



MEN'S WEEKEND PREVIEW

Pete Souris
Director of Public Relations
Hockey East Association
 591 North Ave - #2
 Wakefield, MA 01880
 Office: (781) 245-2122
 Cell: (603) 512-1166
 psouris@HockeyEastOnline.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2008

WEEKEND PREVIEW #13

NO. 5 UMASS AND NO. 8 UNH CLASH IN NESN OPENER FRIDAY NIGHT ~Eight league games headline weekend schedule~

WAKEFIELD, MASS. – The No. 5 Massachusetts Minutemen, who enter the weekend with its highest national ranking in the program's history, will host No. 8 New Hampshire in first game of the series beginning on Friday night at the Mullins Center in Amherst (7:30 p.m.). The game will kickoff the New England Sports Network's (NESN) "Hockey East Friday Night" package with the pre-game show beginning at 7 p.m.

The Minutemen (9-3-5, 4-2-4 HEA) have won four straight and are coming off wins against No. 6 Notre Dame and No. 4 Colorado College at the Lightning College Classic in Tampa, Fla. Freshman James Marcou (King Park, N.Y.) and Paul Dainton (Genelle, B.C.) lead Massachusetts' talented freshman class. Marcou currently leads the team in scoring with 18 points (4g,14a) and was the Hockey East Rookie of the Month in December. Dainton has had an incredible start to his collegiate career with UMass, posting a 2.20 GAA and a .924 save percentage. Dainton has helped the Minutemen to a No. 12 national ranking in team defense, allowing only 2.24 goals per game. UNH (11-6-1, 7-4-1 HEA) will counter with senior goaltender Kevin Regan (South Boston, Mass.), who has amassed nine win this season with a 2.24 GAA and a .927 save percentage. UMass has won three of the last five meetings, including the first meeting of the season series, a 4-1 UMass win on December 8 at the Mullins Center.

No. 7 Northeastern (10-4-2, 7-3-1 HEA) brings its 11-game unbeaten streak (9-0-2) to Lawler Arena on Friday night for a match up with Merrimack College. The Huskies will match the longest unbeaten streak in school history with a win or tie on Friday night. The Warriors are coming off a 4-1 win against Army on Jan. 6 in North Andover.

Boston College (9-5-5, 5-3-4 WHEA) will host Vermont on Friday night in the second game of the two-game set at Conte Forum. The Eagles downed UVM, 4-1, on Wednesday night in Chestnut Hill. Junior forward Nathan Gerbe (Oxford, Mich.) extended his point streak to seven games with three points (1g,2a) in the victory. Gerbe has tallied 23 points (12g,11a) during that stretch. He has recorded 57 of his 97 career points in 63 career league games and needs only three points to become the second active Hockey East player to post 100 career points.

No. 13 UMass-Lowell (9-4-4, 4-4-4 HEA) and Providence College (7-7-2, 4-3-2 HEA) will skate in a home-and-home series this weekend starting Friday night at Schneider Arena. The River Hawks own the seventh best defense in the nation, allowing only 2.12 goals per contest, while the Friars' power play ranks seven at 22.5% (16 of 71).

Boston University will travel to Orono for a single game at Maine on Saturday night as both teams. The Terriers will welcome the return of Colin Wilson (Greenwich, Conn.) and Bryan Strait (Waltham, Mass.) from the World Junior Tournament. This will be the first meeting of the season series between the two teams, BU owned a 2-0-1 record in the season series last year. The Black Bears defeated Rensselaer, 4-2, last Sunday afternoon at the Portland Civic Center.

HOCKEY EAST WEEKLY NOTES: Boston College and Boston University rank third and fifth respectively in the nation in scoring offense averaging 3.68 and 3.50 goals per contest. UNH freshman forward James van-Riemsdyk also returns to the lineup, after leading the World Juniors in points scored (11)...UMass-Lowell's Carter Hutton continues to lead the nation in GAA (1.14) and save% (.956). The Hockey East Association and B2 Networks announced a multi-year partnership on Thursday. The agreement begins this March when both men's and women's conference tournament games are shown live on B2 Networks. The women's semifinal games held on March 8-9 at UConn's Freitas Ice Forum will be broadcast on B2 Networks as well as a minimum of seven of the men's quarterfinal games hosted at campus sites March 13-16.

RECENT RESULTS

Friday, January 4
 No. 11 Northeastern 7 at Maine 3 *
 No. 9 New Hampshire 1 at Merrimack 0 *

Saturday, January 5
 Vermont 2 at Boston University 2 OT *
 at No. 8 Clarkson 4, No. 14 Boston College 2

Sunday, January 6
 Maine 4 vs. Rensselaer 2 (at Portland)
 at Merrimack 4, Army 1
 St. Lawrence 6 at No. 9 New Hampshire 5

Wednesday, January 9
 at No. 12 Boston College 4, Vermont 1 *

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, January 11
 No. 8 New Hampshire at No. 5 Massachusetts * (7:30pm, NESN)
 Vermont at No. 12 Boston College *
 No. 13 UMass Lowell at Providence *
 No. 7 Northeastern at Merrimack *

Saturday, January 12
 Boston University at Maine * (CN8)
 Merrimack at No. 7 Northeastern * (6pm)
 Providence at No. 13 UMass Lowell * (4pm)
 No. 5 Massachusetts at No. 8 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.	Northeastern	11	7	3	1	15	10-4-2	48 (3.00)	40 (2.50)
	New Hampshire	12	7	4	1	15	11-6-1	61 (3.38)	48 (2.66)
3.	Boston College	12	5	3	4	14	9-5-5	70 (3.68)	42 (2.21)
4.	Massachusetts	10	4	2	4	12	9-3-5	51 (3.00)	38 (2.26)
	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)
	Boston University	12	4	6	2	10	5-10-3	63 (3.50)	63 (3.50)
8.	Vermont	10	3	4	2	9	4-8-5	37 (2.25)	58 (3.41)
9.	Maine	11	3	6	2	8	7-9-2	41 (2.18)	54 (3.00)
10.	Merrimack	13	3	9	1	7	7-9-2	38 (2.11)	50 (2.77)

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

**The 24th ANNUAL HOCKEY EAST
 CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT**
MARCH 21-22, 2008 **Banknorth
 GARDEN**
TICKETS ARE ON-SALE NOW!!
by calling (617) 931-2000 and visiting
ticketmaster.com or the TD Banknorth
Garden Box Office