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# Weekend Preview

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## MAINE'S PERFECT RECORD CHALLENGED AT BC AND UNH *Terriers looking to break Ayers' shutout streak Friday at Walter Brown*

The last time UNH goaltender Mike Ayers played at BU's Walter Brown Arena, he allowed a season-high five goals in a 5-2 loss. Since then, however, Ayers has rung up three straight shutouts against Jack Parker's Terrier squad, including two in postseason play. He outlasted Hockey East Tournament MVP Sean Fields in a 1-0 OT victory in the conference title game and calmly posted a 3-0 win over BU two weeks later at the NCAA Northeast Regional. Ayers now has an active shutout streak of 194:24 against BU, an amazing run that the Terriers are determined to trip up when he revisits Walter Brown Arena tomorrow. CSTV will carry the game live to a nationwide audience.

Regardless of the outcome, Ayers will have little time to recover as currently undefeated Maine skates into the Whittemore Center on Saturday. To remain perfect heading into that game, the Black Bears must first post a win at Boston College on Friday to start what will likely be their most challenging weekend of the regular season. BC and UNH were picked to finish 1-2 in Hockey East this year and are currently ranked 3rd (UNH) and 5th (BC) in the nation. Maine is ranked No. 1, a spot that both BC and UNH held earlier in the season and are anxious to recapture.

Coincidentally, BC and UNH will face-off against each other this coming Wednesday in one of the most highly-anticipated matches of the season. The game will take place at Manchester's Verizon Wireless Arena, site of the 2004 NCAA Northeast Regional.

Massachusetts and Merrimack will open their season series with a home-and-home set starting Friday night in North Andover. The teams have split the series historically, each winning it four times, but the Minutemen took the deciding third game last year, their regular season finale. Stephen Werner, a member of the 2002-03 Hockey East All-Rookie Team, posted eight points over three games vs. Merrimack, the best for any Minuteman. Warrior defenseman Bryan Schmidt, also an All-Rookie teamer, scored three of his six goals in league play against UMass, including two on the power play in a 4-3 victory on Jan. 11.

Elsewhere Friday, Providence will play at Northeastern – the Huskies are still looking for their first win of the season while the Friars are off to a strong 5-2-1 start.

A couple of off-ice news items for Hockey East are being announced today. The first is that Commissioner Joe Bertagna has agreed to a five-year contract extension that will keep him in place through the 2007-08 season. The second is that the league is launching a promotional contest to identify its top all-time fan and top current student fan as part of the celebration of its 20th anniversary season. See related releases or visit the league web site ([www.HockeyEastOnline.com](http://www.HockeyEastOnline.com)) for more information.

### IN THE POLLS

Team	AHCA	USCHO
	Poll	Poll
Maine	1	1
New Hampshire	3	3
Boston College	5	5
Boston University	8	8
Massachusetts	12	12
Providence	15	–

### ERUZIONE ONLINE

Mike Eruzione, a former Terrier and captain of the Team USA squad that won the 1980 Olympic gold medal, is writing a special weekly feature for [cstv.com](http://cstv.com) entitled "The E-list" that identifies some of the best things college hockey has to offer. His latest column identifies BU-BC and UNH-Maine as two of the best rivalries in the sport. The column can be viewed at:

[http://www.cstv.com/features\\_eruzione\\_103003.htm](http://www.cstv.com/features_eruzione_103003.htm)

### ON THE RADIO

The New England Hockey Journal Radio Show will have Maine head coach Tim Whitehead as its guest this Saturday from 11:20 to 11:50 a.m. Listeners can catch the show at 1510 AM (or online at [1510thezone.com](http://1510thezone.com)) and can call in to talk to Coach Whitehead on the air at (866) 337-9663.

### WEEKEND SCHEDULE

#### Wednesday, November 5

at Boston College 4, UMass Lowell 1 \*

#### Friday, November 7

Maine at Boston College \*

Massachusetts at Merrimack \*

Providence at Northeastern \*

UNH at Boston University (8pm - CSTV) \*

#### Saturday, November 8

Maine at New Hampshire (NHPTV) \*

Merrimack at Massachusetts \*

\* Hockey East game

Games start at 7pm EST unless indicated.

All game times are Eastern Standard Time.

### 2003-04 STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Offense	Defense
Maine	2	2	0	0	4	7-0-0	5.00 GPG	1.29 GAPG
Massachusetts	3	2	1	0	4	5-1-0	3.67 GPG	2.50 GAPG
UMass Lowell	4	2	2	0	4	3-3-2	3.12 GPG	2.38 GAPG
Merrimack	4	1	2	1	3	2-4-1	2.29 GPG	3.14 GAPG
Providence	4	1	2	1	3	5-2-1	3.88 GPG	2.50 GAPG
Boston College	1	1	0	0	2	4-2-1	3.00 GPG	2.14 GAPG
New Hampshire	1	1	0	0	2	4-1-0	5.20 GPG	2.00 GAPG
Boston University	2	1	1	0	2	2-1-1	3.50 GPG	2.50 GAPG
Northeastern	3	0	3	0	0	0-5-1	2.33 GPG	4.67 GAPG