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WOMEN'S LEAGUE
WEEKEND
PREVIEW



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NEW HAMPSHIRE LOOKS TO LOCK UP WHEA TITLE
BC retains Beanpot; BU aims to keep playoff hopes alive

With only two weekends left in the season, much is left to be determined in Women's Hockey East play. Connecticut, Boston College, and Providence all have league-leading New Hampshire in their sights while Boston University is clinging to playoff hopes entering this week's play. Similar to the statistical oddity occurring in the men's league, each of the women's teams find themselves facing their neighbors in the standings, with No. 1 UNH playing No. 2 UConn, No. 3 BC playing No. 4. PC, No. 5 BU playing No. 6 Maine, and No. 7 Northeastern playing No. 8 Vermont.

UNH's senior class can wrap up a share of a fourth consecutive regular season title on Friday before the Eagles and Friars even hit the ice if the Wildcats can get by the Huskies in Connecticut. If Coach Brian McCloskey's team can't seal the deal on Friday, they'll get a shot at the title on home ice during Senior Day on Sunday at the Whittemore Center. The 10th-ranked Huskies leapfrogged BC last weekend on the strength of a 3-2 victory and will look to do the same to New Hampshire this time around. UConn needs a weekend sweep to overtake the 'Cats and move back into the first place position they had occupied the most of the season.

Boston College and Providence will meet at Schneider Arena on Saturday before busing up to Chestnut Hill for a rematch Sunday. The ninth-ranked Eagles are fresh off of winning their second straight Beanpot title after throttling Bos-

ton University, 6-1 on Tuesday night. BC took the early lead on a Meghan Fardelmann (Lansing, KS) tally in the first period to set the tone for the rest of the game. Fardelmann added two more goals in the second stanza to complete the hat trick on her way to MVP honors while goalie Molly Schaus (Natick, MA) did the rest, stopping 26 shots for the win.

Coach Bob Deraney's Friars need to solve Schaus and find the back of the net after a power outage last weekend. The potent PC power play netted only one goal against BU and was shut down by UNH in back-to-back games. On the bright side for the Friars, Providence took the first round between two schools, earning a 3-2 victory in early December and PC can secure a playoff spot with a win or a tie coupled with a BU loss.

The Terriers will look to regroup as they head to the Bears' den to face Coach Lauren Steblen's Orono crew for a doubleheader. Last month at Walter Brown Arena, BU sophomore Sarah Russell (Tewksbury, MA) notched her first score of the season as part of a three-goal third period when the Terriers defeated the Black Bears 3-0.

The weekend series marks the last road trip for Coach Brian Durocher's squad as they conclude the 2006-07 campaign on home ice next week.

Back in Boston, Northeastern hosts Vermont for two games between teams looking to end their respective losing skids. NU hopes to bounce back from an 8-0 loss at

the hands of sixth-ranked Harvard on Tuesday in the Beanpot consolation game. The Hounds can ensure that they don't fall into the Hockey East cellar by taking three points this weekend. In their first meeting this season, UVM fought back on three different occasions to forge a 3-3 tie on home ice thanks to Chelsea Furlani's (Colchester, VT) multi-point effort.

In non-league news, USA Hockey announced its preliminary roster for the 2007 IIHF Women's World Championships in Manitoba, April 3-10, and Hockey East is once again well-represented. WHEA alumni Chanda Gunn (NU '04), Kelli Halcisak (PC '04), Rush Zimmerman (PC '05), and Karen Thatcher (PC '06) will be joined by current Boston College freshmen Kelli Stack (Brooklyn Heights, OH) and Allie Thunstrom (Maplewood, MN). Stack currently leads the league in points with 44, while Thunstrom's 23 goals are tied for the Hockey East lead with UNH's Jennifer Hitchcock (LaSalle, ON). -Scott Donnelly

2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Goals For	Goals Against
New Hampshire	16	14	1	1	29	22-3-4	74 (123)	20 (43)
Connecticut	17	12	4	1	25	17-11-2	52 (75)	33 (68)
Boston College	18	12	6	0	24	20-8-2	78 (119)	34 (58)
Providence	17	10	4	3	23	13-13-4	57 (78)	31 (66)
Boston University	17	8	7	2	18	17-10-3	40 (81)	42 (71)
Maine	18	4	12	2	10	9-17-2	37 (78)	63 (103)
Northeastern	18	2	14	2	6	3-25-2	37 (58)	87 (146)
Vermont	17	1	15	1	3	3-23-2	14 (28)	79 (128)

RECENT RESULTS

Tuesday, February 13

Beanpot Tournament at BC
 Harvard 8, Northeastern 0
 at Boston College 6, Boston U. 1

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, February 16

New Hampshire at Connecticut (7pm) *

Saturday, February 17

Boston University at Maine (12noon) *
 Boston College at Providence (1pm) *
 Vermont at Northeastern (7pm) *

Sunday, February 18

Boston University at Maine (12noon) *
 Providence at Boston College (2pm) *
 Connecticut at New Hampshire (2pm) *
 Vermont at Northeastern (3pm) *

* Hockey East game

% Hannaford/Kraft Kids' Club event