

Brion O'Connor
Director of Public Relations
Hockey East Association
 Phone: (781) 245-2122
 Cell: (978) 609-7224
 boconnor@HockeyEastOnline.com

WOMEN'S LEAGUE WEEKEND PREVIEW



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 25, 2007

RELEASE #29

'SKATING STRIDES' DOMINATES WEEKEND All eight WHEA squads pair off Saturday to battle cancer

Despite seven league games scheduled for this weekend, the teams will be playing for much more than points in the standings. On Saturday, the Women's Hockey East Association will be hosting the inaugural "Skating Strides Against Breast Cancer" event. All of the proceeds from ticket and merchandise sales as well as raffles will go to support the American Cancer Society and Mel's Foundation.

The first game on the docket features a dogfight between Connecticut and Northeastern in Storrs. Both teams are looking to bounce back from 5-0 losses, though UConn earned Hockey East's only point of the season against first-ranked Mercyhurst last weekend, netting a 3-3 tie against the Lakers thanks to the heroics of Player of the Week Brittany Wilson (Nepean, ON). Connecticut's Huskies hold a 9-5-4 advantage in the series all-time, but the two teams played one of the tightest games in the league this season. UConn rallied back from a two-goal deficit in the third period to force overtime before Leslie Hurlburt potted the game-winner just seven seconds into the extra session. On Sunday, the two teams will square off again in Boston, and the Huntington Hounds will not leave the Beantown city limits for the rest of the season.

On Saturday in Providence, fans will be treated to the 112th meeting between New Hampshire and PC. The rivalry between the Wildcats and Friars is recognized as the oldest in women's college hockey. UNH is currently ranked fourth in the national polls, but the two squads are deadlocked in second place in the league standings. Providence is coming off a dramatic 3-2 overtime victory against Maine, while New Hampshire is



Graphic design courtesy of Becky McCarthy, Boston University.

looking to get back on track after derailing against Dartmouth, 4-2. The match-up features two of the most decorated goalies in Hockey East, as PC's Jana Bugden (Corner Brook, NF) and UNH's Melissa Bourdon (Ile Bizard, QC) rank first and second, respectively, in goals against average in Hockey East play. The teams will renew acquaintances on Sunday at Whittemore Center in Durham, NH, for a Hannaford Kids Club event.

Ninth-ranked Boston College will face-off against Vermont for a Saturday matinee before hosting the Black Bears on Sunday. BC swept the Cats in Burlington earlier in the season and the goaltending duo of Molly Schaus (Natick, MA) and Johanna Ellison (Cloquet, MN) has stymied

opposing offenses to the tune of four shutouts in their last six games. The Eagles may be flying high atop the league standings, but the Catamounts certainly have something to play for. UVM assistant captain Karen Sentoff (Liverpool, NY) has additional incentive in the game as her mother is a breast cancer survivor. Sentoff and her fellow Catamounts are excited about the prospect of playing for such a great cause and pointed to the many men's programs that have volunteered to help the cause.

All of the men's teams in Hockey East, including those who do not field women's programs, have offered to donate proceeds from recent 50/50 raffles and Chuck-A-Puck fundraisers to support the "Skating Strides" event. BC, BU, and Vermont will also be raffling game-worn jerseys and game-used sticks from the event at upcoming men's games.

Saturday's final bout pits the BU Terriers against Maine at Walter Brown Arena. The Black Bears tallied four power-play goals last weekend and average one per game, but the go up against a BU team that had killed off 26 straight penalties before Boston College ended that streak last week.

Women's Hockey East sponsor TPS Hockey, which launched a similar initiative in the NHL last season, has provided pink and white warm-up jerseys to each program as well as pink composite sticks to be autographed and raffled off after the games on Saturday. Also, a collection taken up by the WHEA referees has yielded more than \$1,500 to support the cause. Mel's bracelets and pink TPS wooden sticks will be sold at each event

-Scott Donnelly

2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Goals For	Goals Against
Boston College	14	10	4	0	20	16-6-2	64 (95)	26 (46)
New Hampshire	10	9	1	0	18	17-3-3	45 (94)	14 (37)
Providence	11	8	1	2	18	11-10-3	38 (59)	14 (49)
Connecticut	12	7	4	1	15	12-10-2	38 (60)	28 (61)
Boston University	13	6	6	1	13	14-8-2	29 (65)	33 (54)
Maine	12	2	8	2	4	7-13-2	28 (69)	46 (86)
Northeastern	14	2	11	1	5	3-20-1	32 (51)	68 (115)
Vermont	12	1	10	1	3	3-18-2	8 (22)	53 (102)

UPCOMING GAMES

Saturday, January 27

Northeastern at Connecticut (1pm) *
 Vermont at Boston College (2pm) *
 New Hampshire at Providence (2pm) *
 Maine at Boston University (3pm) *

Sunday, January 28

Maine at Boston College (2pm) *
 Connecticut at Northeastern (2pm) *
 Providence at New Hampshire (2pm) * %

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