Tough weekend for HC men’s hockey

BY PATRICK MARDONEY
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

The Holy Cross Men's Ice Hockey team spent their winter break in the most unfestive of ways playing only two out of their eight contests during the holiday season. The slump began with a road loss to Bentley by a count of 7-2, but it showed no signs of decreasing.

However, the home ice at the Hart Center was much friendlier to the team in their ECAC Division III game against the University of Connecticut. The Crusaders out scored the Huskies 6-3 and regained much of their momentum and level of play into their eight contests during the holiday season.

McNamara have continued to lead the team in their ECAC Division III games in which they have gone from being exceptional under current conditions and others who could see action on Division III teams. The forwards make up the standings and gain some momentum, and more importantly confidence, in front of the MAAC Tournament which begins on March 9.

The Crusaders visibly turned their play up a notch, and it showed as they scored eight goals in the back to back wins. Playing exceptionally well was sophomore forward Tom Pawlak as he had two goals and two assists against the team in their ECAC Division III play.

Before the break, in a hard fought game against a strong opponent, Holy Cross tied Colby 1-1 in overtime. Freshman forward Elizabeth Campbell scored the first goal of the season just 12:26 into the game on an assist from freshman defender Caitlin Andrew. Christina Ditchin scored one goal for the Mules and their goaltender Josie Chapman had six saves. Crusader goaltender, sophomore Jenelle DiSanto had an extremely strong performance with 62 saves.

Having returned to school earlier than the rest of campus, the team suffered their first loss of the semester to Southern Maine by a score of 5-0 on January 6th. Despite the loss DiSanto had another impressive night between the posts with 30 saves.

Coming off the hard loss to Southern Maine, Holy Cross crushed MIT 15-0. 10 different Crusaders scored goals with junior forward Stephanie Lieblich leading with a Hat Trick (3). The strong defense allowed just 4 shots for Jenelle DiSanto and freshman Jill Robinson to save, while the Holy Cross offense took 84 shots. Sara Kaplan had 69 saves for MIT. This game boosted the team’s confidence going into the new semester. On January 9, the team lost a hard fought game to Connecticut College 2-1. Liz Hall and Natalie Mecherin each scored a goal for the Camels, while freshwater forward Jessica Beaudoin assisted senior co-captain Angel Sheridan in scoring the Saders lone goal.

After two difficult losses to RIT and Hamilton, the Lady Saders next faced 8th ranked (nationally) Williams College. They lost just 3-0 to this powerful team, taking 9 shots on goal and allowing DiSanto 43 shots to block.

After the loss to Williams, Holy Cross defeated a strong Union College team 2-1 on January 20. There was a game on the goal for Union followed by a quick Crusader retaliation by freshman forward Lauren Variana off an assist from Jessica Maturo.

The control in this exciting game shifted back and forth until with just 5 seconds remaining on the clock, freshman forward Kristine Beaudoin scored the game winning goal with both Elizabeth Campbell and freshman forward Kristine Beaudoin assisting.

The next league opponent will be Salve Regina on Wednesday February 8th, but for the team it hasn’t been good, but the team is hoping for support from those amazing Crusader fans.

"I want to win the NECHA," John Quarems said. "We're doing this to make the playoffs. We can afford the $100 million payrolls with some big hits, and drama," the co-founder said and added, "It’s a lot different than the varsity which begins on March 9." The team’s most recent game was ahead.

BY DAVID WANCZYK
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

The cofounders and players have found the competition much more serious than expected for this reason. The team faces a tough test this weekend when they battle Franklin Pierce and Bates two of the best teams in the league on the schedule. Franklin Pierce has been ranked as high as fourth in the Northeast. This Sunday at 3:00 in the Hart Center is the first time that the Yankees’ 550 million local television contract is partly redistributed to teams in less lucrative markets. Then the players will be going to have to accept some form of salary cap. It’s not like this system has not been tried; various versions of this system are employed in professional football, basketball, hockey, and soccer.

Major League Baseball is America’s pastime because in the past it was a game that everyone could watch, and the nation could enjoy, no matter what city you lived in or what team you cheered for. With horrid cable television costs across the nation, and with increasing salaries bringing an increase to ticket prices, many people will soon be watching games from their television instead of from the grandstands. I’m just glad that I quit the game when I was ahead.

Women’s Ice hockey plays through tough losses

Women’s Ice Hockey has continued to have an exciting season, facing many tough opponents and growing as a team with each game. This is just their second season in varsity play and the team has many freshman. They are hoping to build up even more for next year with new recruits.

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