



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

WEEKEND PREVIEW #21

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008

ONE PLAYOFF SPOT UP FOR GRABS FOR THREE TEAMS IN FINAL WEEKEND ~Three home ice spots remain for the taking; BU/PC open Thursday night~

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – Boston University (15-15-4, 13-9-3 HEA) and No. 15 Providence College (14-13-5, 11-9-5 HEA) are separated by only two points in the league standings and they will open a home-and-home series on Thursday night at Schneider Arena in Providence to begin the final weekend of play in the Hockey East regular-season.

If the Terriers can take two points in their series with Providence, they can clinch home ice for the quarterfinal round of the Hockey East playoffs. Freshman forwards Colin Wilson (Winnipeg, Man.) and Nick Bonino (Unionville, Conn.) each recorded 10-point months in February for the Terriers. The Friars are coming off a three-point weekend vs. BC, while BU split its series with Massachusetts. In the only previous meeting this year, the Terriers won a 5-2 decision at Schneider Arena on November 1.

No. 3 New Hampshire (22-7-3, 18-4-3 HEA) and second-place Vermont (13-12-7, 12-8-5 HEA) end the regular-season series with a two-game match up at the Whittemore Center in Durham, N.H., beginning on Friday night. UNH brings a 11-game (9-0-2) unbeaten streak into the weekend series with the Catamounts, along with its 15-game (13-0-2) unbeaten streak in league play. Senior goalie Kevin Regan (South Boston, Mass.) owns a 5-0-2 record in seven career starts vs. UVM for the Wildcats with a 1.43 GAA and a .941 save percentage. Regan's .933 career save percentage in conference play ranks first all-time in the league record book. He is opposed by UVM senior goalie Joe Fallon (Bemidji, Minn.) went 7-1-0 in the month of February in eight starts with a 1.36 GAA and a .943 save percentage. The Catamounts own a 9-3-2 record in their last 14 contests.

The Maine Black Bears will host UMass-Lowell (15-13-4, 10-11-4 HEA) for a two-game finale at Alford Arena beginning on Friday night in Orono, as they battle for their playoff lives. The River Hawks are coming off a weekend sweep of Northeastern, while Maine most recently split a series with the Catamounts in Burlington, Vt. UML's line of Scott Campbell (Navan, Ont.), Mike Potacco (Kinnelon, N.J.) and Mark Roebathan (St. John's, Nfld.) combined for seven points (4g, 3a) in the weekend sweep of Northeastern. UMass-Lowell won its two previous meetings against Maine, they outscored them by a score of 9 to 2, which included a 6-0 shutout in the Florida College Classic on December 29.

The Massachusetts and Merrimack two-game set will also provide the playoff picture with a clearer view, as the teams square off beginning on Friday night at the Mullins Center. The Minutemen will try to hold on to their slim two-point lead in eighth place with 19 points. If Merrimack can sweep the series and if Maine loses two points in the Lowell series, then the Warriors would clinch their first playoff berth since the 2003-04 season. In 16 straight starts, Merrimack sophomore goalie Andrew Braithwaite (Kingston, Ont.) has a 2.11 GAA, a .933 save percentage and two shutouts. Braithwaite has stopped 161 of 166 shots in the last four games. The Minutemen downed Merrimack, 5-1, in the series opener on November 3.

No. 9 Boston College (16-10-8, 10-8-7 HEA) and Northeastern will face off in a weekend set beginning on Friday night at Conte Forum. The Eagles are one of four teams battling for the final three home ice playoff slots. The Huskies won a 4-3 overtime thriller vs. BC on November 23 at Conte Forum. Eagles' forward Joe Whitney (Reading, Mass.) has registered 41 points (7g, 34a) in his freshman campaign. Whitney ranks third on BC's all-time freshman assist list, trailing only Brian Leetch (38) and Ken Hodge (44).

HOCKEY EAST WEEKLY NOTES:

Hockey East will hold its first playoff media teleconference beginning at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 11th with the eight league coaches that qualify for the quarterfinal round. More information to follow by email...Former UNH Wildcat Trevor Smith was named AHL Rookie of the Month for February with 15 points (8g, 7a) in 13 games in the month...BU senior forward Bryan Ewing (Plymouth, Mass.) and NU's Joe Vitale (St. Louis, Mo.) lead the league in point scoring with 32 points in league play.

