



MEN'S WEEKEND PREVIEW

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WEEKEND PREVIEW #12

NO. 11 HUSKIES TAKE 10-GAME UNBEATEN STREAK TO MAINE ~Merrimack hosts No. 9 UNH; Catamounts travel to Boston U.~

WAKEFIELD, MASS. – The No. 11 ranked Northeastern, who owns a 8-0-2 record in its last 10 games, will take the nation's longest unbeaten streak into Alford Arena on Friday night, as the Huskies take on the Maine Black Bears.

In other action around the conference schedule, Merrimack will host No. 9 New Hampshire on Friday night at Lawler Arena, while Boston University will host Vermont on Saturday night at Agganis Arena.

The Huskies (9-4-2, 6-3-1 HEA) are coming off a pair of wins and a championship at the Badger Hockey Showdown, led by Showdown MVP Brad Thiessen (Aldergrove, B.C.). Thiessen has posted a 1.66 GAA and a .935 save percentage during the Huskies' 10-game unbeaten streak. He has allowed two goals or less in seven of those 10 starts. Friday night's game will complete the three-game series between the two teams, after Maine swept the Huskies on Oct. 26 and 27 by scores of 3-2 and 4-3 at Matthews Arena. The Black Bears have won two of their last four contests coming into Friday's game. Maine junior netminder Ben Bishop (Des Peres, Mo.) is one of three Hockey East goalies to start in every game for their respective team, along with Thiessen and BC's John Muse (East Falmouth, Mass.). Bishop has notched a 2.37 GAA and a .919 save percentage in 16 starts for the Black Bears.

Merrimack College will look to snap its four-game conference losing streak on Friday night, hosting No. 9 New Hampshire in North Andover. The Warriors are coming off a 5-2 loss to Boston University at Agganis Arena, while the Wildcats look to build on their 7-4 victory at No. 7 North Dakota last Saturday night. Merrimack sophomore forward Matt Jones (Kentwood, Mich.) currently ranks tied for third among league players with 10 goals. UNH owns a 5-3-0 record in its last eight games and will play Friday's game without two of its top three scorers. The Wildcats will meet Merrimack for the first time this season, after sweeping them last season and outscoring them 12 to 2 in those three games.

The Catamounts and Terriers will complete their season series on Saturday night, after the teams took one game apiece from each other at Gutterson Fieldhouse on Nov. 16; a 9-1 Terrier win and Nov. 17; a 5-4 Catamount win. Senior forward Bryan Ewing (Plymouth, Mass.) leads the conference in scoring with 17 points in 10 league games.

No. 14 Boston College will put its five-game win streak on the line, as the Eagles play a single game at No. 8 Clarkson on Saturday night at Cheel Arena. Junior forward Nathan Gerbe (Oxford, Mich.) was honored as the CCM/RBK Player of the Month, after he capped the month off with a seven-point effort at the Dodge Holiday Classic, en route to earning MVP honors. Gerbe has registered an amazing 19 points (10g,9a) in the Eagles' five game win streak, which moved him into national scoring lead averaging 1.75 points per game.

On Sunday afternoon in non-league action, the Wildcats will host St. Lawrence and alum Joe Marsh at the Whittemore Center (2pm), while Maine will entertain ECAC foe Rensselaer at the Portland Civic Center (2pm). Merrimack will also host Atlantic Hockey opponent Army at Lawler Arena (5pm).

HOCKEY EAST WEEKLY NOTES: UNH senior goaltender Kevin Regan became the school's all-time career saves leader with 40 stops last Saturday vs. the No. 7 ranked Fighting Sioux. Regan passed former 'Cats goalie Greg Moffett (2,602) and currently sits at 2,608 career saves. Regan (55 wins) needs only four victories to break Mike Ayers' school record of 55 wins...Boston College's offense ranks third in the nation scoring 3.76 goals per game. The Eagles have outscored their opponents, 31-9, during the five-game win streak. Their offense has scored 4+ goals in eight of 17 games this season...NESN's Hockey East television package will debut next Friday night, as UNH travels to the Mullins Center on Jan. 11 for a matchup with conference rival Massachusetts. The "Friday Night Live" pre-game show begins at 7 p.m.

RECENT RESULTS

Friday, December 28
Florida College Classic (Estero, Fla.)
 UMass-Lowell 3 vs. Cornell 2
 Maine 5 vs. No. 8 Clarkson 3
Great Lakes Invitational (Detroit, Mich.)
 No. 1 Michigan 5, Providence 0
Badger Showdown (Madison, Wis.)
 No. 11 Northeastern 4 vs. Bowling Green 3
 at No. 7 North Dakota 3, No. 9 New Hampshire 1

Saturday, December 29
 No. 9 New Hampshire 7 at No. 7 North Dakota 4
Sheraton/TD Banknorth Catamount Cup (Burlington, Vt.)
 Holy Cross 1 at Vermont 1 OT
Dodge Holiday Classic at Minneapolis, Minn.
 No. 14 Boston College 8 vs. Air Force 2
Lightning College Classic, Tampa, Fla.
 No. 9 Massachusetts 4 vs. No. 6 Notre Dame 3
 No. 11 Northeastern 2 vs. Colgate 1
 Providence 5 vs. No. 5 Michigan State 3
 UMass-Lowell 6 vs. Maine 0

Sunday, December 30
 at Boston University 5, Merrimack 2 *
 No. 9 Massachusetts 5 vs. No. 4 Colorado College 4 OT
 No. 14 Boston College 6 vs. RIT 0
 Quinnipiac 4 at Vermont 1

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, January 4
 No. 11 Northeastern at Maine * (WABI-TV)
 No. 9 New Hampshire at Merrimack *

Saturday, January 5
 Vermont at Boston University * (CN8)
 No. 14 Boston College at No. 8 Clarkson

Sunday, January 6
 St. Lawrence at No. 9 New Hampshire (2pm) (NHPTV)
 Rensselaer vs. Maine at Portland (2pm)
 Army at Merrimack (5pm)

* 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	9-4-2	41 (2.73)	37 (2.46)
	New Hampshire	11	6	4	1	13	10-5-1	55 (3.44)	42 (2.63)
3.	Massachusetts	10	4	2	4	12	9-3-5	51 (3.00)	38 (2.26)
	Boston College	11	4	3	4	12	8-4-5	64 (3.76)	37 (2.18)
	UMass-Lowell	12	4	4	4	12	9-4-4	53 (3.12)	36 (2.12)
6.	Providence	9	4	3	2	10	7-7-2	50 (3.13)	44 (2.75)
7.	Boston University	11	4	6	1	9	5-10-2	61 (3.59)	61 (3.59)
8.	Vermont	8	3	3	2	8	4-7-4	34 (2.27)	52 (3.47)
	Maine	10	3	5	2	8	6-8-2	34 (2.13)	45 (2.81)
10.	Merrimack	12	3	7	2	7	6-8-2	34 (2.13)	48 (3.00)

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