



# MEN'S WEEKEND PREVIEW

Celebrating 25 Years of Success

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**WEEKEND PREVIEW #12**

## MAINE AND NO. 14 UNH CLASH SUNDAY IN ORONO ON ESPNU

~14 games kickoff busy opening weekend in New Year~

**WAKEFIELD, Mass.** – In the first league matchup of 2009, Maine hosts No. 14 New Hampshire in Orono, while the rest of the weekend is filled with holiday tournaments across the country. No. 13 Vermont hosts the Sheraton/TD Banknorth Catamount Cup, while No. 6 Northeastern travels to Minneapolis for the Dodge Holiday Classic. No. 3 Boston University heads west for the Wells Fargo Denver Cup and UMass-Lowell will go to Hoffman Estates, Ill. for the Shillelagh Tournament.

The Wildcats take on Maine Sunday afternoon, where they will have to fight through Maine's defensive core that boasts a league-best 1.89 GAA. UNH will need to do this despite the absence of offensive leader, James van Riemsdyk (Middletown, N.J.), who is representing the United States at the World Junior Championships in Ottawa, alongside four other Hockey East athletes. The game marks the 101st meeting between the teams, where Maine holds the 53-42-5 advantage over the 'Cats, but UNH is 8-2-0 in its last ten meetings with the Black Bears.

The Catamounts will take on Colgate in the 13th Catamount Cup, on Friday, looking to Captain Dean Strong (Mississauga, Ont.) for his consistent play of late. Strong is only five points away from the 100-point milestone in his career, and tallied three points in UVM's last meeting with Colgate, a 6-0 victory on Oct. 6, 2006 at the Ice Breaker Invitational. In the second day of play, the Catamounts will conclude with either Ferris State or St. Lawrence.

At the Dodge Holiday Classic in Minneapolis, Northeastern takes on Western Michigan Friday night and either Brown or No. 4 Minnesota Saturday. The Huskies have won six of their last eight and hope to ring in the New Year with another pair of victories. NU currently sits atop Hockey East standings and have earned an overall record of 11-3-2 in the first half. In its only other appearance in the Dodge Holiday Classic, NU captured the championship at the 1997-98 tournament.

BU heads west for the Denver Cup this weekend, first playing Rensselaer on Friday evening, and either Holy Cross or tournament host, No. 5 Denver on Saturday. The Terriers are averaging a league-best 3.56 goals per game, while their power play ranks third in the nation at 22.9 percent. BU is unbeaten in its last five games and earned 11 wins before the break; a feat it had not accomplished since the 1999-00 season.

The Riverhawks head to the Midwest for the inaugural Shillelagh Tournament in Hoffman Estates, Ill. They will first take on Minnesota-Duluth in the opening round of play, followed by either Union or top-ranked Notre Dame on Saturday. UML fell to the Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs twice at home last January, and are looking for redemption on the road.

Outside of tournament play, Massachusetts will host No. 9 Cornell on Sunday evening, closing out its non-conference schedule. The Minutemen have won three of their last four and rank second in the league with 2.06 goals allowed per game. The Big Red's only loss this season came on the road at North Dakota, a team that UMass beat in the Ice Breaker Invitational.

No. 7 BC travels north of the border to New Brunswick, playing two exhibition games. In another pair of exhibition games, both Maine and Merrimack host the U.S. Under-18 Team on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

**RECENT RESULTS**  
**Saturday, December 27**  
 Florida College Classic (Estero, Fla.)  
 Colgate 3 vs. Maine 2 OT

**Sunday, December 28**  
 Florida College Classic (Estero, Fla.)  
 Maine 3 vs. St. Cloud State 3 OT  
 Ledyard National Bank Classic (Hanover, N.H.)  
 Bemidji State 4 vs. UMass 2

**Monday, December 29**  
 UConn Tournament (Storrs, Conn.)  
 Quinnipiac 4 vs. Merrimack 3 OT  
 Ledyard National Bank Classic (Hanover, N.H.)  
 UMass 4 vs. Army 1

**Tuesday, December 30**  
 UConn Tournament (Storrs, Conn.)  
 Merrimack 5 at UConn 2

**UPCOMING GAMES**  
**Friday, January 2**  
 Denver Cup (Denver, Colo.)  
 Boston University vs. Rensselaer (6:30 pm)  
 Catamount Cup (Burlington, Vt.)  
 Vermont vs. Colgate (7pm)  
 Shillelagh Tournament (Hoffman Estates, Ill.)  
 UMass-Lowell vs. Minnesota-Duluth  
 Dodge Holiday Classic (Minneapolis, Minn.)  
 Northeastern vs. Western Michigan (5pm)  
 Boston College at New Brunswick (exh, 6pm)  
 U.S. Under-18 Team at Maine (exh, at Portland)

**Saturday, January 3**  
 Denver Cup (Denver, Colo.)  
 BU vs. Denver/Holy Cross (6/9pm CN8, FSN RM)  
 Catamount Cup (Burlington, Vt.)  
 Vermont vs. Ferris St./St. Lawrence (4/7 pm, CN8)  
 Shillelagh Tournament (Hoffman Estates, Ill.)  
 UMass-Lowell vs. Notre Dame/Union  
 Dodge Holiday Classic (Minneapolis, Minn.)  
 Northeastern vs. Brown/Minnesota (5/8pm)  
 Boston College at New Brunswick (exh, 6pm)  
 U.S. Under-18 Team at Merrimack (exh)

**Sunday, January 4**  
 UNH at Maine \* (4pm, ESPNU)  
 Cornell at UMass (5pm)  
 \* Hockey East game

### 2008-2009 HEA STANDINGS

Rk.	Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Conf. Off.	Conf. Def.
1.	Northeastern	11	8	2	1	17	11-3-2	3.09 (34)	2.09 (23)
2.	Vermont	10	6	3	1	13	9-4-2	2.80 (28)	2.90 (29)
	Boston University	11	6	4	1	13	11-4-1	3.27 (36)	2.45 (27)
4.	Boston College	11	5	4	2	12	9-5-2	3.18 (35)	2.82 (31)
	New Hampshire	11	5	4	2	12	8-6-3	2.91 (32)	3.09 (34)
6.	Maine	10	5	4	1	11	10-6-2	1.90 (19)	2.00 (20)
7.	UMass-Lowell	11	5	6	0	10	8-8-0	3.18 (35)	2.45 (27)
8.	Massachusetts	9	4	4	1	9	9-7-1	3.00 (27)	2.22 (20)
9.	Merrimack	11	2	7	2	6	5-9-3	2.18 (24)	3.00 (33)
10.	Providence	9	0	8	1	1	3-12-1	1.56 (14)	4.44 (40)

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**MARCH 20-21, 2009**



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