

B.C. Out to Stop Walker, Providence

For six weeks the game has been sold out.

And tonight at 8:15 — unless B.C. succumbs to TV and starts the game at 8:30 — a crowd of 4000 will watch the basketball teams of Boston College and Providence do battle.

This is the game the whole East, not merely New England, has awaited all season. It will be telecast over Channel 12 in Providence and Channel 38 in Boston—and broadcast by WCOP.

It matches New England's best college teams, Boston College, 14-2, and Providence, 16-4, and the question is, will B.C. finally defeat a team that is made up of Jimmy Walker? Walker, of course, is the Friars' all-America who's "playing better than ever," and who has never lost to B.C.

"B.C.'s strength is rebounding," says coach Joe Mullaney of Providence. "Even if they lose a big man they can keep coming at you." He was pointing up the size of B.C.'s front court: Willie Wolters, 6-8;

Jim Kissane, 6-7; Terry Driscoll, 6-8; Tom Pacynski, 6-10.

And Mullaney wouldn't be surprised if Kissane was put on Walker. Or if Boston College planned a zone defense. Or . . . "Well, I just wouldn't be surprised at anything," he said. "I just don't know what to expect.

Some say that B.C. will concede Walker 40 points and try to cut down the production of players such as Mike Riordan and Tony Koski, etc. "That'll be just fine with me," says Mullaney, "40 points for Walker is a pretty good start."

He laughed a little and said he didn't expect a team coached by Bob Cousy would concede anything.

Cousy rejoined the Eagles at practice Friday afternoon. He had missed three days with a virus. The four players who had the virus earlier this week rejoined the team Thursday. At Providence Walker went to the infirmary for a shot, "but I don't know what it was for," said Mullaney. "I don't think it was for a virus."

B.C.

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B.C. had a solid two-hour workout and there were some signs the players were keyed up. Practice was intense and there was an air of anticipation about it—and about the Chestnut Hill campus.

Providence for the last three weeks has been at the peak of its game, according to Mullaney. "We're playing better than I thought we could," he said. "You know last year we faced zones eight times and lost five of those games. This year we haven't lost to a zone yet. We're handling the ball better and penetrating the zones better."

The game isn't a battle between Walker and Billy Evans, B.C.'s sophomore guard; or between Wolters and Koski, or Riordan and Steve Adelman of B.C. It's a game between New England's two best teams.