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..... blocked shots in 27 straight games — the longest streak in the country.

“They’ve both had a great freshman year, I think they’re both poised to have really great seasons,” Pecknold said of the two.

He added with a laugh: “If the Bruins can let me have them for at least another year after this I’d appreciate that. But seriously, they are really good players and leaders already as sophomores on our team.”

In the past, Quinnipiac barely had enough defenders to fill the three line-ups, but with nine on the roster this year, the players will have to start fighting harder for that ice time.

Sophomore Drew Hockley who walked onto the team in the middle of the season last January, has yet to see any ice time this season so far. Neither has freshman Logan McCutcheon.

Freshman Brady Schultz and Nate Tivey have both suited up for two games so far, but have yet to make an impact.

Finishing up the defending line up is sophomore Braden Blace who notched one assist against Boston College in Quinnipiac’s opening game of the season.

GOALTENDERS

Not much has changed for Quinnipiac’s last line of defense. The loss of former senior goaltender Noah Altman might be a hit to morale after losing an important leadership figure, but it has not impacted the line-up sheet.

The identity of the starting goaltender before the season was still up in the air. Last year that spot belonged to junior Dylan Silverstein, who started 23 games out of the 39 that Quinnipiac played, notching 492 saves and allowing 53 goals.

He still ended the season with a .903 save percentage. And even though junior netminder Matej Marinov only started in 15 games, his save percentage was .928 with 334 shots saved, and 26 goals allowed.

So on paper, Marinov seems like the better option, right?

Still, once the Boston College game came, it was Silverstein who suited up into the net.

“He’s doing great, big win for him obviously,” Pecknold said of Silverstein on Oct. 3. “I was excited for him tonight, to give him a start.”

Now, four games into the season, both goalies have gotten their chance to shine. Marinov started the exhibition game against Providence and Quinnipiac’s most recent game against Notre Dame, earning a win for the latter game.

Silverstein also notched a loss in Quinnipiac’s game against Alaska, tying the score between the two junior netminders in the win-loss category so far (counting the exhibition match-up). So far it seems that Pecknold is trying both of them out to see who earns the spot once the ECAC season starts.

Joining the two is freshman goaltender Sam Scopa who is yet to see any collegiate ice time.

The Lexington, Massachusetts native played 44 total games in the USHL across two teams, ending his last season with the Madison Capitals with a .897 save percentage. Pecknold has given the freshmen chances to prove themselves in the previous seasons, because of Altman filling in the spot of the

third goaltender, but now it would be surprising if Scopa saw any real ice time, let alone start a game with the juniors already fighting for the spot.

RECORD

Four games in, and the Bobcats are 2-1 so far.

To open up its season, No. 13 Quinnipiac took a triumphant win over No. 6 Boston College on Oct. 3, the first time that these teams have squared up since the Bobcats’ overtime loss in the 2024 NCAA Regionals finals.

“It’s a great win for us, I thought both teams battled hard,” Pecknold said following the win. “It’s a very unique situation when you play the first game of the season, so obviously it’s even for both of us.”

The next day, however, the Bobcats fell to the Providence Friars 1-2 in an exhibition match-up.

Last weekend, Quinnipiac took part in the Ice Breaker Tournament in Tempe, Arizona, playing Alaska Fairbanks in the first round — losing to the independent Nanooks 1-2.

That loss however, clearly lit a fire under the Bobcats, as they took the second game against Notre Dame with a 7-2 win.

Nothing rather significant on the first glance, but anyone who has watched these games can tell that the team has a fire behind it that it seemed to sort of lack for the past few years.

“A lot of pace, fast skills, lot of grit, lot of intensity,” was Czerneckianair’s answer about what to expect from the Bobcats. “Teams are gonna struggle. Very fast team this year. So it’s gonna be fun.”

In all three games, Quinnipiac won more than 50% of face-offs. Eight different players already notched a goal on the season, and the team has 102 shots recorded

so far.

However, the team also amassed 24 penalty minutes. Last season, the team had a total of 278 minutes in the sin bin, or almost 14 periods. And despite having a solid penalty-kill team, even these first three games already proved how dangerous it can be for the Bobcats, when Boston College capitalized on its power-play twice.

