



# Weekend Preview

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 27, 2005

## STRESS TEST FOR HOT 'HAWKS UMass Lowell trades home-and-home set with UNH

It's one perfect storm after another.

On Monday, the UNH Wildcats came into BC's Conte Forum with a nine-game undefeated streak in league play. The host Eagles were hardly intimidated, what with a nine-game winning streak of their own. Well, that winning streak came to an end, but only by virtue of a 2-2 tie UNH managed via 41 saves from junior Jeff Pietrasiak. UNH now has a 10-game undefeated streak in league play (8-0-2) while BC is still undefeated in 11 straight overall (9-0-2).

Amazingly, BC's is not the best streak in Hockey East right now. That honor belongs to UMass Lowell's run of 13 straight games without a loss, dating back to a 5-3 loss at Boston University on Nov. 20. At that point, the River Hawks were 0-5 in league play. Since then,

they've gone 5-0-2 in Hockey East and 10-0-3 overall. They have gone from last place to fifth place but have a tough assignment ahead to advance any higher – they trail BU and Maine by seven points, although they also have two games in hand to make up the difference. This weekend's action will go a long way towards determining their chances. Game One airs on NESN on Friday.

Northeastern is hoping to keep pace with UMass Lowell, but the Huskies draw what is unquestionably the toughest weekend for any team – two games at Maine. Enigmatic at times this season, the Black Bears have quietly put together a nine-game undefeated streak in league play, most recently a win and a tie vs. visiting BU last weekend. Coincidentally, their last loss in league play came on Nov. 12 - at Northeastern. Joe Santilli scored two goals and Mike Morris had a goal and two assists to help stake the Huskies to a surprising 4-0 lead early in the second period. Goaltender Keni Gibson did the rest, stopping 41 of 43 shots faced en route to a 4-2 victory.

Gibson's heroics that night were being simultaneously echoed over at BC's Conte Forum, where Minuteman Gabe Winer was ringing up 51 saves against the host Eagles. He was up 2-0 early in the second period before BC pounced for three power play goals. But Tim Vitek saved the point, picking up his second goal of the night midway through the third. BC and UMass will finish off their season series this weekend, starting in Amherst tonight.

BU's brand new Agganis Arena welcomes two more first time visitors this weekend, with Merrimack tonight and Providence on Saturday. Both teams are likely pleased to bid farewell to the old building. The Friars were 4-17-2 in their last 23 games at Walter Brown while the Warriors were 5-25-1 there since joining Hockey East. Two of those Warrior victories, however, came in an improbable quarterfinal series victory in 1998, marking one of the most memorable moments in Hockey East history.

### RANKINGS

TEAM	PWR	USAT	USCHO
Boston College	2	1	1
New Hampshire	8	6	6
UMass Lowell	9	13	13
Boston University	11	14	14
Maine	17	15	15
Northeastern	20	-	-

### RESULTS / SCHEDULE

#### Monday, January 24

at Boston College 2, UNH 2 (OT) \*  
 at Northeastern 4, Merrimack 3 \*

#### Tuesday, January 25

at Providence 4, Connecticut 3

#### Thursday, January 27

Merrimack at Boston University \*  
 Boston College at Massachusetts \*

#### Friday, January 28

Massachusetts at Boston College \*  
 Northeastern at Maine \*  
 New Hampshire at UMass Lowell (NESN) \*

#### Saturday, January 29

Northeastern at Maine (WABI) \*  
 UMass Lowell at New Hampshire (NHPTV) \*  
 Providence at Boston University \*

\* Hockey East game

Games start at 7pm unless indicated.

All times Eastern



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## HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	HE Offense	HE Defense
Boston College	14	9	1	4	22	15-3-4	2.93 GPG	1.64 GAPG
New Hampshire	12	9	1	2	20	16-5-3	3.58 GPG	2.08 GAPG
Boston University	14	9	4	1	19	13-10-1	3.43 GPG	2.43 GAPG
Maine	14	8	3	3	19	13-8-5	3.43 GPG	2.00 GAPG
UMass Lowell	12	5	5	2	12	14-5-3	3.17 GPG	3.00 GAPG
Northeastern	14	5	7	2	12	9-12-3	2.86 GPG	2.71 GAPG
Massachusetts	14	4	8	2	10	10-13-2	2.43 GPG	3.86 GAPG
Providence	14	2	9	3	7	7-14-3	2.14 GPG	3.29 GAPG
Merrimack	16	1	14	1	3	8-18-2	1.88 GPG	4.25 GAPG