

# Quinnipiac men's ice hockey falls 4-2 to UConn late in CT Ice Championship

By **CLAIRE FRANKLAND**  
Sports Editor

NEW HAVEN — In a game seeking revenge from the 2025 NCAA Regionals, Quinnipiac men's ice hockey fell short to the UConn Huskies, 4-2 on Jan. 24.

"First, I'd like to congratulate UConn," Quinnipiac head coach Rand Pecknold said. "I thought they played a great game. It's a really good staff, good players and you know, they found a way to win."

However, the game didn't always look in favor of UConn. From opening puck drop, Quinnipiac came out with a dominant sense of energy, fired up by the momentum from its dominant 5-1 win the previous night.

The Bobcats outskated the Huskies while delivering 13 shots on UConn's senior goaltender Tyler Muszelik, while only allowing the opposition three shots on net. They came out with grit and determination, consistently being all over the Huskies, breaking up plays and generating chances of their own.

Yet, the Bobcats would get a man sent to the box first, with junior forward Mason Marcellus being called for cross-checking. Quinnipiac's defense would lock down, not allowing UConn to lay any shots on junior goaltender Matej Marinov, keeping the game scoreless.

With the ice seemingly tilting in Quinnipiac's favor, senior forward Ryan Tattle would take a penalty for hooking, put-

ting the Bobcats on the man advantage.

For a team tied for 11th in the nation in power play percentage, what could go wrong?

Yet, a Husky breakaway by junior forward Joey Muldowney would put UConn on the board first, despite the Bobcat man advantage.

As the second period opened up, momentum continued to sway towards the Bobcats, using speed to their advantage to pound shots on the Huskies' net.

However, part of the Bobcats' flaws throughout the game can be attributed to their lack of quality shots compared to the quantity of shots. While, on the contrary, the Huskies generated quality chances on net, keeping the Bobcats on their toes

Still, a sneaky deflection by freshman forward Markus Vidicek on a shot from the blueline by freshman defenseman Graham Sward would tie the game at one apiece, fueling the Bobcats offense.

And Quinnipiac wouldn't be finished there.

Less than a minute later, a diving effort by sophomore forward Chris Pelosi, finding the puck bouncing off the pad of Muszelik, would give Quinnipiac the lead for the first time in the contest.

Going into the final 20 minutes of play, it seemed the game was in favor of the Bobcats. While UConn put up a physical fight, Quinnipiac continued to stay out of the box, using its unique skillset of fast skating, sharp passes

and ability to generate plays quickly to keep the game in its favor.

However, Muszelik would stay locked down for the Huskies in the final frame, stopping all nine chances by the Bobcats to extend their lead late in the game.

"Muszelik was the best player on the ice, and he played great," Pecknold said.

The Husky defense would further contribute to the team's late success, only allowing Quinnipiac a handful of chances on Muszelik, while generating a clean breakout to let UConn lay 15 shots on Marinov in the third.

The Huskies would once again capitalize on a Bobcat turnover, with freshman forward Alexandre Blais winning the battle on Quinnipiac's blueline and feeding the puck to freshman forward Carlin Dezainde to tie the game.

From there, the contest became who wanted it more. The team that is the three-time CT Ice Champions, or the team with the potential to become the latest back-to-back champions?

It would take 10 minutes of back-and-forth hockey, with chances flying on both ends of the ice for the puck to eventually find the back of the net.

Only it didn't go in the Bobcats' favor.

With 2:25 remaining, senior forward Jake Percival would sneak past the Bobcats' defense, right as senior forward Trisitan Fraser rocketed a shot from the blueline.

With Marinov caught down on his left pad, Percival would be given the time and space to bury the puck in the Bobcats' net, as Ingalls Rink roared with Husky fans.

Quinnipiac would look for the quick chance to tie the game late, pulling Marinov for the extra skater, yet a shot into the empty net by Muldowney would seal the victory for UConn.



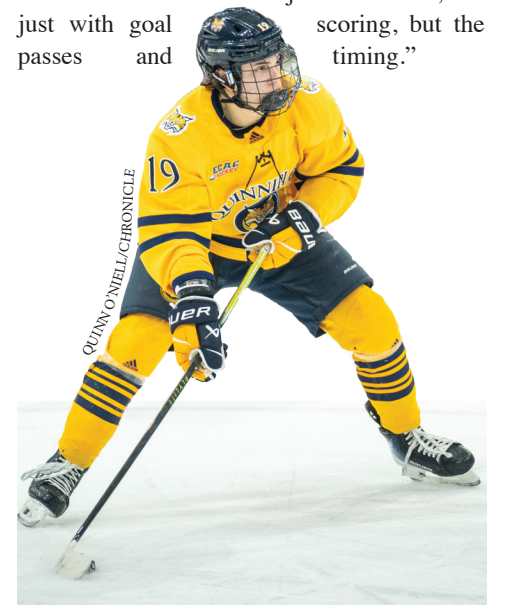
# Ethan Wyttenbach nominated for Hobey Baker award

By **COOPER WOODWARD**  
Associate Sports Editor

Quinnipiac men's ice hockey freshman forward Ethan Wyttenbach was nominated for the 2026 Hobey Baker award on Jan. 21. The Hobey Baker is awarded annually to the top NCAA men's ice hockey player.

