



MEN'S PREVIEW

31.21

Brian Smith
Director of Communications
Hockey East Association
 591 North Ave - #2
 Wakefield, MA 01880
 Office: (781) 245-2122
 Cell: (339) 227-2988
 bsmith@HockeyEastOnline.com

For Immediate Release: Thursday, March 5, 2015

Hockey East Playoffs Set to Open at Four School Campuses Friday Best-of-Three Series Will Send Winners into Quarterfinals

No. 9 UConn at No. 8 New Hampshire - Fri. 3/6, Sat. 3/7, Sun. 3/8 at UNH

• No. 9 UConn will make its Hockey East Tournament debut as the Huskies travel to No. 8 New Hampshire. The Huskies were swept by UNH in a home-and-home series two weeks ago, but managed to close out their regular season with a shutout win, 4-0, against UMass thanks in part to Hockey East Defensive Player of the Week **Rob Nichols**.

• New Hampshire comes into the opening round riding a five-game win streak after sweeping Merrimack in the final weekend of the regular season. Head coach **Dick Umile** has a 43-32-1 record in the Hockey East Tournament, and is 3-0-0 against UConn in his career.

No. 10 Maine at No. 7 Vermont - Fri. 3/6, Sat. 3/7, Sun. 3/8 at UVM

• Earlier this season in November, No. 7 seed Vermont swept No. 10 Maine on the road. The Catamounts own an 8-16-0 record in the Hockey East Tournament in eight appearances, reaching the championship game in 2008.

• Maine has entered the postseason tournament 28 times, posting a 53-34-0 record in those seasons. Maine has won five Hockey East titles (1989, 1992, 1993, 2004), and is the only program to record a shutout in the opening round of the tournament after blanking Merrimack, 2-0, on March 8, 2014.

No. 11 Merrimack at No. 6 Northeastern - Fri. 3/6, Sat. 3/7, Sun. 3/8 at NU

• No. 11 Merrimack and No. 6 Northeastern will be meeting for the 101st, 102nd and, possibly, 103rd time this weekend in the opening round of the Hockey East Tournament at Matthews Arena. This matchup will mark the first time these two teams have faced each other in the tournament. The Huskies own a 51-40-9 record against the Warriors dating back to the 1966-67 season. However, MC has won eight of the previous thirteen meetings against NU over the past five years.

• After a 0-8-1 start to the season, Northeastern has posted a 16-6-3 record including an eight-game unbeaten streak (8-0-1) from Jan. 16 to Feb. 21. Junior forward **Kevin Roy** led the nation with 17 points during the month of February and this week was named the Warrior Hockey Player of the Month and Hockey Commissioners' Association National Division I Player of the Month.

No. 12 Massachusetts at No. 5 Notre Dame - Fri. 3/6, Sat. 3/7, Sun. 3/8 at ND

• UMass enters the Hockey East Tournament as the No. 12 seed. The Minutemen are 9-27 all-time in the tournament, with their last win coming in 2009 courtesy of a 2-1 victory at Northeastern in the quarterfinals.

• No. 5 seed Notre Dame swept the Minutemen during the regular season at UMass' Mullins Center, Dec. 5-6. Last season, the Irish eliminated Boston University, 3-2, in the opening round before upsetting Boston College in a three-game series. Notre Dame was eventually knocked out in the semifinals to UMass Lowell, who would go on to win their second consecutive Hockey East Championship.

**HEA Opening Round
Best of Three**

Friday, March 6

No. 9 UConn at No. 8 New Hampshire - 7 p.m. ^
 No. 11 Merrimack at No. 6 Northeastern - 7 p.m. ^
No. 10 Maine at No. 7 Vermont - 7:05 p.m. ^
 (WVH/WFVX, WPME, FCS)
 No. 12 Massachusetts at No. 5 Notre Dame - 7:35 p.m. ^

Saturday, March 7

No. 11 Merrimack at No. 6 Northeastern - 4 p.m. ^
 (NESN)
 No. 9 UConn at No. 8 New Hampshire - 7 p.m. ^
No. 10 Maine at No. 7 Vermont - 7:05 p.m. ^
 (WVH/WFVX, WPME, FCS)
 No. 12 Massachusetts at No. 5 Notre Dame - 7:05 p.m. ^

Sunday, March 8

No. 9 UConn at No. 8 New Hampshire - 4 p.m. #
 No. 11 Merrimack at No. 6 Northeastern - 4:30 p.m. #
 No. 10 Maine at No. 7 Vermont - 7:05 p.m. #
 No. 12 Massachusetts at No. 5 Notre Dame - 7:05 p.m. #

^ Hockey East Opening Round
 # Hockey East Opening Round Game 3, if necessary

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	422	21-7-5	4
9.	Boston College	217	20-11-3	10
11.	Providence	171	21-11-2	13
14.	UMass Lowell	79	18-10-6	NR

USCHO.com Div. I Men's Poll

Rk.	School	Pts. (FPV)	Record	LW
3.	Boston University	849	21-7-5	4
9.	Boston College	579	20-11-3	9
10.	Providence	521	21-11-2	13
14.	UMass Lowell	346	18-10-6	14
17.	Vermont	157	18-12-4	18

Others receiving votes: Northeastern, 26;
 Notre Dame, 5

2014-2015 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	15-16-5	2.91 (5)	2.45 (5)
6.	Northeastern	22	11	9	2	24	16-14-4	3.18 (2)	3.14 (9)
7.	Vermont	22	10	9	3	23	18-12-4	2.82 (7)	2.41 (4)
8.	New Hampshire	22	10	11	1	21	15-17-2	3.00 (4)	3.09 (8)
9.	UConn	22	7	11	4	18	10-17-7	1.91 (11)	3.36 (10)
	Maine	22	8	12	2	18	13-20-3	2.91 (5)	3.36 (10)
11.	Merrimack	22	5	14	3	13	14-16-4	1.73 (12)	2.55 (7)
12.	Massachusetts	22	5	16	1	11	10-21-2	2.68 (10)	4.64 (12)