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MEN'S WEEKEND PREVIEW

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WEEKEND PREVIEW #19

LIVE ON NESN: VERMONT AT UNH FRIDAY AND MERRIMACK AT UMASS SATURDAY ~UMass-Lowell heads north to Maine; BC plays home-and-home with NU; BU and PC play two~

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – With three weeks to go in the regular-season, all eight playoff spots are amazingly still up for grabs in a close race in the league standings. Vermont will hit the road for the weekend for a two-game set beginning on Friday night at No. 13 ranked UNH, while Massachusetts and Merrimack will engage in a home-and-home match up starting Friday night at Lawler Arena in North Andover, Mass. UMass-Lowell will travel north for the weekend to visit No. 15 Maine for a pair of contests at Alford Arena, while No. 9 Boston College and Northeastern will also play a key league home-and-home set on Friday and Sunday afternoon, which will be broadcast live on ESPNU. Boston University and Providence College will also skate in two-game set beginning Friday at Schneider Arena.

The Catamounts and Wildcats first meeting of the season series was a 5-2 UNH victory on December 6th at Gutterson Field House. Three of the last five games for Vermont have gone to overtime with all of them ending in ties. UNH's Phil DeSimone (East Amherst, N.Y.) is riding a 10-game point streak heading into the weekend with 14 points (5g,9a) during that stretch. The Wildcats own a 9-2-2 record against the Catamounts since they became a member of Hockey East during the 2005-06 season.

The Minutemen earned a 4-1 victory against the Warriors in the first meeting of the season series on Dec. 12 at the Mullins Center. Senior forward Will Ortiz (Framingham, Mass.) potted two goals for the Minutemen in the win. Merrimack is coming off a three-point weekend at Vermont, while UMass was swept by Northeastern last weekend. The Minutemen have won 11 straight games vs. Merrimack at the Mullins Center. Merrimack has recorded its most wins in league play since the 1996-97 season, when it amassed 11 victories that year. Merrimack is 10-2 at home this season and is tied for the fewest home losses nationally. The Warriors power play also continues to rank second in the nation among Division I teams with a 24.6% efficiency.

BC junior forward Brian Gibbons (Braintree, Mass.) needs one point to become the fifth active Hockey East player to hit the 100 career point milestone. Northeastern's current four-game winning streak is its longest of the season, as freshman goaltender Chris Rawlings (North Delta, B.C.) has posted a 1.25 GAA and .963 save percentage during that streak for the Huntington Hounds. The Eagles have won five of their last six contests and have scored 24 goals (4.8 gpg) in those five victories.

Maine will look to rebound after being swept by BU last weekend at Agganis Arena, while UMass-Lowell is coming off a series split with BC. The Black Bears won the series opener back on Nov. 27 at the Tsongas Center by a 3-1 score. Maine owns a 9-2-1 home record this season at Alford Arena. The River Hawks scoring defense is second best in league play at 2.71 goals allowed per game.

The Terriers vaulted back into the race for hosting a quarterfinal playoff series last weekend with wins against Maine. BU is 8-2-0 in their last 10 conference games, after starting the season with a 2-7-2 conference mark. The Friars are coming off a 5-2 loss at UNH last Friday night in Durham. PC won the first meeting of the season series between the teams back on Jan. 15 by a 3-1 score. Alex Beaudry's (Cumberland, Ont.) .915 save percentage in league play ranks second among Hockey East netminders. BU's Colby Cohen (Villanova, Pa.) ranks first in league play among defenders with nine goals and his 19 points ranks second.

2009-2010 HEA STANDINGS

Rk.	Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	Overall	Conf. Off.	Conf. Def.
1.	New Hampshire	21	13	5	3	29	14-10-4	3.71 (78)	2.81 (59)
2.	Boston College	21	12	7	2	26	17-9-2	3.57 (75)	2.43 (51)
3.	Maine	21	11	8	2	24	14-11-3	3.43 (72)	3.14 (66)
4.	Boston University	21	10	9	2	22	13-12-3	3.48 (73)	3.24 (68)
	Massachusetts	22	11	11	0	22	16-13-0	2.77 (61)	3.27 (72)
6.	Northeastern	21	10	10	1	21	15-12-1	2.57 (54)	2.95 (62)
7.	UMass-Lowell	21	9	10	2	20	15-13-2	2.95 (62)	2.71 (57)
8.	Vermont	21	7	9	5	19	13-10-5	2.76 (58)	3.00 (63)
9.	Merrimack	20	8	11	1	17	11-15-1	3.10 (62)	3.40 (68)
10.	Providence	21	4	15	2	10	9-17-2	1.76 (37)	3.14 (66)

