



MEN'S WEEKEND PREVIEW

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WEEKEND PREVIEW #15

NO. 8 EAGLES TRAVEL NORTH TO MAINE FOR TWO-GAME SERIES ~UMass hosts UVM for two; BU/UNH, NU/PC play home-and-home sets~

WAKEFIELD, MASS. - No. 8 Boston College and Maine, the league's two Frozen Four participants last season, will meet in a two-game set beginning on Friday night at Alford Arena in Orono, which will be televised live by NESN.

The Eagles (11-5-6, 7-3-5 HEA) will face the Black Bears for the second time this season, after they skated to a tie (1-1) on November 16 at Conte Forum. BC is undefeated with a 4-0-1 record in the last five meetings with Maine and the Eagles have scored four goals or more in those four victories. In the last six games at Alford Arena between the two teams, the Black Bears own a 4-2-0 record. Junior Nathan Gerbe (Oxford, Mich.) enters the game having scored a point in nine of his last 10 games with 27 points (13g,14a) during that time. Gerbe, who became the second active Hockey East player to notch his 100th collegiate point last Friday night, started the season with nine points in the first 12 games. Gerbe leads the nation scoring 1.71 points per game. Junior goaltender Ben Bishop (Des Peres, Mo.) registered his first shutout of the season last Saturday at Providence and he became the fifth goalie in the program's history to amass 50 career victories.

No. 7 New Hampshire (13-7-1, 9-4-1 HEA) will host Boston University (7-11-4, 6-6-3 HEA) to open the two-game match up on Friday night at the Whittemore Center and the Terriers will host the Wildcats on NESN Saturday night at Agganis Arena. BU has a 3-0-1 record in its last four meetings in Durham, while the Wildcats have never lost at Agganis Arena in five meetings with a 3-0-2 record, which includes the 4-1 win in the first meeting in the league opener for the two teams on October 19. The Terriers enter the game with a 4-1-1 record in their last six games. Freshman forward James vanRiemsdyk (Middletown, N.J.) has scored in each of his last three games, since returning from the World Juniors. He has posted five points (3g,2a) in those games, while World Junior linemate Colin Wilson (Winnipeg, Man.) of the Terriers has tallied seven points (2g,5a) in the four games since returning from the tournament.

Providence (9-9-2, 6-5-2 HEA) will faceoff against No. 11 Northeastern (11-6-3, 8-5-2 HEA) in a home-and-home set beginning on Friday night at Matthews Arena. The Friars own the seventh best power play in the nation, converting at 20.7% (17-82). The Huskies have the third ranked offense in league play, scoring 3.07 goals per game.

No. 14 Massachusetts (9-7-5, 4-6-4 HEA) will entertain the Vermont Catamounts for a weekend series at the Mullins Center. The Catamounts are coming off a three-point weekend vs. Northeastern, while UMass look to get back on track in the second meeting of the season series on Friday. UVM won the first meeting on November 20 (4-2) at Gutterson Fieldhouse.

In a key series that could significantly affect the Pairwise Rankings, No. 15 UMass-Lowell (11-6-4, 6-6-4 HEA) will host WCHA foe Minnesota-Duluth starting on Friday night at Tsongas Arena in Lowell. The River Hawks enter the weekend having won seven of its last nine games. They own a 8-2-1 record this season in 11 home games. Junior forward Mark Roebathan (St. John's, Nfld.) has tallied a career-high 11 goals this season for the River Hawks and he needs only one goal to match his goal output from his previous two seasons at UMass-Lowell.

Merrimack College will face Canisius in a single-game this weekend on Saturday night at Lawler Arena. Head Coach Mark Dennehy announced on Thursday that junior forward Rob Ricci (Brampton, Ont.) and sophomore Joe Loprieno (Bloomingdale, Ill.) have been named assistant captains for the remainder of the season.

HOCKEY EAST WEEKLY NOTES: Providence owns a 8-2-1 record on the season when they score at least three goals and they own a 7-1-1 record when they allow two goals or fewer. Five Hockey East players are within at least seven points of the 100 career point mark, including; Benn Ferriero (BC)- 98 pts., Matt Fornataro (UNH)- 97, Jon Rheault (PC)- 95, Bryan Ewing (BU)- 93 and Mike Radja (UNH)- 93. Among current active skaters, only Peter MacArthur (BU)- 130 and Nathan Gerbe (BC)- 101 that have accomplished that feat...BC's power play ranks first in the nation at 25.7%, while its offense is third best scoring 3.73 goals per game.

RECENT RESULTS

Tuesday, January 15
Dartmouth 3 at Boston University 2

Friday, January 18

No. 11 Boston College 5 at No. 15 UMass-Lowell 4 *
at Providence 3, No. 9 Massachusetts 2 *
No. 10 Northeastern 2 at Vermont 2 OT *
Boston University 6 at Merrimack 4 *

Saturday, January 19

at No. 15 UMass-Lowell 3, No. 9 Massachusetts 1 *
at Vermont 5, No. 10 Northeastern 2 *
Maine 4 at Providence 0 *
Boston University 2 at No. 11 Boston College 2 OT *
Dartmouth 5 vs. No. 5 New Hampshire 3
(at the Verizon Wireless Arena, Manchester, N.H.)

Sunday, January 20

Merrimack 4 at Brown 3

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, January 25

No. 8 Boston College at Maine (7:30pm, NESN) *
Providence at No. 11 Northeastern *
Vermont at No. 14 Massachusetts *
Boston University at No. 7 New Hampshire *
Minnesota-Duluth at No. 15 UMass-Lowell

Saturday, January 26

No. 7 New Hampshire at Boston University (7:30pm, NESN) *
No. 8 Boston College at Maine * (WABI-TV)
No. 11 Northeastern at Providence * (COX-TV)
Vermont at No. 14 Massachusetts *
Minnesota-Duluth at No. 15 UMass-Lowell
Canisius at Merrimack

* 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.	New Hampshire	14	9	4	1	19	13-7-1	72 (3.43)	58 (2.76)
	Boston College	15	7	3	5	19	11-5-6	82 (3.73)	50 (2.27)
3.	Northeastern	15	8	5	2	18	11-6-3	57 (2.85)	51 (2.55)
4.	UMass-Lowell	16	6	6	4	16	11-6-4	66 (3.14)	48 (2.29)
5.	Boston University	15	6	6	3	15	7-11-4	76 (3.45)	73 (3.32)
6.	Providence	13	6	5	2	14	9-9-2	59 (2.95)	56 (2.80)
7.	Vermont	13	4	5	4	12	5-9-6	46 (2.30)	67 (3.35)
	Massachusetts	14	4	6	4	12	9-7-5	59 (2.81)	52 (2.48)
9.	Maine	13	4	7	2	10	8-10-2	46 (2.30)	57 (2.85)
10.	Merrimack	16	4	11	1	9	9-11-2	50 (2.27)	64 (2.91)

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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