



MEN'S PREVIEW

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The 267th Battle of Comm Ave Highlights Nine Hockey East Weekend Matchups Maine Looks for Payback Against No. 6 UMass Lowell; UMass and UNH Set for Home-and-Home Series

No. 17 Boston College vs. No. 2 Boston University/ vs. Maine - Fri. 1/16 at BU, Sun. 1/18 at Maine

• Friday night at Agganis Arena will be the 267th time in history that No. 17 Boston College and No. 2 Boston University have faced off. Since the end of November, both the Eagles and Terriers have not lost a game. BC is 5-0-2 since falling at Providence Nov. 29, while BU is 3-0-3 since getting shutout at Dartmouth Nov. 30.

• Maine is coming off of their first shutout of the season with a 3-0 win at Massachusetts last Saturday night. Goaltender **Matt Morris** earned Hockey East Defensive Player of the Week accolades for his performance, stopping all 29 shots faced en route to his first collegiate shutout.

No. 6 UMass Lowell vs. Maine/ vs. No. 2 Boston University - Fri. 1/16 at Maine, Sun. 1/18 at BU

• No. 6 UMass goes head-to-head with Maine for the second time this season. The River Hawks took down the Black Bears by a score of 3-2 in overtime Dec. 6 in Lowell. Maine leads the all-time series with a mark of 78-35-4.

• The River Hawks then head to Commonwealth Ave to battle No. 2 Boston University in a Sunday matinee. It will be the first meeting of 2014-15 between the top-ranked teams in Hockey East with first place in the league on the line.

UConn vs. Notre Dame - Fri. 1/16 at ND, Sun. 1/18 at UConn

• UConn will make its national television debut Friday night as the Huskies travel to Notre Dame to battle the Irish on NBCSN. **Mike Cavanaugh's** squad enters the two-game series against the Irish having claimed back-to-back wins for the first time this year after topping Army, 6-3, and then-No. 5 UMass Lowell, 2-0. The shutout marked the second clean sheet against a ranked team for sophomore goaltender Rob Nichols after the Dallas, Texas native blanked then-No. 3 Boston College Nov. 5.

• UConn freshman forward **Spencer Naas** has scored six goals in six games since the holiday break and is enjoying a four-game goal scoring streak. The rookie currently leads the team with nine goals.

• Friday night's contest marks the first-ever meeting between the two programs.

New Hampshire vs. Massachusetts - Fri. 1/16 at UMass, Sat. 1/17 at UNH

• UMass forward **Shane Walsh** received Warrior Hockey Player of the Week accolades Jan. 12, marking the first time the junior has been named Player of the Week in his career. Walsh is the third Minuteman to earn a weekly recognition from Hockey East this season while sophomore forward **Frank Vatrano** was named Hockey East Player of the Month for December 2014.

• New Hampshire and UMass met twice last season, with the Wildcats winning both games by scores of 4-1 and 9-0. Senior Wildcat **Grayson Downing** recorded a hat trick in the second game. UNH has a 6-1-1 record this season in games when Downing scores a goal, and a 1-10-1 record when he does not.

No. 20 Merrimack vs. No. 12 Quinnipiac - Fri. 1/16 at MC, Sat. 1/17 at QU

• The Warriors take home ice for the first time in 2015 in the sixth and seventh meetings with Quinnipiac this weekend. Merrimack and the Bobcats split a two-game series last season, each winning on home ice.

• After the series with Quinnipiac, Merrimack plays six games in 11 days, all against Hockey East opponents, including four contests against ranked opponents.

Northeastern vs. No. 10 Vermont - Fri. 1/16, Sat. 1/17 at UVM

• Northeastern will play its sixth and seventh consecutive games against a ranked opponent when facing the No. 10 Catamounts. Friday night serves as a Hockey East league matchup while Saturday's tilt will be a non-conference game.

• Vermont and the Huskies have met once prior this season, an Oct. 10, season-opening contest at Matthews Arena. **Kevin Sneddon's** Catamounts captured a 6-3 victory in that meeting.

2014-2015 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Rk.	Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Conf. Off.	Conf. Def.
1.	Boston University	10	7	1	2	16	12-3-4	3.80 (1)	1.90 (4)
	UMass Lowell	10	7	1	2	16	14-4-3	3.70 (2)	1.80 (2)
3.	Vermont	11	7	3	1	15	15-5-1	3.36 (3)	1.82 (3)
4.	Boston College	11	5	4	2	12	12-7-2	2.64 (5)	2.18 (6)
	Providence	11	6	5	0	12	14-8-1	1.73 (12)	1.36 (1)
6.	Notre Dame	8	4	2	2	10	9-11-2	2.88 (4)	2.50 (7)
7.	UConn	9	4	4	1	9	7-10-4	2.33 (6)	2.56 (8)
	Merrimack	9	4	4	1	9	11-6-2	2.11 (8)	2.00 (5)
9.	Northeastern	12	3	7	2	8	7-11-3	1.92 (10)	3.25 (10)
10.	New Hampshire	8	2	5	1	5	7-11-2	1.75 (11)	2.88 (9)
11.	Maine	8	2	6	0	4	7-14-1	2.00 (9)	3.50 (11)
12.	Massachusetts	11	1	10	0	2	6-15-0	2.27 (7)	5.18 (12)

Upcoming Games

Friday, January 16

No. 17 Boston Co. at No. 2 Boston Univ. - 7 p.m.
 (NESN) *

No. 6 UMass Lowell at Maine - 7 p.m. *

New Hampshire at Massachusetts - 7 p.m. *

Northeastern at No. 10 Vermont - 7 p.m. *

UConn at Notre Dame - 7:35 p.m.
 (NBCSN) *

No. 12 Quinnipiac at No. 20 Merrimack -
 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 17

Massachusetts at New Hampshire - 6:30 p.m.
 (NBCSN) *

No. 20 Merrimack at No. 12 Quinnipiac - 7 p.m.

Northeastern at No. 10 Vermont - 7:05 p.m.

Sunday, January 18

Notre Dame at UConn - 12:05 p.m. * ^

No. 6 UMass Lowell at No. 2 Boston University - 2 p.m. *

No. 16 Boston College at Maine - 3 p.m.
 (FCS, WVII, WFXV, WPME) *

^ at Webster Bank Arena (Bridgeport, CT)

All game times are EST
 * denotes league games

HEA In The Polls

USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine
Men's College Hockey Poll

Rk.	School	Pts. (FPV)	Record	LR
3.	Boston University	446	12-3-4	2
6.	UMass Lowell	273	14-4-3	5
9.	Vermont	239	15-5-1	11
15.	Providence	69	14-7-1	13

Others receiving votes: Boston College, 38;
 Merrimack, 3

USCHO.com Div. I Men's Poll

Rk.	School	Pts. (FPV)	Record	LW
2.	Boston University	916	12-3-4	2
6.	UMass Lowell	668	14-4-3	6
10.	Vermont	575	15-5-1	12
14.	Providence	330	13-6-1	14
17.	Boston College	253	12-7-2	16
20.	Merrimack	132	11-6-2	18