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Women's hockey edges out Bowdoin

By Sid Barrett Aspbury III

After returning home from last weekend's win against M.I.T. and loss against top-ranked Brown, the women's hockey team had to face two foes from Maine: Colby and Bowdoin. Going into the weekend, the team's record was an impressive 5-2-1 before dropping Friday night's game to Colby by a score of 1-0.

Friday's game was the first meeting of the season for the two teams. It was a hard fought battle, but Colby was able to hold off all of Middlebury's shots on goal while managing to put a single one past goalie Liza Baxter '94. This proved to be the winning goal, and dropped the women's team record to 5-3-1.

The next night was a different story altogether as the team played their most emotional game of the season to a parent-packed Nelson Arena. Some ardent fans and admiring beaus looked on as Middlebury pulled off an overtime victory against a hard-fighting Bowdoin Polar Bear squad.

That the match was the most physical so far this season which was evident from the opening face-off and the aggressive play of a large Bowdoin forward with a wicked slap shot. However, the Panthers controlled the puck throughout the first period and yielded only one shot with their excellent defensive efforts.

Bowdoin came out of the locker room and redoubled their offensive strength in the second period of play. Middlebury's lines continued to play

well and did everything but put the puck in the net. The Panthers had their chances with the likes of Kelly Hefner '95's shot that hit the crossbar with 10:30 left in the second period, yet Lady Luck was on the Polar Bear's side — they scored. With Middlebury one man down due to a much deserved crosschecking penalty, the goal went in with 5:28 left in the second period off the stick of Carol Thomas, Bowdoin's big number 17.

The second period ended with Middlebury down one, but that was quickly reversed as junior Katie Fisher netted the puck on an assist from her faithful friends, seniors Margi Sheehan and Jessica Tuck, at 2 minutes and 38 seconds into the third. The next goal came minutes later, at 10:15 with a breakaway goal from freshperson Kirtley Horton. However, Bowdoin retaliated with a wicked slap shot from the blue line by (of course) number 17 that hit the upper corner to tie things up at the end of regulation.

The Panthers stayed hungry in overtime, and 2:02 into the extra period, Laurie Odden '93 hooked up with Hefner for the winning goal. The team streamed onto the ice in an emotional celebration that reminded these reporters of the miraculous victory of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey team. You can bet that the win was celebrated on the border of excess that night.

This week, Middlebury entertains Skidmore and Amherst at Nelson Arena.

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