



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

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WEEKEND PREVIEW #21

BC, UNH CLASH FOR REGULAR-SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP IN FINAL WEEKEND ~UVM travels to Lowell; Maine entertains UMass; BU, NU and Merrimack, PC play home-and-home~

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – In the final weekend of regular season play, the race for the final five playoff births is as close as ever, along with two home ice spots up for grabs. BC and UNH will face off in a huge series to determine the regular-season championship, beginning on Friday night live on NESN from the Whittemore Center Arena. Vermont travels to UML for their final two games looking to continue their sweep momentum from last weekend. UMass will face a tough weekend on the road against Maine. Merrimack and Providence will play in a home and home series and trapped in a three-way tie for fifth place, BU and Northeastern will face off.

Heading into this weekend, the Wildcats are one point away from clinching the regular-season title for the eighth time in school history. The Eagles however, are close behind trailing by only three points and could steal the title with a sweep against the Wildcats. UNH is enjoying a five-game unbeaten streak and have scored 20 goals in their last four games (4.00 gpg), but BC's offensive attack will be hard to match. The Eagles offense is ranked fourth nationally, scoring 3.75 goals per game. The last meeting between these teams was on Nov. 11, when they skated to a 4-4 overtime tie in Durham.

Vermont travels south for a two game set at the Tsongas Arena against the River Hawks. UML is currently in possession of fourth place in the hockey east standings but Vermont is so close behind in a three-way tie for fifth place with BU and Northeastern. Fresh off their sweep of BU, the Catamounts will look for momentum from former defenseman, now forward, Josh Burrows (Prairie Grove, Ill.) to continue his hot streak, as he was named Athletic Republic Player of the Week on Monday. Last time out, these two skated to a 3-3 overtime tie but the game looks like to be a rematch from last years quarter finals when UML came from a two-goal deficit to beat the Catamounts at home in overtime.

UMass will take a road trip up to finish their final set of the regular season vs. the third place Maine Black Bears. The Minutemen hold a 6-4-0 advantage in the last 10 games and are putting it all on the line this weekend with their playoff fate at stake. The Black Bears just need one point to clinch the home ice advantage. Maine's sophomore Bryan Flynn (Lynnfield, Mass.) was named Player of the Month for February after his impressive seven-point game performance while teammate Gustav Nyquist (Malmo, Sweden) is number one in the nation for points per game 1.69. The two teams last met back on Oct. 23, as UMass defeated Maine, 5-3, at the Mullins Center.

Merrimack heads to Providence Friday night before the teams face off again at Lawler Arena on Saturday. Merrimack is looking to clinch a playoff birth for the first time in five seasons; their last appearance was in 2004. Luckily, the Warriors own a 12-3 record at home and are led by five-time Rookie of the Month, Stephane Da Costa (Paris, France). The last time these teams met, Merrimack took the game 2-1 in overtime.

BU and Northeastern are currently tied for fifth in the league along with Vermont, so this weekend's series will have a huge impact on their placement in the tournament. The last meeting between these cross-town rivals was at the TD Garden in the Beanpot semifinals. BU advanced to the championship thanks to a late night goal by Freshman Alex Chiasson (St. Augustin, Que.) in the 2-1 win. Northeastern is 13-2-2 this season when scoring first in 2009-10.

RECENT RESULTS

Tuesday, February 23

at No. 7 Boston College 7, Merrimack 0 *

Friday, February 26

at Vermont 7, Boston University 3 *

at Merrimack 6, Maine 3 *

at No. 7 Boston College 2, Massachusetts 1 OT*

at UMass-Lowell 4, Providence 0 *

No. 10 UNH 4 at Northeastern 4 OT*

Saturday, February 27

Maine 5 at Merrimack 1 *

UMass-Lowell 2 at Providence 2 OT *

at No. 10 UNH 3, Northeastern 1 *

Sunday, February 28

at Vermont 3, Boston University 2 *

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, March 5

Northeastern at Boston University *

Merrimack at Providence *

Vermont at UMass-Lowell *

Massachusetts at Maine *

No. 5 BC at No. 10 UNH * (7:30pm, NESN)

Saturday, March 6

No. 10 UNH at No. 5 Boston College *

Boston University at Northeastern *

Providence at Merrimack *

Vermont at UMass-Lowell *

Massachusetts at Maine * (WABI-TV)

