

Coach Storm's EMass Top 25

Written by Tom Hellen

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Somerville MA (Games Played through 1/28/09) – Here's what I'm talking about...Lowell goes to Andover and wins by 10...Central Catholic goes to Andover (without Polce but with Katie Z) and loses by 23...Central Catholic loses to Lowell on a neutral court by 9 (without Katie Z) then later goes to Lowell and wins by 24 when fully healthy...so hard to figure this year. The MVC with those 3 teams a combined 32 and 5 (4 losses against each other) looks like the power conference this year. The Big 3 is just that this year with Brockton, New Bedford, and Durfee a combined 31 and 6 (3 losses against each other). The Catholic Conference has great depth with excellent teams including AC, Spellman, Fenwick, St. Mary's and the Archie's on any given night. The Bay State has Wellesley and Walpole and Weymouth and Needham can be tough as Walpole found out. Dual County has Westford and AB very strong. Who do you think is the strongest league?

Only 3 unbeaten clubs left (I think) in Bourne, Cohasset, and Medfield. I would rank all 3 higher if they only had some wins over more Top 25 teams. Bourne beat D-R when I had them ranked...Cohasset has 2 wins over #25 Carver...and Medfield is limited with 18 Tri Valley League games so has not been able to play another Top 25 team though I had Medway ranked in pre-season. Medfield does have the super tough Walpole tourney coming...Bourne has the D-R rematch...and Cohasset could run the table. All really good clubs but I just wish they had more wins over ranked/cusp clubs at this point. Great accomplishment so far though!

I want to thank Doug Lindland for his help with our website this year. Doug does great work and if you need website services, feel free to e-mail him at doug@easternhoopleague.com or check out his business site at www.delci.com or his basketball site at www.easternhoopleague.org

Again...lots of changes in this crazy year...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.	#2.	Wellesley (D2 S) – 12 – 0 Beat Weymouth by 29 and Weymouth beat NDA by 3 so Wellesley is a +32 over NDA...Andover beat NDA by 22...summary is Wellesley is #1 by +10...trying to anticipate LadWarFan's questions on MassLive...lol.
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#2. Tie #12.	Andover (D1 N) – 12 – 2 – Blew out NDA by 22 in 2 nd half behind Gomez with 25 and 6 assists plus Boudreau with 19 and 5 assists...only losses to Lowell and NH power Pinkerton...can't wait until they travel to Central Catholic on the 3 rd !
#2. Tie #1.	Lowell (D1 N) – 11 – 1 Beat Central Catholic when they didn't have Katie Z but got smoked by a healthy Central Catholic crew by 24 this week...rubber match at Central on Friday...hmmm. They did beat Andover by 10 on the road so...
#2. Tie #17.	Central Catholic (D1 N) – 10 – 2 They are 100% healthy for the 1 st time and it showed by crushing Lowell on the road by 24....only losses to Andover and Lowell...when they have all the pieces, they have the most pieces...watch out now...
#5. #4.	Westford (D2 N1) 11 – 1 – Grey Ghosts were spookin' foes by big margins...until the Concord Patriots (now 10 and 2) pulled the upset...hosting young and improving L-S Friday will be interesting.
#6. #6.	Arlington Catholic (D2 N) – 11 - 1 Cougars doing what they need to do but is Roche 100% healthy as they'll need all their weapons when they travel to Fenwick who is always tough at home.
#7. #14.	Brockton (D1 S) – 11 – 2 Boxers beat Durfee and New Bedford last week...and now knock B-R from the unbeaten ranks with 12 point win...now looking for revenge when NDA comes to town Friday.
#8. #3.	Bridgewater-Raynham (D1 S) -- 12 - 1 Defense has never been a question but after losing 1 st to speedy Brockton 55 to 43 one wonders if they have enough "O" come tourney time?? Only scoring 43 a game in 6 games against Top 25 teams...Good win over tough Marshfield by 4 though.
#9. #7.	Oliver Ames (D2 S) – 11 – 1 Lanie's ladies layin' the lumber on teams...even good clubs like Foxboro...winning by 15...but they did lose to B-R at home by 1 so gotta' stay behind B-R...
#10. #9.	Swampscott (D3 N) – 13 - 1 Solid wins over Peabody and Beverly but now hit the road to scrappy Danvers Friday night.
#11. #10.	Pentucket (D3 N) – 14 – 1 Nice win over NDA by 5 on the road (see Wellesley above) and also blew out Ipswich by 22...can North Andover give them a tussle Friday night?
#12. #11.	Reading – (D2 N) -- 11 – 1 Should hold serve until rematch at Melrose on Monday 2/2.
#13. #8.	Lynn English (D1 N) – 13 – 1 I'm wondering a little here as they struggle to beat 7 and 5 Gloucester on the road by 3 and score only 39 then beat Danvers by 1...they are very good but just how good???
#14. #16.	Whitman Hanson (D2 S) – 13 – 1 Nice road win at North Quincy by 5
#15. #5.	Walpole (D2 S) -- 9 – 2 Injury to Roof and subsequent loss to Needham shows how fragile every team's season can be...hope she's back soon as Weymouth and 6'2" Sarah Collins come to town Friday.
#16. #18.	Medfield (D2 S) – 12 – 0 Only 2 games won by less than 14...are they that good??...bring on that Walpole Tourney to give us some answers.
#17. #19.	Melrose (D2 N) – 12 - 2 Should win both this week setting up home

