



Men's Weekend Preview

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Regular Season Title & Home Ice Still Up For Grabs Seven Games Televised By Five Different Carriers This Weekend

[Note: Commissioner Bertagna has dusted off his typewriter to pen this week's Preview.]

Here we go again. There are two weeks remaining in the regular season and, as usual, very little has been resolved. With a grand total of 19 games yet to be played, usually one or two positions are known. Not this year. Let's look at the upcoming games and their effect on the standings.

Boston College vs. Lowell

The Teams — The Eagles launch the league weekend a night early as they host the young-but-maturing River Hawks. The team that went 20 games without a win is now 4-0-1 in its last five. In fact, the last time they lost was at Boston College back on January 27 (a 4-3 heart-breaker). Then again, the Eagles have won four of their last five too, the only blemish being a 2-1 OT loss in the Beanpot to BU.

What's At Stake — Two weeks ago, Lowell trailed Providence by five points and the Friars had a game in hand. Now PC and UML are tied. With a season-ending road trip to UVM ahead, the River Hawks may need a point or two in this series to stay in the hunt. (PC wins tie-breaker with UML.) For #3 BC, nothing can be taken for granted. Especially with a home-and-home with league leader UNH awaiting on March 2-3.

New Hampshire vs. Providence

The Teams — While BC and UML are on the "Who's Hot" list, UNH and PC enter their series looking for W's. Why? Providence is 1-5-2 in its last eight and UNH only garnered one of a possible four points against BU last weekend, preventing the Wildcats from clinching the #1 seed. They played at the 'Whit on January 27 with UNH surviving, 2-1.

What's At Stake — UNH could clinch the regular season title and PC could regain the eighth and final playoff spot. Those are pretty high stakes. And they could meet again in Durham on March 8-10.

Boston University vs. Vermont

The Teams — It seems that everyone had anointed UNH as champions weeks ago. Everyone but the pesky Terriers, who simply won't go away. These two teams don't score that much. UVM has scored two goals or less 18 times; that number is 14 for BU. UVM is 3-11-4 in those games, including a 2-1 home win over BU in November. BU is 5-4-5. Those ties were part of a new Hockey East record for tie games (8).
What's At Stake — They are both in the playoffs. BU still has a shot at the regular season title, but must sweep. UVM has the fourth home ice position at the moment, but needs a point or two at Agganis. BU has just a single game the last weekend as it previously moved an NU game to October.

Merrimack vs. Maine

The Teams — Merrimack has allowed four goals only once in its last nine games. But they have only scored two goals in one of those games. Now they have to go to Orono to face a very good Maine team still smarting from two losses at BC. Maine won 4-1 earlier. Maine has to tighten its defense (11 goals allowed last week).
What's At Stake — Maine is fighting for home ice, a perk it has enjoyed in 11 of the last 12 years. And Josh Soares has a shot at the scoring title. Merrimack can still make the playoffs but must run the table.

Massachusetts vs. Northeastern

The Teams — Coaches Cahoon (UMA) and Cronin (NU) will certainly garner their share of "Coach of the Year" votes. Both teams are just above where they were predicted to be. UMass beat the Huskies, 2-1, way back on November 10.
What's At Stake — The Minutemen have hovered under the radar for much of the year but there they are in the home ice hunt. Could the final series at Maine determine the fourth seed? Without a sweep, the Huskies are almost certainly the #7 seed.

There is no Hockey East "Game of the Week" on NESN this week due to a rare Friday night Boston Bruins game. The Hockey East game televised on Saturday night, January 13, was added to make up for this conflict. The absence of the NESN game has allowed for three other Friday night telecasts this week.

UPCOMING GAMES

Thursday, February 22

UMass Lowell at Boston College *

Friday, February 23

Providence at New Hampshire (NHPTV) *
 Vermont at Boston University (8:00 CSTV) *
 Merrimack at Maine (WABI) *
 Northeastern at Massachusetts *

Saturday, February 24

New Hampshire at Providence (Cox) *
 Vermont at Boston University (CN8) *
 Boston College at UMass Lowell *
 Merrimack at Maine (WABI) *

Sunday, February 25

Massachusetts at Northeastern (3:00-ESPNU) *

* Hockey East game
 All games at 7:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time)
 Unless Noted Otherwise

**See attached sheet
 on tie-breakers!**

2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Goals	Goals Against	Can Finish	Games Remaining
New Hampshire	23	17	4	2	36	22-6-2	86 (113)	43 (61)	1-3	PC, at PC, BC, at BC
Boston University	24	12	4	8	32	17-5-9	62 (82)	43 (54)	1-5	VT, VT, at NU
Boston College	23	14	8	1	29	18-11-1	74 (91)	59 (75)	1-6	UML, at UML, at UNH, UNH
Vermont	23	11	8	4	26	16-12-4	47 (74)	46 (61)	2-7	at BU, at BU, UML, UML
Maine	23	12	10	1	25	19-10-2	68 (108)	60 (76)	2-7	MC, MC, at UMA, at UMA
Massachusetts	23	11	9	3	25	14-11-5	56 (82)	56 (74)	2-7	NU, at NU, ME, ME
Northeastern	24	8	11	5	21	12-14-5	53 (76)	57 (75)	4-9	at UMA, UMA, BU
UMass Lowell	23	6	14	3	15	7-19-6	43 (66)	65 (93)	7-10	at BC, BC, at VT, at VT
Providence	23	6	14	3	15	7-20-3	46 (56)	61 (88)	7-10	at UNH, UNH, MC, at MC
Merrimack	23	3	18	2	8	3-23-4	24 (33)	69 (94)	8-10	at ME, at ME, at PC, PC

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HOCKEY EAST HEAD-TO-HEAD

	BC	BU	ME	UMA	UML	MC	UNH	NU	PC	UVM	Overall
BC	---	2-1-0	3-0-0	1-2-0	1-0-0	3-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-1	2-1-0	1-2-0	14-8-1
BU	1-2-0	---	2-0-1	1-0-2	0-1-2	3-0-0	1-0-2	1-0-1	3-0-0	0-1-0	12-4-8
ME	0-3-0	0-2-1	---	1-0-0	3-0-0	1-0-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	12-10-1
UMA	2-1-0	0-1-2	0-1-0	---	2-1-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	1-0-0	2-0-1	1-2-0	11-9-3
UML	0-1-0	1-0-2	0-3-0	1-2-0	---	3-0-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-2-1	0-1-0	6-14-3
MC	0-3-0	0-3-0	0-1-0	2-1-0	0-3-0	---	0-3-0	0-3-0	1-0-0	0-1-2	3-18-2
UNH	1-0-0	0-1-2	2-1-0	1-2-0	3-0-0	3-0-0	---	3-0-0	1-0-0	3-0-0	17-4-2
NU	1-1-1	0-1-1	1-2-0	0-1-0	2-1-0	3-0-0	0-3-0	---	1-1-1	0-1-2	8-11-5
PC	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-2-1	2-0-1	0-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-1	---	1-2-0	6-14-3
UVM	2-1-0	1-0-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	1-0-0	1-0-2	0-3-0	1-0-2	2-1-0	---	11-8-4

HOCKEY EAST TIEBREAKERS

1. Head-to-head results between the tied teams
2. Number of wins in conference play
3. Best record against the first-place team(s), then the second-place team(s), then the third-place team(s), and so on
4. Coin flip

If more than two teams finish in a tie, the same criteria will be applied to reduce the number of teams tied, and then the process will commence again.