



MEN'S WEEKEND PREVIEW

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULES GET UNDERWAY FRIDAY

WEEKEND PREVIEW #11

~All 10 Hockey East teams in action over the holiday weekend~

WAKEFIELD, MASS. – The No. 9 ranked Massachusetts Minutemen (7-3-5, 4-2-2 HEA) head to Tampa, Fla. for the Lightning College Classic, which is the only holiday tournament that features three nationally-ranked teams (Notre Dame, Colorado College). UMass will play the sixth-ranked Fighting Irish on Saturday night at the St. Pete Times Forum and then will face off with No. 4 Colorado College or Rensselaer in the final day of competition at the tournament.

No. 9 New Hampshire (9-4-1, 6-4-1 HEA) travels to No. 7 North Dakota for a two-game series at Ralph Engelstad Arena, which begins on Friday night in Grand Forks, N.D. The last time the Wildcats played the Fighting Sioux in a two-game series was in October of 2005 at the Whittemore Center. The two teams skated to a 3-3 tie in their last meeting on Oct. 22, 2005 in Durham, N.H.

The Florida College Classic will feature two teams from the league, as Maine and UMass-Lowell (7-4-4, 4-4-4 HEA) play at Germain Arena in Estero, Fla. on Friday and Saturday night. The Black Bears will skate against No. 8 Clarkson in the nightcap on Friday and the River Hawks play Cornell in the early game.

Providence College (6-6-2, 4-3-2 HEA) will play No. 1 Michigan in the opening round of the Great Lakes Invitational on Friday night at Joe Louis Arena. The Friars will face either No. 5 Michigan State or Michigan Tech in the final day of play at the GII on Saturday.

No. 11 Northeastern University (7-4-2, 6-3-1 HEA) will participate in the Badger Showdown in Madison, Wis. on Friday at the Kohl Center as they take on Bowling Green in the opener. The Huskies will match up with Colgate or host Wisconsin on Saturday. Northeastern's eight game unbeaten streak (6-0-2) is the second-longest in the country heading into Friday's contest with the Falcons.

Vermont (4-6-3, 3-3-2 HEA) will host the annual Sheraton/TD Banknorth Catamount Cup beginning on Saturday at Gutterson Fieldhouse in Burlington, Vt. The Catamounts will play Holy Cross at 6:30 p.m. in their tournament opener. The final three Catamount Cup games will be carried live by Comcast (CN8). UVM will play either Quinnipiac or Western Michigan on Sunday to conclude the tournament's action.

No. 14 Boston College (6-4-5, 4-3-4 HEA) will travel to Minnesota for the second time this season, playing in the Dodge Holiday Classic at Mariucci Arena over the weekend. The Eagles will battle with Air Force in the opening contest on Saturday and then wrap up the tournament against either No. 12 ranked Minnesota or RIT in the final day of competition. Junior forward Nathan Gerbe (Oxford, Mich.) has posted an amazing 12 points (8g, 4a) in BC's current three-game win streak. His 1.50 points per game ranks second in the nation, as he leads the seventh-ranked offense in the country (3.33 gpg).

Merrimack and Boston University will face off in the only league match up of the weekend on Sunday night at Agganis Arena (7 p.m.). The game will be televised live by ESPNU.

HOCKEY EAST WEEKLY NOTES: UNH senior forward Mike Radja needs only seven goals to reach 50 in his career with the Wildcats, becoming only the second active Hockey East player to accomplish that feat (Pete MacArthur- BU, 51)...UML's Carter Hutton leads the nation in both GAA (1.36) and save percentage (.945)...The Boston University Terriers own the fifth-best scoring offense in the country at 3.50, while the UNH Wildcats rank No. 6 at 3.36 goals per game. No. 9 ranked Massachusetts is the top nationally-ranked defense in Hockey East at No. 8, allowing only 2.07 goals per game...Providence owns the fourth-best power play in the country at 24.6%...Merrimack's Matt Jones is third in the league in goals with nine after scoring four last year as a freshman with the Warriors...Boston College has outscored its opponents, 17-7 in its current three-game win streak.

RECENT RESULTS

Wednesday, December 12
No. 15 Boston College 7 at Harvard 2

Saturday, December 15
at Vermont 4, St. Lawrence 3 OT

Sunday, December 16
at No. 10 New Hampshire 2, Maine *

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, December 28

No. 9 New Hampshire at No. 7 North Dakota (9:30pm)
Florida College Classic (Estero, Fla.)
UMass-Lowell vs. Cornell (4pm)
Maine vs. No. 8 Clarkson (7:35)
Great Lakes Invitational (Detroit, Mich.)
Providence vs. No. 1 Michigan (4:30pm)
Badger Showdown (Madison, Wis.)
No. 11 Northeastern vs. Bowling Green (5pm)

Saturday, December 29

No. 9 New Hampshire at No. 7 North Dakota (9pm)
Sheraton/TD Banknorth Catamount Cup (Burlington, Vt.)
Holy Cross at Vermont (6:30pm) (CN8)
Dodge Holiday Classic at Minneapolis, Minn.
No. 14 Boston College vs. Air Force (5pm)
Lightning College Classic, Tampa, Fla.
No. 9 Massachusetts vs. No. 6 Notre Dame (5pm)
Badger Hockey Showdown (Madison, Wis.) (5/8pm)
Great Lakes Invitational (Detroit, Mich.) (4/7:30pm)
Florida College Classic (Estero, Fla.) (4/7:30)

Sunday, December 30

Merrimack at Boston University * (ESPNU)
Sheraton/TD Banknorth Catamount Cup (3:30/6:30pm) (CN8)
Lightning College Classic, Tampa, Fla. (5/8pm)
Dodge Holiday Classic at Minneapolis, Minn. (5/8pm)

* 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.	Northeastern	10	6	3	1	13	7-4-2	35 (2.69)	33 (2.54)
	New Hampshire	11	6	4	1	13	9-4-1	47 (3.35)	35 (2.50)
3.	Massachusetts	10	4	2	4	12	7-3-5	42 (2.80)	31 (2.07)
	Boston College	11	4	3	4	12	6-4-5	50 (3.33)	35 (2.33)
	UMass-Lowell	12	4	4	4	12	7-4-4	44 (2.93)	34 (2.26)
6.	Providence	9	4	3	2	10	6-6-2	45 (3.21)	35 (2.50)
7.	Vermont	8	3	3	2	8	4-6-3	32 (2.46)	47 (3.62)
	Maine	10	3	5	2	8	5-7-2	29 (2.07)	36 (2.57)
9.	Boston University	10	3	6	1	7	4-10-2	56 (3.50)	59 (3.69)
	Merrimack	11	3	7	1	7	6-7-2	32 (2.13)	43 (2.86)

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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