

# Women's hockey claims fifth consecutive regular season title

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This past week, Middlebury's women's ice hockey squad backed up their number one national ranking by soundly defeating number two Colgate, while earning wins over number nine RPI and Union College. Along the way the program picked up their

## Women's Hockey

Saturday, February 12th

Colgate	0
Middlebury	4

Wednesday, February 9th

Middlebury	1
R.P.I.	0

fifth straight ECAC Women's Division III regular season title.

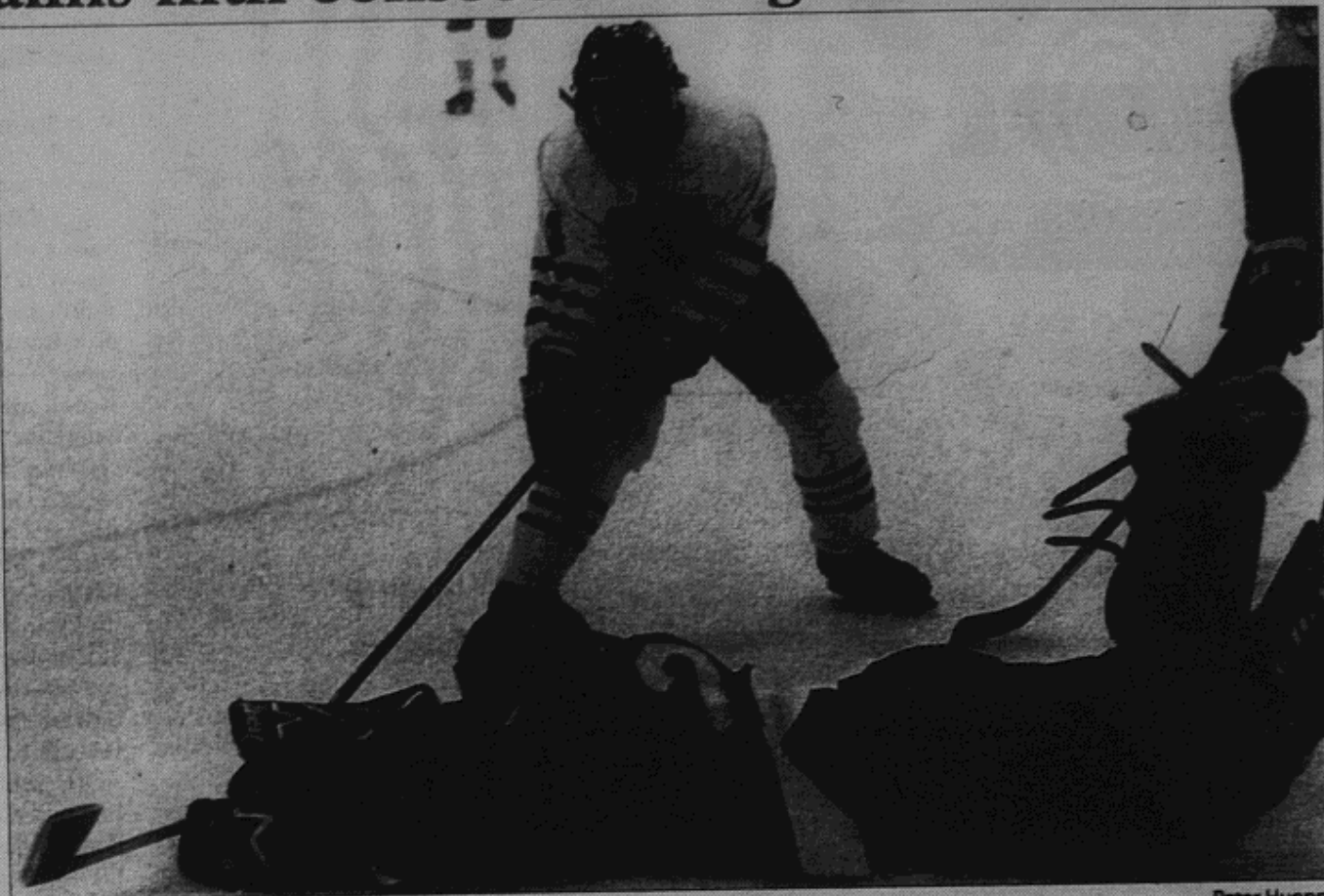
The Panthers showed their grit in the close win over RPI, and then flexed their offensive muscles while hosting the Red Raiders and Dutchwomen to guarantee the number one seed in the ECAC DIII tournament.

Last Wednesday night, the Panthers traveled to RPI's Houston Field House for non-conference game, eager to repeat a 7-0 win over the Engineers during league play in December. This time, RPI stayed tough, and Middlebury was unable to score the seven third period goals that made the last game

a blowout. Instead, the Engineers focused on physical play and clogging the neutral zone, attempting to shut down the Middlebury breakaway and limit quality shots.

However, the Panthers' Sarah Carpenter '00 was able to put Middlebury on the board at 14:00 of the third for a 1-0 lead that would stand up for the final margin of victory. Beth Denoncourt '00 starred in goal for Middlebury, and made 12 saves to earn the win, while the Panthers hit RPI goalie Laura DiNuccio with 40 shots.

Middlebury then returned home eager to get back into conference play. Friday night brought Colgate University to Chip Kenyon Arena, and the Red Raiders walked in with high expectations. Ranked second nationally, and the only undefeated team in league play besides Middlebury, Colgate had visions of handing the Panthers their first



Peter Huoppi

A scoring attempt by Jacqui Phillips '03 is stopped by Union's goalie. Phillips scored one goal in the Panthers' 8-2 win on Sunday.

ever ECAC conference loss.

The battle for first place saw fast skating, crisp passing, and plenty of goals - from Middlebury's players. The Panthers sent a shocked Colgate team home with a 9-0 loss, in which Middlebury thoroughly outplayed their opponents.

Starting the scoring was freshman Angela Kapus '03, who tallied midway in the first period (assisted by Jacqui Phillips '03 and Audrey Pellerin '03).

During the second, the Panther turned up the pressure on Colgate's defense, and reaped the re-

wards - five second-period goals. Amber Neil '03 (assisted by Ashley Morton '02 and Kapus) put Middlebury up 2-0 early in the period. At 9:05 into the period, the Panthers started a 2 minute stretch that saw them net three goals.

(see Hockey, page 21)