defense as seven different skaters found the back of the net in last week's dual wins. PC's goaltending tandem of Danielle Ciarletta (Blaine, MN) and Jana Bugden (Corner Brook, NF) currently ranks 1-2 in Hockey East in save percentage.

Maine concludes a four-game homestand with twin tilts against seventh-ranked St. Lawrence. The Black Bears had a seven-game unbeaten streak snapped by Northeastern last weekend, but not before Vanessa Vani (St. Catherines, ON) jumped into a tie for second in the league in scoring with 21 points. Maine will look to start a new streak against a Saints team they have not faced since a 3-2 victory in 2001.

In the only league tilt of the week, Northeastern hosts Boston College for a Saturday matinee. The Eagles are coming off back-to-back losses for the first time since last February. After struggling through

November, NU snapped its skid with a strong showing in Orono last Sunday. Chelsey Jones (Lake Elmo, MN) recorded her first career hat-trick in the Huskies 6-2 victory en route to Player of the Week honors. Jones is currently tied for the league lead with 12 goals in her rookie campaign.

After dropping its first non-conference game of the season, a midweek battle with Brown, 3-1, Boston University will look to bounce back on Saturday against Sacred Heart. The Terriers defeated the Pioneers 7-2 last season as Erin Seman (Ramsey, MN) notched two goals, including the game-winner, and added three helpers.

-Scott Donnelly

RECENT RESULTS

Wednesday, November 29

Boston University 4, at Quinnipiac 3

Saturday, December 2

at Maine 7, Northeastern 2 *
 Connecticut 4, at Boston College 2 *
 at Providence 4, Boston University 2 *
 at New Hampshire 5, Vermont 0 * %

Sunday, December 3

Northeastern 6, at Maine 2 *
 at Providence 3, Boston College 2 *

Tuesday, December 5

at Connecticut 3, Harvard 2
 Brown 3, at Boston University 1

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, December 8

St. Lawrence at Maine (7pm)
 New Hampshire at Harvard (7pm)
 Providence at Dartmouth (7pm)

Saturday, December 9

Boston College at Northeastern (2pm) *
 St. Lawrence at Maine (2pm)
 Sacred Heart at Boston University (3pm)
 Providence at Harvard (7pm)

Sunday, December 10

Dartmouth at New Hampshire (2pm)

* Hockey East game

% Hannaford/Kraft Kids' Club event

All game times are Eastern Time

2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Goals For	Goals Against
Connecticut	9	7	1	1	15	11-4-1	46	34
New Hampshire	7	6	1	0	12	14-2-1	70	24
Providence	8	5	1	2	12	7-6-3	41	31
Boston College	8	5	3	0	10	10-4-1	55	35
Boston University	9	3	5	1	7	10-6-1	44	37
Northeastern	10	2	7	1	5	3-12-1	41	78
Maine	8	1	5	2	4	6-8-2	61	63
Vermont	7	0	6	1	1	2-12-2	18	67