



Weekend Preview

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INTERCONFERENCE BATTLES TO TEST RANKS First league game pits UMass Lowell at Boston University

One of the best things about the opening weeks of every college hockey season is what they have in common with the closing weeks of every season – plenty of inter-conference play. And often it's the battles in the early season between high profile opponents from different regions that determine key placements in the NCAA Tournament.

This weekend alone could provide a preview of postseasons future, just as it provides

a review of postseasons past. Fourth-ranked Boston College at seventh-ranked Michigan is an old time hockey epic, with chapters as recent as a 2004 NCAA regional final (3-2 OT win for BC) and a 2001 NCAA semifinal (4-2 BC win). Denver at Maine, a two-night set, is a long-overdue rematch of the 2004 NCAA championship game, a 1-0 win eked out by the Pioneers. Now two-time defending champs, the Pioneers are ranked No. 2 in the nation, while the host Black Bears come in at 11 and 12 in the most prominent polls.

The only other home action for Hockey East is the first league game of the season, UMass Lowell at Boston University. BU was one of only two league opponents that Lowell failed to record a win against last year. But following back-to-back losses to the Terriers in mid-November, the River Hawks reeled off an impressive 11-0-2 run and skated to a 4-4 draw at BU shortly thereafter. Picked to finish third in Hockey East this year, the River Hawks will need to win games like this one if they want to fulfill the prophecy.

All other games are on the road for Hockey East. The boldest trip of the year may be Northeastern's two-game set at North Dakota. Never shying from playing the best, the

new-look Huskies break in to the 2005-06 season by taking on one of the WCHA powerhouses.

In tournament action, UNH aims for the Maverick Stampede title, opening against Ferris State. Vermont will play its first official game as a member of Hockey East in Alaska, opening the Nye Frontier Classic against Michigan Tech and playing against the host team late Saturday night.

Merrimack mimics BC's road trip with games at Bowling Green and Michigan. Massachusetts and Providence will also be travelling similar paths, as both head up to the North Country to take on Clarkson and St. Lawrence.

IN THE POLLS

Team	USAT	USCHO
Boston College	5	4
New Hampshire	8	8
Boston University	10	14
Maine	11	12
UMass Lowell	ORV	18
Vermont	ORV	19
Massachusetts	-	ORV

ORV – others receiving votes

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, October 14

Massachusetts at St. Lawrence
 Providence at Clarkson !
 Merrimack at Bowling Green !
 Boston College at Michigan (7:30pm) !
 Denver at Maine (CSTV - 8pm)
 Northeastern at North Dakota (8:30pm)
Maverick Stampede at Nebraska-Omaha
 New Hampshire vs. Ferris St. (6pm)
 Army at Nebraska-Omaha (9pm)
Nye Frontier Classic at Alaska-Anchorage
 Vermont vs. Michigan Tech (9pm)
 Rensselaer at UA-Anchorage (12 midnight)

Saturday, October 15

UMass Lowell at Boston University *
 Denver at Maine (WABI)
 Boston College at Bowling Green
 Massachusetts at Clarkson
 Providence at St. Lawrence
 Northeastern at North Dakota (8:30pm) !
Maverick Stampede (6/9pm)
Nye Frontier Classic at Alaska-Anchorage
 Rensselaer vs. Michigan Tech (8pm)
 Vermont at Alaska-Anchorage (11pm)

Sunday, October 16

Merrimack at Michigan (3pm)

* Hockey East game

! Commissioners Cup series

Games start at 7pm unless indicated.

All game times are Eastern Time.

HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Offense	Defense
Boston College	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
Boston University	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	1-1-0	2.50 GPG	2.00 GAPG
Massachusetts	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
UMass Lowell	0	0	0	0	0	1-1-0	3.50 GPG	4.50 GAPG
Merrimack	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
Northeastern	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
Providence	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-
Vermont	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	-	-