		rematch with the Rockets of Reading on the 2 nd
#18.	#20.	Coyle Cassidy (D3 S) – 11 – 2 – Good win over stubborn Stang sets up home tilt rematch with feisty Feehan on Friday.
#19.	#21.	Bishop Feehan (D2 S) – 10 – 2 Only losses to Durfee in OT and Coyle by 1...Got some payback beating Durfee...will there be more revenge at Coyle on Friday??
#20.	#15.	Durfee (D1 S) 10 – 2 – Nice week beating New Bedford and Attleboro...but loss to home Feehan moves them down a bit.
#21.	#22.	Marshfield (D1 S) 11 – 2 – Did better in loss to B-R as they scored 37 this time and only 34 in the 1 st tilt...
#22.	#23.	Bourne (D3 S) – 13 – 0 Wareham gave them a slight scare winning by only 7 then Falmouth was even closer winning by 3...but still one of the few unbeaten left.
#23.	#24.	Cohasset (D4 S) -- 14 – 0 Two quality wins over tough D3 Carver (who beat D1 New Bedford) in less than a week...one club with a legit chance to go undefeated as they'll be favored in all the rest....
#24. Tie	#13.	Notre Dame of Hingham (D2 S) – 10 – 3 Travel North to Andover and play a great 1 st half up 34 to 32 then score only 10 points in 2 nd half...just get by Somerville in OT...then lose at home to Pentucket...not a fun week but props to Coach Barrett for this challenging schedule...and now off to Brockton on Friday with the Boxers looking for payback.
#24. Tie	#24.	New Bedford (D1 S) – 12 – 3 Icy patch causes Whalers to skid losing to Big 3 rivals Durfee and Brockton.
#25. Tie	Cusp	Acton Boxborough (D1 N) -- 10 – 2 Nice 12 point win over Newton South then a payback win over Holy Name after losing in OT the 1 st time...AB is back in gear....
#25. Tie	Cusp	New Mission (D4 N) – 10 – 1 Heard they gave NYC club Archbishop Molloy (ranked #6 in Big Apple) all they could handle before losing 75 to 60...O'Bryant and West Roxbury gave them scares winning by 2 each game

“On the Cusp”

Carver (D3 S) – 13 – 4 – Cohasset has their number beating them twice then injuries were a factor in loss to East Bridgewater...
Foxborough (D2 S) – 10 – 2 – Week of prep time didn't help as they lose by 15 to OA in rematch.
North Quincy (D1 S) – 11 - 4 Rough times losing to Brockton by 8 and W-H by 5 and Hanover by 2...so they gotta' drop a bit...but beat Duxbury in 2 OT's scoring 88!
Bishop Fenwick (D2 N) – 9 – 3 Lost to AC by 10 at AC...can they get revenge at home where Fenwick rarely loses??...we'll see Friday night.

