

Coach Storm's EMass Pre-Season Top 25

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Somerville MA – Now we can start doing some measuring...who beat who...by how much...who lost to who...by how much...those kind of things. Thus we have a big shakeup below and with the parity this year I think this movement will continue right through the whole season. Now we have some power rankings to go by with teams getting quality wins or maybe a confidence building loss under their belts. Some teams do not play Xmas Tourneys and thus have long layoffs...that just can't be good for getting into the flow of the season but sometimes this is dictated by an 18 game league schedule...so no flexibility...either play a Xmas Tourney or in a February vacation one. Now we get to some serious league play and some big rivalry games. I personally think there is such parity that I can't see any team going undefeated this year...anyone else think someone can win 'em all?

I hope you enjoy the rankings I've compiled and always feel to e-mail me at coachstorm5@comcast.net with any comments. Happy holidays to all and may your team play hard, play well, and have nobody get hurt in the New Year! Enjoy the games folks!

Top 25 Rankings

Now Last Ranking

#1.	#4.	Lowell (D1 N) – 5 – 0 You beat the former #1 team and then Pinkerton and you now become the club with the big bulls eye on your back. At Andover Saturday night in a good one. Props to co-MVP's in the Wilson sisters as I had them for a combined 42 points and 24 boards in the championship game.
#2.	#3.	Reading – (D2 N) -- 5 – 0 Rockets now have a quality win with hard fought battle over bitter rival Melrose behind them...quality seniors win as Lyons goes 11 for 11 at the line with 4 biggies in last minute and a half...now they get Lexington...a jinx team for them.
#3.	#7.	Swampscott (D3 N) – 7 - 0 Club is on a mission right now winning the Haverhill Xmas Tourney with rugged win over super D3 North rival Pentucket...what great matchups these games are!
#4.	#14.	New Bedford (D1 S) – 6 – 0 Club gets some revenge for last year by beating W-H...what a start for their league...the Big 3 are all undefeated.
#5.	#15.	Brockton (D1 S) – 5 – 0 Another Big 3 member who is still rolling but will their speed be neutralized in NDA's small gym on Wednesday??? Interesting game for both clubs.
#6.	#1.	Central Catholic (D1 N) – 4 – 1 Katie Z's injury finally hurts losing to top dog Lowell but rallied to beat North Andover by 7. Off to Andover Wednesday night...always a tough gym for them to win at.
#7.	#2.	Pentucket (D3 N) – 6 – 1 Tough loss to Swampscott but will only make them work harder as I hope those 2 meet again in the states.