RECENT RESULTS

Friday, February 29

at Boston University 3, Massachusetts 0 *
 at Vermont 2, Maine 0 *
 at UMass-Lowell 5, Northeastern 4 OT *
 at No. 2 New Hampshire 2, Merrimack 1 *
 Providence 3 at No. 8 Boston College 2 *

Saturday, March 1

Maine 3 at Vermont 0 *
 at Massachusetts 5, Boston University 1 *
 UMass-Lowell 3 at Northeastern 2 *
 No. 2 New Hampshire 1 at Merrimack 1 OT *
 No. 8 Boston College 2 at Providence 2 OT *

UPCOMING GAMES

Thursday, March 6

Boston University at No. 15 Providence *

Friday, March 7

Northeastern at No. 9 Boston College *
 Vermont at No. 3 New Hampshire * (8pm, CSTV)
 UMass Lowell at Maine *
 Merrimack at Massachusetts *
 No. 15 Providence at Boston University * (7:30pm, NESN)

Saturday, March 8

Vermont at No. 3 New Hampshire * (NHPTV)
 UMass Lowell at Maine * (WABI-TV)
 No. 9 Boston College at Northeastern *
 Massachusetts 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 * !	25	18	4	3	39	22-7-3	108 (3.38)	74 (2.31)
2.	Boston University *	25	13	9	3	29	15-15-4	116 (3.41)	105 (3.09)
	Vermont *	25	12	8	5	29	13-12-7	74 (2.31)	92 (2.88)
4.	Providence *	25	11	9	5	27	14-13-5	89 (2.78)	81 (2.53)
	Boston College *	25	10	8	7	27	16-10-8	116 (3.41)	84 (2.47)
6.	UMass-Lowell *	25	10	11	4	24	15-13-4	89 (2.78)	80 (2.50)
	Northeastern *	25	11	12	2	24	14-15-3	95 (2.66)	93 (2.91)
8.	Massachusetts	25	7	13	5	19	12-14-6	86 (2.69)	82 (2.56)
9.	Maine	25	7	5	3	17	11-18-3	71 (2.22)	90 (2.81)
10.	Merrimack	25	6	16	3	15	12-16-4	67 (2.09)	84 (2.62)

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

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MEN'S PLAYOFF PICTURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008

Rk.	Team	GP	Record	Pts.	Max	PF	Games Remaining
1.	New Hampshire # !	25	18-4-3	39	43	1	vs. UVM (2)
2.	Boston University *	25	13-9-3	29	33	2-5	at PC, vs. PC
	Vermont *	25	12-8-5	29	33	2-5	at UNH (2)
4.	Boston College *	25	10-8-7	27	31	2-7	vs. NU, at NU
	Providence *	25	11-9-5	27	31	2-7	vs. BU, at BU
6.	UMass-Lowell *	25	10-11-4	24	28	4-7	at ME (2)
	Northeastern *	25	11-12-2	24	28	4-7	at BC, vs. BC
8.	Massachusetts	25	7-13-5	19	23	8-10	vs. MC, at MC
9.	Maine	25	7-15-3	17	21	8-10	vs. UML (2)
10.	Merrimack	25	6-16-3	15	19	8-10	at UMass, vs. UMass

* clinched playoff berth; # clinched home ice; ! clinched regular season title

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.

Three-way scenarios:

Three-way tie of BC-BU-PC (Seeding would be PC-BC-BU)
 BU has worst record in 3-way
 PC beats BC based on head-to-head

Three-way tie of BC-BU-UVM (Seeding would be BC-BU-UVM)
 BU and UVM share worst record in 3-way (so BC gets top seed)
 BU beats UVM based on number of wins (head-to-head tied)
 UNLESS BU and UVM finish with identical records, which would give UVM the higher seed over BU based on wins vs. top seed UNH

Three-way tie of BC-PC-UVM (Seeding would be PC-BC-UVM)
 UVM has worst record in 3-way
 PC beats BC based on head-to-head

Three-way tie of BU-PC-UVM (Seeding would be BU-PC-UVM)
 UVM has worst record in 3-way
 BU beats PC based on number of wins

Three-way tie of BC-UML-PC (Seeding would be PC-BC-UML)
 BC and UML share worst record in 3-way (so PC gets top seed)
 BC beats UML based on head-to-head

POTENTIAL TIEBREAKER SCENARIOS:

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

* Please note BC and NU cannot finish in a tie.

Three-way scenarios (CONT.):

Three-way tie of UML-NU-PC (Seeding would be UML-PC-NU)
 NU has worst record in 3-way
 UML beats PC based either on number of wins or record vs. UNH (head-to-head tied)

Three-way tie of ME-UMA-MC
 Merrimack wins the No. 8 seed with favorable head-to-head tiebreaks vs. both other teams.
 Merrimack needs two victories and needs Maine to finish with 19 points or less.

The only four-way tie possible:

Four-way tie of BC-BU-PC-UVM (Seeding would be PC-BC-BU-UVM)
 Vermont has the worst record in 4-way
 BU has worst record in remaining 3-way
 PC beats BC based on head-to-head

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	MIT	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
2/29/08	Brett Bennett	BU	Massachusetts	20	W, 3-0
2/29/08	Joe Fallon	UVM	Maine	23	W, 2-0
3/1/08	Ben Bishop	Maine	Vermont	30	W, 3-0

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 Roebathan, 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:	15	New Hampshire (1/25/08 to present)

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 Roebathan	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
2/29/08	Paul Worthington	UML	Northeastern	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:
New Hampshire, 1/25/08 to 2/9/08
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:
New Hampshire, 1/25/08 to present, 9-0-2, 11 games
In league play: New Hampshire, 12/16/07 to present, 15 games (13-0-2)

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