Holy Cross club hockey continues to win

BY DAVE RIES CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Holy Cross Club Hockey team improved to 3-0 with a whopping 11-6 win last Sunday against Bridgewater State. The Crusaders got off to an early start as Ray Raineri’s slap shot found the back of the net less than 10 seconds into the game.

The Crusaders added two more goals to end the first period with a 3-1 lead by the second intermission.

In a penalty-filled third period, the Crusaders added two more to finish with the 11-6 victory.

Offensively, the Crusaders were led by John Quaresima, who hit the lamp twice and diced out a playermaker (three assists). JP Lannon, who also had a playmaker, had a beautiful goal, stilled the Bridgewater defense at even strength.

Under the tutelage of coach Ryan Davis, the team faces possibly their biggest challenge of the first half of the season this week. With freshm en, they look to improve their record this week-end.

After traveling to Vermont last Saturday night game at Lyndon State University, the Crusaders host defending NECHA Champions Northeast Poll. A Crusader win could set the tone for a championship season, and the players need some hardcore fans to get MIT off their game.

This Sunday, the Club Hockey team will attempt to prove that brains cannot overcome brawn. Face-off is at 7:30.

HC women’s soccer captures the Patriot League Title and an NCAA bid

BY SUSAN MACWILLIAMS CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

The Women’s Soccer Team made history for Holy Cross this past weekend. They succeeded in capturing their first Patriot League tournament title, and in doing so, also won an automatic bid to the national NCAA tournament.

The Crusaders only scored two goals all weekend in the league playoffs, but that was all they needed to earn their title as league champions. Second-seeded Holy Cross knocked off third-seeded Bucknell on Saturday afternoon at Colgate University with a score of 1-0, and the Crusaders were able to do the exact same to host Colgate the very next day in the finals.

While the Crusaders ended their fall season with two consecutive accomplishments, a first glance at the earlier half of the season might have led one to believe that the end would have been much more mediocre at best. The Crusaders got off to a slow start, losing their first four games of the season. They were tied for fourth in the Patriot League, half a point behind, and dropped their first two league games to Army and Colgate. With a disappointing beginning, there was nowhere for the Crusaders to go but up. And up they went. Holy Cross did not drop to any more league Challenges, and improved their league record from 0-2 to 3-2-1.

While non-league wins were interspersed with losses, the Crusaders really began to focus on fellow Patriot League contenders.

The Crusaders went on to beat Navy, Lehigh, and Lafayette, tying Bucknell in the meantime. By the end of the season, the Cross’ 3-2-1 record was not only good enough to qualify them for the post-season league tournament, but it also secured them the second seed out of four.

The Crusaders faced third-seed Bucknell in the semi-finals last Saturday. The outcome of the match was unpredictable as Holy Cross tied the Bison 2-2 during the season. This time, however, the day belonged to the Crusaders, who defeated the Bison 1-0. Senior midfielder Colleen Cushing headed home the only goal of the game off a corner kick from junior midfielder Erin Patterson in the 43rd minute. For her game-winner and outstanding play, Cushing earned the Most Valuable Player award for the tournament. Senior goalkeeper Tiffany DeCoff was also noteworthy on this day when she made four saves, thus breaking the school-record 28 career shutouts.

Holy Cross advanced to the finals the next day for the first time under coach Mary Curtis. The Crusaders were aware that it would be a huge accomplishment to defeat host Colgate. They had lost 4-0 to the Red Raiders at the beginning of the season and, in fact, had not defeated them since a 1-0 overtime. The game was scoreless for the entire first half and continued that way until 15 minutes into the second half. Junior Crusader Kate O’Shaughnessy scored her ninth goal of the season with an unassisted 30-yard shot into the upper left corner of the net for the game-winner. After this victory, Cushing recognized her team as having “the most heart and determination all season.” She says that the win over Colgate may have set the team’s best moment ever.

In addition, DeCoff’s nine saves tied her with Army alumna Annah Castellini for the Patriot League career shutout record of 29.

The first-ever Patriot League champions had five Crusaders honored for their superior play this season. Junior midfielder O’Shaughnessy and senior defender Jenny Paloty were named to the All-Patriot League First Team. This is the second time O’Shaughnessy has been named to the first team; she was also a first-team selection her freshman year, and a second team selection last year. She led the team with eight goals and four assists this season and has started and played every game but one since her freshman year.

Pelletier’s tenacity on the field has no longer gone unrecognized as she made her first appearance on the field for Holy Cross, earning the Most Valuable Player award for the tournament. While it will be Boston University who will square off against Dartmouth for the national championship with an NCAA tournament appearance. On Wednesday afternoon at Hart Field, the Patriot League Championship was awarded to the America East Champions, Boston University. It was the first NCAA bid for the Terriers as well, who play in a competitive league that includes Towson and the nation’s fifth ranked Harvard, both of whom BU had defeated this season. The Terriers dominated the first half, but was the Crusaders who controlled the tempo of the game in the second half.

Even still, BU was able to score one goal, which was enough for them to advance to the second round of the NCAA. The Terriers fired a corner kick in the 69th minute of the game which was headed home, handing the Crusaders a heartbreak loss.

While it will be Boston University who will square off against Dartmouth in the NCAA tournament, the Crusaders have nothing to be disappointed about. During the 49th minute of the game, Matt Ney scored for the Crusaders when he chipped the University of Vermont. This goal held them in the lead until the 55th minute. During the 49th minute of the game, Matt Ney scored for the Crusaders when he chipped the University of Vermont. This goal held them in the lead until the 55th minute.

When freshmen Kevin Baker broke his leg earlier during the season, Kenny stepped into the starting role and recorded his first shutout of the season when Holy Cross defeated Army 3-0. He currently is the only league goalkeeper with a 0.56 overall goals against average.

The win against Army gave the Crusaders their first Patriot League Playoffs for the first time in the last seven years. The squad will travel to Easton, Pennsylvania to participate in the tournament which is hosted by Lafayette College. The Crusaders will be the number-four seed entering the tournament. The first game will be against the number-one seeded team in the tournament, the Lafayette Leopards. Holy Cross is the number-four seed entering the tournament.