#8.	#5.	Wellesley (D2 S) – 4 – 0 No Xmas Tourney but did beat Dedham by 24...at Belmont and Natick early this week and then home against Weymouth in a nice test on Friday night.
#9.	#6.	Walpole (D2 S) -- 3 – 0 No games in 15 days...but...they make up for it at the end of the year when they play in the Comcast and play their own February tourney which is loaded.
#10.	#24.	Durfee (D1 S) 6 – 0 – 3rd member of the “Big 3” and also unbeaten scoring 66 a game...combined record of Big 3 is 17 and 0 so far...but soon they have to play each other...should be fun...can’t wait.
#11.	#19.	Bishop Feehan (D2 S) – 5 – 1 Gutsy club here who after losing Lepley almost beat undefeated Durfee and then beat the Archie’s behind Jenna Roncarati’s 26 ... Love quality seniors and she certainly is one...big week hosting So. Kingstown, RI today and Coyle on Friday night.
#12.	#8.	Westford (D2 N1) 2 – 0 – The Grey Ghosts win the Masco tourney impressively beating AC by 3...boy do they need more games though.
#13.	#10.	Arlington Catholic (D2 N) – 4 - 1 Cougars beat Masco big but drop toughie to Westford in finals.
#14.	Cusp	Bridgewater-Raynham (D1 S) -- 6 - 0 B-R with big Xmas Tourney win over OA at OA...still showing stingy “D” holding OA to 40.
#15.	#11.	Oliver Ames (D2 S) – 5 – 1 B-R’s defensive buzz saw shuts them down in 1 point loss 41 to 40...interesting stretch now at Franklin, home against Sharon and then at Mansfield next week...hmmm.
#16.	#16.	Andover (D1 N) – 5 – 1 – Pinkerton put the clamps on Boudreau after frosh started with 16 in 1 st quarter then she had zippo afterwards then rallied to beat Lawrence and Methuen. Hosting Central catholic Wednesday and Lowell on Saturday as the MVC now gets serious.
#17.	#21.	Dighton Rehoboth – (D2 S) -- 7 – 0 Should win at Wareham Tuesday and then huge match at Bourne on Friday.
#18.	#13.	Whitman Hanson (D2 S) – 4 – 1 New Bedford got some revenge with 9 point win over W-H so now they re-load.
#19.	Cusp	Mansfield (D2 S) – 6 – 0 Win the Hingham Xmas Tourney then bop rugged Sharon by 9...at Foxboro Friday night in a big Hock battle.
#20.	Cusp	Lynn English (D1 N) – 6 – 0 They continue to fly all over the court finding ways to win...hosting Somerville in an interesting one this week.
#21.	#12.	Melrose (D2 N) – 4 - 2 Losses to #1 NH power Winnacunnet and to bitter rival #2 Reading (48 to 47) causes short term pain but should be confidence boosters in the long term as they hung in there with those 2 highly ranked clubs.
#22.	Cusp	Acton Boxborough (D1 N) -- 2 – 1 Tough double OT loss to CMass power Holy Name hurts but Pzenny going for 20 is a good sign...another team that needs more games to get in a good flow.
#23.	#23.	Medfield (D2 S) – 5 – 0 No Xmas hoops here but club did get by Ashland by 6 after being off for 11 days.
#24.	#18.	Notre Dame of Hingham (D2 S) – 4 – 1 Tough 3 point loss to Weymouth but threw up 70 points in consolation game so the sorrow was short-lived...interesting week hosting Somerville, Brockton and Fontbonne.
#25.	#22.	Weymouth (D1 S) – 4 – 1 Quality win over NDA of Hingham but must have celebrated a little too much and got upset by No. Quincy in finals...good week as they host Newton North then travel to Wellesley.

“On the Cusp”

