

Coach Storm's EMass Pre-Season Top 25

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Somerville MA – This year may possibly be the hardest to try and rank teams. We get more scores to compare but I think I'm even more confused. One team beats a highly ranked team then loses to a "cusp" club. How much do I drop a team for slipping up one game? How much do you move someone up the ranks for winning a big one after losing to an unranked team? This season can also be summarized by how few undefeated teams we have this early in the year....and more to come in my opinion. Let me know who you think will run the table this year...I still say no one does.

More big changes below and my guess is you all will have some questions for me...feel free to give your thoughts as I'm dazed right now...

One thing to all coaches and teams...in this day and age of cell phones and text messages, how can scores NOT get into the Boston papers or Boston.com? How does this happen?

I hope you enjoy the rankings I've compiled and always feel to e-mail me at coachstorm5@comcast.net with any comments. May your team play hard, play well, and have nobody get hurt the rest of the way! Enjoy the games folks!

Top 25 Rankings

Now Last Ranking

#1.	#1.	Lowell (D1 N) – 8 – 0 Quality win over Andover on the road despite 30 turnovers adds to their claim to the top spot. Hosting Central Catholic today will be interesting....hmm.
#2.	#8.	Wellesley (D2 S) – 9 – 0 I saw them crush Weymouth...super impressive 29 point win...you can tell bball is VERY important to these kids...backcourt can play with anyone around in Dixon and Dietrick and Miller is a warrior inside...fun group to watch....unless you are Walpole.
#3.	#14.	Bridgewater-Raynham (D1 S) -- 10 - 0 Best defense around??...allowing like 38 points a game. Coach Orlando's troops have big games with Marshfield and Brockton this week...hmmm....will they stay this high next week??
#4.	#12.	Westford (D2 N1) 7 – 0 – Now they have some games under their belt and quality wins over AC, L-S and Newton South...moving on up the charts.
#5.	#9.	Walpole (D2 S) -- 7 – 1 I know...lose a game and you move up?...but it was by 2 at the end to #2 Wellesley so how do you penalize them??
#6.	#13.	Arlington Catholic (D2 N) – 8 - 1 Brady's bunch has big week beating the Archie's on the road and Spellman at home without Roche...only loss to #4 Westford by 3...

