



MEN'S PREVIEW

31.22

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Eight Remaining Teams Aim For Championship Weekend Berth Best-of-Three Series Will Send Winners to TD Garden for Semifinals

No. 11 Merrimack at No. 1 Boston University - Fri. 3/13, Sat. 3/14, Sun. 3/15 (If Necessary)

• Hockey East regular-season champion and No. 1 seed Boston University will face off with No. 11 Merrimack at Agganis Arena this weekend in one of four Hockey East quarterfinal matchups. The Terriers took three of four points from the Warriors in a home-and-home series on Dec. 5-6.

• Merrimack reached the quarterfinals by sweeping No. 6 Northeastern last weekend. Both victories came in overtime, with Saturday's win coming in double overtime thanks to a game-winning goal from freshman forward **Mathieu Tibbet**.

• In 30 previous playoff appearances, BU has won seven of ten games against Merrimack, all of which came in the quarterfinal round. The two teams last faced each other in the Hockey East Tournament in 2013.

No. 8 New Hampshire at No. 2 Providence - Fri. 3/13, Sat. 3/14, Sun. 3/15 (If Necessary)

• Providence enters the 2015 Hockey East Tournament as the No. 2 seed, the highest seed the Friars have earned in program history. The Friars enter the weekend with a 2.03 goals against average, good for fourth in the country and first in Hockey East in scoring defense.

• New Hampshire swept UConn in the opening round of the Hockey East Tournament at home last weekend, thanks in part to Warrior Hockey Co-Player of the Week **Grayson Downing**, who posted four points (3g, 1a) during the series.

• Providence and New Hampshire have eliminated each other in the last two Hockey East Tournaments. Providence knocked out UNH in the 2013 quarterfinals, two games to one, but the Wildcats returned the favor last season, defeating the Friars in the semifinals, 3-1, at the TD Garden. The two teams split the season series at UNH this season, with Providence earning a 1-0 victory on Nov. 22 and New Hampshire winning 2-1 on Jan. 13.

No. 7 Vermont at No. 3 Boston College - Fri. 3/13, Sat. 3/14, Sun. 3/15 (If Necessary)

• In Boston College's history as a No. 3 seed, the Eagles have earned a 10-2 record and made it to the Hockey East Championship three times, capturing the title in 1999 in a 5-4 overtime win against New Hampshire. BC will look to bounce back from being eliminated in three games in last year's Hockey East quarterfinals by Notre Dame.

• No. 7 seed Vermont eliminated No. 10 seed Maine to advance to the quarterfinals, thanks in part to an overtime game-winning goal in game three from **Jonathan Turk** on Sunday evening. Warrior Hockey Co-Player of the Week **Brendan Bradley** also contributed for the Catamounts, tallying five points (2g, 3a) over the three games, including Friday night's game winner.

• Boston College and Vermont split this season's series at Chestnut Hill, but the Eagles are undefeated in six Hockey East playoff games against the Catamounts, including a shutout victory, 4-0, in the 2008 Championship.

No. 5 Notre Dame at No. 4 UMass Lowell - Fri. 3/6, Sat. 3/7, Sun. 3/8 (If Necessary)

• Two-time defending Hockey East Champion and No. 4 seed UMass Lowell owns an 8-1-0 record in its last nine Hockey East playoff contests, as the River Hawks begin to defend their crown against No. 5 seed Notre Dame. UML went 1-0-1 against the Irish during the 2014-15 regular season, and lead the all-time series against Notre Dame with a record of 4-0-1, including a shutout win, 4-0, in the Hockey East Semifinals last March.

• Despite dropping the longest game in college hockey history on Friday night to No. 12 seed UMass, Notre Dame earned back-to-back victories on Saturday and Sunday to advance to the quarterfinals. Irish netminder and Pro Ambitions Rookie of the Week **Cal Petersen** played the equivalent of 4.5 games over a 50-hour span, turning away 132 of 139 shots for a .950 save percentage and a 1.61 goals against average.

