Women's hockey runs streak to 82 ECAC wins

By Mike Hartt & Margaret Aycock
Staff Writers

Middlebury College women's hockey team has dominated opponents the last two weeks, improving to 82-0 in ECAC Women's Division III league play, while notching four shutout victories, giving them nine goose-eggs on the season. The team won its four league games by a total score of 28-0 and allowed only eighteen shots on goal in 240 minutes of play. While on the road, however, the team suffered a nonconference upset at the hands of Division I Boston College, but rebounded to tie powerhouse McGill in an exhibition game.

In the Boston College game on January 13, the Panthers held a 3-1 lead over the Eagles before defensive breakdowns allowed three unanswered goals, propelling the Golden Eagles to a 4-3 victory. Middlebury outshot BC 29-18 and dominated play for stretches, but suffered their first loss of the season. Michelle Labbe '01 put the puck in the net twice for Middlebury, while Jacqui Phillips '03 also scored for Middlebury. Beth Denoncourt '00 played in net for the Panthers and stopped 18 shots.

The team returned to Middlebury eager to end the rare onegame losing streak against a weak MIT squad. The women from MIT, in their first year of ECAC play, presented no challenge for the Panthers, as Middlebury easily skated to a 9-0 win. Middlebury's coach Bill Mandigo switched several players' positions, putting goalies Megan Hutchinson'02 and Denoncourt on the front line, allowing each the opportunity to score goals. Also scoring for the Panthers were Sarah Hall '00, Chrissy Fuld '03 (her first career goal for the Panthers), Laurie Richmond '02, Nina Kieves '02 and Molly Barefoot '03 (also her first career goal for Middlebury). Star forward Sylvia Ryan '00, who the week before scored two hat tricks to become Middlebury's career goals-scored leader, and Sarah Carpenter '01 split time in goal to earn the

win, making only one save. The

Panthers had the game from the

start and never allowed MIT a genuine scoring chance.

The next day, Middlebury took on an Amherst College team that came in with a gaudy 6-2 record and ideas of an upset. Middlebury squelched those dreams with an 8-0 win in which the Panthers outshot the Lord Jeffs 62-5. The team showed their scoring depth, with eight different players scoring goals – Ashley Morton '02, Sarah Carpenter '01, Christa McDougall '00, Labbe, Ryan, Angela Kapus '03

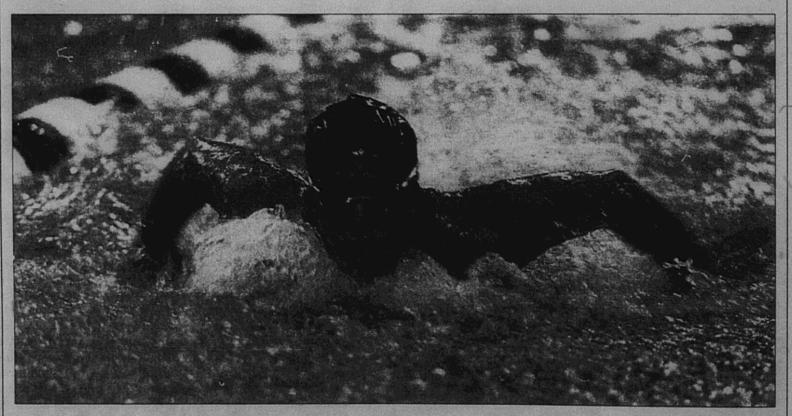
(short-handed), Richmond and Fuld. Hutchinson earned another shutout for the Panthers, lowering her ECAC-leading goals against average to 0.20 per game. The team continued its "winning with defense" ways, allowing an Amherst team that had been average seven goals per game barely any offensive opportunities.

On January 18, the Panthers headed to Montreal for an exhibition game against powerful McGill (see Women, page 19) seconds into overtime, Norwich's Marc Bellemare took the puck down the ice toward Marsh. With the support of teammate Curt Healy, he took a shot. The Panthers could not clear the puck out, and the rebound went in, deciding the game 4-3 Norwich.

Despite the loss, the Panthers were optimistic. "Our future looks good even though we had a setback tonight," said Marsh.

Head Coach Bill Beaney expressed that he was pleased with the level of play. "I like what's happening...they played hard, they competed."

Making waves



Peter Huoppi

Jane Calfee '00, swimming here against Hamilton College, finished first in four events this week against Union College. The Panther women cruised past the Dutchwomen 190-89. The men also won easily, improving their record to 5-1. See story on page 19.