



MEN'S WEEKEND PREVIEW

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WEEKEND PREVIEW #20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2008

MAINE AND VERMONT SQUARE OFF ON NESN SATURDAY

~Three home ice spots up for grabs; two playoff berths left for four teams~

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – Maine and Vermont (12-11-7, 11-7-5 HEA) will re-unite for a weekend series at Gutterson Fieldhouse beginning on Friday night. Both teams are fighting for positions in the Hockey East playoffs and conclude their series on Saturday night live on NESN from Burlington.

The Catamounts have won six of their last seven contests, with six of those game being one-goal games. Senior netminder Joe Fallon (Bemidji, Minn.) is 7-1-1 in his last nine games with a 1.64 GAA and .939 save percentage for the Catamounts. The Black Bears are two points out of the final playoff spot chasing Massachusetts, who they swept last weekend at Alford Arena. In the first meeting of the season series, the teams skated to a 5-5 tie on November 25 in Orono. Senior forward Wes Clark (Oakville, Ont.) finally took over the scoring lead on the Maine roster with 19 points (9g,10a), after he scored the overtime game-winner with 2:04 left on Sunday in the 5-4 triumph.

Boston University (14-14-4, 12-8- HEA) and Massachusetts will also square off in a weekend home-and-home set, starting on Friday night at BU's Agganis Arena. The Terriers, who are on a nation's best six game win streak, have catapulted into a tie for second place along with Vermont, while the Minutemen are fighting to secure a playoff spot. UMass won the previous meeting this season, 5-3 on November 9, which marked its first win ever at Agganis Arena in seven tries. Senior forward Bryan Ewing (Plymouth, Mass.), who leads Hockey East with 32 points (13g,19a) in league play, has five points (3g,2a) in his last two games for the Terriers. BU, BC and UNH currently sit in a three-way tie ranking third in the nation in scoring with 3.50 goals per game.

Providence (13-13-4, 10-9-4 HEA) and No. 8 Boston College (16-9-7, 10-7-6 HEA) are separated by two points in the league standings. They face off in a home-and-home series, beginning on Friday night at Conte Forum and concluding on Saturday night at Schneider Arena. The Friars came out on top, 3-2, in the first meeting between the team on February 1 in Chestnut Hill.

No. 2 New Hampshire (21-7-2, 17-4-2 HEA) and Merrimack College will play a two-game home-and-home set, which begins Friday night in Durham at the Whittemore Center. Merrimack is coming off a weekend sweep of Providence, while UNH comes into the series with two wins against BC last weekend. Sophomore goaltender Andrew Braithwaite (Kingston, Ont.) has been a rock for the Warriors, starting the last 14 games in net. He has posted six wins with a 2.21 GAA and .929 save percentage. He has allowed two goals or less in eight of those 14 starts. During UNH's current nine game unbeaten streak (8-0-1), the first line of Mike Radja (Yorkville, Ill.), Matt Fornataro (Calgary, Alb.) and Danny Dries (Lake Orion, Mich.) have combined for 45 points (18g,27a). UNH senior goalie Kevin Regan (South Boston, Mass.) ranks second in the nation with a .933 save percentage and his 78% winning percentage is fourth best among Division I goalies.

Northeastern (14-13-3, 11-10-2 HEA) and UMass-Lowell (13-13-4, 8-11-4 HEA) will tangle for a weekend set with the series opener on Friday night at Tsongas Arena. Four points separate the two teams in the league standings with four games left to play. Junior captain Joe Vitale (St. Louis, Mo.) scored his 30th point last Friday night, he became the first Husky to accomplish that feat since Jason Guerriero and Mike Morris in the 2004-05 season. Last weekend, River Hawks freshman forward Scott Campbell (Navan, Ont.) won 71% of his faceoffs in the Vermont series.

HOCKEY EAST WEEKLY NOTES: Four Hockey East players have been named as participants for the third annual NCAA Frozen Four Skills Challenge. Mike Brennan (BC), Pete MacArthur (BU), Kevin Regan (UNH), Jon Rheault (PC) will compete on Friday, April 11 at the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colo., as part of the Frozen Four weekend... PC junior defenseman Matt Taormina ranks fourth in the nation among blueliners, scoring 0.80 points per game...BU senior forward Bryan Ewing became the 74th player in school history to score 100 career points.

