



# Weekend Preview

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## BU, NORTHEASTERN HAVE WORK TO DO BEFORE 'POT FINAL

### *Unusual weekend spreads eight games over five days*

There's a dogfight on tap for Monday when BU and Northeastern face-off for the Beanpot title. BU owns historical control of the epic tournament, having made 10 straight trips to the Beanpot title game and winning eight of those 10 coming into this year's event. Last Monday, the Terriers ended top-ranked BC's 14-game overall undefeated streak with a 2-1 victory, while Northeastern advanced with a 2-1 double overtime win vs. Harvard. For the fourth time in 10 years, Northeastern and BU will face-off for 'Pot supremacy. While BU is content with 25 Beanpot championships, the Huskies have only four and will be looking for their first since 1988.

But there is more important business in the immediate future for both teams as each has a league game on the docket before Monday's

FleetCenter tilt. Tonight, the Huskies visit the River Hawks, who have rebounded mightily from a rough 0-5 start in league play (12-1-4 overall since, including nine straight home wins) and are poised to challenge for home ice advantage in the Hockey East quarterfinals. NU is just two points behind Lowell, however, having lost just twice in its last seven league games. On the heels of the OT win over Harvard, the Huskies have plenty of confidence and momentum headed into tonight's contest against one of the league's hottest teams.

UMass Lowell and Northeastern are two of Hockey East's least obvious rivals, but have been repeatedly matched up in high stakes battles in recent years. The same can be said for Boston University and Providence, who met three straight seasons (2001-2003) in the Hockey East quarterfinals, a scenario that could easily happen again this year. On Friday, they'll finish off their 2004-05 season series with BU holding a 2-0 advantage. Both were one-goal victories at BU's home rink, so Providence has plenty of motivation to take a measure of redemption for its home fans.

After hosting the Beanpot finalists, UMass Lowell and Providence will face off against each other on Sunday as part of a succession of eight games spread out over five consecutive days. In addition to the BU-Providence match-up, Friday night will feature Boston College at Merrimack and a NESN broadcast of Massachusetts at UNH. The Wildcats shut out the Minutemen in their first visit to the Whittemore Cen-

ter this season and hope to continue to stifle a struggling UMass offense. The Minutemen picked up their first victory of 2005 just last weekend at Merrimack, which also marked their first win on the road in over a year. The Wildcats are a much different opponent, however, and own the Whittemore Center with a 12-1 record at home this year. If the Minutemen fail there, they'll try again in the rematch at the Mullins Center, which oddly is the only game involving any Hockey East teams on Saturday.

### RANKINGS

TEAM	PWR	USAT	USCHO
Boston College	4	1	1
UMass Lowell	7	11	11
New Hampshire	9	8	8
Boston University	9	13	13
Maine	16	14	14
Northeastern	19	-	-

### RESULTS / SCHEDULE

#### Monday, February 7

##### *Beanpot Tournament*

Northeastern 2, Harvard 1 (2OT)  
 Boston University 2, Boston College 1

#### Thursday, February 10

Northeastern at UMass Lowell \*

#### Friday, February 11

Massachusetts at UNH (NESN) \*  
 Merrimack at Boston College \*  
 Boston University at Providence \*

#### Saturday, February 12

UNH at Massachusetts (CN8) \*

#### Sunday, February 13

UMass Lowell at Providence (2pm) \*

#### Monday, February 14

##### *Beanpot Tournament*

Boston College vs. Harvard (5pm)  
 Boston U. vs. Northeastern (8pm - NESN)

\* 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	17	11	1	5	27	17-4-5	3.18 GPG	1.59 GAPG
New Hampshire	16	11	3	2	24	18-7-3	3.38 GPG	2.44 GAPG
Boston University	17	11	4	2	24	16-10-2	3.35 GPG	2.41 GAPG
Maine	18	10	4	4	24	15-9-6	3.06 GPG	1.83 GAPG
UMass Lowell	16	7	6	3	17	16-6-4	3.44 GPG	3.12 GAPG
Northeastern	17	6	8	3	15	11-13-4	2.59 GPG	2.47 GAPG
Massachusetts	18	5	11	2	12	11-16-2	2.22 GPG	3.78 GAPG
Providence	17	2	11	4	8	7-16-4	2.12 GPG	3.18 GAPG
Merrimack	18	1	16	1	3	8-20-2	1.78 GPG	4.06 GAPG