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WOMEN'S WEEKEND PREVIEW

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WEEKEND PREVIEW #21

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2008

PC AND BC MEET IN HUGE SERIES; NO. 2 UNH AND NO. 8 UCONN PLAY TWO ~Three teams fighting for two playoff spots still on the table~

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – Providence College (15-14-3, 10-7-2 WHEA) needs one point to clinch a playoff spot in its upcoming series with Boston College (13-13-6, 8-9-2 WHEA), which begins on Friday, in a rare afternoon game at Conte Forum. The Eagles need to earn at least two points in the weekend series to keep their playoff hopes alive. BC sophomore Kelli Stack (Brooklyn Heights, Ohio) scored all the game-winning goals in the last three Eagles' wins. PC senior defenseman Kathleen Smith (Waterloo, Ont.) ranks first in the nation for goals by a defenseman with 15. Smith is also fourth in the nation with a 0.91 points per game mark among blue-liners. PC won the only meeting with BC on October 30, 3-2 at Conte Forum. The Friars have scored 17 goals in their last three victories, before dropping two decisions to first-place New Hampshire.

The No. 2 ranked New Hampshire Wildcats (28-3-1, 18-0-1 WHEA) will look to extend their conference record 36-game unbeaten streak (33-0-3) in league play against No. 8 Connecticut (22-5-5, 13-3-3 WHEA). In the first meeting of the season series, the 'Cats downed the Huskies, 8-2, at the Whittemore Center in Durham. This game features the top four leading scorers in league play with UNH's Sam Faber (Mt. Sinai, N.Y.) and Jenn Wakefield (Pickering, Ont.) leading the way with 30 points apiece. UConn's Dominique Thibault (L'Original, Ont.) and Jaclyn Hawkins (Manotick, Ont.) rank third and fourth respectively with 29 and 28 points in conference games.

Boston University (13-16-3, 9-9-1 WHEA) and Northeastern will begin their series on Saturday afternoon at Walter Brown Arena. If the Terriers win or tie and Providence defeats BC, the Terriers will clinch their first playoff berth in school history. BU can also clinch a playoff spot by earning at least three points. They could also possibly leapfrog Providence for the third spot in the league playoffs with a weekend sweep. BU won the meeting in the series opener on January 13, 3-1, at Matthews Arena.

Maine and Vermont being their two-game series on Saturday at Alford Arena to close out their respective seasons. The two teams skated to the first 0-0 tie in league history, in their first meeting the season series on November 24 at Gutterson Fieldhouse. Junior Vanessa Vani (St. Catharine's, Ont.) has tallied seven points (1g, 6a) in her last five games. Freshmen Celeste Doucet (Memramcook, N.B.) and Teddy Fortin (Brunswick, Maine) lead the Catamounts in scoring with 12 points apiece, the most by Vermont rookies in the program's seven years in Division I. Twenty-three of UVM's 48 goals this year have been scored by freshmen.

HOCKEY EAST WEEKLY NOTES: UNH junior forward Sam Faber and senior captain Martine Garland were among the 10 finalists named for the 2008 Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, which was announced on Tuesday afternoon by USA Hockey. The 2008 award will be presented March 21 in conjunction with the Women's Frozen Four in Duluth, Minn... Three Hockey East players have been named as participants for the third annual NCAA Frozen Four Skills Challenge. Jaclyn Hawkins (UConn), Jenn Hitchcock (UNH) and Martine Garland (UNH) will compete on Friday, April 11 at the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colo., as part of the Frozen Four weekend. Sophomore forward Dominique Thibault ranks seventh in the nation scoring 1.57 points per game.

RECENT RESULTS

Friday, February 22
 Boston College 4 at Boston University 0 *
 at Vermont 4, Northeastern 1 *

Saturday, February 23
 Northeastern 3 at Vermont 0 *
 at No. 8 Connecticut 7, Maine 2 *
 Boston University 4 at Boston College 1 *
 No. 2 New Hampshire 3 at Providence 0 *

Sunday, February 24
 at No. 8 Connecticut 5, Maine 4 *
 at No. 2 New Hampshire 3, Providence 1 *

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, February 29
 Providence at Boston College * (2pm)

Saturday, March 1
 No. 8 Connecticut at No. 2 New Hampshire * (2pm)
 Vermont at Maine * (2pm)
 Northeastern at Boston University * (3pm)
 Boston College at Providence * (1pm)

Sunday, March 2
 No. 2 New Hampshire at No. 8 Connecticut * (2pm)
 Vermont at Maine * (2pm)
 Boston University at Northeastern * (2pm)

* Hockey East game
 All Games Eastern Standard Time (EST)
 (Rankings in composite schedule and release are from the USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine Poll)

2007-08 STANDINGS

Rk.	Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Offense	Defense
1.	New Hampshire * !	19	18	0	1	37	28-3-1	133 (4.16)	35 (1.09)
2.	Connecticut *	19	13	3	3	29	22-5-5	97 (3.03)	63 (1.97)
3.	Providence	19	10	7	2	22	15-14-3	91 (2.84)	81 (2.53)
4.	Boston University	19	9	9	1	19	13-16-3	87 (2.72)	81 (2.53)
5.	Boston College	19	8	9	2	18	13-13-6	74 (2.31)	71 (2.22)
6.	Northeastern	19	6	12	1	13	7-22-3	61 (1.91)	115 (3.59)
7.	Maine	19	3	13	3	9	4-25-3	49 (1.53)	117 (3.66)
8.	Vermont	19	2	16	1	5	6-25-1	48 (1.50)	102 (3.19)

* clinched playoff spot; ! clinched top seed

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