• This series will be a rematch of last season's Hockey East Semifinals, which UMass Lowell won, 4-0, en route to capturing its second consecutive league championship.

Upcoming Games

HEA Quarterfinals Best-of-Three

Friday, March 13

No. 7 Vermont at No. 3 Boston College - 7 p.m.
 No. 8 New Hampshire at No. 2 Providence - 7 p.m.
 No. 5 Notre Dame at No. 4 UMass Lowell - 7:15 p.m.
 No. 11 Merrimack at No. 1 Boston University - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 14

No. 11 Merrimack at No. 1 Boston University - 4 p.m. (NESN)

No. 5 Notre Dame at No. 4 UMass Lowell - 7 p.m.
No. 7 Vermont at No. 3 Boston College - 7 p.m. (NESN)
 No. 8 New Hampshire at No. 2 Providence - 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 15

No. 5 Notre Dame at No. 4 UMass Lowell - TBD #
 No. 11 Merrimack at No. 1 Boston University - TBD #
 No. 7 Vermont at No. 3 Boston College - TBD #
 No. 8 New Hampshire at No. 2 Providence - TBD #

Hockey East Quarterfinals (If Necessary)

All game times are EST
 * denotes league games



2014-2015 FINAL HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

| Rk. | Team | GP | W | L | T | Pts | Overall | Conf. Off. | Conf. Def. |
|-----|-------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|---------|------------|------------|
| 1. | Boston University | 22 | 14 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 21-7-5 | 4.00 (1) | 2.50 (6) |
| 2. | Providence | 22 | 13 | 8 | 1 | 27 | 21-11-2 | 2.77 (8) | 1.68 (1) |
| | Boston College | 22 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 27 | 20-11-3 | 2.73 (9) | 2.27 (2) |
| 4. | UMass Lowell | 22 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 26 | 18-10-6 | 3.18 (2) | 2.36 (3) |
| 5. | Notre Dame | 22 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 25 | 17-17-5 | 2.91 (5) | 2.45 (5) |
| 6. | Northeastern | 22 | 11 | 9 | 2 | 24 | 16-16-4 | 3.18 (2) | 3.14 (9) |
| 7. | Vermont | 22 | 10 | 9 | 3 | 23 | 20-13-4 | 2.82 (7) | 2.41 (4) |
| 8. | New Hampshire | 22 | 10 | 11 | 1 | 21 | 17-17-2 | 3.00 (4) | 3.09 (8) |
| 9. | UConn | 22 | 7 | 11 | 4 | 18 | 10-19-7 | 1.91 (11) | 3.36 (10) |
| | Maine | 22 | 8 | 12 | 2 | 18 | 14-22-3 | 2.91 (5) | 3.36 (10) |
| 11. | Merrimack | 22 | 5 | 14 | 3 | 13 | 16-16-4 | 1.73 (12) | 2.55 (7) |
| 12. | Massachusetts | 22 | 5 | 16 | 1 | 11 | 11-23-2 | 2.68 (10) | 4.64 (12) |

HEA In The Polls

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

| Rk. | School | Pts. (FPV) | Record | LR |
|-----|-------------------|------------|---------|----|
| 3. | Boston University | 441 | 21-7-5 | 3 |
| 9. | Boston College | 218 | 20-11-3 | 9 |
| 10. | Providence | 201 | 21-11-2 | 11 |
| 14. | UMass Lowell | 69 | 18-10-6 | 14 |

Others Receiving Votes: Vermont, 9

USCHO.com Div. I Men's Poll

| Rk. | School | Pts. (FPV) | Record | LW |
|-----|-------------------|------------|---------|----|
| 3. | Boston University | 870 | 21-7-5 | 3 |
| 9. | Boston College | 583 | 20-11-3 | 9 |
| 10. | Providence | 552 | 21-11-2 | 13 |
| 14. | UMass Lowell | 344 | 18-10-6 | 14 |
| 17. | Vermont | 177 | 20-13-4 | 17 |