RECENT RESULTS

Friday, February 22

Boston University 7 at Northeastern 4 *
 at Merrimack 2, No. 14 Providence 0 *
 No. 3 New Hampshire 2 at No. 7 Boston College 0 *
 Vermont 3 at UMass-Lowell 2 *

Saturday, February 23

Vermont 1 at UMass-Lowell 0 *
 at Maine 3, Massachusetts 2 *
 at No. 3 New Hampshire 5, No. 7 Boston College 1 *
 at Boston University 3, Northeastern 2 *
 Merrimack 3 at No. 14 Providence 2 *

Sunday, February 24

at Maine 5, Massachusetts 4 OT *

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, February 29

Massachusetts at Boston University *
 Maine at Vermont (7:30pm) *
 Northeastern at UMass-Lowell (7pm) *
 Merrimack at No. 2 New Hampshire *
 Providence at No. 8 Boston College *

Saturday, March 1

No. 8 Boston College at Providence *
 Maine at Vermont (7:30, NESN) *
 Boston University at Massachusetts (CN8) *
 UMass-Lowell at Northeastern (8pm) *
 No. 2 New Hampshire at Merrimack *

* 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 * !	23	17	4	2	36	21-7-2	105 (3.50)	72 (2.40)
2.	Boston University *	23	12	8	3	27	14-14-4	112 (3.50)	100 (3.13)
	Vermont *	23	11	7	5	27	12-11-7	72 (2.40)	89 (2.97)
4.	Boston College *	23	10	7	6	26	16-9-7	112 (3.50)	79 (2.47)
5.	Northeastern *	23	11	10	2	24	14-13-3	79 (2.63)	85 (2.83)
	Providence *	23	10	9	4	24	13-13-4	84 (2.80)	77 (2.57)
7.	UMass-Lowell	23	8	11	4	20	13-13-4	81 (2.70)	74 (2.47)
8.	Massachusetts	23	6	12	5	17	11-13-6	81 (2.70)	78 (2.60)
9.	Maine	23	6	14	3	15	10-17-3	68 (2.27)	88 (2.93)
10.	Merrimack	23	6	15	2	14	12-15-3	65 (2.17)	81 (2.70)

* clinched playoff berth; ! clinched home ice and top seed

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MEN'S PLAYOFF PICTURE

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Rk.	Team	GP	Record	Pts.	Max	PF	Games Remaining
1.	New Hampshire* #	23	17-4-2	36	44	1	vs. MC, at MC, vs. UVM (2)
2.	Boston University*	23	12-8-3	27	35	2-8	vs. UMass, at UMass, at PC, vs. PC
	Vermont*	23	11-7-5	27	35	2-8	vs. ME (2), at UNH (2)
4.	Boston College*	23	10-7-6	26	34	2-8	vs. PC, at PC, vs. NU, at NU
5.	Northeastern*	23	11-10-2	24	32	2-8	at UML, vs. UML, at BC, vs. BC
	Providence*	23	10-9-4	24	32	2-8	at BC, vs. BC, vs. BU, at BU
7.	UMass-Lowell	23	8-11-4	20	28	3-10	vs. NU, at NU, at ME (2)
8.	Massachusetts	23	6-12-5	17	25	5-10	at BU, vs. BU, vs. MC, at MC
9.	Maine	23	6-14-3	15	23	7-10	at UVM (2), vs. UML (2)
10.	Merrimack	23	6-15-2	14	22	7-10	at UNH, vs. UNH, at UMass, vs. UMass

* clinched playoff berth; # clinched home ice and top seed

TIEBREAKERS:

If two teams finish with the same number of points in the standings, the following tiebreakers will be used, in this order, to determine seeding:

1. Head-to-head results between the tied teams
2. Number of wins in conference play
3. Best record against the first-place team(s), then the second-place team(s), then the third-place team(s), etc.
4. Coin flip

If more than two teams finish in a tie, the same criteria will be applied to reduce the number of teams tied, and then the process will commence again.

