

Coach Storm's Pre-Season EMass Top 25

Written by Tom Hellen

Games as of January 24, 2010 (no night games)

Somerville, MA – Key players missing games with injuries or sickness could truly impact how teams end up doing in the state tourney and maybe even determine who ends up winning a state championship. I had Andover #1 last time but Boudreau had rolled her ankle real bad late in the 1st quarter of their huge game with Central Catholic...she came back to play that night but not at 100%...they lose...she then sits the next game at NDA down in Hingham and they lose again...Spellman sits its top 2 players plus 2 others against Fontbonne and they lose by a huge margin. Somerville sits its 6'3 center against a very good but undersized Lynn English team and gets smoked...Colleen Rizzo rolls an ankle and Needham loses to Newton North...now I read that talented junior Hannah Cain of Gloucester may have a serious knee injury...and more and more and more. You may have your own story on this angle as well but this seems especially critical this year to have all your players healthy and on the court. I think it is because no team is truly deep in comparison to some of the great teams we've seen over the last 5 or 6 years. Depth is a problem as evidenced by the results when good teams miss one of their top players for a game or 2...

“Random Rim Ramblings”...Hard to believe there are only 4 clubs shown below that are left undefeated...hard to believe...Starting to hear some state tourney talk and seeing the signs that the tourney is not that far away...coaches talking about seeding and who will be on what side of the bracket...all good to hear...also good to see coaches out scouting for that 2nd meeting with that key league rival as the next game might be for the league championship and also coaches scouting long range and seeing teams they might meet in the state tourney...then there are those thinking about who they might scrimmage...all good stuff as we head down the stretch...hard to believe we have less than a month to the end of the regulars season...I also love those February tourneys during school vacation...a few questions...I know OA is in the Walpole tourney but who are the other 2 teams? Also...trying to determine if Newton South is in a February tourney as the schedule I have lists only 18 games?

I want to again thank Doug Lindland for his help with our website this year. Doug does great work and can be reached at doug@easternhoopleague.com or check out his site at www.easternbasketball.org

I hope you enjoy the rankings shown below and again always feel to e-mail me at coachstorm5@comcast.net with any comments.

Top 25 Rankings with their Last Record

Now Last Year

#1.	#5.	New Bedford (D1 S) – 14 – 0 Time for some well deserved props after beating 2 unbeaten clubs back-to-back...some forget that the Whalers only 2 years ago played at the Garden and some key players from that club still remain including one VERY dynamic guard in Alyssa Roach...great “power” week gets them to the top spot beating Brockton and LaSalle, RI on the road and Durfee at home...now get 4 in a row at home with Brockton rematch on 2/9 then at W-H and at Durfee to end the year...good tests still to come.
#2.	#2.	Central Catholic (D1 N) – 12 – 1 On a roll now and need to win at Lowell this week to set up the rubber match (AKA WW III) in Andover on Sunday 1/31 at 7:00 NOT Monday 2/1...still like this club in the #2 spot as the average margin of victory is 26 per game if you take out the Andover battles...
#3.	#3.	Brockton (D1 S) – 12 – 1 Boxers absorb bitter 1 point loss at home to our newly crowned #1 New Bedford but did get nice power wins on the road at Durfee and hosting Franklin. Rematch at New Bedford on 2/9 should be a beauty.
#4.	#4.	Wellesley (D1 S) – 11 – 0 Won 3 straight road games and now get 3 in a row at home though their last home game was scary as Norwood almost pulled the upset but Wellesley survived by 2...still hard to judge how good this club is as they lack that big “power” win so far...true sign comes when they go back-to-back on 2/4 at L-S and then host Newton North on 2/5...hmmm.
#5.	#6.	Pentucket (D3 N) – 14 – 0 Team didn’t get truly challenged until hitting the road to blow out previously unbeaten Ipswich by 29 on Friday and then knocking off strong St. Mary’s at Emmanuel by 12 on Saturday...boy did they ever survive this challenge!...club could run the table if they stay focused and then they get the top seed in D3 North...with their defense me thinks the table will be run...they get in your face and never stop...
#6.	#14.	Oliver Ames (D2 S) – 11 – 1 I know...big jump of 8 spots but I love what this club is doing winning 11 straight and only loss is to good Foxboro club by 4 on the road then they got big payback win by 26 at home...they now get 3 on the road this week with the Friday visit to Sharon a possible good one...I had this club as one of the top 2 teams in my pre-season rankings and they are now living up to that hype in a big way...look out D2 South.