New Mission (D4 N) – 2 – 0 Need some game results here so they get dropped a bit.
Marshfield (D1 S) 5 – 1 – Firing on all cylinders right now with 5 straight wins.
Coyle Cassidy (D3 S) – 6 – 1 – Gonsalves is back and they start to roll as she pumps in 27 in Xmas Tourney championship win over Canton...at Feehan Friday night in a good one.
Ipswich (D3 N) – 4 – 1 Heard they lost their point guard to an ACL and club hasn't looked the same lately losing to Beverly, barely beating Triton by 5 and feisty Wilmington by 3...hosting young Masco and solid North Andover this week.
Sharon (D2 S) – 3 – 1 Loss to Mansfield after 10 day layoff brings them back to earth a little and now tough road game at OA on Friday...let's see if they rebound.
Bourne (D3 S) – 4 – 0 Big week and hope they beat Falmouth and Seekonk so it sets up Friday's home game with Mary and D-R as that will be a doozy.
Cohasset (D4 S) -- 5 – 0 Defending D4 state champs (my bad calling them runner-up earlier) playing like they want more “bling” this year.
Foxborough (D2 S) – 4 – 1 – Won the Dedham Xmas Tourney impressively then beat stubborn Franklin by 11...hosting Mansfield Friday in a fun one.
Newton South (D1 S) 5 – 1 – New Coach Sam Doner has team playing well early...only loss a heartbreaking 1 pointer to Newton North on halfcourt buzzer beater.
Cardinal Spellman (D3 S) – 3 - 2 Win their own Cardinal Classic by beating very good Mercy, CT team BUT...no Rachel Roberts (Villanova) or Bianca Simmons for Mercy...wonder why their super guards did not play?? Still a tough read here.
Carver (D3 S) – 5 – 1 – Good team winning big by over 20 a game after opening loss to New Bedford.
Danvers (D2 N) – 6 – 1 Only loss to powerful Swampscott and they beat Winthrop by 15...funny but all 6 wins on the road too...club is now on the radar screen.
Bishop Fenwick (D2 N) – 3 – 2 Gave NH top dog Winnacunnet all they could handle losing by 8 then beat Tewksbury by the same margin...at the Archie's on Tuesday.
Masconomet (D2 N) – 4 – 1 Xmas Tourney started with long night against AC but beat Londonderry and smoked Rockport... Tuesday road trip to Ipswich will tell us something about both teams.
Somerville (D1 N) – 2 – 2 Ahhh...my “little provincial pick” has life as the ‘ville wins their own Xmas Tourney bopping Fontbonne Ducks by 14...big week with road tilts at NDA, Lynn English and Cambridge...
Fontbonne (D1 S) 3 – 1 – Beat Needham early and often but defense let up in last 6 minutes giving up like 26 points...trend continued in losing to Somerville in the tourney championship...need to get the “D” back in gear...rugged week ahead as 3 road tilts with the Archie's today, Spellman Wednesday, and NDA Friday.
Manchester Essex (D4 N) 3 – 1 – Nice win over D1 Beverly (Coach Dubois' alma mater) had to be sweet for her and this D4 power.
Franklin (D1 S) – 3 - 3 Panthers win their Xmas Tourney beating the Archie's but then lose at Foxboro by 11...youth equals inconsistent.
Archbishop Williams (D3 S) – 3 – 3 – Archie's' lost tough 2 pointer to Franklin then by 6 to Feehan. Young troops need to mature which will bring more even play.
St. Mary's of Lynn (D3 N) – 4 – 2 Got roughed up by 15 against Lynn English then smoked Lynn Tech...now off to AC Monday night.
Weston (D3 N) – 4 – 1 Lost to Coyle by a good bit but rallied to drop Hopedale in the consolation.
Gloucester (D2 N) – 4 – 2 Impressive start tempered with loss to Danvers and 2 non-league wins against a struggling Arlington crew.
Lincoln-Sudbury (D2 N) – 2 – 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.
Newton North (D1 S) 2 – 3 – Talk about parity...lost to L-S by 1 then beat Newton South by 1 on the “hail Mary” half court shot.
Needham (D1 S) 3 – 3 – Fontbonne and AC losses were not pretty...club has talent but needs some W's.
Beverly (D1 N) 3 – 2 Up one game down the next...needs to smooth out the bumps.
Medway (D3 S) – 1 – 2 Mustangs are another with no Xmas Tourney action so remain in limbo so far...need some consistent playing to get on a roll.
Winthrop (D3 N) – 3 – 4 They got bopped by a very good Mercy, CT WITH the aforementioned Roberts and Simmons playing and then beat Norwood in the consolation.

Class of 2008...How are they doing?

Michelle DeRoma – D2 AIC (9 – 6) – Former Mt. Alvernia star is playing about 17 minutes and scoring close to 5 PPG.

Casey Cappello – D3 St. Lawrence (5 – 2) – Former Archie great is playing over 8 minutes a game and scoring 5.2 PPG including scoring 10 in a recent win over Ithaca.

Rebecca Goreham – D3 Fitchburg State (6 – 5) – Former North Quincy great is getting about 13 minutes playing time and scoring 5 PPG.

Renee LeBlanc – D3 Westfield State (9 – 2) – Former Waltham star is playing over 16 minutes and scoring 5.6 PPG.

Tasia Kearse – D2 Bentley (8 – 6) Former L-S star is playing 8 minutes a game and scoring at a 2.5 PPG clip.

Ashley Rivera – Notre Dame Prep -- Former Lowell all time great is doing a “Post-grad” year in Fitchburg and I couldn’t find any stats or record. Thought you might want to know where she is playing though.

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