* denotes Hockey East Game

All Games are EST

2009-2010 HEA STANDINGS

Rk.	Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Conf. Off.	Conf. Def.
1.	New Hampshire * &	25	15	5	5	35	16-10-6	3.75 (93)	2.92 (71)
2.	Boston College * &	25	15	8	2	32	20-10-2	3.72 (93)	2.24 (56)
3.	Maine *	25	13	10	2	28	16-13-3	3.54 (90)	3.33 (81)
4.	UMass-Lowell	25	11	11	3	25	17-14-3	3.08 (76)	2.79 (69)
5.	Boston University	25	11	12	2	24	14-15-3	3.36 (84)	3.36 (84)
	Northeastern	25	11	12	2	24	16-14-2	2.58 (63)	3.12 (78)
	Vermont	25	9	10	6	24	15-11-6	3.00 (75)	3.04 (76)
8.	Merrimack	25	11	13	1	23	14-17-1	3.12 (76)	3.29 (84)
9.	Massachusetts	25	11	14	0	22	16-16-0	2.52 (63)	3.24 (81)
10.	Providence	25	5	17	3	13	10-19-3	1.79 (45)	3.17 (78)

* clinched playoff berth; & clinched quarterfinal playoff home ice

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2009-10 HOCKEY EAST SEASON SUPERLATIVES

SHUTOUTS

Date	Goalie	Team	Opponent	Svs	Result
10/9	Carter Hutton	UML	St. Lawrence	24	W, 3-0
11/6	Chris Rawlings	NU	Boston U.	43	W, 1-0
11/8	Mike Spillane	UVM	Providence	33	W, 3-0
11/14	Carter Hutton	UML	Alabama-Huntsville	19	W, 4-0
11/30	Mike Spillane	UVM	Yale	26	W, 1-0
12/12	Rob Madore	UVM	St. Lawrence	21	W, 3-0
1/2	Carter Hutton	UML	Holy Cross	32	W, 3-0
1/2	Chris Rawlings	NU	at Dartmouth	32	W, 7-0
1/24	Rob Madore	UVM	at UMass	31	W, 3-0
2/1	John Muse	BC	Harvard	33	W, 6-0
2/12	Chris Rawlings	NU	UMass	31	W, 2-0
2/20	Joe Cannata	MC	at UMass	42	W, 3-0
2/23	Milner/Venti	BC	Merrimack	20	W, 7-0
2/26	Carter Hutton	UML	Providence	30	W, 4-0

40+ SAVES

Date	Goalie	Team	Opponent	Svs	Result
10/30	Brian Foster	UNH	at Wisconsin	47	L, 1-4
10/31	Alex Beaudry	PC	at UMass	47	W, 2-1
11/6	Chris Rawlings	NU	Boston U.	43	W, 1-0
11/13	Paul Dainton	UMass	UNH	42	W, 4-3
1/12	Alex Beaudry	PC	at Boston College	41	L, 1-4
1/29	Brian Foster	UNH	at Merrimack	40	L, 3-2
1/30	Andrew Braithwaite	MC	at UNH	43	L, 4-3
2/20	Joe Cannata	MC	at UMass	42	W, 3-0

INDIVIDUAL HIGHS

Goals:	5	Stephane Da Costa, MC (10/17 vs. Army)
	5	Brian Flynn, Maine (2/19 vs. UMass-Lowell)
Assists:	5	James Marcou, UMass (11/24 at Vermont)
Points:	7	Brian Flynn, Maine (2/19 vs. UMass-Lowell)
Point Streak:	12	Phil DeSimone, UNH (1/8 to 2/20; 16pts.)
In League Play:	13	Phil DeSimone, UNH (12/6 to 2/20; 17 pts.)
Saves:	47	Brian Foster, UNH (10/30/09 vs. Wisconsin)
	47	Alex Beaudry, PC (10/31/09 vs. Massachusetts)

