Rand Pecknold secures his 700th career win

By CLAIRE FRANKLAND
Editor-In-Chief

Quinnipiac men's ice hockey head coach Rand Pecknold secured his 700th career win in the Bobcats' 4-3 overtime victory against the Colgate Raiders Saturday, Nov. 7.

"Sometimes I look at that list, and I don't understand how I got up there," Pecknold said after the milestone win Nov. 7. "...I feel very fortunate, and hopefully we can get a few more."

In his 33rd season as head coach, Pecknold entered the season with 693 career wins. He currently ranks first among all active NCAA Division I men's ice hockey coaches in career victories, a record he broke after winning his 615th game in the 2022-23 season when Quinnipiac won its first NCAA Title and eighth all-time.

Pecknold also holds the title of winningest coach in Quinnipiac Athletics history, with former women's basketball head coach Tricia Fabbri sitting closest behind him at 571 wins. Breaking down his milestone by the numbers, Pecknold has achieved 625 Division I victories, 414 conference wins, 71 postseason wins and 13 NCAA Tournament wins, according to Quinnipiac men's ice hockey's Instagram.



LILY ZAHKA/CHRONICLE

Men's ice hockey head coach Rand Pecknold speaks to media March 3.

Top-seeded Bobcats gear up for the Metro Conference Tournament

By PETER BOCHIARO
Staff Writer

After a roller-coaster start to the season, Quinnipiac women's soccer enters the postseason playing its best brand of soccer.

The Bobcats went into Labor Day with a measly 2-2-1 record, a pretty disappointing start for a team that had placed in the top two of the conference in the regular season for the past seven seasons. But since then, Quinnipiac has flipped a switch and hasn't looked back.

In the last 13 games, the Bobcats have gone an impressive 11-1-1 and haven't given up a goal since Sept. 28 against Manhattan. This turnaround brought Quinnipiac to the top of the conference and will give them home-field advantage for the Metro Tournament.

Quinnipiac's recent dominance can be attributed to two things.

First, a recent balanced scoring attack has kept opponents in check. Early on in the season, Quinnipiac relied too much on graduate student forward Morgan Cupo to do the heavy lifting on the scoresheet.

While Cupo has still been a presence scoring, finishing fourth in the Metro with 10 goals on the season, others have stepped up in a big way.

Sophomore forward Isabella Torelli has taken a massive step in the past few weeks to take some of the scoring off Cupo's shoulders. She netted an emphatic winner on the road against Rider Oct. 17 and is second on the team with four goals this season.

Along with Torelli, junior forward Addyson Earl has been a matchup nightmare for any Metro Conference opponent. Her opening goal against St. Peter's Nov. 4 was all the Bobcats needed to secure first place in the conference. She's also been a playmaker on the wing, placing second on the team with four assists.

The only other Bobcat with more is actually Cupo. In recent weeks, Cupo has seen more defenders match up on her, so she now tries to feed her teammates to score.

The more notable stat the Bobcats have kept up is their current clean sheet streak. Quinnipiac finished its final seven games of the season, holding its opponents scoreless in all of them.

That credit can be given to all of the back line.

It can go to junior goalkeeper Olivia Jarvis for stopping any shot that comes her way. But head coach Dave Clarke gives the majority of the credit to the defenders right in front of Jarvis.

"She definitely owes some of her clean sheets to her defenders," Clarke said after a scoreless draw to Siena Oct. 31.

Some defenders who have stepped up in a big way are the Bobcats' two holding centerbacks. Both senior Bianca D'Onofrio and sophomore Audrey Lefebvre have been stellar, not allowing many high-quality chances to come at Jarvis.

Jarvis has been impressive for her part as well, stopping the past 33 shots that have found her.

However, for the Bobcats, the season has now totally reset. No matter what happened earlier in the year, one loss would not only leave Quinnipiac without a Metro conference championship but, in all likelihood, end its season.

Because Quinnipiac is in the top two of the regular season standings, it earned itself a bye for the opening quarterfinal that took place this past Sunday. But that has now come and gone, and Quinnipiac's next opponent is set.

The Bobcats are set to take on the Siena Saints Thursday, Nov. 12, with kickoff slated for 1 p.m. As previously mentioned, Quinnipiac faced off against Siena less than two weeks ago. The match against Siena was the only one the Bobcats haven't won since October. Even further, Clarke thought his team was lucky to make out of the match with a draw.

"We got away with one for sure," Clarke said. "There were a few chances that could have easily gone in for (Siena)."