#7.	#1.	Andover (D1 N) – 10 – 3 – Road loss at NDA of Hingham without Boudreau (ankle) hurts a bit but club got right back on track when Boudreau returned the next game...and then a road loss to unbeaten (11 and 0) CMass power Wachusett by 4 is nothing to be ashamed of as Wachusett is probably the biggest team in the state and could be in the D1 state finals...still losses are losses and teams who were close behind deserve to move up the ranks.
#8.	#15.	Fontbonne (D2 S) – 12 – 0 Ducks continue to roll...They did beat Spellman earlier at full strength by 11 at home but wish Spellman was healthy when they played on the road recently and the Ducks clobbered them to give us a better “power” stick to measure them by...but this week should give us the yardstick we need to measure them as they hit the road to play Marshfield and the Archies...hmmm...both good tests.
#9.	#7.	Arlington Catholic (D2 N) – 8 – 2 Escaped barely at Somerville with a 1 point win...Roche is healthy again and the Cougars will need her at 100% as they face a nice “power” week hosting Spellman Tuesday and on the road at the Archies on Friday night...
#10.	#9.	Westford (D1 N) 11 – 1 – Nice home “power” wins over AB by 3 and then Newton South by 4 plus 2 other DCL victories but they now hit the road to face a suddenly hot Bedford team then off to L-S on Friday.
#11.	#10.	Newton South (D1 S) 10 – 2 – Tough 4 point road loss at Westford but then beat AB at home in a big DCL tussle...need to stay clean this week to set up strong finishing schedule where they play L-S, Westford, and AB again.
#12.	#11.	Newton North (D1 S) 11 – 1 – Club has won 5 straight but still wish there was more of a “power” factor here...yea Needham was a good win but Rizzo was hurt so they weren’t at full strength...hope they keep winning to set up the true test at Wellesley on 2/5.
#13.	#16.	Durfee (D1 S) -- 10 – 2 – Only losses are to Big 3 rivals #1 New Bedford and #3 Brockton...club has to be careful now as 6 of last 8 games are on the road including 2 in the Comcast Tourney.
#14.	#25.	Archbishop Williams (D3 S) – 9 – 3 – Only losses to AC on the road, plus the Big Apple tourney in NY where they lost by 2 to the #2 ranked team in RI, and to Lewis, NY (14 and 1) so this club plays the iron and is now on a roll locally with 6 straight wins including beating St. Mary’s on the road and Spellman at home...great “power” week ahead (well every week is a “power” week for this club LOL) at Fenwick and then hosting AC and unbeaten Fontbonne...hmmm.
#15.	#7.	St. Mary’s of Lynn (D3 N) – 9 – 3 Rough stretch for this club losing a 2 point tilt to AC at home then letting that loss stay in the memory bank when the Archies came to town 2 days later and gave them loss #2. Memory bank gets cleansed as they pop in 80 against Fenwick but then Pentucket brought back the bad nightmare back beating them by 12...

#16.	#17.	Lynn English (D1 N) – 11 – 1 Sizzling right now having rattled off 6 straight wins with only loss to St. Mary’s...at Somerville Thursday night and big Keisha will be playing this time for the Highlanders...hmmm.
#17.	#18.	Cohasset (D4 S) -- 12 – 0 Carver gave them a tussle at home but this club always finds a way to win...now on the road for 3 games and Hanover could be a battle in their gym tonight...
#18.	#19.	Hull (D4 S) -- 10 – 1 Club got back on track winning 3 straight after disappointing showing in big “power” game losing to Cohasset by 19...now 2 tough road games at Norwell and Harwich then hosting Carver so the path is not easy until the rematch at Cohasset on 2/5.
#19.	#24.	Peabody (D1 N) – 10 – 1 Club continues capturing wins including 2 point squeaker at young and talented Danvers and will be favored in the next 4 which would set up a dream rematch at Lynn English on 2/9.
#20.	#22.	Cardinal Spellman (D3 S) – 10 - 4 Crushed by Fontbonne but Coach Lamb sat 4 players including his top 2 due to nagging injuries which didn’t help as the Archies beat them by 10 but then they rallied to beat Stang and Fenwick. Good “power” game at AC Tuesday.
#21.	Cusp	Coyle Cassidy (D3 S) – 11 – 1 – Good wins over Feehan and previously unbeaten ORR show me this club belongs back in the Top 25 but have to travel to Feehan on Friday in a possible payback contest...only loss was to Spellman on the road by 3.
#22.	#12.	Franklin (D1 S) – 9 – 4 Came up short in 3 “power” games losing on the road to Sharon, OA and Brockton (for the 2 nd time)...club has played a lot of “power” games. Panthers host Foxboro in a good one on Wednesday so we’ll see which team has recovered the best.
#23.	#13.	Foxborough (D2 S) – 9 – 3 – Nice road win at Sharon but then got smoked at OA and knocked off at home by 11 to Mansfield...now at Franklin on Wednesday as they try and re-group.
#24. Tie	#24.	Stoneham (D3 N) -- 11 – 1 – Reading is just not a good gym for this crew as they lost big there last year and now the Rockets end their unbeaten streak...club rallied to win next 2 but face a Winchester team on the road that they only beat by 6 at home and then Brittany Obi Tabot on Friday in an interesting week.
#24. Tie	#24.	Melrose (D2 N) – 12 - 1 Raiders need to stay on track this week and Woburn on Friday could be a trap game as they look ahead to the following week when they get Reading and Stoneham back-to-back with the Middlesex League title up for grabs.
#24. Tie	Cusp	Acton Boxborough (D1 N) -- 9 – 4 Club had nice clutch win at home over L-S but lost 2 “power” road games at Westford and Newton South plus a somewhat surprising home loss to Bedford so got to scale them back a bit and they have Holy Name tonight in another tough one.

