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WOMEN'S LEAGUE
WEEKEND
PREVIEW



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CONNECTICUT, NEW HAMPSHIRE FIGHT FOR TOP SPOT
UVM hosts UConn, Providence; BC, NU battle Clarkson, SLU

With the start of a new year and the batteries recharged, several Hockey East squads will return to league play this weekend following a lengthy winter break. This weekend's headliner is Saturday's contest between first-place Connecticut and New Hampshire, which not only occupies second-place in Hockey East, but is also currently ranked second in the nation. UNH has not played since back-to-back 3-3 ties against Harvard and Dartmouth, but forward Jennifer Hitchcock (La Salle, ON) enters 2007 with a seven-game goal scoring streak, dating back to Nov. 17. The 'Cats will have to shake off any rust from their holiday layoff against a hungry UConn team that dropped two close contests in the Nutmeg Classic, falling to Yale and Quinnipiac. The Huskies, however, have a chance to get their legs back with a quick trip to Vermont this afternoon.

Coach Tim Bothwell's Vermont squad hopes to continue to ride the hot goaltending of Hockey East Defensive Player of the Month Jenilee Roy (Sandown, NH) when they welcome UConn to Gutterson Fieldhouse. The Catamounts, who dropped two games at Minnesota State to end the calendar year, face a Huskies team looking maintain its stronghold on first place. This one could turn into a goaltender's duel between UVM's Roy and UConn stalwart Brittany

Wilson (Nepean, ON).

Vermont returns to action on Saturday, hosting Providence for an afternoon tilt. Coach Bob Deraney's Friars rang in 2007 in style, notching a well-deserved 3-1 victory over Cornell on Tuesday. Sonny Watrous (Albuquerque, NM) picked up two assists and Sarah Feldman (Fall River, MA) buried the game-winner late in the second stanza to ensure the victory. Senior goalie Jana Bugden (Corner Brook, NF) made 20 saves in the win.

In non-league action, Boston College and Northeastern host St. Lawrence and Clarkson, respectively, on Friday afternoon before switching foes for Saturday's contests. The Eagles will lean on Hockey East Rookie of the Month Allie Thunstrom (Maplewood, MN), who leads BC in five offensive categories, including goals and game-winners. NU freshman Chelsey Jones (Lake Elmo, MN) earned league Player of the Month honors after notching six points in three December games.

Boston University begins the second half with a trip west to St. Cloud State in Minnesota. The game not only marks BU's first face-off with SCSU, but also the Terriers' inaugural game against a WCHA opponent. Cara Hendry (Calgary, AB) will look to extend her eight-game point streak against the Huskies as the Terriers welcome back Coach Brian Durocher from his vacation stint as a coach for USA

Hockey's Holiday Camp in Lake Placid.

Durocher and his counterpart this weekend, SCSU Coach Brian Idalski, each assisted at the camp, as did UNH associate head coach Erin Whitten-Hamlen. Former NU goaltender and current assistant Chanda Gunn participated in the camp along with fellow Hockey East alums Kelli Halcisak (PC), Karen Thatcher (PC), and Rush Zimmerman (PC). Current Hockey East players who participated included Kacey Bellamy (UNH), Kristin Gigliotti (PC), Sam Faber (UNH), and Chelsey Jones (NU).

-Scott Donnelly

RECENT RESULTS

Friday, December 29

Yale 3, Connecticut 0

Saturday, December 30

Quinnipiac 2, Connecticut 1
 Minnesota State 4, Vermont 0

Sunday, December 31

Dartmouth 2, Boston College 1 #
 Minnesota State 7, Vermont 1 #

UPCOMING GAMES

Tuesday, January 2

at Providence 3, Cornell 1

Thursday, January 4

Connecticut at Vermont (4pm) *

Friday, January 5

St. Lawrence at Boston College (2pm)
 Boston Univ. at St. Cloud State (2pm)
 Clarkson at Northeastern (2pm)

Saturday, January 6

New Hampshire at Connecticut (1pm) *
 Providence at Vermont (2pm) *
 Clarkson at Boston College (2pm)
 Boston Univ. at St. Cloud State (2pm) #
 St. Lawrence at Northeastern (2pm)

* Hockey East game

% Hannaford/Kraft Kids' Club event

Commissioners' Cup Series

2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Goals For	Goals Against
Connecticut	9	7	1	1	15	11-6-1	47	39
New Hampshire	7	6	1	0	12	14-2-3	76	30
Providence	8	5	1	2	12	8-8-3	44	39
Boston College	9	6	3	0	12	11-5-1	63	38
Boston University	9	3	5	1	7	11-6-1	52	37
Northeastern	11	2	8	1	5	3-13-1	42	85
Maine	8	1	5	2	4	6-10-2	63	73
Vermont	7	0	6	1	1	2-14-2	19	78