

MEN'S HOCKEY WEEKEND EAST PREVIEW

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NO. 9 BC/NO. 14 UMASS COLLIDE FOR TWO GAMES Weekend Preview #6 ~BU travels to UVM; Maine plays two at Merrimack~

WAKEFIELD, Mass. — No. 9 Boston College and No. 14 Massachusetts will play a home-and-home series, which headlines the second full weekend of Hockey East play. It's also the only meeting between nationally ranked opponents this weekend in conference action.

UMass will play host in the first game of the series at the Mullins Center in Amherst on Friday, while the Eagles (3-2-4, 2-1-3 HEA) will entertain the Minutemen on Saturday at Conte Forum. BC and UMass are currently two of the five teams atop the league standings with seven points apiece. Boston College enters the game with the top ranked defense (2.22 GAPG) and penalty kill (94.4%) in overall games. UMass freshman forward James Marcou (King Park, N.Y.) leads his team in scoring with nine points (2g,7a), while sophomore Will Ortiz (Framingham, Mass.) has scored at least one goal in four straight games. BC freshman Joe Whitney (Reading, Mass.) continues to lead the Eagles' squad in scoring with 12 points, which is also best among league skaters. The teams tied the season series last year (1-1-1) and UMass won the last meeting on February 2 at Conte Forum (5-3).

Boston University (2-5-2, 2-2-1 HEA) will travel north to Burlington, Vt. for the weekend for a two-game showdown with Vermont (1-4-1, 1-1-1 HEA) at Gutterson Fieldhouse. The Catamounts are coming off their first Hockey East win of the season with a 2-1

victory at Merrimack last Saturday. The Terriers are coming off a hard fought 2-2 tie with Northeastern. Sophomore goalie Brett Bennett (Williamsville, N.Y.) has started three of the last four games for BU. Senior Bryan Ewing (Plymouth, Mass.) leads the Terriers roster in scoring with eight points (4g,4a). The two teams met six times last season and each team won three games. The Terriers won the last meeting, 3-2, on a overtime goal by Brandon Yip (Maple Ridge, B.C.) on March 10 in Game 3 of the Hockey East quarterfinal round. In the last four meetings at Gutterson, the teams have tied three times.

No. 6 New Hampshire (5-1-1, 3-1-1 HEA) will host Northeastern on Friday night at the Whittemore Center and then they will head to Providence on Saturday for a meeting at Schneider Arena. The last time Northeastern went 3-3-1 in its first seven Hockey East games was in 1997-98. The last time NU had a winning record in its first seven Hockey East games was 1994-95 (3-2-2). The Friars will also host UMass-Lowell on Friday night. Hockey East Player of the Week Matt Taormina (Washington Township, Mich.) is a coming off a six-point weekend after a Providence sweep at Maine. The Wildcats' top-ranked offense will try to get back on track after NU halted a 19-game losing streak against UNH on November 3 at Towse Rink (2-1). UNH senior forward Matt Fornataro (Calgary, Alb.) ranks second in the league in scoring with nine points. River Hawk goaltenders Carter Hutton (Thunder Bay, Ont.) and Nevin Hamilton (Ashland, Mass.) each posted career-highs in saves over the weekend, Hutton had a career-best 39 at UNH on Friday, and Hamilton stopped a career-high 36 on Saturday against UMass.

The Black Bears will hit the road again for a two-game set at Merrimack College on Friday and Saturday at Lawler Arena. This marks the fourth and fifth road games for Maine in their last seven contests.

HOCKEY EAST WEEKLY NOTES: The league's new video replay system has been available in 13 TV games this season and has been used on six occasions so far with only one on-ice decision overturned...Ben Bishop (ME) and John Muse (BC) are the only two Hockey East goalies to start in every game for their respective teams...BU and UNH have both scored 14 third period goals this season, which accounts for 50% of both teams' offenses...UNH's offense ranks fourth in the nation scoring 4.00 goals per game, while the Eagles' penalty kill is fifth best in the nation at 94.4%...The "Hockey On Campus" Radio Show hosted by Bernie Corbett and Paul McNamara will begin on Wednesday, Nov. 28 on 1510 AM "The Zone". The show will be broadcast every Wednesday from 5pm to 7pm, until April 9. You can also listen to the

show online at www.1510thezone.com.

RECENT RESULTS

Friday, November 9
Massachusetts 5 at Boston University 3 *
Providence 6 at No. 11 Maine 2 *
at Northeastern 4, Vermont 2*
UMass Lowell 3 at No. 7 New Hampshire 3 OT *
Merrimack 3 at No. 6 Boston College 3 OT *

Saturday, November 10
Vermont 2 at Merrimack 1 *
Boston University 2 at Northeastern 2 OT *
Providence 1 at No. 11 Maine 0 *
Massachusetts 3 at UMass Lowell 3 OT *
at No. 7 New Hampshire 5, No. 6 Boston College 2 *

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, November 16
No. 9 Boston College at No. 14 Massachusetts *
UMass Lowell at Providence * (COX-TV)
Boston University at Vermont * (7:30pm) (CN8)
Northeastern at No. 6 New Hampshire *
Maine at Merrimack *

Saturday, November 17
Boston University at Vermont *
Maine at Merrimack *
No. 6 New Hampshire at Providence * (COX-TV)
UMass Lowell at Northeastern *
No. 14 Massachusetts at No. 9 Boston College *

* 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)

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<u>Rk.Team</u>	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Offense	<u>Defense</u>
1. New Hampshi	re 5	3	1	1	7	5-1-1	28 (4.00)	16 (2.29)
Providence	6	3	2	1	7	3-5-1	22 (2.44)	26 (2.89)
Boston College	e 6	2	1	3	7	3-2-4	27 (3.00)	20 (2.22)
Massachusetts	6	2	1	3	7	4-2-3	27 (3.00)	21 (2.33)
Northeastern	7	3	3	1	7	3-4-1	20 (2.50)	24 (3.00)
Boston Univer	sity 5	2	2	1	5	2-5-2	28 (3.11)	34 (3.78)
Maine	5	2	2	1	5	4-4-1	19 (2.11)	21 (2.33)
8. Vermont	3	1	1	1	3	1-4-1	11 (1.83)	18 (3.00)
UMass-Lowell	5	0	2	3	3	2-2-3	19 (2.71)	19 (2.71)
Merrimack	6	1	4	1	3	4-4-1	20 (2.22)	27 (3.00)

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