



MEN'S WEEKEND PREVIEW

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WEEKEND PREVIEW #16

UMASS AND NO. 14 NORTHEASTERN COLLIDE ON NESN FRIDAY NIGHT

~No. 13 PC and No. 9 BC meet Friday; No. 7 UNH travels to UVM for single~

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – Massachusetts (9-8-6, 4-7-5 HEA) and Northeastern (11-8-3, 8-7-2 HEA) will try to get back to their winning ways on Friday night at Matthews Arena in the first meeting of the season series, live on NESN (7:30).

The Minutemen are paced by freshman forward James Marcou (King Park, N.Y.), who has posted a team-leading 22 points (7g,15). He recorded his first career hat trick last Friday night in the loss to Vermont at the Mullins Center. UMass swept the season series last year, 3-0 and beat the Huskies by a combined score of 9 to 4. NU junior Joe Vitale (St. Louis, Mo.) has been the Huskies top scorer for the majority of the season with 24 points (7g,17a). UMass is 9-2-2 this season when it scores three or more goals.

The Minutemen will also host Maine on Saturday in their annual "White Out" Night, the first 1,000 fans at the game with get a free t-shirt. Black Bears senior defenseman Bret Tyler (Maynard, Mass.) posted six points in the month of January (2g,4a) and was recently named an assistant captain by the coaching staff.

No. 13 Providence (11-9-2, 8-5-2 HEA) looks to keep up its strong play at No. 9 Boston College on Friday night at Conte Forum. It marks the first time since February 20, 2006 that PC has been ranked nationally. Senior goaltender Tyler Sims (Fort Wayne, Ind.) has been the backbone of the team as of late. Sims has allowed three or less goals in all of his last six starts. The Eagles went 4-1-2 in month of January and have been led by junior forward Nathan Gerbe (Oxford, Mich.). Gerbe's 1.61 points per game is the best in the nation and his 19 goals are third most in the nation.

The No. 7 New Hampshire Wildcats, the highest nationally ranked team in the league, will play a single-game this Friday at Vermont on CSTV (8 p.m.). UNH has won six straight in Hockey East play, by a combined score of 20-10. In the first six meetings of between the two teams with Vermont as a member of Hockey East, the Wildcats are 4-0-2 against the Catamounts, including a season sweep last year. The Catamounts are 2-0-2 in their last four games, after taking three points in each of the last two weekends of league play against Northeastern and most recently UMass.

Boston University will host Merrimack for a single game on Friday night at Agganis Arena. The Warriors finished off their non-conference schedule last weekend with a perfect 6-0-1 record and outscored those opponents, 23 to 11. BU has won the first two meetings of the season, scoring 11 goals in those two games. Sophomore Andrew Braithwaite (Kingston, Ont.) has started six straight games and boasts a 2.33 GAA and a .915 save percentage for Merrimack. The Terriers have two of the top five scorers in the league on their roster, with seniors Pete MacArthur (Clifton Park, N.Y.) and Bryan Ewing (Plymouth, Mass.). Ewing has registered a career-high 30 points (14g,16a) in his senior campaign, while MacArthur has amassed 29 points (10g,19a).

The River Hawks (11-8-4, 6-6-4 HEA) will host Maine on Friday night at Tsongas Arena and then on Sunday afternoon they will travel to Gutterson Fieldhouse for a single contest with Vermont on ESPNU. UMass-Lowell lost a pair of games last weekend, but before that series, UML had won seven of nine games, which included four league games. Sophomore goalie Carter Hutton's (Thunder Bay, Ont.) 1.86 GAA ranks seventh in the nation.

HOCKEY EAST WEEKLY NOTES: BC freshman goalie John Muse is the only goaltender in the league to start in every game for his team this season. Muse owns a 12-5-7 record in 24 starts (2.27 GAA, .919 save%). Senior net-minder Kevin Regan is 6-0-0 in his last six league starts with a 1.75 GAA and a .950 save percentage. Regan became the Wildcats all-time leader in career victories with 59 last Friday night vs. BU...Vermont's trio of Viktor Stalberg, Brian Roloff and Wahsontio Stacey has combined 14 points (7g,7a) in the last four games since being united on the team's third line.

RECENT RESULTS

Friday, January 25

Providence 5 at No. 11 Northeastern 1 *
Vermont 5 at No. 14 Massachusetts 4 *
at No. 7 New Hampshire 4, Boston University 2 *
No. 8 Boston College 3 at Maine 3 OT *
Minnesota-Duluth 1 at No. 15 UMass-Lowell 0

Saturday, January 26

No. 7 New Hampshire 5 at Boston University 3 *
No. 8 Boston College 4 at Maine 2 *
at Providence 5, No. 11 Northeastern 2 *
Vermont 2 at No. 14 Massachusetts 2 OT *
Minnesota-Duluth 4 at No. 15 UMass-Lowell 1
at Merrimack 4, Canisius 0

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, February 1

Massachusetts at No. 14 Northeastern (7:30pm, NESN) *
Maine at UMass-Lowell *
No. 13 Providence at No. 9 Boston College *
Merrimack at Boston University *
No. 7 New Hampshire at Vermont (8 pm, CSTV) *

Saturday, February 2

Maine at Massachusetts *
No. 13 Providence at Merrimack *

Sunday, February 3

UMass-Lowell at Vermont (4pm, ESPNU) *

* Hockey East game

All Games Eastern Standard Time (EST)

(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	16	11	4	1	23	15-7-1	81 (3.52)	63 (2.74)
2.	Boston College	17	8	3	6	22	12-5-7	89 (3.71)	55 (2.29)
3.	Providence	15	8	5	2	18	11-9-2	69 (3.14)	59 (2.68)
	Northeastern	17	8	7	2	18	11-8-3	60 (2.73)	61 (2.77)
5.	UMass-Lowell	16	6	6	4	16	11-8-4	67 (2.91)	53 (2.30)
6.	Vermont	15	5	5	5	15	6-9-7	53 (2.41)	73 (3.32)
	Boston University	17	6	8	3	15	7-13-4	81 (3.38)	82 (3.42)
8.	Massachusetts	16	4	7	5	13	9-8-6	65 (2.83)	59 (2.57)
9.	Maine	15	4	8	3	11	8-11-3	51 (2.32)	64 (2.91)
10.	Merrimack	16	4	11	1	9	10-11-2	54 (2.38)	64 (2.78)

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