Sports

Photo of the Day |



The UConn women's basketball team takes on Providence at Gampel Pavilion on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026. Senior players and managers were honored after the game for their dedication and work to the program. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Hockey East Roundup

by Jack Yadlon
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
ptf24003@uconn.edu

As the weeks dwindle down, the field for conference tournaments and NCAA play becomes more set. While every team in the Hockey East conference makes the tournament, first-round matchups play a large role in determining who moves on and whose season ends.

This week featured 10 of 11 teams playing in two game sets, with Boston University on bye.

Merrimack travelled to Maine for a matchup between two teams on the outside looking in, in terms of the bye.

Josh Nadeau kicked off the scoring for the Black Bears with two goals late in the first, and by the end of the second he had three points in a 3-2 game. Merrimack would tie the game but soon concede the lead, with a Nadeau empty netter for a hat trick to ice the game and give Maine the 5-3 victory.

Nadeau's incredible weekend did not conclude there, as he'd tie the game at two in the first, scoring his fourth of the weekend. Maine trailed 2-1 after one but would score the next four goals, with Nadeau scoring one and assisting on two more to end a 5-2 game and an eight-point weekend by Nadeau.

Northeastern played in Lowell for their weekend, with both goals of the first game coming from the Huskies in a 2-0 victory. Game two was nowhere near as merciful for the River Hawks, as despite only tallying twenty shots Northeastern put up eight goals in an 8-2 win to complete the sweep.

No. 7 Providence visited Vermont in their series. Vermont's Colin Kessler began the scoring, but the Friars would record the next four goals to eventually win the game 5-2. Game two featured a Hudson Malinoski hat trick for Providence in another win, this time by a score of 5-3.

It should be noted that while Providence swept the Catamounts, both games were close in shot total, with the weekend total of 55-54 only favoring the Friars by one.

It was all No. 19 UMass in their first game of a home-and-home with New Hampshire, scoring 41 seconds in and never allowing a goal in the 4-0 victory. But it was the Wildcats who'd get the last laugh of the weekend, scoring the lone goal of game two at home to upset the Minutemen 1-0, a huge loss for a team looking for an at-large bid.

No. 12 Boston College and No. 10 UConn played in a home-and-home starting in Boston.

UConn had no answer for Boston Bruins draft pick James Hagens in game one, as he'd record BC's first three goals of the game in the eventual 5-2 statement Boston College win.

Game two was one of the best games in the conference all year. The first goal of the game came on the power play from UConn's Kaden Shahan, following three penalties in under a minute of game time that eventually put UConn on the power play. BC would answer not long after also on the power play, with Andre Gasseau capitalizing to tie it. 12 penalties were called in the first period between both teams.

The remainder of the game was a back-and-forth affair that eventually ended up going to overtime, where it wouldn't take long for BC's Lukas Gustafsson to find the back of the net and complete a sweep over a top 10 team.

For two teams fighting for the number two seed in Hockey East and for at-large bids in the NCAA tournament, the Eagles' sweep has massive implications. Time remains, but BC is closer to a bid than ever while the Huskies' next two weeks is a critical point in their season.

Providence has clinched a bye and will clinch the top seed in the conference with a point. Boston College and UConn don't need much to clinch byes, while UMass, Northeastern, Maine and Boston University fight for the remaining two spots.

Merrimack has an outside chance for a bye, while Lowell, New Hampshire and Vermont are eliminated and will play in the first round.

Providence has also effectively clinched an NCAA bid with Boston College and UConn as the only two other teams with a chance for an at-large bid as well. Anybody else would need to win the Hockey East tournament.

Two weeks remain, and every matchup counts.

No. 10 Boston College and Boston University play a home-and-home that will likely mark the conclusion of this year's Battle of Comm Ave, barring a meeting in the Hockey East tournament.

No. 19 UMass and No. 13 UConn play a home-and-home with huge implications on seeding.

Vermont travels to Merrimack for a series with little impact overall.

Maine visits Northeastern in a set with implications on who gets the bye.

WEEK 19

New Hampshire and No. 6 Providence will play a home-and-home where Providence may begin to rest starters as tournament season nears and everything already set for the Friars.

UMass Lowell will have this week off.





UConn men's ice hockey team taking on Boston College at People's Bank Arena in Hartford, Conn., on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026. The Huskies played a strong game that extended into overtime, but Boston College scored the deciding goal to secure a 2–1 victory.
PHOTOS BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS