



Men's Weekend Preview

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PUCK DROPS IN NCAA ACTION Five HE squads prepped for tournament

Five Hockey East teams will be among the field of 16 as the NCAA championships get under way this weekend at four regional sites. Regular season champion New Hampshire, host of the Northeast Regional in Manchester, NH, secured a No. 1 seed and could face No. 2 seed Boston College, the Hockey East tournament champ, if both win in Saturday's opening round. Likewise, on Friday, Maine and Massachusetts, seeded 3rd and 4th respectively, are playing in the East Regional in Rochester, NY, and could meet in that regional final. In the Midwest Regional, Boston University is the sole Hockey East torchbearer, earning a No. 2 seed and a date with Michigan State.

The action starts Friday at 2:30, when the 20-12-5 Minutemen, in their first NCAA appearance, face a powerful Clarkson squad. Despite sweeping their last four games against Maine, the Minutemen didn't have as strong a power ranking as the Black Bears throughout the season, which gave Maine the No. 3 seed and a date with St. Cloud State (and former Providence goaltender Bobby Goepfert). UMass will again rely heavily on a balanced scoring attack, led by Hockey East All-Tournament Team selection Chris Capraro (Medford, MA), and a resilient D backedboned by sophomore netminder Jon Quick (Hamden, CT). Coach Don "Toot" Cahoon's troops narrowly missed a chance to play for the Hockey East championship, being edged by UNH in double overtime, 3-2. That experience, coupled with its recent success against Maine, should hold UMass in good stead. The game marks Cahoon's return to the NCAAs – in 1998, he guided Princeton to the post-season.

The 24-14-2 Black Bears, meanwhile, are likely to have super sophomore goalie Ben Bishop (Des Peres, MO) back between the pipes, which ought to give Coach Tim Whitehead's squad a lift. Up front, expect Maine to lean heavily on the senior leadership of Michel Levéillé (Levis, QC) and Josh Soares (Hamilton, ON), Hockey East First and Second Team All-Stars, respectively, and the explosiveness of Hockey East Rookie of the Year Teddy Purcell (St. John's, NF). On the blue line, senior Mike Lundin (Apple Valley, MN), the Hockey East Sportsmanship Award winner and a Second Team All-Star, leads a mobile group that also includes Bret Tyler (Maynard, MA) and towering 6-foot-7 Simon Danis-Pepin (Montreal, QC). The Black Bears have only played first round opponent St. Cloud State seven times, and Maine has a 5-1-1 record against the Huskies. Overall, Maine has a 28-18 record in the NCAAs.

Boston University also gets going on Friday, taking on a Spartan squad that's been a mirror image of the Terriers. BU will be making its 30th appearance in the NCAA tournament – tied for second most all-time – and Head Coach Jack Parker will be bringing his 20-9-9 Terriers to the tournament for the 22nd time, tying the national record held by Ron Mason. Parker has stated that his squad has played better on the road, and ironically BU had the furthest road trip of the Hockey East teams still playing (in fact, the Michigan State game will be BU's first game outside New England since the season opener at RPI). For BU to go deep, Hockey East Player of the Year and Walter Brown Award winner John Curry (Shorewood, MN)

will have to be sharp, and the BU offense must put more pucks on net. Expect senior Kenny Roche (South Boston, MA) and sophomores Chris Higgins (Lynnfield, MA) and Brandon Yip (Maple Ridge, BC) to lead the charge, while junior Pete MacArthur (Clifton Park, NY) has a five-game point streak. On D, senior captain Sean Sullivan (Braintree, MA) will welcome classmate Kevin Schaeffer (South Huntington, NY) back from a knee injury.

In the Northeast Regional at the Verizon Wireless Arena, UNH can't look past a tough Miami squad, while Boston College faces a feisty St. Lawrence crew. In the Hockey East Championship final, the 26-10-2 Wildcats caught fire late, but it wasn't enough to overcome a 4-0 deficit as UNH lost to BC, 5-2. On Saturday, Coach Dick Umile will be seeking his 400th career win with stalwart junior Kevin Regan (South Boston, MA) in the nets, and an array of quick-strike forwards up front, led by league First Team All-Star Trevor Smith (North Vancouver, BC), Mike Radja (Yorkville, IL), Jerry Pollastrone (Revere, MA), Matt Fornataro (Calgary, AB) and Jacob Micflikier (Winnipeg, MB). Freshman Bobby Butler (Marlboro, MA), who potted two goals last weekend, is also dangerous, as is Hockey East All-Tournament Team member Chris Murray (Dover, MA) on D. The Wildcats and RedHawks have faced each other six times all time, with UNH holding a 4-2 advantage. UNH owns a 12-20 all-time record in the NCAA playoffs, including a 10-12 record under Umile.

