

not, however, silence the enthusiastic Middlebury crowd, who continued their vocal support of the Panthers. The Middlebury fans did not have long to wait before singing the infamous "Cheer boys cheer!" fight song, as just over five minutes after the Plattsburgh goal Middlebury's Goldman brothers put the Panthers on the board. Sophomore Scott found junior brother Curt, who netted Middlebury's first of the night, tying the score at one goal apiece.

The score remained tied until 16:34 into the first period. Sophomore defenseman Matt Skoglund, in his second game back from a season-long injury, received a pass from Ross Sealfon '99 and blasted a slap-shot from the high slot past the Plattsburgh goal-tender. Skoglund's goal gave the Panthers their first taste of victory of the

Plattsburgh power play got the best

Women avenge loss to St. Laurent with 5-2 win

By Otie Hart
Sports Editor

After losing to the St. Laurent Patriots 4-2 back on January 6, last night's rematch looked to be a real test for the Middlebury womens ice hockey team. Instead, the Panther's dominated all aspects of the game and skated away with a 5-2 victory.

Junior forward Sylvia Ryan led the Panthers with four goals, while sophomore forward Michelle Labbe picked up a goal and an assist. The team used sharp passing and solid shots to beat St. Laurent goaltender Emmanuelle Cabana. "We knew we had to do a better job shooting," head coach Bill Mandigo said. "Last time we played [St. Laurent], we took 43 shots and we scored twice.

Cabana is very, very good, and we knew we had to pepper her with shots. If she made the initial save, we had to go in for the rebound and get the puck up top. She let a couple in that she wouldn't have let in last week in Montreal," Mandigo said.

Middlebury did a good job of setting up shots in the zone, using skillful passing to move Cabana in the crease and forcing her out of position. In contrast, the Patriots rarely looked to spread the puck around in the crease. As soon as the puck entered the zone, it seemed like each player tried to immediately score, resulting in steals by the defense.

The only aspect of the game better than the Panther's execution was their guts. Many players on the team

had the flu and were physically ill throughout out the game. "We had several key players who were very sick and weren't able to play," Mandigo said. "Senior co-captain Suzanne Chepren has bronchitis and she tried to go, but couldn't. Michelle [Labbe] was real sick and I give her a lot of credit—she really sucked it up and played hard the whole night. We had five players not practice this week due to the flu."

For a moment, it looked like St. Laurent's fast-break offense might succeed against the diseased Panthers. Marie-Helene DeBlois scored 1:48 into the first period after stealing the puck in her own zone and single-handedly beating the Middlebury defense down the ice. She put a wrist shot past freshman goalie Megan Hutchinson's stick side to open the scoring.

While St. Laurent did score first, the opening period was dominated by the Panthers. The offense controlled the puck, and the defense did a great job of keeping the puck in the zone, not allowing the Patriots to use their breakaway speed.

Middlebury broke into the scoring column at 14:53 of the first period on a power play goal by Labbe. She charged the net after a slap shot by freshman defenseman Catherine Elkins. Labbe caught the rebound and went top shelf past Cabana to even the score 1-1.

Labbe helped conclude the first period scoring when she jumped on a loose puck at center ice, penetrated the blue line and dropped a perfect pass to Ryan, who connected on a wicked slap shot from thirty feet with 7.3 seconds remaining. Cabana, who was screened by her defenders, never saw the puck coming

until it was past her glove and into the net.

Seven minutes into the second period, St. Laurent came close to evening the score at 2-2, but freshman defenseman Nico Kieves made a great play, knocking the puck away from Laura Tremblay, who was skating in for a clean breakaway. Kieves caught Tremblay at the blue line and managed to break up the play before Tremblay got a shot off.

Ryan increased Middlebury's lead to 3-1 off a nice pass from junior forward Kelly Hase. Again, Ryan used her slap shot from just inside the blue line to beat Cabana glove side. "It was a good game, especially considering a lot of the girls were sick. They beat us 4-2 before, we didn't play really well, so it was great to come out and show St. Laurent that Middlebury can play hockey."

Ryan continued to show the Patriots just how well Middlebury can play hockey, netting two more goals in the third period. It seemed that most of Middlebury's goals were set up by the Panther's suffocating defense, with Ryan reaping the benefits. Her third period goals were preceded by great defensive plays. At 8:42, Ryan stole the puck on an attempted clear by the St. Laurent defense and shot another slapper past Cabana. Then, at 16:57, junior defenseman Sarah Hall stole the puck and fed Ryan for the clincher.

"Last game, we had a very very rough game against this team," Labbe said. "We couldn't play, our passes weren't there or our shots. Tonight, the team played really well. The entire team has taken it upon themselves to go out there and do well. Not just one line or one set of defense; it's the entire team together."



Peter Huoppi

Sophomore forward Christa McDougall, number 25, assists the Panther's attack in Chip Kenyon '85 Arena.