

Women's hockey drops two against ECAC foes

By Paul Krissoff

The Middlebury women's ice hockey team has concluded the pre-Christmas portion of its 1994-95 schedule in possession of a 3-2 record, but well aware of the prowess of the rest of the powerful ECAC league. The Panthers rolled to victories in their first three games against Williams, Wesleyan and the

University of Vermont (all non-ECAC opponents), but fell this past weekend against ECAC powers Providence and Brown.

In the three victories, Middlebury outscored its opponents by a

combined 29-4. The Providence game on Saturday was equally lopsided, but in the other direction. The Friars, ECAC champions last season, rolled past the visiting Panthers 12-1, offering a reminder of just how tough ECAC competition can be.

According to Coach Bill Mandigo, Providence is simply on a different level than the Panthers. He is quick to point out, however, that Middlebury is on a different

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level than traditional NESCAC foes Wesleyan and Williams. The Panthers, in short, fall somewhere in between the two distinct groupings of teams that they will play this season.

Middlebury is on a different level than traditional NESCAC foes...somewhere in between the two distinct groupings of teams.

The Panthers, a squad that features only two seniors and one junior, are led by the prolific first line of Jen Hefner '97, Whitney Parks '97 and Kelly Hefner '95. Jen Hefner leads the team with 12 goals

and 19 points overall, while Parks and Kelly Hefner have amassed 14 and 13 points respectively. The dynamic first line takes on almost all the scoring burden as the combination plays about 65% of the time.

Coach Mandigo does play three offensive lines, however, and stresses the fact that the second and third perform the crucial task of keeping opponents off the board while the Hefner sisters and Parks receive their much-deserved rest



Fredrik Johansson

Goaltender Christy Picard '96 works on her splits as the Panthers prepare for a busy January.

on the bench.

The defense is anchored by the incredibly steady Sara Vintiadis '97, who Mandigo cites as one of the most valuable players on the squad. Mandigo uses a rotation of five defenders to make up the defensive pairs to go along with the three offensive lines.

Behind Vintiadis and company is goaltender Christy Picard '96, who posts a 5.18 goals against average that is deceptively high because of the Providence contest.

Picard and the rest of the Panthers were encouraged by their play

in their last contest against one of the best teams in the Ivy League and in the ECAC, Brown. Middlebury bounced back after being crushed by Providence and played Brown evenly throughout. Parks and Jen Hefner scored for the Panthers before they ultimately fell 5-2, but the game was closer than the score indicated. Mandigo was particularly impressed with the

work ethic and resiliency of his club, which was forced to play back-to-back games on the road against tough teams.

The Panthers will look to build on the Brown experience as they regroup for a grueling Winter Term schedule that begins with yet another powerhouse, the University of New Hampshire, on January 5 at home.

Men's cagers continue to combat early woes