In the second match, Coach Jerry York's 26-11-1 Eagles are riding the momentum generated from the program's 7th Hockey East championship. Junior goalie Cory Schneider (Marblehead, MA) has recaptured the All-American form that propelled the Eagles into last year's NCAA title game, and senior captain Brian Boyle (Hingham, MA) has been an absolute wall on the blue line after switching to defense. Up front, superb sophomores Nathan Gerbe (Oxford, MI), Benn Ferreiro (Essex, MA) and Brock Bradford (Burnaby, BC), the Hockey East Tourney MVP, are complemented by cagy senior Joe Rooney (Canton, MA), junior Dan Bertam (Calgary, AB) and freshman Ben Smith (Avon, CT). BC and SLU have met 65 times, with the Eagles holding a 34-28-3 edge.

HOCKEY EAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

Semifinals, March 16

TD Banknorth Garden, Boston

New Hampshire 3, Massachusetts 2 (2OT)
 Boston College 6, Boston University 2

Final, March 17

Boston College 5, New Hampshire 2



THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

March 23

East Regional, Rochester, NY

Massachusetts vs. Clarkson, 2:30pm, CN8/FSN NY/Cox RI (TD, 11am, 3/24)
 Maine vs. St. Cloud State, 6pm
 CN8/WABI/WPFO/WAGM

Midwest Regional, Grand Rapids, MI

Boston U. vs. Michigan State, 8:30pm
 CN8/FSN NY

March 24

Northeast Region, Manchester, NH

New Hampshire vs. Miami, 1pm CN8
 Boston College Vs. St. Lawrence, 4:30pm
 CN8/FSN NY

Midwest Regional Final

TBA, 8:30 pm
 FSN NY

East Regional Final

TBA, 6pm CN8 (Joined In Progress, following NE semifinal)

March 25

Northeast Regional Final

TBA, 3:30pm CN8

2006-07 HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Goals	Goals Against
New Hampshire	27	18	7	2	38	26-10-2	96 (138)	62 (87)
Boston College	27	18	8	1	37	26-11-1	89 (127)	65 (86)
Boston University	27	13	6	8	34	20-9-9	69 (98)	51 (73)
Massachusetts	27	15	9	3	33	20-12-5	71 (107)	63 (88)
Maine	27	14	12	1	29	21-14-2	80 (120)	69 (85)
Vermont	27	12	10	5	29	18-16-5	55 (87)	56 (78)
Northeastern	27	9	13	5	23	13-18-5	60 (84)	66 (94)
Providence	27	9	15	3	21	10-23-3	66 (76)	71 (108)
UMass Lowell	27	7	16	4	18	8-21-7	51 (74)	76 (104)
Merrimack	27	3	22	2	8	3-27-4	28 (37)	86 (111)



2007 Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship

www.NCAAsports.com

First Round

Second Round

Semifinals

Championship

All Times Eastern



Minnesota (30-9-3)	1
March 24 3:30 p.m.	
Air Force (19-15-5)	
North Dakota (22-13-5)	
March 24 7:30 p.m.	
Michigan (26-13-1)	
Boston College (26-11-1)	
March 24 4:30 p.m.	
St. Lawrence (23-13-2)	
Miami (Ohio) (23-13-4)	
March 24 1 p.m.	
New Hampshire (26-10-2)	4
Clarkson (25-8-5)	3
March 23 2:30 p.m.	
Massachusetts (20-12-5)	
Maine (21-14-2)	
March 23 6 p.m.	
St. Cloud St. (22-10-7)	
Boston U. (20-9-9)	
March 23 8:30 p.m.	
Michigan St. (22-13-3)	
Ala.-Huntsville (13-19-3)	
March 23 5 p.m.	
Notre Dame (31-6-3)	2

Denver, CO
March 25
6 p.m.

Scottrade Center
St. Louis, MO
April 5
4 or 8 p.m.

Manchester, NH
March 25
3:30 p.m.

Scottrade Center
St. Louis, MO
April 7
7 p.m.

NATIONAL CHAMPION

Rochester, NY
March 24
6 p.m.

Scottrade Center
St. Louis, MO
April 5
4 or 8 p.m.

Regional Sites

East: Blue Cross Arena
Rochester, New York
March 23-24

Northeast: Verizon Wireless Arena
Manchester, New Hampshire
March 24-25

West: Pepsi Center
Denver, Colorado
March 24-25

Midwest: Van Andel Arena
Grand Rapids, Michigan
March 23-24

East Seeds

- Clarkson (3)
- St. Cloud St.
- Maine
- Massachusetts

Northeast Seeds

- New Hampshire (4)
- Boston College
- St. Lawrence
- Miami (Ohio)

West Seeds

- Minnesota (1)
- Michigan
- North Dakota
- Air Force

Midwest Seeds

- Notre Dame (2)
- Boston U.
- Michigan St.
- Ala.-Huntsville

Overall seeds in parentheses.