Masconomet (D2 N) – 11 – 2 Romeo's rebuilding reaps right answers in regular courses but that rugged "AP" exam comes Super Bowl Sunday when they host Central Catholic.
St. Mary's of Lynn (D3 N) – 11 – 4 Nice win over the Archie's following Spellman win then beat up Holyoke Catholic, AP, and Dracut...club could be peaking now.
Cardinal Spellman (D3 S) – 9 - 5 Slowly building some cohesion with wins over Newton South and Fenwick at home...but then comes a loss to the Archie's...hmmm.
Dighton Rehoboth – (D2 S) -- 11 – 3 Thought they were back as proved they can win when Mary N scores only 2 free throws (true story!) beating Somerset 53 to 40...but then got upset by Case...hmmm...Bourne rematch is on 2/10
Hopkinton (D2 S) – 11 – 1 Club will hopefully keep focused so rematch at home with Medfield on 2/10 will be a doozie.
Sharon (D2 S) – 8 – 4 Loss to Franklin hurts...still like to see a quality win here.
Weymouth (D1 S) – 9 – 3 Solid week winning 2 and get a chance for a power win at Walpole on Friday.
Manchester Essex (D4 N) 10 – 3 – Hornets with nice win against a hot Wilmington club and now host Ipswich this Friday.
Newton South (D1 S) 10 – 4 – Doner's damsels in some distress losing to the Dual County iron and to Spellman as they show their youth...young kids bounce back quick though as they beat a hot Concord Carlisle club.
Duxbury (D2 S) 9 – 3 – Dragons slowly building a solid season with the Curley cousins...did they really score 84 and lose to NQ in double OT??
Stoneham (D3 N) 12 – 2 – Quality win over Reading is the only one so we need more tests and hosting Melrose on the 4 th will be a good one.
Mansfield (D2 S) – 8 – 4 Losing streak ends at 4 with 16 point win over Stoughton...are they back in gear??...at Franklin Friday may tell.
Somerville (D1 N) – 8 – 5 Played well at AC and gave NDA big problems before losing in OT...all 5 losses to Top 25 clubs.
Danvers (D2 N) – 8 – 5 Gave LE a tussle but lost a 1 point heartbreaker.
Wilmington (D3 N) – 9 – 4 Quietly won 8 of 9 then lost 2 pointer to Manchester Essex...Amy Fahey with 38 against Methuen...nice job girl.
Salem (D1 N) – 11 – 3 Quietly snuck up on me but Coach Fortunato's club now get some ink...at Lynn English on Friday...maybe more ink???
Lincoln-Sudbury (D2 N) – 8 – 5 Coach Feldman bringing the young troops along nicely...how far have they come??...at Westford Friday might give us the answer.
Beverly (D1 N) 8 – 5 Got whupped by Swampscott so need to get back on track.
Ipswich (D3 N) – 6 – 4 Club has more ups and downs than the X Games...heard Amber Smith went for 43 against Georgetown...the folks in Orono must be smiling.
Weston (D3 N) – 9 – 5 Wildcats have trouble with the DCL iron...but now back to their division.
Concord Carlisle (D2 N) – 10 – 3 Patriots win a big one downing Westford by 7...now you get some props...but got bopped by Newton South afterwards.
North Andover (D2 N) 8 – 4 – Congrats to Nicole Z on her 1,000 th point...good kid from a good family...

Needham (D1 S) – 9 – 6 Nice win over tough Walpole gets the Rockets back on board.

Archbishop Williams (D3 S) – 6 – 8 – Tough schedule worked great the last 2 seasons when you had great veterans...it's hurting them now with a very young team. Record is deceiving as 4 of their losses to Top 25 teams and 3 to clubs "On the Cusp." Win over Spellman keeps them in.

Gloucester (D2 N) – 7 – 5 Gave LE a tussle but came up short by a 39 to 36 count.

Class of 2008...How are they doing?

Cori O'Kane – D2 Stonehill (17 – 3) – Former Spellman star was playing 23 minutes a game scoring 5 per game with 2 assists and almost 2 steals before an ACL ended her frosh year way too early.

Shelly DePina – D3 Bridgewater (11 – 6) – Former New Bedford great is playing about 21 minutes a game and scoring almost 10 PPG.

Stephanie Houtman – D3 Bridgewater (11 – 6) – Former New Bedford star is getting over 28 minutes playing time and scoring 7.5 PPG and leads the team with 45 steals.

Meghan Cavanaugh – D3 Springfield (9 – 8) – Former Lowell star is playing about 21 minutes and scoring over 4 PPG.

Maggie Rossi – D3 Colby Sawyer (10 – 6) -- Former Fairhaven star is playing 16 minutes a game and scoring about 4 PPG and is 2nd on the club with 47 assists.

Erin Baldwin – D2 Southern New Hampshire (11 – 7) -- Former Fairhaven great is getting about 2 minutes time and scoring about a point a game.

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