

Women's hockey follows undefeated tradition

By Anne McDonough
Women's Ice Hockey

The women's hockey team can do a lot of things. Losing is not one of them. Following a three-year ECAC record of 54-0, the Panthers started off the '98-99 season with two impressive blowouts against Amherst and Southern Maine. According to co-captain Suzanne Chepren '99, the team philosophy is to "forget about the past and concentrate on the season one game at a time." Yet the three-time ECAC Women's Ice Hockey Alliance Champions have a reputation to uphold. If the opening games are any indication, the Panthers are in for yet another stellar season.

Middlebury led 8-0 after two periods against Amherst on November 20. Two goals in the third period clinched the game at 10-0. Sylvia Ryan '00 led the team with two goals, while sophomore Michelle Labbe scored once and offered two assists. Sarah Carpenter '01 also had two assists.

While the Panther offense was working its magic, the defensive players slammed the Amherst team, giving goaltender Beth Davencourt '00 a mere two chances to display her keeping skills.

With one shut-out under their belt, the Panthers faced Southern Maine the next day. Labbe and senior co-captain Janice O'Neil used the home court advantage to offer a goal each in the first period. Carpenter contributed two goals and three assists, topped only by O'Neil's four assists. Matching her

Women's Hockey

Friday, November 20th

Middlebury	10
Amherst	0

Saturday, November 21st

Middlebury	8
Southern Maine	0

performance against Amherst, Ryan scored twice. First-year goaltender Megan Hutchinson's collegiate debut was marked by 13

saves.

All of Southern Maine's attempts on goal were brutally rebuffed by the defensive maneuvers and quick thinking of the Panthers. The final score was 8-0, leaving the team with a 54-0 record.

Ten freshmen have joined the ranks this season.

"A lot of first-years are being asked to step up," said Chepren. "They're really a good group and are doing well."

With Coach Bill Mandigo starting his eleventh year as coach and 15 veterans to lead the way, the first-years appear to be in good hands.

The Panthers face Colgate and R.I.T. this weekend.

"We're pretty excited for R.I.T.,"

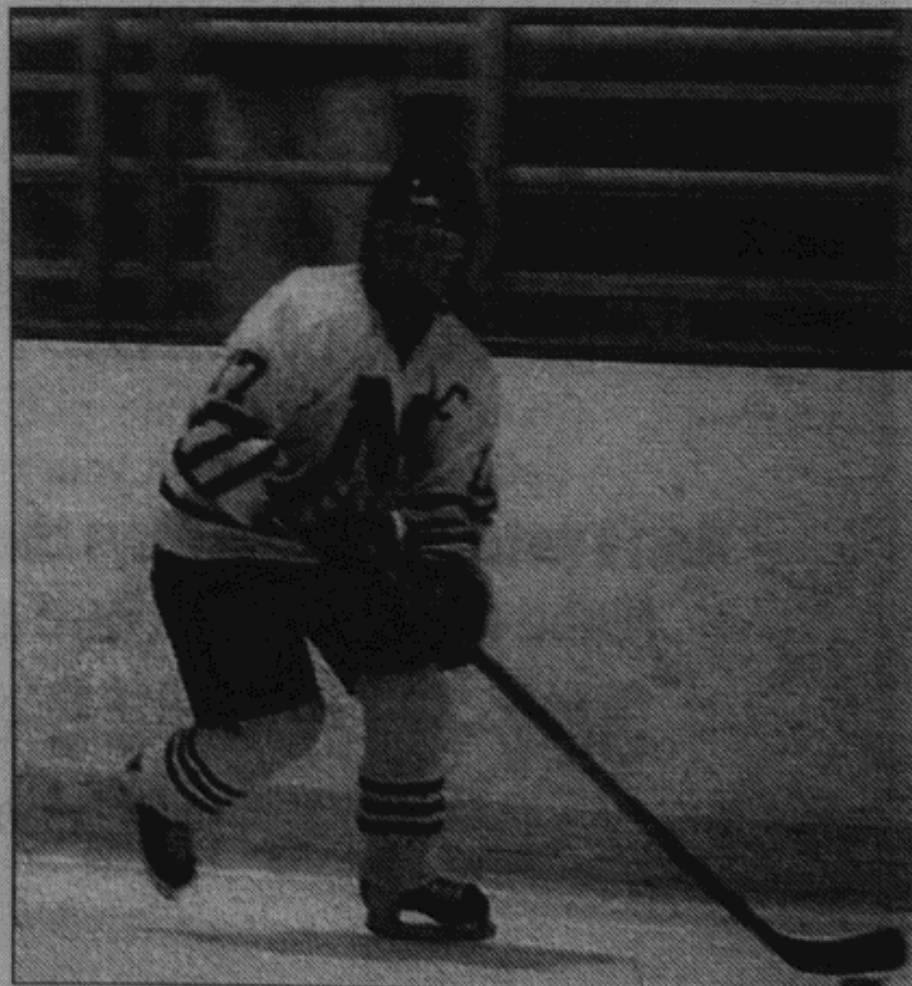
said O'Neil. "They're usually a good game. We're psyched."

After these games the team will have until after the holidays to concentrate on practice and intra-team scrimmages before the Dartmouth tournament on Dec. 29 and 30.

"The tournament is always a lot of fun," said Chepren. "We come

out against some top Division I schools and usually have an impressive showing." Two veteran players will return from their studies abroad in time to participate in the tournament.

The new ice arena will be unveiled in January with a game against UVM.



Pete Huoppi

A Panther hockey player demonstrates her skillful puck handling abilities.