



MEN'S WEEKEND PREVIEW

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FIRST FULL HOCKEY EAST WEEKEND COMMENCES WEEKEND PREVIEW #5

~No. 6 UNH hosts No. 7 BC; No. 11 Maine hosts PC for two-game set~

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – In the fifth full weekend of play, the Hockey East schedule is underway in full force for the first time this season with 10 leagues games on Friday and Saturday night. Early on in the Hockey East scoring leaderboard, eight of the Top 19 scorers in the league are either freshman or sophomores. BC's freshman forward Joe Whitney (Reading, Mass.) continues to lead the league in scoring with 11 total points (3g, 8a), while senior captain Matt Fornataro (Calgary, Alberta) of the No. 7 ranked Wildcats represents the upperclassmen with nine points (5g, 4a) as the league's second leading point getter. Whitney's 1.57 points per game ranks third nationally among Division I rookies, while Fornataro currently ranks sixth in the nation in scoring with 1.80 points per game.

The No. 6 ranked Eagles, the highest nationally ranked Hockey East team, will host the Warriors on Friday at Conte Forum and then will head to Durham, N.H. for a Saturday meeting with No. 7 UNH. Saturday's game marks the only Hockey East game this weekend featuring two nationally ranked opponents, and a rematch of the 2007 Hockey East Championship Game. The two teams met four times last year, the Eagles won the season series (2-1) and also won their league-leading seventh Hockey East Championship game against the Wildcats at the TD Banknorth Garden in Boston on March 17. BC freshman John Muse (East Falmouth, Mass.) has filled the shoes of Cory Schneider quite nicely with 1.75 GAA and a .933 save percentage, starting in all seven games for the Eagles to date. UNH's offense currently ranks third in the nation at 4.20 goals per game, while the Eagles' defense ranks eighth best in the country allowing only 1.71 goals per game.

UNH will take on UMass-Lowell on Friday night at the Whittemore Center. In the last 11 meetings at Towse Rink, the Wildcats own a 8-2-1 record against the River Hawks. Sophomore defenseman Barry Goers (Ivyland, Pa.) leads the UML squad in scoring with six points (1g, 5a), while freshman defenseman Maury Edwards' (Rocky Rapids, Alberta) three goals are a team best. Goers' 1.20 points per game is tied for fifth best among Division I defensemen.

Vermont with travel south after an 11-day layoff for a Friday night meeting at Northeastern and a Saturday faceoff with Merrimack College at Lawler Arena. The Warriors are glad to have junior Rob Ricci (Brampton, Ont.) back, as he leads the team in scoring with eight points (3g, 5a), while sophomore netminder Andrew Braithwaite (Kingston, Ont.) has done a solid job for Merrimack posting a 2.62 GAA and .911 save percentage. The Catamounts have faced nationally ranked opponents in three of four games to start the year, which included a two-game set with No. 1 Miami in their opening weekend. UVM's Joe Fallon (Bemidji, Minn.) has recorded four of his 17 career shutouts against the Huskies, owning a 5-0-2 record with a 1.00 GAA vs. NU. Kevin Sneddon owns a 6-1-2 record vs. Northeastern, since being named UVM's head coach. Hockey East Player of the Week Joe Vitale (St. Louis, Mo.) will look to keep the Huskies on the winning track, after an impressive 2-1 at New Hampshire last Saturday night. Vitale notched two points (1g, 1a) in NU's first victory over UNH in 19 meetings.

Boston University will look to capitalize on its recent success in league play with a Friday night game with Massachusetts and a Saturday game at Matthews Arena against the Huskies. Sophomore goaltender Brett Bennett (Williamsville, N.Y.) picked up both wins for the Terriers last weekend against UMass-Lowell and Providence. Senior forward Bryan McGuirk (Danvers, Mass.) and Hockey East Rookie of the Week Nick Bonino (Unionville, Conn.) lead the Terriers in scoring with six points apiece. Massachusetts has been receiving strong efforts from its freshman class with forward James Marcou (King Park, N.Y.) leading the Minutemen in scoring with six points and goalie Paul Dainton (Fort McMurray, Alb.) who has been a pleasant surprise for UMass, registering a 2.27 GAA and a .919 save percentage.

The No. 11 Maine Black Bears will host their first two-game Hockey East series of the season at Alford Arena with the Providence College Friars heading north to Orono for the weekend. Maine and Boston College remain the only two league teams without a league loss. The Black Bears have once again relied heavily on junior goaltender Ben Bishop (Des Peres, Mo.) who has started all seven games with a 4-2-1 record with a 1.99 GAA and a .935 save percentage. The Friars are statistically led by junior forward Kyle Laughlin (Gambrells, Md.) and senior Jon Rheault (Deering, N.H.) with eight and seven points respectively. Junior netminder Chris Mannix has gained more playing time as of late, earning starts in the Friars' last three games. His .915 save percentage in league play ranks fifth among conference netminders.

RECENT RESULTS

Thursday, November 1
 Boston University 5 at Providence 2 *
 Merrimack 3 at UMass-Lowell 1 *

Friday, November 2
 No. 4 New Hampshire 7 at Northeastern 4 *
 No. 12 Maine 1 at No. 5 Boston College 1 OT*

Saturday, November 3
 at Boston University 7, UMass-Lowell 4 *
 Northeastern 2 at No. 4 New Hampshire 1 *
 at Massachusetts 5, Merrimack 1 *

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, November 9
 Massachusetts at Boston University * (7:30pm)
 Providence at No. 11 Maine * (WABI-TV)
 Vermont at Northeastern *
 UMass-Lowell at No. 7 New Hampshire * (NHPTV)
 Merrimack at No. 6 Boston College * (8pm)

Saturday, November 10
 Vermont at Merrimack *
 Boston University at Northeastern *
 Providence at No. 11 Maine * (8 pm) (WABI-TV)
 Massachusetts at UMass-Lowell *
 No. 6 Boston College at No. 7 New Hampshire * (NHPTV)

* Hockey East game
 Games start at 7pm EST unless indicated

(Rankings in composite schedule and release are from the USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine Poll)

2007-08 STANDINGS

Rk.	Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Offense	Defense
1.	Boston College	4	2	0	2	6	3-1-3	22 (3.14)	12 (1.71)
2.	Maine	3	2	0	1	5	4-2-1	17 (2.43)	14 (2.00)
3.	Boston University	3	2	1	0	4	2-4-1	23 (3.29)	27 (3.86)
	New Hampshire	3	2	1	0	4	4-1-0	21 (4.20)	12 (2.40)
	Massachusetts	4	1	1	2	4	3-2-2	19 (2.71)	15 (2.14)
	Northeastern	5	2	3	0	4	2-4-0	14 (2.33)	20 (3.33)
7.	Providence	4	1	2	1	3	1-5-1	15 (2.14)	24 (3.43)
8.	Merrimack	3	1	2	0	2	4-2-0	15 (2.50)	17 (2.83)
9.	Vermont	1	0	0	1	1	0-3-1	7 (1.75)	13 (3.25)
	UMass-Lowell	3	0	2	1	1	2-2-1	14 (2.80)	14 (2.80)

BOSTON COLLEGE • BOSTON UNIVERSITY • UNIVERSITY of MAINE • UNIVERSITY of MASSACHUSETTS • UMASS-LOWELL
 MERRIMACK COLLEGE • UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE • NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY • PROVIDENCE COLLEGE • UNIVERSITY of VERMONT

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