

Women pucksters trounce Williams

By Andrea Salzman

Some things in life are inevitable—death and taxes. There are also some things that are fairly sure bets—a strong season by the Middlebury Women's ice hockey team seems to fit this latter category. With an early record of 4-0 it appears evident that this year's team is continuing the tradition established in recent years.

The team opened its season on November 30 with a victory over UVM. Although the score of 2-1 reflects only a slim margin of victory, it is remarkably deceptive. Out shooting UVM 55-16, the Panthers dominated the game from the outset. However, their attempts to score were constantly thwarted by the UVM goalie who allowed few rebounds.

Trailing 1-0 going into the third period, the Panthers were ready to make amends. Junior Debbie Gow netted a strong shot over the shoulder of the UVM goalie to tie the game with 11 minutes left. On the same shift, her line mate, senior Marci Griffith, put the Panthers ahead with her strong play and perseverance around the opposition's goal. Her goal would be the final one of the game as Middlebury skated off with its first victory in as many games.

Hoping to please the hometown crowd in their home opener Middlebury set out to beat Williams on December 3. During the first period, Middlebury jumped out to a 3-0 lead with goals from team captain Sam Chapin '89, Debbie Gow, and rookie sophomore Lynelle Preston.

In the second period, however, the Middlebury offense was held scoreless despite their twenty shots on goal. It was not until the third period that the Panthers were able

to add one more goal, the second of the game by Sam Chapin. The final score was 4-0 with Suzi Black '89 and Kristen Gustavson '91 combining for the Middlebury shutout.

Both the UVM and Williams games had scores that did not reflect the domination of the Middlebury team. The Panthers had simply been unable to capitalize on their barrage of shots on their opponents' net. In the Williams

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game, the Panthers out shot the Ephs by a count of 48-16.

On December 9, Middlebury enjoyed its third victory against no losses, as they handily beat Hamilton, 7-3. Although Middlebury dominated from the outset, the weaker Hamilton team was able to ward off the Panther attack in front of their net and hold them to only two goals in the first period. Cynthia White and Marci Griffith provided offensive support with one goal apiece. Hamilton was able to score a goal of their own in that period and the second period began with Middlebury leading by a slim 2-1 margin.

The second period was similarly frustrating for the Panther squad as despite offensive pressure Debbie Gow netted the lone Middlebury goal. However, the third period

saw a renewal of energy as Middlebury was able to build its lead and eventually win the game. Hamilton threatened with two early goals before the Panthers broke it open with several of their own as Cynthia White and Marci Griffith each tallied for the second time in the game. Other Middlebury goals were scored by seniors Andrea Salzman and Kristen Hyde as the team headed off for Christmas break with an undefeated record of 3-0.

On January 14, Middlebury beat Williams for a second time, 4-0. The game began quickly with Middlebury jumping out to a commanding 3-0 lead after the first period. Goals were scored by Sam Chapin, Tiz Strachan '90, and Marci Griffith.

During the second period the Williams team came back with a number of strong shots on the Middlebury goal. Goalie Kristen Gustavson was equal to the task with a number of impressive saves. Sophomore Heather Morris provided an insurance goal for the Panthers.

The final period was marked by a rejuvenated Panther offensive attack. Despite the strong play of the Middlebury squad, they were unable to add to their margin and they had to settle for a 4-0 victory bringing their season record to 4 wins against no losses.

Coach Bill Mandigo appears pleased with the progress of the Middlebury team thus far this season. The bulk of the schedule is yet to come and there are a number of teams including Yale, Dartmouth, Bowdoin, and Colby that pose distinct threats to the unblemished record. The next home game is on Saturday, January 21 at 2:00 p.m.