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WOMEN'S LEAGUE WEEKEND PREVIEW

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STRETCH RUN GETS UNDER WAY

Eagles outlast Harvard in 3 OTs; Terriers earn Beanpot final

A weekend full of Hockey East action with playoff implications lies ahead as the top four teams continue to jockey for positioning while the Boston University Terriers hope to make a late charge at the final playoff spot.

This past week, the Women's Beanpot started Tuesday evening and ended early Wednesday. BU downed Northeastern, 4-2 in the early game before Boston College snuck by Harvard in a triple-overtime thriller, 4-3 in the nightcap.

In the first game, the Terriers earned a trip to the final by overcoming an early 2-0 deficit to defeat the Huskies. NU's Amy Goodney (Marquette, MI) potted a goal for the second straight game, but BU came storming back and Erin Seman (Ramsey, MN) swept a backhander home with 5:47 remaining to give the Terriers their first lead of the game.

In the second game, BC and Harvard traded blows in the epic battle as the Eagles jumped out to a 2-0 lead after the first period. The Crimson's potent offense tied things up going into the third despite 22 saves from Molly Schaus (Natick, MA) in the second stanza. Schaus would finish the game with 73 stops, one shy of the BC record while setting a new NCAA mark. Kelli Stack (Brooklyn Heights, OH) gave the Eagles a 3-2 lead with just over eight minutes to play in regulation, but the celebration was short-lived as Harvard's Jenny Brine tied the game just 12 seconds later with a blistering, top-shelf shot. The scoreboard would stay the same for the next hour, until the third overtime session when freshman Anna McDonald (New Brighton, MN) poked home her own rebound to end the marathon game and set up a BC-BU championship.

All three Hockey East squads are back in action this Saturday as the Huskies host 4th-ranked New Hampshire, while BU welcomes visiting Providence to Walter Brown Arena and the Eagles meet Connecticut for a game earmarked as a Hannaford Hockey East Kids' Club event. Each game could have an effect on the standings as UNH leads BC by a single point, and the Friars and Huskies are just another point behind. A win by Providence over BU coupled with a UConn victory would eliminate the Terriers from postseason play.

Last night, UConn dropped a heartbreaker to Brown, 2-1, on a power-play strike in overtime. UConn goalie Brittany Wilson (Nepean, ON) again kept the Huskies close, making 32 saves on the night, but the only goal that UConn could muster came off the stick of defenseman Brianna Uliasz (Chalfont, PA).

Saturday's only other game will see Maine traveling to Burlington to face-off with the Catamounts. Vermont is returning to Gutterson Fieldhouse after a four-game trek through New England, but the Cats will need to find offense against the Black Bears. Maine has shutout UVM in their last four meetings, including a 3-0 triumph last month.

On Sunday, Providence squares off with New Hampshire at Schneider Arena, in what could prove to be a battle of special teams. The Wildcats come in with the league's top penalty kill unit (91.5 percent), while the Friars will counter with the league's top three power-play point leaders: Sarah Feldman (Fall River, MA) with 12 points; Sonny Watrous (Albuquerque, NM) with 11 points; and Kristin Gigliotti (Sauquoit, NY) with 10 points. Friar and Wildcat fans can also listen to the action on an audiocast of the game provided by US College Hockey Online (uscho.com).

Last, a note from the league's Intriguing Statistics Department: If they were superstitious, the Northeastern Huskies may have had an ominous feeling coming into their Beanpot match with BU, after their male counterparts dropped a 4-0 decision to the Terriers the night before. Only four times in the history of the Beanpot Tournaments has one school taken home both trophies in the same year. BC and BU have never done it. Ironically, the NU men's program has only won four Beanpot titles, but those four wins all coincided with victories by the women's program as well. *-Scott Donnelly*

RECENT RESULTS

Tuesday, February 6
Beanpot Tournament at Boston College
Boston Univ. 4, Northeastern 2
at Boston College 4, Harvard 3 (3OT)

Wednesday, February 7
at Brown 2, Connecticut 1 (OT)

UPCOMING GAMES

Saturday, February 10
UNH at Northeastern (2pm) *
Connecticut at Boston College (2pm) * %
Providence at Boston University (3pm) *
Maine at Vermont (4pm) *

Sunday, February 11
Maine at Vermont (2pm) *
New Hampshire at Providence (2pm) *

Tuesday, February 13
Beanpot Tournament at Boston College
Consolation Game (5pm)
Championship (8pm)

**** Hockey East game***
% Hannaford/Kraft Kids' Club event

2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Goals For	Goals Against
New Hampshire	14	12	1	1	25	18-3-4	50 (99)	17 (40)
Boston College	17	12	5	0	24	19-7-2	76 (111)	31 (54)
Providence	15	10	2	3	23	13-11-4	56 (77)	21 (56)
Connecticut	16	11	4	1	23	16-11-2	49 (72)	31 (66)
Boston University	16	7	7	2	16	16-9-3	37 (77)	41 (64)
Maine	16	2	12	2	6	7-17-2	30 (71)	60 (100)
Northeastern	17	2	13	2	6	3-23-2	37 (58)	78 (129)
Vermont	15	1	13	1	3	3-21-2	11 (25)	72 (121)