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WOMEN'S LEAGUE WEEKEND PREVIEW



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TERRIERS CHALLENGE FIRST-PLACE EAGLES UConn at No. 1 Mercyhurst for two; NU honors 1997 champs

Fans will be treated to a full schedule as all eight Women's Hockey East teams are in action for a weekend packed with league tilts and several high profile non-conference games. Boston College squares off with Boston University while Connecticut will battle top-ranked Mercyhurst and UNH readies itself for an intra-state showdown with 4th-ranked Dartmouth.

The BC Eagles are perched atop the league standings and currently ranked 8th in the national polls, but they face a BU team fresh off a weekend sweep against UConn and Northeastern. Boston College not only puts a five game winning streak on the line, but they look to continue a 14-game unbeaten streak (13-0-1) against the rival Terriers. BC took the first match between the teams by a 5-2 score, but since that date BU freshman goaltender Melissa Haber (Toronto, ON) been stellar between the pipes, taking Rookie of the Week honors for her 2-0-0 performance last week.

Coach Heather Linstad's will take her Huskies west to Pennsylvania to face off with Mercyhurst. The Lakers are the unanimous choice as the #1 team in the country, but high ranking teams haven't impressed UConn this season. Connecticut, led by freshman Dominique Thibault (L'Orignal, ON), sent Dartmouth home with a 4-2 loss last week and has already picked up victories over Harvard and Boston College. Junior Jaclyn Hawkins (Manotick, ON) is not only closing in on 100 games played for her career, but she also has 94 points to boot.

The only other non-conference action of the week features two teams near the top of the national polls. Third-ranked New Hampshire will make the trip up I-89 to take on fourth-ranked Dartmouth. The Wildcats carry a six-game unbeaten streak into Thompson Arena, included

in that streak is a 3-3 tie with the Big Green on December 15. UNH had taken a 3-2 lead into the third period only to see the victory spoiled when Dartmouth knotted things up with just 19 seconds left. Melissa Bourdon (Ile Bizard, QC) seeks the 'Cats school record for victories and would love to pick up historic victory No. 77 against the Big Green on Saturday.

The busiest team this week, Northeastern, dropped a 4-1 decision at Brown on Tuesday with Amy Goodney (Marquette, MI) picking up the lone goal. This weekend, NU hosts Providence and Robert Morris to complete a three-game stretch. On Saturday, the Huskies will honor their 1997 ECAC Championship team, which defeated UNH 3-2 to take the title. Northeastern and Robert Morris will meet for the first time on Sunday and, with the exception of the Beanpot, this will mark the final non-conference game of the season for the Huskies.

Providence returns home Sunday and welcomes Maine to Schneider Arena. PC has only dropped one game to the Black Bears all-time, but the two rivals have fought to four stalemates in their last five meetings, including a pair of 1-1 ties this season. Kristin Gigliotti (Sauquoit, NY) scored both Friar goals in the doubleheader in Orono while Genevieve Turgeon (Lac Beauport, QC) stood on her head in the second game, stopping 46 shots to earn the tie. Maine's trip will complete a rare home-and-home weekend for the Black Bears, as they host Vermont on Saturday, in a Hannaford Hockey East Kids' Club event, before making the drive to Rhode Island. The Catamounts look to leapfrog Maine in the standings if they can manage their first road victory of the season against a Black Bears squad that holds an 8-0-1 record all-time against UVM. -Scott Donnelly

Graphic design courtesy of Becky McCarthy, Boston University.

Skating for a Cure

Women's Hockey East teams will be "Skating Strides Against Breast Cancer" on Jan. 27. All eight teams will be in action, with all the proceeds being donated to cancer research and treatment. For details, visit www.hockeyeastonline.com.

2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Goals For	Goals Against
New Hampshire	10	9	1	0	18	17-2-3	92	33
Boston College	12	9	3	0	18	15-5-2	88	43
Connecticut	12	7	4	1	15	12-9-1	57	53
Providence	9	6	1	2	14	9-10-3	51	47
Boston University	11	5	5	1	11	13-7-2	62	47
Northeastern	13	2	10	1	5	3-18-1	49	107
Maine	10	1	7	2	4	6-12-2	64	83
Vermont	11	1	9	1	3	3-17-2	22	99

RECENT RESULTS

Tuesday, January 16
 at Brown 4, Northeastern 1

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, January 19
 Boston College at Boston Univ. (7pm) *
 Connecticut at Mercyhurst (3:30pm)

Saturday, January 20
 Vermont at Maine (12noon) * %
 Providence at Northeastern (2pm) *
 Boston Univ. at Boston College (4pm) *
 Connecticut at Mercyhurst (1pm)
 New Hampshire at Dartmouth (1pm)

Sunday, January 21
 Maine at Providence (4pm) *
 Robert Morris at Northeastern (2pm)

* Hockey East game
 % Hannaford/Kraft Kids' Club event