POTENTIAL TIEBREAKER SCENARIOS:

- BU and Vermont tied, 1-1-1
- BU wins vs. UMass, 2-1-0
- BU wins vs. UML, 2-1-0
- BU wins vs. NU, 2-0-1
- BU leads vs. PC, 1-0 (teams play series in the final weekend)
- BC wins vs. BU, 2-0-1
- BC wins vs. UML, 2-1-0
- BC wins vs. Vermont, 2-0-1
- Maine wins vs. UMass, 2-1-0
- UMass leads Merrimack, 1-0-0 (teams play series in the final weekend)
- UML leads series with Maine, 1-0-0 (teams play series in the final weekend)
- UML wins vs. UMass, 1-0-2
- UML wins series vs. Merrimack, 2-1-0
- Merrimack wins vs. Maine, 2-1-0
- NU leads BC, 1-0-0 (teams play series in the final weekend)
- NU leads UML, 1-0 (teams play series this weekend)
- PC leads BC, 1-0-0 (teams play series this weekend)
- PC wins vs. UMass, 2-0-1
- PC and UML tied, 1-1-1
- PC wins vs. NU, 2-1-0
- PC wins vs. UVM, 2-1-0
- UVM wins vs. UML, 3-0-0
- UVM and NU tied, 1-1-1

Multiple-team tiebreakers to be determined.

2007-2008 HOCKEY EAST REGULAR-SEASON SUPERLATIVES

SHUTOUTS

Date	Goalie	Team	Opp.	Svs	Result
10/19/08	John Muse	BC	North Dakota	28	T, 0-0 OT
11/10/07	Tyler Sims	PC	at Maine	22	W, 1-0
11/20/07	Carter Hutton	UML	at Merrimack	22	W, 3-0
11/30/07	Paul Dainton	UMass	at Cornell	24	T, 0-0 OT
12/1/07	Tyler Sims	PC	at Vermont	20	W, 4-0
12/4/07	Tyler Sims	PC	Brown	18	W, 8-0
12/16/07	Kevin Regan	UNH	Maine	33	W, 2-0
12/29/07	Carter Hutton	UML	Maine	31	W, 6-0
12/30/07	John Muse !	BC	RIT	24	W, 6-0
1/4/08	Kevin Regan	UNH	Merrimack	34	W, 1-0
1/12/08	Brad Thiessen	NU	Merrimack	22	W, 3-0
1/19/08	Ben Bishop	Maine	at Providence	45	W, 4-0
1/26/08	Andrew Braithwaite	Merrimack	Canisius	18	W, 4-0
2/1/08	Brad Thiessen	NU	UMass	22	W, 1-0
2/16/08	Brett Bennett	BU	Maine	17	W, 1-0
2/22/08	Kevin Regan	UNH	BC	28	W, 2-0
2/22/08	Andrew Braithwaite	MC	PC	42	W, 2-0
2/23/08	Joe Fallon	UVM	UMass-Lowell	16	W, 1-0

40+ SAVES

Date	Goalie	Team	Opp.	Svs	Result
10/13/07	Ben Bishop	Maine	at Denver	46	L, 3-1
11/9/07	Patrick Watson	Merrimack	at BC	41	T, 3-3
11/17/07	Brian Foster	UNH	at PC	41	W, 5-4 OT
12/1/07	John Muse	BC	at BU	41	W, 4-3
12/29/07	Kevin Regan	UNH	at N. Dakota	40	W, 7-4
1/12/08	Nevin Hamilton	UML	PC	45	W, 3-2 OT
1/19/08	Ben Bishop	Maine	PC	41	W, 4-0
2/2/08	Andrew Braithwaite	Merrimack	PC	50	T, 1-1
2/2/08	Ben Bishop	Maine	at UMass	49	L, 3-5
2/11/08	Brad Thiessen	NU (BP)	vs. BU	40	L, 4-5
2/15/08	Kevin Regan	UNH	at PC	52	T, 1-1 OT
2/22/08	Andrew Braithwaite	Merrimack	PC	42	W, 2-0
2/23/08	Andrew Braithwaite	Merrimack	PC	47	W, 3-2

INDIVIDUAL HIGHS

Goals:	4	Nathan Gerbe, BC, 12/12/07 vs. Harvard
Assists:	4	Matt Fornataro, UNH, 11/24/07 vs. Brown Pete MacArthur, BU, 11/16/07 at Vermont Joe Whitney, BC, 12/12/07 at Harvard
Points:	5	Nathan Gerbe, BC, 12/12/07 at Harvard Benn Ferriero, BC, 12/12/07 at Harvard Matt Taormina, PC, 11/9/07 at Maine
Point Streak:	9	Nathan Gerbe, BC (11/20 to 1/18) Mark Roebbothan, UML, (11/24 to 1/12)
In league play:	9	Ben Smith, BC (11/9 to 12/1)
Saves:	52	Kevin Regan, UNH, 2/15/08 at Providence