#7.	#15.	Oliver Ames (D2 S) – 8 – 1 Club is back in gear with solid wins over tough Hock foes Franklin, Sharon, and Mansfield. Big league battle Friday at home against 9 and 1 Foxboro who they beat by 4 in the 1 st tilt. Only loss to #3 B-R by 1.
#8.	#20.	Lynn English (D1 N) – 9 – 1 Hard to gauge...lose to the 'ville by 9 at home then go on the road and beat a white hot Swampscott team...so LE beat Swampscott who beat Pentucket...
#9.	#9.	Swampscott (D3 N) – 10 - 1 Tough 2 point loss to Lynn English is hard to swallow...now they lost to LE but beat Pentucket...
#10.	#7.	Pentucket (D3 N) – 10 – 1 Club is back in gear and faces struggling Ipswich Tuesday...fun game on Saturday at NDA of Hingham...let's see...they lost to Swampscott who lost to LE...getting the picture here? Just trying to rationalize why they drop when they won games.
#11.	#2.	Reading – (D2 N) -- 8 – 1 Solid Stoneham surprises Rockets so down the ladder they go.
#12.	#16.	Andover (D1 N) – 8 – 2 – Blew out Central Catholic but Lowell's size is too much to overcome...then got quality win over CMass power Wachusett...and 9 and 1 NDA of Hingham comes to town Tuesday.
#13.	#24.	Notre Dame of Hingham (D2 S) – 9 – 1 They beat Brockton who beat Durfee who beat Feehan...Testy week coming...at Andover and Somerville on Tuesday and Thursday then host highly ranked Pentucket Saturday night...hmmm.
#14.	#5.	Brockton (D1 S) – 8 – 2 Big 3 is so competitive this year as they beat each other up. Boxers beat Durfee and New Bedford this week...doesn't get any better...unless you can knock B-R from the unbeaten ranks next Friday.
#15.	#10.	Durfee (D1 S) 8 – 1 – Brockton took the bloom of their season for now but much hoops still to be played including hosting New Bedford Tuesday...they beat Feehan but lost to Brockton who lost to NDA...
#16.	#18.	Whitman Hanson (D2 S) – 9 – 1 Club is back in gear and has good one Friday at North Quincy...
#17.	#6.	Central Catholic (D1 N) – 6 – 2 Tough to drop so much but injuries a killer here...That old saying comes to mind..."if it wasn't for bad luck, I wouldn't have any luck at all." 1 st Mikus, then Zenevitch, now Polce...tough to overcome...will they again get everyone 100% come state tourney time and do some damage?
#18.	#23.	Medfield (D2 S) – 9 – 0 No let up here as they smoked previously unbeaten Hop-town by 24...at Medway this week could be a good one.
#19.	#21.	Melrose (D2 N) – 9 - 2 Lexington gave them a battle losing by 3 in Melrose...still like them to cruise until home rematch with Reading.
#20.	Cusp	Coyle Cassidy (D3 S) – 10 – 2 – Great win at Feehan and Gonsalves is leading scorer in EMass...she plays this time against B-R...team scores 33 vs. 31 when she didn't play...B-R defense stifles all even the leading scorer in EMass...only 2 losses to #3 B-R.
#21.	#11.	Bishop Feehan (D2 S) – 8 – 2 Tough 1 point loss to Coyle but this club is so mentally tough they'll rally and be a factor down the stretch.
#22.	Cusp	Marshfield (D1 S) 9 – 1 – Won 9 straight after B-R held them to 34 in opener...rematch at B-R Wednesday...big doings for both...still can't believe I forgot to put super soph Beresford on my Cream of the Crop list...getting old...Sorry Nicole.

#23. Cusp	Bourne (D3 S) – 9 – 0 Big win over D-R...but hard to get a handle on either team as the only ranked teams each has played is themselves...wish they played more power teams to give us more perspective...talented club though.
#24. Tie N/A	North Quincy (D1 S) – 9 - 1 Beat Brockton and won at Weymouth so I gotta' keep "Mrs. B" happy and get them some props.
#24. Tie Cusp	Cohasset (D4 S) -- 10 – 0 Flat out kickin' some butt so far...Carver games a comin'though..
#25. Tie #4.	New Bedford (D1 S) – 10 – 2 Carver loss hurt but losing to bitter rival Brockton is almost devastating. At Durfee on Tuesday.
#25.Tie Cusp	Carver (D3 S) – 11 – 1 – Great win over New Bedford so they split the series...hence they tie at #25 with Foxborough.
#25.Tie Cusp	Foxborough (D2 S) – 9 – 1 – Club keeps rolling and has a week to prep for huge rematch at OA after losing season opener to OA by only 4.

“On the Cusp”

Acton Boxborough (D1 N) -- 5 – 2 Lose to Westford on the road so got to set them back a bit...Newton South on Tuesday could be a fun one...
Dighton Rehoboth – (D2 S) -- 9 – 2 Tough week...1 point loss to unbeaten Bourne and then got upset by Old Rochester. Bourne rematch is on 2/10.
New Mission (D4 N) – 6 – 0 Still beating up on their City foes but need some outside action for us to believe.
Bishop Fenwick (D2 N) – 7 – 2 Good team and will be a tough out come tourney time.
Newton South (D1 S) 8 – 2 – Young club has bright future despite 15 point loss to #4 Westford.
Hopkinton (D2 S) – 8 – 1 Lost only to unbeaten Medfield but at least they are on my radar now.
Masconomet (D2 N) – 7 – 2 Club passing all their regular courses but when they have an exam in their “AP” classes (like AC, Pentucket) they haven’t passed one yet...Central Catholic is the next “AP” exam on Sunday 2/1...will they ace it?
Somerville (D1 N) – 6 – 3 Great road win at Lynn English is a huge “high”...then loss of starting guard Jill Liberatore (ACL) for the year and Jenny Vallessio for 6 weeks in next game is such a “low”...rugged week at AC then hosting Medford and NDA...
Mansfield (D2 S) – 6 – 3 A rough patch as they lose 3 in a row to Foxboro, OA and Canton. Hope to get back in the saddle this week though.
Sharon (D2 S) – 6 – 3 Loss to Foxboro at home was not unexpected but need a quality win to move up.
Cardinal Spellman (D3 S) – 7 - 4 Saw them against AC and still a work in progress...Lamb will have his club keep plugging away and could jell come tourney time when the season record is all forgotten...no one will want to play them in the state’s.
Weymouth (D1 S) – 6 – 3 Hammering by Wellesley and only scoring 31 in Braintree loss means you go back to the Cusp.