#25. Tie #20.	Lincoln-Sudbury (D1 N) – 8 – 3 Frustrating loss at AB on questionable call with less than a second to go but life goes on and they will as well...they have to as they hit the road to Westford on Friday and then at Newton South the following Tuesday.
#25 Tie #21.	Somerville (D1 N) – 8 – 3 Highlanders came up short in 2 “power” games losing big at #16 Lynn English without big Keisha and then she did play at home against #9 AC but they lost by 1 as a “3” at the buzzer was off the mark...rematch on Thursday with Lynn English and big Keisha will be on the court...hmmm.

“On the Cusp”

Westwood (D3 S) – 10 – 1 – Ashland comes to town on Tuesday and Westwood has set this payback game up perfectly winning 8 straight...now will the “clock” toll on the Clockers on Tuesday??....
Ipswich (D3 N) – 10 – 1 Pentucket pops their balloon by 29 in their own gym in huge “power” game...club needs to get back on track in a hurry and I think they will...next real “power” opportunity is in the St. Mary’s Tourney in February.
Old Rochester (D3 S) – 10 – 1 – Boat got rocked pretty good when Coyle came to town and spoiled their unbeaten season by 17...next 4 out of 5 on the road so need to recover quickly and get back on track.
Sharon (D2 S) – 7 – 4 Lost another close one by 6 to Foxboro after getting nice home win over Franklin...could win 1 st 2 this week then get OA at home Friday in another good test.
Plymouth South (D1 S) – 11 – 2 Loss to Quincy on the road by 14 after beating them at home by 14 is sort of strange especially after bopping a tough Marshfield crew by 27...must have still been celebrating that Marshfield win...but now won last 2 and playing well again.
Whitman Hanson (D2 S) – 9 – 2 Good season so far so have to start following this club as one loss is to top ranked New Bedford and the other by only 5...they are now on my radar.
Marshfield (D1 S) 10 – 3 – Got smoked by Plymouth South at home by 27...then by 9 at Fontbonne who they host this Thursday in a good rematch situation.
Bishop Fenwick (D3 N) – 7 – 4 Club’s 4 losses all to ranked teams from the super tough Catholic league and 2 by 1 point so this club has “game.”
Lowell (D1 N) – 8 – 4 Gave Andover a decent go losing by 9 and also winning the games they should but big week ahead at Methuen and then hosting Central Catholic on Thursday and at Andover in a Saturday night contest on 2/6 so still time to get some “power” wins here.
Mansfield (D2 S) – 8 – 4 Apologies for mistakenly deleting you last time...nice road win at Foxboro might set the tone as they travel to Brockton on Friday in a good one.
Reading – (D2 N) -- 9 – 2 Loss at Woburn by 3 seemed to wake this club up as they’ve won 3 straight and will be favored in 2 this week setting up a home battle with Melrose on 2/1.