Quinnipiac has yet to have a player win the award, with just two finalists: former goaltender Eric Hartzell '13 in 2013 and former forward Collin Graf '24 consecutively in 2023 and 2024. As of Jan. 27, Wyttenbach leads the team in points with 36, while his point total further leads all NCAA freshmen. The Roslyn, N.Y. native has amassed his 36 points on 14 goals and 22 assists, a category he further leads the Bobcats in.

"He finishes plays," Quinnipiac head coach Rand Pecknold said. "There's a lot of players at our level that create a lot of offense, create a lot of scoring chances. And then he's got that next gear and has that ability to finish those chances. He's just next level, not just with goal scoring, but the passes and timing."



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.....ly look for the former navy and gold skaters while scouting, she knows what kind of player she will get out of this program.

"I know that there is a discipline, a commitment, a work ethic that those players embody and that allows them to play in a lot of different roles; they're valuable and well-coached," Marmer said.

In its 2025-26 season and home opener on Nov. 23 against the Montreal Victoire, the Fleet won 2-0. As of Jan. 20, the Fleet is at the top of the league with an 8-1-2-2 record.

### MEGHAN TURNER

For Meghan Turner '17, stepping into the role of a general manager was definitely a learning curve, but not uncharted territory.

Having a background in operations through her International Business degree and an MBA from Quinnipiac and her experience working with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Boston, the administrative part of the job was a no-brainer for her.

And thanks to Marmer, the rest of it was not hard either.

"There was definitely a learning curve, but I never felt out of my depth," Turner

said. "Just with the way that Danielle included me in a lot of the conversations and roster decisions in the past two years, I think that set me up for success pretty well too."

In her four years as a Bobcat, Turner recorded 29 goals and 23 assists in 149 games.

"Everything has a purpose behind what she does," Cass Turner — and no, there is no familial relation between the two of them, just pure coincidence — said. "She's a super bright, very structured, diligent person. Her history with the military, how she sets expectations, how she builds her group, she's gonna do a really nice job."

All three of Meghan's older brothers — as well as herself prior to working with Marmer — enlisted in the military. Her brothers are also the reason she ever strapped on skates in the first place.

Before Quinnipiac, she attended the prestigious Phillips Exeter Academy for three years, serving as a team captain — while also playing lacrosse and cross country — earning 50 points on the ice in just one season.

On a drive home to Bedford, New Hampshire, her father suggested she stop by Quinnipiac to see what the school was about.

After watching one practice, Turner

was hooked.

"It was intense, Cass (then associate head coach) was running the drill and it just looked good, like something I wanted to be a part of," Turner said. "When Cass took over, she's such an amazing leader and runs an amazing program. Plus academically, I really liked the 3+1 program."

Post graduation, Turner chose to pursue the professional route, playing in the Canadian Women's Hockey League for a year before joining the Professional Women's Hockey Players Association, when Marmer asked her to come work with her.

When the league's expansion was announced, Marmer was asked whether there was anyone she would recommend for the GM positions, Turner was not only the obvious choice, but the only choice, as she told the Boston Globe.

Being in charge of a team that is entering an already established franchise, even if it's as young as the PWHL, is nerve-wracking. According to Turner, though, "Seattle as a fan base has been amazing so far."

"It doesn't feel like we're starting from scratch; they've been itching to get a team," Turner said.

It's also helpful that her players already

have league experience, and Turner can't wait to arm them with the tools they need for a successful inaugural season.

"These players, some of them are coming off of really outstanding years, some of them are coming off of years where they wish they did more, and it gives everyone a chance to succeed," Turner said. "It's gonna be a good year."

Part of Seattle's squad are former Bobcats forward Lexie Adzija '23 and goaltender Corinne Schroeder '22, and while that was not the reason she wanted them on her team, Turner said she certainly knows what she's getting when signing a former Bobcat.

"There's less unknowns, right?" Turner said. "Because I know how the program operates and how good it is. You know you're getting a good person and you know you're getting someone who will work their tail off."

Before the season, Turner was most excited to see the team play and excited to compete. The Torrent did just that in their home opener against the newly established Vancouver Goldeneyes, falling 4-3 in overtime. Schroeder started the game, recording 27 saves.

As of Jan. 20, the Torrent is ranked second to last in the league with a 3-1-2-5 record.