

Women's hockey

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the team; Anne Truslow, Cynthia White, Elizabeth Strachan, Amanda Unger, Justine Blodgett, and Deb Gow, it was a fitting end to their very successful Middlebury College hockey careers.

Since it was the seniors' last game as well as the last contest of the year there was an added incentive not only to the seniors but also to the underclassmen. Beating U.V.M. was extremely important to sophomores Margaret Heald and Elizabeth Bell. After the game on Wednesday, Heald said that, "Their last game is the one the seniors will remember the most, so it was vital to bring home a victory." Adding to that Bell stated that, "Not only was it great for the seniors, but that win gave us our best season ever and helps to set the tone for next year's team."

In the final few weeks of the season it was clearly visible that the Lady Panthers were playing their best hockey ever; much of this success was credited to the cohesiveness of the team. Many agreed that they had never been on a team that had gotten along so well both on and off the ice, and spent so much time together away from hockey.

Another reason why the Lady Panthers played so well was mentioned by captain Amanda Unger who said, "We definitely improved as the season progressed. This can be seen by looking at who scored the goals in the last few games. No longer is it the same three or four people, but rather everyone is contributing in one way or another; either scoring goals or getting assists."

Coach Mandigo also remarked that one of the main reasons for the success of the Middlebury skaters was due to the leadership and dedication of the six seniors on the team. Said Mandigo, "They are a great bunch of women, who strived for individual and team excellence. They will definitely be missed next year." Mandigo also had nothing but praise for goalie Truslow who did "an outstanding job coming back from a year away from hockey while abroad last season."

At the team's breakup dinner recognition was given to a few individuals in the form of special awards. Senior defensive player Amanda Unger was named the team's Most Valuable Player while another senior Deb Gow received the Founder's Cup, an award which goes to the player who contributes the most to the team, both on and off the ice. Sophomore forward Elizabeth Bell received the Most Improved Player award. The scoring leaders for the Lady Panthers this season were Deb Gow with 31 points on 16 goals and 15 assists, followed by Cynthia White with 23 points on 9 goals and 14 assists, and Amanda Unger with 21 points on 7 goals and 14 assists.

Looking towards the future, coach Mandigo has high expectations for next season's returning players, but losing six players will definitely hurt. Mandigo hopes that the recruiting which he did this fall and winter will pay off in the form of new talent for next year's squad, thus lessening the blow dealt by this year's graduation. One thing remains true though: No matter what the future holds in store, the 1989-90 Middlebury women's ice hockey team can look back on this past season and feel a great deal of pride and accomplishment. Not only have they been a part of the best women's ice hockey team in the history of Middlebury College, but they also have shown what the word "team" really means.