TEAM HIGHS

Goals:	10	Maine (11/28 vs. St. Lawrence)
In league play:	9	Vermont (1/16/10 vs. Northeastern)
Shots on Goal:	49	Boston U. (11/24/09 at Harvard)
Consecutive Wins:	5	Boston College (11/27/09 to 12/12/09)
		Maine (11/27/09 to 12/12/09)
In league play:	5	BU (1/29/10 to 2/13/10)
		Maine (11/27/09 to 12/12/09)
		New Hampshire (11/28/09 to 12/11/09)
Unbeaten Streak:	9	Maine (11/21/09 to 1/9/10; 7-0-2)
In league play:	11	New Hampshire (11/14/09 to 1/23/10; 9-0-2)

100+ POINTS (OVERALL ACTIVE POINT LEADERS)

Date	Player	Opponent	Current Points
11/24	James Marcou, UMass	at Vermont	122
1/22	Bobby Butler, UNH	at Providence	113
1/1	Ben Smith, BC	at Denver	110
1/29	Nick Bonino, BU	vs. UMass	108
2/21	Brian Gibbons, BC	vs. NU	105
2/20	Kory Falite, UML	at Maine	103

THE ROAD TO 100 CAREER POINTS IN 2009-10

Joe Whitney, BC	95 pts.
Wade MacLeod, NU	90 pts.
Gustav Nyquist, Maine	86 pts.
Ben Holmstrom, UML	82 pts.
Colin Vock, UVM	82 pts.
Brayden Irwin, UVM	81 pts.
Peter LeBlanc, UNH	81 pts.
Justin Braun, UMass	79 pts.

HAT TRICKS

Date	Player	Team	Opponent	Result
10/17	Stephane Da Costa (5)	MC	Army	W, 6-3
10/23	Matt Bergland	PC	at BGSU	W, 8-2
12/5	David Vallorani	UML	UMass	W, 5-3
1/16	Brayden Irwin	Vermont	NU	W, 9-2
2/12	Bobby Butler	UNH	PC	W, 5-2
2/19	Joe Cucci	MC	UMass	W, 4-1
2/19	Brian Flynn (5)	Maine	UML	W, 8-4
2/19	Kyle MacKinnon	PC	BU	W, 5-4
2/21	Brian Gibbons	BC	NU	W, 7-1
2/23	Cam Atkinson	BC	MC	W, 7-0

OVERTIME GOALS

Date	Player	Team	Opponent	Result
10/30	Colby Cohen	BU	at UML	W, 5-4
11/13	David Boehm	UMass	UNH	W, 4-3
11/24	Chris Connolly	BU	at Harvard	W, 6-5
1/9	Michael Scheu	UML	at NU	W, 6-5
1/22	Phil DeSimone	UNH	at PC	W, 3-2
1/22	Colby Cohen	BU	at BC	W, 5-4
1/23	Brandon Brodhag	MC	PC	W, 2-1
1/30	Paul Thompson	UNH	MC	W, 4-3
2/19	Peter LeBlanc	UNH	UVM	W, 5-4
2/26	Chris Kreider	BC	UMass	W, 2-1

THE LAST TIME

A player had four goals:

Bobby Butler, UNH (1/30/10 vs. Providence)

A rookie had a hat trick:

Stephane Da Costa, Merrimack (10/17/09 vs. Army; 5 goals)
In league play: Jimmy Hayes, BC, 11/15/08 vs. UNH

A defenseman had a hat trick:

Marvin Degen, UMass, 1/7/06 at Merrimack

A goaltender recorded 50 saves:

Andrew Brathwaite, Merrimack, 2/2/08 vs. Providence
In league play: Andrew Brathwaite, Merrimack, 2/2/08 vs. PC (50 saves)

A team won five games in a row:

Boston College, (11/27 to 12/12); Maine, (11/27 to 12/12)
In League Play: Boston University (1/29/10 to 2/13/10)

A team won 10 games in a row:

Boston University, 1/7/06 to 2/13/06 (11 games)
In league play: New Hampshire, 11/12/06 to 1/19/07 (11 games)

A team was unbeaten in 10 straight games:

Boston University, 1/16/09 to 3/13/09 (17 games; 14-0-3)
In league play: UNH, 11/14/09 to 1/23/10 (11 games; 9-0-2)

A team recorded 50 shots-on-goal:

Providence, 2/15/08 vs. UNH (53 shots)
In league play: Providence, 2/15/08 vs. UNH (53 shots)

* – defenseman ! – rookie * neutral site game