

Women's hockey skates to two wins against tough opposition

Panthers outscore their opponents by 20-1 in first two games

By Megan Maloney
Staff Writer

Middlebury's women's ice hockey team came on strong, defeating Bowdoin and the University of Maine-Orono last weekend.

Bowdoin College, ranked third in the East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) alliance last year, was prepared for Middlebury. Having a new coach and great new players, Bowdoin thought the game would be tight.

However, Middlebury prevailed, scoring rather early in the first period, and continuing their scoring streak well until the end of the game. The final score was an 8-0 drubbing.

Beth Denoncourt '00 made her debut as goalie for the Panthers, and netted her first shut out of the season. The team put forward a wonderful effort on many levels.

Captain Jen Hefner '97 commented, "Sometimes it gets a bit frustrating when we skate over teams like we did with Bowdoin and Maine, but it's great to see so much variety in goal scoring. It's pretty amazing that we can play four lines of offense and six defensemen and beat the supposed second best team in the league (Bowdoin)."

The University of Maine-Orono was the second team played in this double header weekend. Despite the poor refereeing and poor sportsmanship displayed by the University of Maine, Middlebury pulled out ahead with a final score

of 12-1.

Crystal Springer '00 made her debut against the University of Maine, splitting time in net with Kristen Hackman '99.

The Panthers are a very young team with only a small group of returning players.

Returning seniors include Whit Parks, Jen Hefner, Kate Oates, Laine

Catlin, Sarah Vintiadis and Libby Zug. Juniors include Rebecca Sama and Megan Maloney, and sophomores include Janice O'Neil, Sue "Chep" Chepren, Kristen Hackman, Caiti Higgins, and Sarah Cotton.

"With a lot of new talent, our

team has much more depth this year. The leadership of the older players is key in the development of team unity," Catlin added.

The Panthers host their first home game against the University of Vermont Wednesday, December 3, at 7 p.m.



Carla Naumberg

The women's hockey team seems unstoppable after their first two games.

Women's hoops hopes to keep win streak alive

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tently a top scorer and rebounder, she "does more than just score. She's scrappy and runs the floor," said Coach Fulcher.

Wolkowski is another stand-out player at the moment: "She's a starter and has incredible significance on the court." The seniors are credited with pulling the team together, "playing extremely well and taking the 'babies' with them," she said.

The Panthers are on a 24-game home winning streak and intend to add to their impressive record when they face Norwich tonight.

"Norwich will be one of the toughest teams," commented Coach Fulcher, "They are very seasoned, tough, and aggressive. They're the biggest shooting team we've faced so far and they're very

athletic. We have our work cut out for us but if we play the way we have these past few days, with that intensity, we stand a very good chance."

The Panthers have run a half-court game in recent previous years, but owing to the relative small stature of the team this season, the Panthers are focusing on the running game instead of emphasizing the low post. "When we move the ball well, that's when we score and rule the court," said Coach Fulcher.

The next game after Norwich will be Saturday, after which the players will get some time off to study for exams.

"The team deserves everything they've achieved so far," said Coach Fulcher. "They've worked incredibly hard."

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