



MEN'S WEEKEND PREVIEW

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WEEKEND PREVIEW #19

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NO. 3 UNH AND NO. 7 BC CLASH ON NESN STARTING FRIDAY NIGHT ~One point separates four teams heading into weekend~

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – No. 3 New Hampshire (19-7-2, 15-4-2 HEA) and No. 7 Boston College (16-7-7, 10-5-6 HEA) will complete their season series in a huge match up this weekend, beginning on Friday night at Conte Forum televised live on NESN.

The Wildcats, who are unbeaten in their last 11 league games (10-0-1), have a chance to clinch at least a share regular-season title with a weekend sweep of the second-place Eagles. UNH will also lock up the first home ice spot in the Hockey East quarterfinals with two victories, marking the 12th straight season they will have accomplished that feat. The Eagles enter the game with a 8-2-2 record in their last 12 games. BC is led by junior forward Nathan Gerbe (Oxford, Mich.), who currently leads the nation at 1.52 points per game. Gerbe's 27 points (12g, 15a) in Hockey East play is tied for the league's best mark, along with Bryan Ewing on Boston University. In the last 10 meetings between the two teams, Boston College owns a 6-3-1 record vs. the Wildcats. UNH won the first meeting of the season series back on November 10, a 5-2 triumph at the Whittemore Center. Senior Kevin Regan (South Boston, Mass.) has posted a 10-0-1 record in his last 11 league starts with a 1.63 GAA and a .952 save percentage during that time.

Boston University (12-14-4, 10-8-3 HEA) and Northeastern (14-11-3, 11-8-2, HEA) start a key home-and-home series, which starts on Friday night at Matthews Arena. The Terriers need to earn one point in their series or Maine to lose a point in its series, to clinch a playoff spot. BU has won five of its last six games, which included a series sweep of Maine last weekend at Agganis Arena. Sophomore goalie Brett Bennett (Williamsville, N.Y.) has registered a 0.99 GAA and a .951 save percentage in his last four starts in net for the Terriers. BU is 7-2-2 in its last 11 games. NU owns a 10-0-3 record this season when sophomore Brad Thiessen (Aldergrove, B.C.) allows less than two goals or less.

UMass-Lowell (13-11-4, 8-9-4 HEA) and Vermont (10-11-7, 9-7-5 HEA) are separated by only three points in the league standings. The Catamounts can also clinch a playoff berth with one point in the series vs. the River Hawks or if Maine loses a point in its series against Massachusetts. Sophomore forward Viktor Stalberg (Gothenburg, Sweden) has been one of the hottest league players as of late, posting a point in nine of his last 10 games with 12 points (6g, 6a) in that span. Sophomore Barry Goers (Ivlyland, Pa.) ranks second in the league among blueliners with 13 points in league contests.

The Friars (13-11-4, 10-7-4 HEA) and Merrimack will begin their two-game set on Saturday night at Schneider Arena. The last time Providence hosted a quarterfinal series at home was in the spring of 2003. PC owns a 6-3-1 record in its last 10 games against the Warriors. Merrimack and Providence met for the 100th time in the all-time series history in their first match up of the season series. Friars senior captain Jon Rheault (Deering, N.H.) has amassed 14 points (6g, 8a) in 11 career games vs. Merrimack. Sophomore netminder Andrew Brathwaite (Kingston, Ont.) has a .915 save percentage, a 2.41 goals-against and one shutout in 12 straight starts for the Warriors. Merrimack has killed off 35 of the last 38 power play opportunities (92.1%) by its opponent dating back to January 26, a span of six games.

Massachusetts and Maine will skate in the opener of their two-game series on Friday night at Alford Arena. The Minutemen own a 11-2-2 record this season when they score three or more goals. UMass won the first meeting of the season series, 5-3, at the Mullins Center on February 2. Junior Ben Bishop (Des Peres, Mo.) has started 27 of 28 games this year for Maine.

HOCKEY EAST WEEKLY NOTES:

UNH senior goalie Kevin Regan has compiled 46 career Hockey East wins, he is just one win shy of tying Bruce Racine (84-88) of Northeastern for second on the all-time list. BC's Scott Clemmensen (97-01) holds the league record with 52 victories...PC junior Matt Taormina leads the league among defensemen in points scored with 18. Freshman forward James Marcou leads UMass in scoring with 27 points, he is the only league rookie to lead his team in scoring.

RECENT RESULTS

Friday, February 15
 at Boston University 2, Maine 1 OT *
 at No. 15 Northeastern 2, Massachusetts 1 *
 at Vermont 4, Merrimack 1 *
 UMass Lowell 3 at No. 7 Boston College 1 *
 No. 4 New Hampshire 1 at No. 14 Providence 1 OT *

Saturday, February 16
 at Boston University 1, Maine 0 OT *
 at No. 4 New Hampshire 4, No. 14 Providence 3 *
 at Vermont 2, Merrimack 1 *
 No. 7 Boston College 5 at UMass Lowell 2 *
 at Massachusetts 3, No. 15 Northeastern 1 *

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, February 22
 Boston University at Northeastern *
 No. 14 Providence at Merrimack *
 No. 3 New Hampshire at No. 7 Boston College (7:30pm, NESN) *
 Vermont at UMass-Lowell *

Saturday, February 23
 Vermont at UMass-Lowell *
 Massachusetts at Maine * (WABI-TV)
 No. 7 Boston College at No. 3 New Hampshire * (NHPTV)
 Northeastern at Boston University *
 Merrimack at No. 14 Providence *

Sunday, February 24
 Massachusetts at Maine (4pm, ESPN) *

* 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 *	21	15	4	2	32	19-7-2	98 (3.50)	71 (2.54)
2.	Boston College *	21	10	5	6	26	16-7-7	111 (3.70)	72 (2.40)
3.	Northeastern *	21	11	8	2	24	14-11-3	73 (2.61)	75 (2.68)
	Providence *	21	10	7	4	24	13-11-4	82 (2.93)	72 (2.57)
5.	Boston University	21	10	8	3	23	12-14-4	102 (3.40)	94 (3.13)
	Vermont	21	9	7	5	23	10-11-7	68 (2.43)	87 (3.11)
7.	UMass-Lowell	21	8	9	4	20	13-11-4	79 (2.82)	70 (2.50)
8.	Massachusetts	21	6	10	5	17	11-11-6	75 (2.79)	70 (2.50)
9.	Maine	21	4	14	3	11	8-17-3	60 (2.14)	92 (3.29)
10.	Merrimack	21	4	15	2	10	10-15-3	60 (2.14)	79 (2.82)

* clinched playoff berth

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