



Men's Weekend Preview

Brion O'Connor
Director of Public Relations
Hockey East Association

591 North Ave – #2
 Wakefield, MA 01880
 Phone: (781) 245-2122
 Cell: (978) 609-7224

boconnor@HockeyEastOnline.com
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Seven Spots in Standings Still To Be Decided NU will be #7 after 4-2 win over BU; final home ice berth still open

[Note: Commissioner Bertagna has returned to produce this week's Preview.]

The regular season has been reduced to two nights and eight games. With that slate yet to be played out, all we know is that UNH is #1, Northeastern is #7, and Merrimack is #10. No quarterfinal match-ups have been revealed yet. Here is another match-up by match-up look at the weekend.

Massachusetts vs. Maine

What's On The Line? — I make up the schedule. I would very much like to suggest that I knew that the last weekend would find two teams tied for the fourth and final playoff spot playing each other. I didn't. Here's the deal. If either team sweeps, they have home ice. If UMass sweeps, they could be as high as third, if BC gets swept by UNH. If they split, UVM can take the last home ice position with a sweep of UMass Lowell. In that scenario, Maine is #5 and UMass #6. (Maine beat UMass, 4-1, on October 28 in Orono.)

Vermont vs. Lowell

What's On The Line? — This series, as mentioned above, also has home ice implications. Vermont needs to sweep to stay alive in that race. A split isn't good enough. As for UMass Lowell, it loses the tie-breaker with Providence should they tie for the eighth and final playoff spot. So the River Hawks need at least three points and hope that Merrimack handles the Friars. Finally, UVM goalie Joe Fallon (Bemidji, MN) still can catch BU's John Curry (Shorewood, MN) in the goaltending race. (Curry is done at 1.85; Fallon is at 1.89 entering the weekend.)

Merrimack vs. Providence

What's On The Line? — Isn't it amazing what one game can do? After last Friday's tough 6-4 loss at

UNH, Providence had won just once in nine games. Then came Saturday's one-sided 7-1 rout of the Wildcats before a packed crowd at Schneider Arena. Now the Friars need just two points out of this series (or a single UMass Lowell loss at Vermont) and they clinch a playoff spot. And guess who they would play? Those same Wildcats, who PC pushed to double overtime in last year's quarterfinal clincher.

New Hampshire vs. Boston College

What's On The Line? — Who knew the least significant (to the standings, that is) series would be this one? UNH has the regular season trophy. The Eagles know they have home ice. Still, Boston College would certainly like to finish second, after so many early season stumbles. Each team wants to finish as high in the NCAA rankings as possible. And there is an interesting battle for the league scoring title at stake. Going into the weekend, BC's Brian Boyle (Hingham, MA) leads the league at 13-20-33, just ahead of UNH's Trevor Smith (North Vancouver, BC), who is at 15-16-31.

Pre-Season Coaches Poll

Ever wonder how good the ten Hockey East head coaches are as prognosticators? Here is how they handicapped the 2006-07 season in September:

| School | Pre-Season Pick | Today's Pos. |
|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| BC | 1 | 3 |
| BU | 2 | 2 |
| ME | 3 | T-4 |
| UNH | 4 | 1 |
| VT | 5 | 6 |
| PC | 6 | 8 |
| UMA | 7 | T-4 |
| NU | 8 | 7 |
| UML | 9 | 9 |
| MC | 10 | 10 |



#1 New Hampshire
hosts
#3 Boston College

Pre-Game Show at 7:00
 Face-off at 7:30
 LIVE on NESN

RECENT RESULT

Wednesday, February 28
 at Northeastern 4, Boston U. 2 *

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, March 2

Maine at Massachusetts *
 UMass Lowell at Vermont *
 Merrimack at Providence *
 Boston College at UNH (7:30pm) * NESN

Saturday, March 3

UNH at Boston College *
 Maine at Massachusetts *
 UMass Lowell at Vermont *
 Providence at Merrimack *

* 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 * | 25 | 18 | 5 | 2 | 38 | 23-7-2 | 93 (120) | 54 (72) | 1 | BC, at BC |
| Boston University # | 27 | 13 | 6 | 8 | 34 | 18-7-9 | 69 (89) | 51 (62) | 2-3 | none |
| Boston College # | 25 | 16 | 8 | 1 | 33 | 20-11-1 | 81 (98) | 62 (78) | 2-4 | at UNH, UNH |
| Maine % | 25 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 29 | 21-10-2 | 76 (116) | 61 (77) | 4-6 | at UMA, at UMA |
| Massachusetts % | 25 | 13 | 9 | 3 | 29 | 16-11-5 | 63 (89) | 59 (77) | 3-6 | ME, ME |
| Vermont % | 25 | 12 | 9 | 4 | 28 | 17-13-4 | 51 (78) | 51 (66) | 4-6 | UML, UML |
| Northeastern % | 27 | 9 | 13 | 5 | 23 | 13-16-5 | 60 (83) | 66 (84) | 7 | none |
| Providence | 25 | 7 | 15 | 3 | 17 | 8-21-3 | 57 (67) | 68 (95) | 8-9 | MC, at MC |
| UMass Lowell | 25 | 6 | 16 | 3 | 15 | 7-21-6 | 46 (69) | 72 (100) | 8-9 | at VT, at VT |
| Merrimack | 25 | 3 | 20 | 2 | 8 | 3-25-4 | 25 (34) | 77 (102) | 10 | at PC, PC |

* - Clinched top seed; # - Clinched home ice; % - Clinched playoff spot.

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 | 3-0-0 | 3-0-0 | 0-1-0 | 1-1-1 | 2-1-0 | 1-2-0 | 16-8-1 |
| BU | 1-2-0 | --- | 2-0-1 | 1-0-2 | 0-1-2 | 3-0-0 | 1-0-2 | 1-1-1 | 3-0-0 | 1-2-0 | 13-6-8 |
| ME | 0-3-0 | 0-2-1 | --- | 1-0-0 | 3-0-0 | 3-0-0 | 1-2-0 | 2-1-0 | 2-1-0 | 2-1-0 | 14-10-1 |
| UMA | 2-1-0 | 0-1-2 | 0-1-0 | --- | 2-1-0 | 1-2-0 | 2-1-0 | 3-0-0 | 2-0-1 | 1-2-0 | 13-9-3 |
| UML | 0-3-0 | 1-0-2 | 0-3-0 | 1-2-0 | --- | 3-0-0 | 0-3-0 | 1-2-0 | 0-2-1 | 0-1-0 | 6-16-3 |
| MC | 0-3-0 | 0-3-0 | 0-3-0 | 2-1-0 | 0-3-0 | --- | 0-3-0 | 0-3-0 | 1-0-0 | 0-1-2 | 3-20-2 |
| UNH | 1-0-0 | 0-1-2 | 2-1-0 | 1-2-0 | 3-0-0 | 3-0-0 | --- | 3-0-0 | 2-1-0 | 3-0-0 | 18-5-2 |
| NU | 1-1-1 | 1-1-1 | 1-2-0 | 0-3-0 | 2-1-0 | 3-0-0 | 0-3-0 | --- | 1-1-1 | 0-1-2 | 9-13-5 |
| PC | 1-2-0 | 0-3-0 | 1-2-0 | 0-2-1 | 2-0-1 | 0-1-0 | 1-2-0 | 1-1-1 | --- | 1-2-0 | 7-15-3 |
| UVM | 2-1-0 | 2-1-0 | 1-2-0 | 2-1-0 | 1-0-0 | 1-0-2 | 0-3-0 | 1-0-2 | 2-1-0 | --- | 12-9-4 |

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.