

# Goalkeeper Picard garners ECAC MVP honors

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Sports Editor

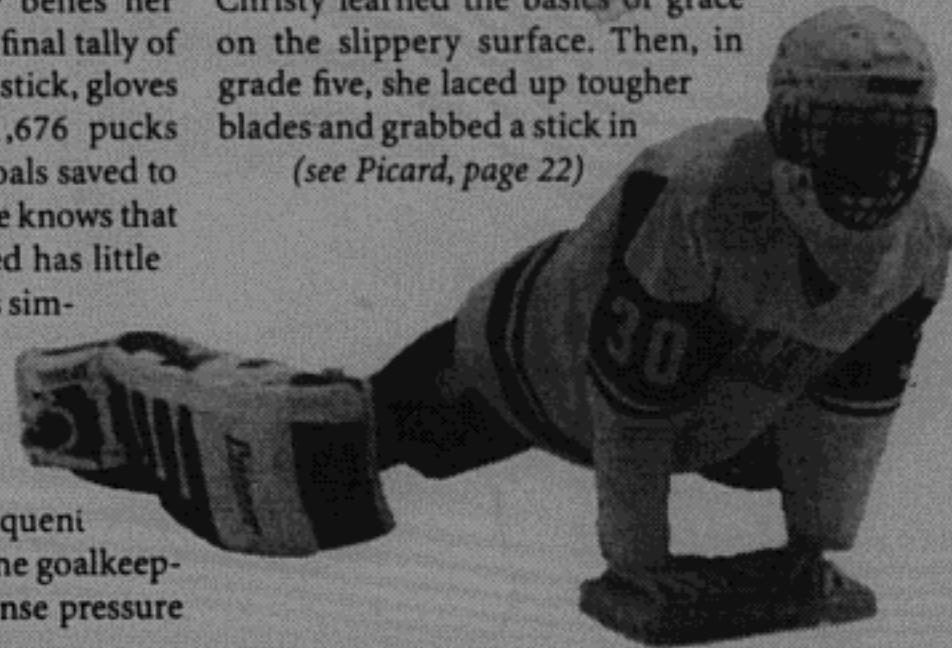
"Is it stressful being the last line of defense?" Canadian senior goalie Christy Picard turns over the question with some consideration, but only for a couple of seconds. "Yeah," she grins, "But I like it."

The succinctness of her summary belies her amazing achievements on the ice. The final tally of goals deferred by a combo of Picard's stick, gloves and body rests at an impressive 1,676 pucks stopped, bringing her percentage of goals saved to a remarkable .871 percent. Yet everyone knows that the heart and soul of the games played has little to do with bare stats on a page. Picard's simple declaration of devotion to those final crucial seconds, when all that stood between victory and defeat were the deft movements of her own body, says more than any long, eloquent rhapsody on the challenges of being the goalkeeper. As the last line of defense, the intense pressure

was always one constant despite any sequence of surprises from the attacking forwards. And Christy liked it.

Picard's passion was always in the ice rink, but at an earlier age her skates looked a bit different. Figure skating from roughly age three to seven, Christy learned the basics of grace on the slippery surface. Then, in grade five, she laced up tougher blades and grabbed a stick in

*(see Picard, page 22)*



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