Needham (D1 S) – 6 – 5 Rizzo rolls ankle and Rockets regress...sorry as couldn't find the Walpole score.
Methuen (D1 N) – 7 – 5 Okay...can't figure this group out...thought they'd be closer in their "power" games but lost to Fenwick by 23 and Central Catholic by 26...allowing over 70 points each game...need to work on their "D."
Ashland (D3 S) – 11 – 2 – Club playing well but home loss to Weston hurts the "power" image here...but road game this week at tough Westwood can get the image back.
Silver Lake (D2 S) – 9 – 3 – Guess the Coach Storm jinx lasted only 3 games and has ended as they win their last 3 in a row.
North Andover (D2 N) 8 – 3 – Loss to Ipswich by 14 means they might not quite be ready for prime time yet and get another chance under the bright lights when they travel to Pentucket on Monday 2/1.
Bishop Feehan (D2 S) – 7 – 6 Still learning as they grow but I like this club to get a good grade down the road...losses at Coyle by 11 and at home to Durfee by 4 in "power" games but did blow out solid Stang quintet by 30 then dropped a 12 pointer to the Archies.
Swampscott (D3 N) – 7 - 5 Team struggling now losing 3 in a row but 2 were in "power" games on the road at Lynn English by 6 and Peabody by 9...need to get back in gear here.
Danvers (D2 N) – 8 – 3 "Power" test at home with Peabody was a frustrating 2 point loss but club has to have gotten confidence from making it close...at Revere Friday in an interesting game between 2 good young clubs.
Gloucester (D2 N) – 7 – 4 Team loses another test game on the road this time at Lynn English by 9...another "test" can be passed in a road battle at Peabody on Thursday.
Revere (D1 N) – 8 – 3 At an enthusiastic Medford club and then at Swampscott which will be difficult...then hosting Danvers in a true measuring game for both clubs as my sense is that Revere might have a good crowd for this one...hmmm.
Walpole (D2 S) -- 7 – 4 Sorry but no one posted the score from their Needham game...Rebels went 2 and 1 otherwise so still adjusting but look good to make the state tourney.
Whittier Tech (D4 N) – 12 – 2 – Club also got bitten by the Coach Storm jinx...soon as I recognize them they lose 2 straight but now back on track.
New Mission (D4 N) – 8 – 3 The W's keep coming as they start to build towards a possible city championship and then the state tourney.
Brookline (D1 S) – 7 – 5 Team got skunked by 28 at Walpole as the Rebels must have been ripping mad at anyone with their blowout by Wellesley and took it out on Brookline...and now they have to travel to tough Newton North.
Notre Dame of Hingham (D2 S) – 7 – 5 Club got great "power" win over Andover (without Boudreau though) at home and now won 3 straight so confidence is high...but is it high enough to take that long ride to Pentucket and come back home with another great "power" win??
Medfield (D2 S) – 9 – 3 Nice "power" opportunity went up in smoke as Fontbonne whupped 'em by 30.
Nauset (D1 S) – 7 – 5 Home cooking not helping as they lose 2 of 3 and now go on the road to Plymouth South, Bishop Fenwick and Marshfield...all good "power" games...make or break time for this group as they end the year with 7 of last 8 games on the road.
Hopkinton (D1 S) – 6 – 4 Loss to Westwood at home is deflating and no time to feel sorry for yourselves as they travel to unbeaten Ashland now so the recovery must be quick.

Class of 2009 – Where are they now??

People mentioned to me that they enjoyed seeing where last year's kids went and how they are doing playing college ball. Some transition well to the college game but many struggle as they transition to the higher levels of competition...particularly at the D1 level. I started last time with my Cream of the Crop Club players from last year and now we continue down the list. Enjoy...

Amy Lepley – Bishop Feehan – Holy Cross – Lepley has come back from her knee injury and is getting 21 minutes a night and has started 10 games for the D1 Crusaders. She is scoring about 6 PPG and pulling down 3 boards.

Jenna Roncarati – Bishop Feehan – Providence – Yea I know...not a hoop player...but this kid is a great athlete and does play soccer very well and made the All Big East Rookie team in soccer for the D1 Friars..

Taylor Masaschi – Chatham – Brown – She has played in 13 of their 15 games getting 6 minutes per contest and scoring a point a game for this D1 Ivy League club.

Reilly Poirier – Cardinal Spellman – Southern Connecticut – Reilly has played in 17 games starting 1 at this D2 power playing 7 minutes a contest and scoring over 1 point and 1 rebound a game.

Allie Beaulieu – Swampscott – Bates – Started 13 of their 19 games and is 2nd in scoring at 12.3 PPG and she's also 2nd in assists on the team getting 24 minutes a night for this D3 club.

Sarah Collins – Weymouth – Babson – Played in all 17 games getting 21 minutes a night and is 4th in scoring with 9.3 PPG and is 2nd in blocked shots for this D3 club off to a 14 and 3 start.

Courtney Donovan – Bourne – Assumption – Played in all 18 games getting 11 minutes a night for this D2 club scoring a little over 2 a game with 2 boards per contest.

Siobhan Carnell – North Quincy – Franklin Pierce – She has played in 7 of the 16 games for this undefeated D2 power (16 and 0) getting 3 minutes a night with 1 point per game.

Becca Kimball – Weston – Wellesley – Has started all 14 games playing over 35 minutes a night and is the team's leading scorer with over 15 PPG and recently scored 30 against Smith.

Gotta' run folks...Remember...**“No ability without eligibility!”...and...“The ball stops bouncing for everyone at some point but a college degree lasts forever!”**