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Former Bobcats at the helm of PWHL Boston and Seattle

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As kids, former Quinnipiac women's ice hockey forwards Danielle Marmer '17 and Meghan Turner '17 often found themselves on opposite sides of the ice. From 2013-2017, they shared the locker room in Hamden.

Now, they're both in charge of two PWHL teams on opposite sides of the country, serving as the general manager of the Boston Fleet and the Seattle Torrent, respectively.

Marmer has been the general manager of the Boston Fleet since its inaugural season, while Turner served alongside Marmer — or as she affectionately calls her, Marm — as her assistant general manager for the last two seasons. Following the PWHL's first expansion this season, adding two teams to the league, Turner is in charge of the newly established Seattle Torrent.

"She's an amazing leader," Turner said. "She really focuses on how the people in her organization and around her feel and she's so intentional about making sure that people are set up for success in their roles. It was a joy to work with her."

Marmer only echoes that sentiment about Turner.

"I couldn't be more excited for her," Marmer said. "She's going to do a phenomenal job. She's incredibly bright, she's organized, she's a great leader. She's culture-driven. She's going to have something really special in Seattle."

Quinnipiac is the only university in the nation with two PWHL General Managers from the same school and joins the short list of schools that produced more than one general manager across the NHL and PWHL.

The two were part of the program's first and only ECAC Tournament Championship in 21 years in 2016.

"They were close, that whole class was close," Quinnipiac's women's ice hockey head coach Cass Turner, who was in her first season as a head coach during that win, said. "We had a group of them that we called 'the posse,' and they had a lot of fun. They certainly put our team on a different level in terms of what we expect from our success; they really set the tone for higher expectations for the years following them."

General managers are executives responsible for the team's off-ice operations,

including drafting, trading, and scouting players, as well as managing player contracts and staff. Across the NHL and PWHL, there are only six female general managers, all of whom operate in the PWHL.

DANIELLE MARMER

Danielle Marmer '17 was making history long before she became a general manager of the Boston Fleet. In July 2022, she became the first woman to hold an on-ice coaching position with the Boston Bruins, serving as their player development and scouting assistant in the organization's almost century-long history.

Marmer — who worked with the team's Diversity and Inclusion Scouting Mentorship Program a year prior to being hired — saw it as an opportunity to learn despite the pressure she felt being the first female in such a role.

"To learn from them and how they see the game and how scouts view the game vs management vs coaches, it was a really incredible experience," Marmer said. "I was excited to get to be a part of that and to continue to move hockey and women's hockey in a positive direction."

Marmer quickly realized how different this position was from her previous role as director of player development and operations. While she was looking for players with healthy habits, who played the game the right way with good sticks, maturity and experience, other members of the scouting team were looking for raw, natural talent.

"They would kind of laugh at me, they're like, 'You need to take your coaching hat off,'" Marmer said. "Some of those details and attributes that you're excited about, those players only have because it's the only way they get their ice time, which was kind of who I was as a player."

Being scouted by both Division I and Division III teams before her collegiate career, Marmer didn't know how far her hockey career could take her. She started skating when she was about two years old, watching her sister's figure skating lessons and "screaming and crying, wanting to get on the ice."

"As I got a little bit older, my dad made a comment that if I was going to be at the rink as much as I was, he wanted me to have

a stick in my hands," Marmer laughed.

Growing up in the small town of Dorset, Vermont, Marmer knew that if she wanted to continue playing hockey, she needed to set her sights somewhere else. Hence, she started attending the Loomis Chaffee boarding school in Connecticut, where she caught Quinnipiac's eye.

Marmer knew Division I was her ceiling and "hated the idea of there being an entire level of hockey being played above what I was playing."

She suited up for 132 games during her career at Quinnipiac, recording two goals and 13 assists.

"It took me a while to figure it out and I was spinning my wheels for the first part of it," Marmer said. "Going into my senior year, I felt like I was just getting a grasp of it and all of a sudden it was coming to an end."

Believing that you can't be really good at something after only a year, Marmer then faced a different decision than most of her teammates, who went the professional route. College hockey was always just a means to an end, something to get a scholarship for or get an experience that would enhance her resume.

But when the time came to put down a deposit for law school, she hesitated.

"I remember having that pivotal moment of 'Is this really it?'" Marmer said. "'Am I really about to just go into the real world?' And that didn't sit well with me."

Turner then planted the seed of pursuing a career in coaching into Marmer's head, connecting her with Connecticut College women's ice hockey head coach Kristen Steele. This "coaching whisperer," gave Marmer her first post-grad job as the assistant coach for the Division III squad.

Marmer's experience as a college athlete who had to earn ice time gave her a unique outlook as a coach, being able to connect with players from the starting lineup to healthy scratches.

After two years in that role, Marmer wanted to return to Division I hockey, when Turner stepped in again and offered her a position on the Bobcats' staff.

Marmer served as Quinnipiac's director of player development and operations for three years, completing her Master's of

Strategic Communications simultaneously.

"I remember the first time I went up to the press box to set up the camera, being blown away by how many people were up there," Marmer recalled. "As a player, you sort of take that for granted. It was really neat to see how Cass operates and how she works with her staff; that insight was really pivotal for the next steps for me."

Turner recalls their time working together with a smile on her face.

"We laughed a lot, had a lot of fun," Turner said. "I think for her, there were so many moments where she was like, 'I didn't know you were like this.' She pushed me to get better and I hope that I did the same for her."

When the time came for Marmer to move forward in her career with the Bruins and then later the Fleet, Turner knew Marmer had what it took, even if she didn't see it herself yet.

"She was a little bit outside of her comfort zone, and now I think she has that confidence," Turner said. "She may not know how to do it yet, but she's gonna find a path and she's gonna make sure she talks to the right people and figures out the best approach. She's really bright and we're very happy and excited for her and where she is now."

When looking back at her first year in her position with the Fleet, Marmer said that "sometimes I feel like I blacked it out."

In the inaugural 2023 PWHL Draft, Boston had the No. 3 pick and, in 15 rounds, selected two former Bobcats, forwards Shann Darkangelo '15 and Taylor Girard '21.

"I went back to my room and laid on my bed and I remember just staring at the ceiling like, 'I can't believe we just did that,'" Marmer said. "It was one of the coolest feelings and probably still is one of the coolest moments of my career."

The Fleet was runner-up to the Minnesota Frost for the Walter Cup in the league's first season.

In the 2025-26 preseason, the Fleet had the most former Quinnipiac players in its training camp, including forwards Kelly Babstock '14, Julia Nearis '24, Olivia Mobley, Shay Maloney '23 and defender Zoe Boyd '23. While Marmer doesn't specifically