TEAM HIGHS

Goals:	9	Boston U., 11/16/07 at Vermont
In league play:	9	Boston U., 11/16/07 at Vermont
Shots on Goal:	57	New Hampshire, 1/19/08 vs. Dartmouth
Consecutive Wins:	9	New Hampshire (11/12/06 to 12/8/06)
In league play:	9	New Hampshire (12/16/07 to 2/9/08)
Unbeaten Streak:	12	New Hampshire (11/3/06 to 12/8/06)
In league play:	14	New Hampshire (11/3/06 to 1/19/07)

100-POINT SCORERS (THIS SEASON)

Matt Fornataro, UNH	1/26/08 at Boston U.
Nathan Gerbe, BC	1/18/08 at UMass-Lowell
Benn Ferriero, BC	2/4/08 vs. Boston U. (BP)
Mike Radja, UNH	2/8/08 at Maine
Jon Rheault, PC	2/9/08 vs. Vermont
Bryan Ewing, BU	2/23/08 vs. Northeastern

HAT TRICKS

Date	Player	Team	Opponent	Result
11/17/07	Paul Thompson !	UNH	at Providence	W, 5-4 OT
11/24/07	Mark Roebbothan	UML	Merrimack	W, 6-2
11/24/07	Mike Radja	UNH	Brown U.	W, 5-2
11/30/07	Nathan Gerbe	BC	Boston U.	W, 6-2
12/1/07	Ben Smith	BC	at Boston U.	W, 4-3
12/8/07	Matt Duffy	Maine	Merrimack	W, 3-1
12/12/07	Nathan Gerbe (4)	BC	at Harvard	W, 7-2
1/25/08	James Marcou !	UMass	Vermont	L, 4-5
2/8/08	Mike Radja	UNH	at Maine	W, 3-2

OVERTIME GOALS

Date	Player	Team	Opponent	Result
10/19/07	Chris Donovan	NU	Providence	W, 3-2
11/17/07	Paul Thompson	UNH	at Providence	W, 5-4
11/23/07	Jimmy Russo	NU	at Boston College	W, 4-3
12/15/07	Jack Downing	UVM	St. Lawrence	W, 4-3
12/30/07	Matt Burto	UMass	Colorado College	W, 5-4
1/11/08	Jon Rheault	PC	Lowell	W, 4-3
1/12/08	Scott Campbell	UML	Providence	W, 3-2
2/4/08	Nathan Gerbe	BC	vs. Boston U. (BP)	W, 4-3
2/9/08	Jon Rheault	PC	vs. Vermont	W, 4-3
2/11/08	Nick Petrecki	BC	vs. Harvard (BP)	W, 6-5
2/15/08	Luke Popko	BU	vs. Maine	W, 2-1
2/16/08	Colin Wilson	BU	vs. Maine	W, 1-0
2/24/08	Wes Clark	Maine	vs. Massachusetts	W, 5-4

THE LAST TIME

A player had four goals:
Nathan Gerbe, BC, 12/12/07 at Harvard

A rookie had a hat trick:
James Marcou, UMass, 1/25/08 vs. Vermont
In league play: James Marcou, UMass, 1/25/08 vs. Vermont

A defenseman had a hat trick:
Marvin Degon, UMass, 1/7/06 at Merrimack

A goaltender recorded 50 saves:
Andrew Braithwaite, Merrimack, 2/2/08 vs. Providence
In league play: Andrew Braithwaite, Merrimack, 2/2/08 vs. PC (50 saves)

A team won five games in a row:
Boston College, 11/30/07 to 12/30/07, 5 in a row
UMass-Lowell, 12/1/07 to 12/29/07, 5 in a row
In league play: New Hampshire, 12/16/07 to 2/9/08, 9 in a row

A team won 10 games in a row:
Boston University, 1/7/06 to 2/13/06, 11 in a row
In league play: New Hampshire, 11/12/06 to 1/19/07, 11 in a row

A team was unbeaten in 10 straight games:
Northeastern, 11/3/07 to 1/4/08, 9-0-2, 11 games
In league play: New Hampshire, 12/16/07 to present, 14 games (13-0-1)

A team recorded 50 shots-on-goal:
Providence, 2/15/08 vs. New Hampshire (53 shots)
In league play: Providence, 2/15/08 vs. New Hampshire (53 shots)

* - defenseman ! - rookie

* neutral site game