



# Weekend Preview

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RELEASE #29

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 18, 2007

## STANDINGS ON THE LINE IN 10 LEAGUE TILTS

### Weekend highlighted by three home-and-home series

All 10 Hockey East squads line up for two hits of intra-conference action this weekend, virtually assuring further shake-up in league standings. In a series of home-and-home tilts, league leader New Hampshire takes on UMass, Boston University and Merrimack face off, and Northeastern tangles with UMass Lowell. Meanwhile, Boston College travels north to Vermont, and Maine makes the trip south for a pair at Providence.

Friday night's NESN contest between UMass and the 2<sup>nd</sup>-ranked UNH Wildcats provides an intriguing match-up. With two great goaltenders – Jon Quick (Hamden, CT) for UMass and Kevin Regan (South Boston, MA) for UNH – the prevailing wisdom is that the game will be a defensive battle. However, UNH did explode for seven goals against UVM two weeks ago, and UMass tallied five last week against UMass Lowell. And if the Wildcats need any extra incentive, they should remember that the Minutemen handed UNH its only league loss this season, 4-3, in Durham on Oct. 28. Last weekend, after a shaky start, the Wildcats outlasted Dartmouth, 4-2. Regan and his defense will have to be on top of their game against a balanced UMass squad, after five Minutemen scored in the team's 5-1 win over the River Hawks. In the rematch, UNH travels to Amherst, where the Minutemen are 8-1-1 this season.

In Burlington, the rafters at Gutterson Fieldhouse ought to be shaking when No. 14 Vermont takes on No. 7 Boston College. The Eagles appear to be hitting their mid-season stride after burying 10 goals in a two-game sweep of league rival Merrimack. Last Friday, BC's top line of Benn Ferriero (Essex, MA), Brian Boyle (Hingham, MA) and Joe Rooney exploded for a combined 12 points against

the Warriors. Vermont, meanwhile, is coming off a hard-fought weekend, earning three points the hard way, managing a tie and a win against the Huskies at Northeastern's Matthews Arena. On Friday, NU's Jimmy Russo (South Weymouth, MA) capped a Husky comeback when he slipped the disc past UVM's Joe Fallon (Berndji, MN) to knot the game at 2-2. The next night, however, Fallon was impenetrable, as the junior netminder posted his fifth shutout of the season and UVM won, 3-0.

In Providence, expect the Friars to feed off the energy of a big 3-2 overtime win against UMass Lowell, when PC's Colin McDonald (Wethersfield, CT) broke in alone and buried the biscuit. No. 5 Maine, however, should be eager to go as well after dropping a pair to No. 8 BU last weekend, including a wild 6-5 affair on Friday's NESN game. Though only 5-4-0 at home, the Black Bears are an impressive 6-1-1 on the road.

Northeastern will likely rely on workhorse Brad Thiessen (Aldergrove, BC) in goal as the Huskies line up against a young and hungry River Hawks squad. The Huskies are 4-3-1 in their last eight games, the squad's best eight-game stretch in two years. In UMass Lowell, they face an underclassmen-dominated team that has played with heart but not enough of a finishing touch.

Merrimack faces a BU squad that's on a roll, going 8-2-2 in its last 12 games and 4-0-1 in its last five league games. The Warriors fought gamely but were outmatched in two games last week against BC. However, Merrimack's three league wins this year matches last season's total, and the Warriors will be eager to break that mark. The Warriors, meanwhile, must guard against a letdown after their emotional sweep in Orono.



#### UMass-UNH tangle on NESN

NESN's Hockey East coverage continues Friday when UMass heads to Durham, NH, to take on the league-leading Wildcats. UMass downed UNH, 4-3, on Oct. 28. Coverage begins with *Hockey East Friday Night Live*, at 7:00 pm, followed by the opening face-off at 7:30.

#### RECENT RESULTS

##### Friday, January 12

Boston College 6, at Merrimack 1 \*  
 at Massachusetts 5, UMass Lowell 1 \*  
 Vermont 2, at Northeastern 2 \*  
 Boston University 6, at Maine 5 \*

##### Saturday, January 13

Boston University 3, at Maine 0 \*  
 Vermont 3, at Northeastern 0 \*  
 Providence 3, at UMass Lowell 2 OT \*  
 UNH 4, vs. Dartmouth 2 (at Manchester, NH)

#### UPCOMING GAMES

##### Friday, January 19

UMass at New Hampshire (7:30pm) \* NESN  
 Northeastern at UMass Lowell \* %  
 Boston University at Merrimack \*  
 Maine at Providence \*  
 Boston College at Vermont (8pm) \* CSTV

##### Saturday, January 20

Boston College at Vermont \* CN8  
 Merrimack at Boston University \*  
 Maine at Providence \* CoxSports  
 New Hampshire at Massachusetts \*  
 UMass Lowell at Northeastern \*

##### Wednesday, January 24

Boston University at Boston College \*

\* Hockey East game  
 % Hannaford Kids Club event  
 All games Eastern Standard Time

## 2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Goals	Goals Against
New Hampshire	14	12	1	1	25	17-3-1	90	42
Boston College	14	9	4	1	19	12-6-1	57	43
Boston University	15	7	3	5	19	10-4-6	52	36
Vermont	13	7	4	2	16	12-8-2	55	40
Maine	13	7	5	1	15	14-5-2	85	50
Massachusetts	13	7	5	1	15	10-7-3	55	47
Northeastern	16	3	9	4	10	6-11-4	51	60
Providence	14	4	9	1	9	5-15-1	39	69
Merrimack	14	3	11	0	6	3-16-2	26	73
UMass Lowell	14	2	10	2	6	3-15-5	48	72