



# Weekend Preview

**Noah Smith**  
**Director of Media Relations**  
**Hockey East Association**  
 591 North Ave – #2  
 Wakefield, MA 01880  
 Phone: (781) 245-2122  
 nsmith@HockeyEastOnline.com

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## BC-BU CLASH FOR FIRST TIME SINCE QUARTERFINAL STUNNER *Hockey East championship tournament tickets on sale this Saturday*

There are only three games remaining at BU's storied Walter Brown Arena and tomorrow will mark the last visit ever for Boston College. The Eagles have had to wait almost eight months for this moment. Not so much to bid farewell to Walter Brown but more to avenge a series loss to the Terriers in the 2004 Hockey East quarterfinals.

Boston College easily swept the three-game regular season series last year, outscoring Boston University 13-5 in the process, and followed that with a 2-1 overtime win in the Beanpot championship game. It was a surprisingly close contest considering the Eagles posted a 52-13 shots-on-goal advantage, finally prevailing over two-time Beanpot MVP Sean Fields. Fields played the final trump card of the season, how-

ever, totalling 100 saves in a three-game series victory at Boston College. The cloud of BU's worst-ever eighth-place finish in Hockey East had its silver lining: knocking top seed BC out of the Hockey East playoffs.

The preseason favorite to repeat as regular season champs, the Eagles will face greater competition this year from the Terriers. With a 6-1 start in league play, BU has already matched its Hockey East win total from last year and sits atop the Hockey East standings. BC has two games in hand, however, and is undefeated at 3-0-2. The table is set perfectly for Friday's game, an 8pm face-off to accommodate a national CSTV audience.

It could be a preview of another meeting in the Hockey East tournament, though this season's would likely be in the semifinals or championship game at the FleetCenter. Tournament tickets, always a hot item, go on sale Saturday at the FleetCenter and at Ticketmaster. See related release for details.

The undisputed marquee match of the weekend is not the only fight on the card, however. After grappling with BC, BU will have to quickly recover to face UMass, a more recent addition to the Hockey East contender list. The Minutemen also host Providence to wrap up their series early. Each took the home game of an early season weekend set. Maine and Merrimack will close their books as well with two games for the Warriors at Alford Arena. The Black Bears currently have an eight-game winning streak against Merrimack and have not

lost at home to the Warriors since November of 1997. Jimmy Howard upped his Maine record to 10 career shutouts with a 3-0 win at Merrimack on October 29. Providence visits BC in the lone remaining league game this weekend.

In non-conference play, Clarkson and St. Lawrence will visit both UNH and UMass Lowell in the fourth and final season of this particular four-team conference crossover. UNH has an even 3-3 record in the series, splitting the weekend in each of the past three seasons, while UMass Lowell has rolled to a 5-1 showing, sweeping in 2001-02 and 2002-03. The River Hawks boast a perfect 5-0 non-conference record this season, easily the best in Hockey East.

The hottest team in the country is Vermont, who will join Hockey East next season. The Catamounts lifted their recent unbeaten streak to 10 games (7-0-3) with home victories over both UMass and UNH last week and will host Northeastern on Saturday. Prior to last week's triumphs, UVM had gone 20 games without a win vs. Hockey East.

### WEEKEND SCHEDULE

#### Friday, December 3

BC at BU (8pm - CSTV) \*  
 Merrimack at Maine (WABI) \*  
 Providence at Massachusetts \*  
 St. Lawrence at UMass Lowell  
 Clarkson at New Hampshire (NHPTV)

#### Saturday, December 4

Providence at Boston College \*  
 Boston U. at Massachusetts (NESN) \*  
 Merrimack at Maine \*  
 Clarkson at UMass Lowell  
 St. Lawrence at New Hampshire  
 Northeastern at Vermont

\* Hockey East game

Games start at 7pm unless indicated.

All game times are Eastern Time.

### IN THE POLLS

Team	USAT	USCHO
Boston College	3	2
New Hampshire	7	8
Maine	9	10

Others receiving votes:  
 Boston University

## HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	HE Offense	HE Defense
Boston University	7	6	1	0	12	7-6-0	4.14 GPG	2.43 GAPG
New Hampshire	7	5	1	1	11	8-3-2	3.57 GPG	2.71 GAPG
Maine	8	5	3	0	10	9-6-1	3.62 GPG	2.38 GAPG
Boston College	5	3	0	2	8	6-2-2	3.00 GPG	1.80 GAPG
Massachusetts	7	3	3	1	7	6-8-1	3.14 GPG	3.43 GAPG
Northeastern	6	3	3	0	6	6-6-1	3.33 GPG	3.17 GAPG
Providence	8	2	5	1	5	5-7-1	2.75 GPG	3.38 GAPG
Merrimack	8	1	7	0	2	4-9-1	2.25 GPG	4.50 GAPG
UMass Lowell	6	0	5	1	1	5-5-1	2.67 GPG	4.33 GAPG