The Nanook’s first goal also came on their power-play giving them an advantage that the Bobcats couldn’t close after. Even Notre Dame’s second goal came from Quinnipiac’s penalty.

RANKINGS

In the USCHO Pre-season poll, Quinnipiac landed at No. 13. After its season-opening weekend, it jumped into the No. 8 spot.

And to no one’s surprise, in the ECAC Pre-season poll the Bobcats were picked to repeat as Cleary Cup champions, with Marcellus earning a spot on the ECAC Pre-season All-Conference team.



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

Junior forward Andon Cerbone drives against Boston College on Oct. 3

REMAINING SCHEDULE

The Bobcats still have six more games before ECAC play. Opening up their home play during the university’s alumni weekend, the Bobcats will face the UMaine Black Bears in a double-header, a tradition these two teams have held for a decade now.

Following that the Bobcats will face Holy Cross, Merrimack, New Hampshire and a rematch with Alaska-Fairbanks to wrap up the pre-season.

The Bobcats will open up ECAC play against Yale on Nov. 7, which on paper should serve as a morale boost for Quinnipiac, as Yale has not won for the last 17 consecutive games.

An interesting match-up to look forward to outside of ECAC play is definitely the Nov. 15 game against No. 2 Boston University. Out of the five games these teams have played, Quinnipiac only managed to win one back in 2019 and the Bobcats haven’t faced the Terriers since November 2024.

Quinnipiac will also once again participate in CT Ice, this time facing Sacred Heart, a team the Bobcats haven’t played in the Tournament since January 2023.

Other than that, it is a regular year for the Bobcats. How well they do is up to them.

“We play with passion, we always come to the rink every single day fired up,” Leddy said. “The previous year, some days in the gym, our energy would be up and down, this year it’s been consistent. Consistency with the fire and passion, the intensity that we play at will be a huge part of this group’s success.”

FINAL THOUGHTS

Last year, Quinnipiac went 16-5-1 in the conference, but ultimately fell to Cornell in the ECAC Semifinals. With the team’s track record, it is difficult to pinpoint who they should watch out for going forward. One game they can win against Cornell, then the next day they can lose to Colgate.

On paper, this team has more than enough potential, maybe the most since its 2023 NCAA win.

However, in the wise words of Pecknold, the team has to keep maturing and keep buying in if it wants to escape the cycle it has found itself in for the past few years.

But the main goal for this season? Czerneckianair knows exactly what that is.

“Win a national championship.”

Yagmur Gunes becomes the second Bobcat in program's Division I run to break 1K kills and digs milestone



By ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA
Editor-in-Chief

Just a day after breaking the 1,000 kills milestone, Quinnipiac volleyball’s senior outside hitter Yagmur Gunes recorded another 1K on her stat sheet — this time in digs.

The Bursa, Turkey native was very close to that number following the team’s game against Rider where she killed that 1,000th point, needing only 15 more to reach that 1,000th dig.

And in Saturday’s win over Saint Peter’s she did.

This makes Gunes the second Bobcat to achieve this in the team’s Division I history.

The first one to do it is Gunes’ former starting line-mate, former outside hitter Ary-anah Diaz ‘25 who ended her collegiate career with 1,068 kills and 1,394 digs.

She is only the third player to break the 1K kill mark, after Diaz and the current record holder, former middle blocker Heather Wollyung ‘02.

On the other hand, she becomes now the sixth Bobcat to break the 1K digs mark — the first one since former libero Fa’ave Kimsel Moe ‘24 who sits on No. 2 spot for the most digs at 1,186.

Gunes now records 1,010 digs (and 1,021 kills) as of publication, with 11 games still left to play in her last regular season, only seven before she takes over the No. 3 spot for team’s most digs from former outside hitter Kelby Carey ‘11 at 1,017.



TRENTON HILL/CHRONICLE



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

Freshman forward Markus Vidicek, junior forward Andon Cerbone, senior forward Jeremy Wilmer, senior defenseman Will Gilson and freshman defenseman Graham Sward discuss before lining up for the faceoff against Boston College on Oct. 3.