

# Women skaters finish up season

By Rob Merrill

While their male counterparts were fighting for the last remaining spot in the ECAC playoffs this week, the women's ice hockey team took their act to Boston College (BC) to compete in the ECAC Independent Tournament. The women finished their season with a loss in the finals against the host Eagles, but their victory in the opening round against Wesleyan increased their overall win total to 15, setting a Panther women's ice hockey record for most wins in a season.

The Wesleyan Cardinals were Middlebury's victim in the tournament's first round last Friday. The same two teams had squared off two weekends prior, with the host Panthers blanking the hapless Cardinals 14-0 in the open-

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ing round of the Middlebury Tournament.

On Friday the Panthers showed a bit more mercy, cruising to a 7-0 victory. Single goals were scored by Jen Hefner '97, Laura Cowperthwait '94 and Kirtley Horton '95. A pair of first-year students, Katie Koster and Helen Froelich, who coming into the game had four and five points on the year respectively, notched two apiece in a demonstration of how offensively loaded this team really is.

The following day, however, Middlebury knew they were in for some more rigorous competition. Middlebury and BC had met twice

earlier in the season, with each team winning a game 4-3. On Saturday the Panthers got on the scoreboard first, thanks to a goal from Cowperthwait off passes from Horton and Torrey Hinman '96.

By the end of the second period the score was knotted at two apiece, following two goals from the Eagles and a Middlebury goal from Whit Parks '97. The Panthers had another goal called back for having an offensive player in the crease, a controversial blunder that would ultimately prove decisive. Even so, one goal, solid defense and twenty more minutes of skating were all that stood in the way of the Panthers bringing home the trophy.

Ah, what could have been. The Panther women took the ice to start the third hoping to score early and  
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