



# Men's Weekend Preview

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE LOOKS TO CLINCH TOP SEED

### All 10 Hockey East squads face off against neighbors in the standings

In a statistical oddity that almost defies probability, Hockey East fans can find this weekend's match-ups by simply running their fingers down the standings. The headliner is a two-game, home-and-home set between No. 1 New Hampshire and No. 2 Boston University. The other pairings fall in order, with No. 3 Boston College playing No. 4 Maine, No. 5 Vermont playing No. 6 Massachusetts, No. 7 Northeastern playing No. 8 Providence, and No. 9 UMass Lowell playing No. 10 Merrimack.

The weekly *Hockey East Friday Night* telecast on NESN features the two teams at the top of the standings, though they've taken different routes to get there. UNH jumped out of the gate quickly despite an early season loss to UMass and a tie against BU, and has been at the top of the league for the past two months. The Wildcats have a 17-3-1 league mark, and hold a six-point margin over BU with a game in hand, and can clinch the league title with a sweep. The Terriers, meanwhile, at 11-4-7, have been inconsistent on the offensive end, but stingy in the defensive end. That's a credit to the superb play of senior John Curry (Shorewood, MN), who claimed the Beanpot MVP honors with 37 saves in BU's overtime victory over Boston College. Though UNH is known for its explosive offense, especially with Mike Radja (Yorkville, IL) torching the leader board after returning from a knee injury, the game may well come down to a goaltending duel between Curry and UNH junior Kevin Regan (South Boston, MA), who leads the league in save percentage and goals against average, just ahead of his BU counterpart. NESN's Tom Caron and Tim Sweeney have the call on Friday night, before the teams meet again at Agganis Arena on Saturday.


However, the weekend starts tonight in Beantown, as Boston College welcomes the Black Bears into Conte Forum for a two-game set. The Eagles will be eager to get back on the ice tonight to help erase the memory of Monday's Beanpot loss, and Maine provides a worthy challenge. Last weekend, the Black

Bears swept a feisty Vermont squad behind a potent power play and the stellar goaltending of freshman Dave Wilson (Toronto, ON). BC may have had the upper hand statistically against the Terriers, but couldn't overcome the BU mystique. However, they can rally around Cory Schneider's (Marblehead, MA) consistently solid goaltending. The Black Bears, meanwhile, will look to be as opportunistic on the road as they were last week at home, where they blitzed Vermont's Joe Fallon (Bemidji, VT) for four power-play tallies on Friday. The rematch was a much tighter affair, but Wilson held the fort in a 1-0 Maine win.

UMass garnered a single point in two home games last weekend, and now must travel to Vermont to try to claim home ice in the upcoming tournament. The Minutemen were narrowly edged by BU last Friday, but showed heart in a last-minute, come-from-behind tie against Providence the next night. Vermont, meanwhile, aims to get back on track after a slight derailment in Orono last week. The Catamounts are playing just above .500 at home (7-6-1), and will want to improve on that mark heading into the playoffs.

Speaking of playoff pushes, Northeastern rebounded from a tough 1-0 loss to UMass Lowell last Thursday with a convincing 3-1 win over Harvard in the Beanpot consolation game Monday, and will look to parlay that momentum when they host Providence on Friday. Freshman Brad Thiessen (Aldergrove, BC) was rock solid against the Crimson, and the Huskies proved they could win even without top players such as Mike Morris (Braintree, MA), Chad Costello (Johnston, IA) and Joe Vitale (St. Louis, MO).

In another home-and-home series, Merrimack travels down Interstate 495 to Lowell on Friday before hosting the River Hawks on Saturday. UML freshman Nevin Hamilton has posted shutouts in two of his last three starts, and the River Hawks ought to be well-rested after a week-long respite. Merrimack played UNH tough twice, but still dropped last weekend's home-and-home series, 3-1 and 4-1.



**Wildcats, Terriers on NESN**  
 NESN's Hockey East coverage continues on Friday when the league's two top teams - the No. 1 New Hampshire Wildcats and the No. 2 Boston University Terriers - meet at the Whittemore Center in Durham, NH. Coverage begins with *Hockey East Friday Night Live*, at 7:00 pm, followed by the opening face-off at 7:30.

**RECENT RESULTS**

**Monday, February 12**  
Beanpot Tournament at Boston, MA  
 Northeastern 3, Harvard 1  
 Boston U. 2, Boston College 1 OT

**UPCOMING GAMES**

**Thursday, February 15**  
 Maine at Boston College \*

**Friday, February 16**  
 Boston U. at New Hampshire (7:30pm) \* NESN  
 Massachusetts at Vermont \*  
 Merrimack at UMass Lowell \*  
 Providence at Northeastern \*  
 Maine at Boston College (8pm) \* CSTV

**Saturday, February 17**  
 New Hampshire at Boston University \* CN8  
 Massachusetts at Vermont \*  
 UMass Lowell at Merrimack \* %  
 Northeastern at Providence \*

\* 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	21	17	3	1	35	22-5-1	81 (108)	36 (54)
Boston University	22	11	4	7	29	16-5-8	55 (75)	38 (49)
Boston College	21	12	8	1	25	16-11-1	63 (80)	52 (68)
Maine	21	12	8	1	25	19-8-2	61 (101)	49 (65)
Vermont	21	10	7	4	24	15-11-4	42 (69)	43 (58)
Massachusetts	21	10	8	3	23	13-10-5	53 (79)	51 (69)
Northeastern	22	7	11	4	18	11-14-4	47 (70)	54 (72)
Providence	21	6	13	2	14	7-19-2	43 (53)	55 (82)
UMass Lowell	21	4	14	3	11	5-19-6	36 (59)	63 (91)
Merrimack	21	3	16	2	8	3-21-4	22 (31)	63 (88)