RECENT RESULTS

Monday, February 8

Beanpot Tournament (at TD Garden)
Northeastern 4 vs. Harvard 1
No. 10 Boston College 4 vs. Boston U. 3

Friday, February 12

at No. 15 UNH 5, Providence 2 *
at UMass-Lowell 4, No. 10 Boston College 1 *
Northeastern 2 at Massachusetts 0 *
at Boston U. 7, No. 12 Maine 4 *
Merrimack 2 at Vermont 2 OT *

Saturday, February 13

at No. 10 Boston College 2, UMass-Lowell 1 *
at Northeastern 6, Massachusetts 3 *
at Boston University 5, No. 12 Maine 2 *
Merrimack 3 at Vermont 2 *

UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, February 19

UMass-Lowell at No. 15 Maine *
No. 9 Boston College at Northeastern *
Massachusetts at Merrimack *
Boston University at Providence *
Vermont at No. 13 UNH * (7:30pm, NESN)

Saturday, February 20

Vermont at No. 13 UNH *
UMass-Lowell at No. 15 Maine * (WABI-TV)
Providence at Boston University *
Merrimack at Massachusetts * (7:30pm, NESN)

Sunday, February 21

Northeastern at No. 9 BC * (3pm, ESPNU)

* denotes Hockey East Game
All Games are EST

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* information as of 2/18/2010

2009-10 HOCKEY EAST SEASON SUPERLATIVES

SHUTOUTS

Date	Goalie	Team	Opp.	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	vs. Harvard	33	W, 6-0
2/12	Chris Rawlings	NU	vs UMass	31	W, 2-0

40+ SAVES

Date	Goalie	Team	Opp.	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	Merrimack	at UNH	43	L, 4-3

INDIVIDUAL HIGHS

Goals:	5	Stephane Da Costa, MC (10/17 vs. Army)
Assists:	5	James Marcou, UMass (11/24 at Vermont)
Points:	5	Stephane Da Costa, MC (10/17 vs. Army)
		James Marcou, UMass (11/24 at Vermont)
		Brian Flynn, Maine (11/28 vs. St. Lawrence)
		Chris Auger, UML (11/21 vs. Merrimack)
Point Streak:	11	Brian Gibbons, BC (1/1 to 2/8/10; 19 pts.)
		Stephane Da Costa, MC (10/25 to 1/2; 17 pts.)
Active	10	Phil DeSimone, UNH (1/8/10 to present; 14pts.)
In League Play:	11	Phil DeSimone, UNH (12/6/09 to present; 15 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 University (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:	4	Boston University (1/29/10 to present)
		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

Date	Player	Opponent	Current Points
11/24	James Marcou, UMass	at Vermont	121
1/22	Bobby Butler, UNH	at Providence	109
1/1	Ben Smith, BC	at Denver	107
1/29	Nick Bonino, BU	vs. UMass	106

THE ROAD TO 100 CAREER POINTS IN 2009-10

Brian Gibbons, BC	99 pts.
Kory Falite, UML	98 pts.
Joe Whitney, BC	90 pts.
Wade MacLeod, NU	87 pts.
Justin Braun, UMass	79 pts.
Ben Holmstrom, UML	79 pts.

HAT TRICKS

Date	Player	Team	Opponent	Result
10/17	Stephane Da Costa	MC	vs. Army	W, 6-3
10/23	Matt Bergland	PC	at BGSU	W, 8-2
12/5	David Vallorani	UML	vs. UMass	W, 5-3
1/16	Brayden Irwin	Vermont	vs. Northeastern	W, 9-2
2/12	Bobby Butler	UNH	vs. Providence	W, 5-2

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 Northeastern	W, 6-5
1/22	Phil DeSimone	UNH	at Providence	W, 3-2
1/22	Colby Cohen	BU	at Boston College	W, 5-4
1/23	Brandon Brodhag	MC	Providence	W, 2-1
1/30	Paul Thompson	UNH	vs. Merrimack	W, 4-3

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 Degon, 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: New Hampshire, 2/14/09 to 2/28/09

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