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# Weekend Preview

**Noah Smith**  
 Director of Media Relations  
 Hockey East Association  
 Phone: (781) 245-2122  
 Fax: (781) 245-2492  
 nsmith@HockeyEastOnline.com

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## MINUTEMEN SET FOR HOME-AND-HOME WITH UNH *Light league weekend leads in to Beanpot finale*

There's only one home-and-home series on the agenda this weekend, but it's a big one.

On Friday night, the up-and-down UNH Wildcats make their second trip of the season to UMass' Mullins Center, where they escaped with a 2-2 tie in mid-December courtesy of a Preston Callander power play goal with under two minutes remaining. Prior to that meeting, the 'Cats had won eight straight in the head-to-head series, and were the only Hockey East opponent the Minutemen failed to get at least one point from during their resurgent 2002-03 season.

UMass is on a continuing mission to further disrupt the hierarchy of Hockey East, and a win over UNH, at home or on the road, would be a vital part of that process. As it is, UMass is in second place in league play, seven points ahead of UNH and only one win behind front-runner Boston College. They have little left to prove, but plenty left to gain. Locking up home ice for the Hockey East quarterfinals would be nice – both UMass and BC can potentially do that this weekend.

BC's game at Merrimack tonight becomes that much more important with the Minutemen nipping at the Eagles' heels. No need to explain the significance to Merrimack – every point is precious to the five teams fighting for their playoff lives. The Warriors are particularly adept at surviving the stretch run. Despite being picked to finish last in three of the last four seasons in the preseason coaches' poll, Merrimack has managed to qualify for the postseason for seven consecutive years now and has only missed the Hockey East playoffs once in 14 years of play. They are picked to finish last again this year, but history suggests that that only serves to motivate the Warriors even more.

Providence and UMass Lowell have two league games each, including a head-to-head Sunday matinee in Lowell. The River Hawks are in decent shape despite recently forfeiting three league victories – they are in a three-way dead heat for fifth place and still have 10 Hockey East games remaining, more than any other team in the conference. They travel to Northeastern on Friday while Providence plays at Boston U. as a thrilling game of musical chairs plays out in the season's final weeks – only four playoff spots for five teams spaced by a slim four-point spread.

In non-conference action, Alabama-Huntsville brings super scorer Jared Ross (37 points in just 20 games) to Maine's Alford Arena for a two-game set in the far North. The Black Bears will counter with the best goaltending tandem in the nation, Jim Howard (1.39 GAA, .942 save percentage) and Frank Doyle (1.85 GAA, .920 SP).

### RANKINGS

TEAM	PWR	AHCA	USCHO
Boston College	2	2	2
Maine	3	3	3
New Hampshire	9	10	10
Massachusetts	12	12	14
Boston Univ.	18	–	–
Providence	19	–	–
UMass Lowell	22	–	–
Northeastern	28	–	–

### 'POT SUBPLOT: PARKER VS. YORK

When Jack Parker and Jerry York face off their respective teams on Monday, it will be the 52nd meeting between the two coaches, coincidentally in the 52nd Beanpot championship game. Despite losing three straight to York's squad this season, Parker still holds a significant edge in the all-time head-to-head series at 30-16-5, including a dramatic 6-5 2OT win in last year's Hockey East semifinals. Parker also owns the Beanpot vs. York at 7-1. But York has had his share of big wins as well, most notably an overtime triumph that ended the Terriers' season in the 1984 NCAA tournament, the year he coached Bowling Green to the national title. On the overall wins list, Parker entered this season with a notable advantage over York, but the two men are now dead even in third place all-time with 688 wins each headed into this weekend. They each boast two NCAA championships on their impressive resumes.

### RESULTS / SCHEDULE

#### Monday, February 2

*Beanpot at FleetCenter*  
 Boston University 5, Northeastern 2  
 Boston College 4, Harvard 1

#### Thursday, February 5

Boston College at Merrimack \*

#### Friday, February 6

UNH at Massachusetts (NESN) \*  
 Providence at Boston University \*  
 UMass Lowell at Northeastern \*  
 Alabama-Huntsville at Maine (WABI)

#### Saturday, February 7

Massachusetts at UNH (NHPTV) \*  
 Alabama-Huntsville at Maine (WABI)

#### Sunday, February 8

Providence at UMass Lowell (2pm) \*

#### \* Hockey East game

Games start at 7pm unless indicated  
 All times Eastern

## 2003-04 STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	HE Offense	HE Defense
Boston College	15	12	1	2	26	20-3-3	3.67 GPG	1.67 GAPG
Massachusetts *	16	11	3	2	24	15-5-5	2.06 GPG	2.06 GAPG
Maine	16	11	4	1	23	19-6-1	3.38 GPG	1.94 GAPG
New Hampshire	15	7	5	3	17	15-9-3	3.67 GPG	3.07 GAPG
UMass Lowell *	14	5	8	1	11	8-17-3	2.57 GPG	2.36 GAPG
Providence	16	3	8	5	11	11-9-6	2.56 GPG	3.06 GAPG
Merrimack *	18	4	11	3	11	9-16-3	2.00 GPG	3.50 GAPG
Boston University	15	4	9	2	10	8-10-6	2.33 GPG	3.13 GAPG
Northeastern	15	2	10	3	7	7-13-4	2.20 GPG	3.40 GAPG

\* records reflect forfeits by UMass Lowell