



# Weekend Preview

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DECEMBER 8, 2005

## BUSY SATURDAY BEFORE HOLIDAY BREAK

### Five league games this weekend will set first-half standings

A total of six games will take place Saturday night, the busiest night since late October, involving nine of the 10 Hockey East teams. Three of the six will be in league play as the final jockeying before Christmas concludes.

Providence College is the only Hockey East team that does not play on Saturday. Relatively stable atop the Hockey East standings, the Friars will look to extend their lead with their second meeting of the season against Boston University tonight. The Terriers recovered from a 2-0 deficit at Providence on Nov. 18 to salvage a 2-2 tie, the only tie for either squad in Hockey East play this year.

The other game tonight pits a hot Harvard squad at New Hampshire. The Wildcats have been getting overpowering contribu-

tions from the league's strongest line, comprised of juniors Brett Hemingway, Jacob Micflikier and Daniel Winnik. Micflikier had a hand in all seven UNH goals last weekend and Winnik was Player of the Month for November in Hockey East. They'll face a good challenge from the Crimson, which has posted a 6-2-1 record in its last nine, including a 5-3 win at Boston College.

Tomorrow night, a home-and-home series between BC and UMass begins in Boston, marking their first meeting of the season. Last year, BC won the series with two wins and a 3-3 tie. UMass goaltender Gabe Winer ensured the tie with 51 saves, 21 in the third period alone. The Minutemen enter the game on a modest three-game winning streak in league play while the Eagles recently concluded a six-game streak of their own. Also tomorrow, Merrimack will play the first of two games at Wayne State, the second counting in the Commissioners' Cup standings.

The two games on Thursday and Friday are just warm ups for Saturday's six-game main event. In addition to the second half of the BC-UMass and Merrimack-Wayne St. series, Saturday night will also feature the first meeting of the season between Northeastern and Maine, as well as the final meeting of the season between UNH and UMass Lowell. UNH and Lowell split the first two games, both winning at home, just a few

weeks ago. Northeastern's visit to Maine will be a homecoming of sorts for NU head coach Greg Cronin, who had tenures as an assistant and as an interim head coach for the Black Bears earlier in his career.

Dartmouth will face off against two Hockey East squads this weekend, hosting BU on Saturday and visiting Lowell on Sunday. After that, the Big Green still have two more Hockey East crossovers on the schedule – Dec. 30 at Vermont and Jan. 14 vs. UNH.

Jimmy Howard, Maine's wunderkind goaltender from 2002 to 2005, is officially making his mark in the NHL. Getting the call in place of the injured Manny Legace and the struggling Chris Osgood, Howard made three straight starts for the Detroit Red Wings, posting a 2.36 goals-against-average and a .920 save percentage. He joins Mike Morrison and Nolan Schaefer as former Hockey East goaltenders that are enjoying sterling NHL debuts this year.

### RESULTS / SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, December 6**  
 at Massachusetts 4, Merrimack 1 \*

**Wednesday, December 7**  
 Maine 2, Brown 1 (at Portland, ME)

**Thursday, December 8**  
 Boston U. at Providence (CoxSports) \*  
 Harvard at New Hampshire (CN8)

**Friday, December 9**  
 Massachusetts at Boston College \*  
 Merrimack at Wayne State

**Saturday, December 10**  
 Northeastern at Maine (WABI) \*  
 Boston College at Massachusetts (CN8) \*  
 UMass Lowell at New Hampshire \*  
 Merrimack at Wayne State (3pm) #  
 Boston University at Dartmouth  
 U.S. Under-18 Team at Vermont (exh.)

**Sunday, December 11**  
 Dartmouth at UMass Lowell #

\* Hockey East game  
 # Commissioners' Cup series  
 Games start at 7pm unless indicated.  
 All game times are Eastern Time.

### RANKINGS

Team	USAT	USCHO
Vermont	3	3
Boston College	7	6
New Hampshire	9	9
Maine	10	10
Providence	15	19
Boston University	ORV	18

ORV – others receiving votes

## HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	HE Offense	HE Defense
Providence	10	7	2	1	15	8-6-1	3.10 GPG	1.90 GAPG
New Hampshire	11	6	3	2	14	8-5-3	3.09 GPG	2.45 GAPG
Boston College	9	6	2	1	13	7-4-1	2.44 GPG	2.00 GAPG
Vermont	9	5	3	1	11	11-3-1	3.11 GPG	2.11 GAPG
Boston University	9	4	4	1	9	5-6-2	2.89 GPG	2.67 GAPG
Maine	8	4	4	0	8	10-5-0	3.00 GPG	2.00 GAPG
Massachusetts	8	3	5	0	6	5-8-0	1.88 GPG	2.62 GAPG
UMass Lowell	9	3	6	0	6	4-9-0	2.56 GPG	3.89 GAPG
Northeastern	10	1	5	4	6	1-8-4	2.40 GPG	3.20 GAPG
Merrimack	9	1	6	2	4	4-8-2	1.33 GPG	3.11 GAPG