

☆☆ Ice Hockey Preview '88-'89 ☆☆

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will be counted on in this respect along with fellow blue liners, Pat Currie, Frank Clemens (both freshmen), sophomore Andy Smith, and senior Gerry Dineen, who has been converted from his familiar forward spot.

The switch in style is as much a result of necessity as preference. Playing bump and grind is draining mentally and physically, and at times last year's squad just wasn't up to it. But what the Panthers may give away in size, they can make up for in speed and skill. "We're a little small, but I think we can surprise some teams with our quickness, which will help us capitalize on our opportunities," says Beaney.

With each new season come a number of new faces. This year, eight or nine freshmen will be looking to contribute on the ice for Middlebury. Scott Hill, a forward from Ohio, is "the fastest skater on the team, and an opportunist," according to Beaney. Other new forwards have surprised a lot of people in practice so far with their offensive skills. Names to watch for are Dave Fritzsche, Kent Hughes, Dave Hanlon, and Marc Alcindor, a transfer from Mount Royal, Canada.

Last year, with the exceptions of Humphreys and Noll, no freshmen made as much of an impact as goalie Bill Ware. Often turning away 30 shots in a game, Ware was the heir apparent to Middlebury's netminding duties. This year, with junior Steve West headed to the Soviet Union during Winter Term, Ware's challenge will come from freshman Brent Truchon, from North Bay, Canada. Truchon has been a big surprise and will play a major role in Middlebury's fortunes this year. Coach Beaney feels that "of all our players, he has the potential to have the most impact. When you have good goaltending, everything seems to fall into place."

Leadership is a key element whether a team is challenging for the Stanley Cup, or trying on skates for the first time. This year, the Panthers will have all they need, as four seniors will be on the active roster. Dave Wheeler, Gerry Dineen, Mickey Kelley, and Tim Pratt have come back willing to do what it takes to make their final year on the ice a successful one.

Finally, there is the factor that no one likes to talk about: injuries. So far, two key players have gone

down. Junior forward Jim Quinn, the team's third leading scorer last year, will be lost until Christmas at the earliest with a dislocated shoulder. Senior forward John Honney has also been hampered in the preseason, and it is doubtful whether he will be able to play this year.

The squad opens its season on November 29 at Hamilton, and

comes home for the first time on December 3 against Tufts. Home games that will draw the crowds are the December 6 clash with Vermont, and the January 17 match with archrival Williams. However, if all the preseason optimism is well founded, it will be worth it to brave "the Refrigerator" on a regular basis and catch some exciting hockey.



Senior Mick Kelly eludes a defenseman as the team prepares for the '88-'89 season.

(photo by Quinn Pollock)

Women's ice hockey

By John Renwick

While an 11-3 record is a tough act to follow, this year's version of the women's ice hockey team appears ready and confident to skate through another successful season. New head coach Bill Mandigo, formerly a coach at Burrillville High School in Rhode Island, and assistant coaches Peter Saliba, '89, and Eliza Weeks, '87, will take the helm of a team that, despite losing some key players to graduation last spring, looks optimistic and enthusiastic.

Although it's still too early to make any predictions — the team only started practicing a week ago, and Coach Mandigo is still finishing up the football season as an assistant coach — captain Sam Chapin feels good about this year's squad. A relatively small team in number, Chapin described it as having "less quantity, but more quality" than last

year's team. Eight seniors return to the ice for the Panthers, and the team will be strong in goal with Suzie Black, '89, and Kristen Gustavson, '91, both back in the net for another season. This will prove to be particularly important come January, when some key defensemen (defensepeople?) will be fleeing the country to study abroad. The Lady Panthers are up against a tough schedule, similar to last year's, that has them on the road for the majority of their sixteen games. They'll be facing off against such rivals as Yale, Dartmouth, and Colby, as well as powerful Boston schools like MIT, Boston College, and Boston University.

The team has only two freshmen, which has Coach Mandigo concerned about the future of women's hockey here at Middlebury, but for now, he's got a talented team that is eager to repeat its success of last season. It's an act they not only can follow, but maybe even top.