If the Bobcats can make it past the Saints, they would take on the winner between Niagara and Fairfield in a championship match Sunday, Nov. 15. Both teams pose significant threats to the Bobcats, as Niagara beat Quinnipiac at home 3-2 in September. Even though the Bobcats held off the Fairfield Stags 1-0 Oct. 21, it was a game in which Quinnipiac was outshot 22-4.

Nonetheless, the Bobcats should be thankful that if a team other than them were in this tournament, they would have to win a game in Hamden in front of what would be a raucous atmosphere.

Quinnipiac will look to win the conference and secure its first NCAA Tournament berth since 2023.



ANDREW YONG YOW/CHRONICLE

Overtime heartbreak and future promise: Field hockey looks ahead to 2027

By REX NAYLOR
Staff Writer

Heading into the 2026 season, Quinnipiac field hockey had only one winning season in the last five years and no playoff appearances since its MAAC championship win in 2013.

As soon as the Bobcats returned to the NEC from the Big East last season, the wheels started to turn with seven conference wins. The Bobcats' performance proved enough to earn the second seed in the NEC Tournament, where they would fall to in-state rival Sacred Heart in overtime.

The result is simply a bump in the road in the rearview mirror for the Bobcats, as the 2026 season shone with many positives.

The Bobcats excelled at both ends of the pitch, scoring the most goals while conceding the least in NEC play, thanks in large part to the stellar goaltending of standout freshman goaltender Meike van Schoot.

Standout freshman goaltender Meike van Schoot posted a 1.72 goals against average throughout the season, conceding just 27 goals in total. Her campaign was enough to earn her NEC Rookie of the Year honors.

The NEC awards continued to senior forward Ava Bleier, as she was awarded the NEC Co-Offensive Player of the Year alongside Wagner senior forward Floortje Leunisse. Bleier scored 12 goals and amassed 27 points on the season.

The forward core as a whole excelled, as sophomore forward Rozemarijn Van Keulen and senior forward Martina Calveira each scoring 10 goals throughout the season.

Furthermore, the offensive trio placed in the top four in goals in the NEC respectively, with Van Keulen second in assists with eight. Both Bleier and Calveira are seniors and their absences will create question marks for the Bobcats' ability to create offense next fall.

The list of departures is relatively short, with the two aforementioned forwards alongside graduate midfielder Lauren Keyte and senior defender Katie Shanahan not returning next season.

Both Keyte and Shanahan brought poise, experience and structure to the pitch as the two played 890 and 998 minutes overall this season, respectively.

Despite these losses, head coach Nina Klein has seemingly already found players to slot right into the vacant spots.

The returning core is strong with both Van Keulen and sophomore defender Maaike van Wensen playing pivotal roles in the Bobcat resurgence. Freshman defender Senne Fassbender and freshman midfielder Julia Lutz gained valuable experience early in Klein's system, both playing over 700 minutes.

Looking forward to next season, besides bolstering the team through new recruits and transfer acquisitions, the Bobcats' largest roadblock has been the NEC playoffs.

The Bobcats haven't won an NEC playoff match since their championship win in 2003. With the streak continuing in their first season back in the conference since 2012, the loss stings that much more.

In order to turn the 7-1 conference record into a conference championship next season, Klein and her coaching staff will likely look at a few key areas for improvement — the first being corner penalties.

Quinnipiac averaged three goals a game in the regular season with a bulk of its goals coming from corner penalties. One of the deciding factors in the squad's semifinal loss was their inability to convert the penalty chances to goals.

Additionally, Quinnipiac had the fifth fewest penalty corners per game in the nation this season. Opportunities came sparingly, so when the chances came it was pivotal that the Bobcats would convert them.

Sacred Heart piled the box, so shots found a shin or a stick before challenging the goaltender. Incorporating more options instead of a stick-stop could exploit the opposing team's strategy.

The high press also propelled Sacred Heart's victory, as Quinnipiac couldn't build from the backline and turnovers were putting the Bobcats in dangerous positions.

Transitioning to a double pivot in the midfield may give the defense more room to breathe and provide clearer outlet lanes for van Schoot down the sidelines. Utilizing quick-paced passes up the field can catch out secondary presses to bypass traps against playoff-calibre NEC teams.

Going into the 2027 season, Quinnipiac field hockey has more positives than it's ever had before. With their only conference loss coming against Wagner, the Bobcats have a lot of young talent to build on.

With experienced coaching from Klein and her staff, the Bobcats have their eyes set on the NEC title next fall and a ticket to the NCAA Tournament.



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

Sophomore forward Rozemaijn Van Keulen carries the ball upfield against Hofstra Sept. 11.