Manchester Essex (D4 N) 8 – 2 – Hornets continue to win but will be challenged big by D3 Wilmington come Friday.
Danvers (D2 N) – 7 – 3 Loss to Peabody by 2 a surprise but heard frosh Palazola was a DNP...then lost to scrappy Beverly by only 3.
Ipswich (D3 N) – 5 – 3 Club continues to fade slowly losing to Masco and NA....
Duxbury (D2 S) 6 – 2 – Dragons slowly building a solid season with the Curley cousins.
Stoneham (D3 N) 9 – 2 – Quality win over Reading puts them on the map.
Beverly (D1 N) 7 – 3 Should get past Saugus this week then get to make a big impression if they can beat Swampscott on the 23 rd .
St. Mary’s of Lynn (D3 N) – 8 – 4 Got roughed up by 15 against Lynn English then smoked Lynn Tech...now off to AC Monday night.
Weston (D3 N) – 7 – 4 Wildcats could win 2 this week and then travel to AB for a big one.
Gloucester (D2 N) – 6 – 4 Get a chance to make a big impression when they host Lynn English on Friday.
Lincoln-Sudbury (D2 N) – 5 – 3 Like close games with Newton teams as lost to South by 1 then beat North by 1 then lost to WMass power Springfield Central by 12.
North Andover (D2 N) 6 – 3 – This is a solid group but they need a power win to get more attention...
Concord Carlisle (D2 N) – 7 – 2 Patriots playing hard so they start getting some looks.
Archbishop Williams (D3 S) – 4 – 6 – Tough schedule worked great the last 2 seasons when you had great veterans...it’s hurting them now with a very young team. 4 of their losses to Top 25 teams and other 2 to clubs “On the Cusp.”
Medway (D3 S) – 5 – 3 Mustangs are hard to figure but Katy Howard is a quality player so let’s keep watching them.

Class of 2008...How are they doing?

Ellery Gould – D3 Bowdoin (13 – 3) – Former Sandwich star is playing about 16 minutes and scoring close to 6.5 PPG.

Meghan Kerwan – D2 UMass Lowell (7 – 8) – Former Melrose great is playing over 10 minutes a game and scoring 3 PPG.

Megan Tobin – D3 Regis (11 – 4) – Former Quincy star is getting about 13 minutes playing time and scoring 3.3 PPG.

Caroline Stedman – D3 Amherst (16 – 0) – Former Walpole star is playing about 8 minutes and scoring 2 PPG for the undefeated Lord Jeffs who are ranked #4 in the country for D3 teams.

Lindsay Sydness – D3 Principia College in Illinois (3 – 8) -- Former Wellesley star is playing 14 minutes a game and scoring at a 6.5 PPG clip.

Julie Conrad – D3 Suffolk (8 – 4) -- Former West Bridgewater great has started all 12 games playing 28 minutes a game. She leads the team in scoring at 13.1 PPG, steals, and is 2nd in rebounding.

Gotta' run folks!.... Remember... **“No ability without eligibility!”**