New faces in a new place for Quinnipiac field hockey

By CAYDEN STEWART
Copy Editor

For the first time in 14 years, Quinnipiac field hockey has changed conferences. The newest addition to the Northeast Conference enters riding the high of a 2025 campaign that can be categorized as one of the most positive stories of Quinnipiac Athletics' 2025-26 year.

Following a rough 2024 campaign which ended with the Bobcats finishing last in the Big East at 2-16, Quinnipiac fought its way to a 10-8 record, serving as the first 10-win season since leaving the NEC in 2012.

The woman behind the turnaround and reigning silver medalist at the 2026 World Masters Hockey Masters World Cup, Nina Klein, will return to the sideline for her fourth season at the helm of the program. She'll be running an offense missing four of its top five shot takers and scorers from last season, with nearly 70% of the team's 2025 shot attempts coming from either graduates or transfers.

The 2025 Big East Co-Offensive Player of the Year, Francisca Eschoyez, is among the key departures from last year's team. The now Maryland Terrapin amassed 35 points from 13 goals and nine assists, all team highs. Forward Cameron Brower ('26) and midfielders Mo Qualie ('26) and Lucia Donati also departed the team, having recorded 36 points between them last season.

"There's definitely a lot of change to our forward line and midfield line this season, but there's a lot of really positive change," Klein said. "I'm very excited to see how it all comes together this week."

Klein also spoke highly of her top returning scorer, sophomore forward Rozemarijn Van Keulen.

"Having (Van Keulen) return is also fantastic," Klein said. "She's really good on the attack side of the ball. She's really going to be a stronghold for us … she understands the game extremely well."

Van Keulen finished second on the team in goals and points last season (behind just Eschoyez), amassing eight goals and 20 total points, respectively. She was also second in shot percentage and fourth in shots on goal percentage among players with more than five total shots on the season, proving to be an effective shooter when in possession.


EMILY MARQUIS/CHRONICLE

Van Keulen enters this season as a young leader on the attacking side of the ball.

"Throughout the spring season and offseason, I really worked on my mindset and I learned to focus on all the different ways I can impact a game beyond just scoring goals," Van Keulen said. "Being an offensive leader isn't only about scoring all the goals, but about bringing everyone in the game and creating opportunities. (I'm) very excited to take on that responsibility this season."

Quinnipiac's incoming freshman class also boasts multiple stars in the making, including forward Lily Mastrella and midfielder/defenseman Kaia Jackson.

Mastrella holds the New York State record for goals scored in a single high school game with eight and is Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School's all-time leading goal scorer. Jackson earned First-Team All-Conference honors three times and was First-Team All-North Jersey her senior year.

Sophomore defender Veronica Goettner is another rising star on the team. She'll be one of a select few veterans looking to help an incoming class of eight first years, including four on the defensive side of the field.

"We already have a great connection, and I think really close connections get people a long way on the field," Goettner said.

Goettner logged 72 minutes last season, including a season-high 38 in a 2-1 victory over the Wagner College Seahawks on Oct. 5.

Goettner's increased playing time down the stretch of the regular season and into the team's spring games has paid huge dividends for her connection with the other veterans on Quinnipiac's defense.

"Playing with them in the (regular season) and connecting with them more since I played with them in the spring games brought about more consistency," Goettner said.

Some of Quinnipiac's biggest games include a meeting with reigning NEC runners-up Wagner College at home on Oct. 2, and against reigning NEC Co-Goaltender of the Year senior Brianna Cooper and the Sacred Heart Pioneers on the road on Sep. 18.

The Bobcats will also take on the Yale Bulldogs at home in the second-to-last game of the regular season on Oct. 25. This meeting could have major playoff implications for the Bobcats, as Quinnipiac is eligible to make the NEC Tournament, even as a first-year member of the conference.

The Bobcats look to pick up right where they left off in NEC play, having won three conference tournaments and four regular-season titles in their previous 15-year stint with the conference.

Men's soccer bringing a new mentality into the 2026 season

By EMILY MARQUIS
Associate Sports Editor

At the conclusion of the 2025 season, Quinnipiac men's soccer was stuck. Three years removed from a championship run and bounced from the Metro (previously MAAC) Tournament after qualifying on the final day for the final spot, massive change for the Bobcats was in order.

"New schedule, new season, new team, new group of players ... new games," head coach Eric Da Costa said Aug. 28. "Everything is new."

The mantra rings especially true for the Bobcats in 2026. After bowing out to the Iona Gaels, Quinnipiac's roster went through an overhaul. Eleven departures, including six starters from that 5-0 loss and four of the Bobcats' top five scorers, meant that Da Costa's words were more than just a sentiment to forget a forgettable 7-10-1 2025 campaign.


EMILY MARQUIS/CHRONICLE

But what hasn't changed for the Bobcats is their resilience. Often overlooked because of last year's bitter ending was how a playoff berth came to be in the first place, with Quinnipiac winning three of its last four and deciding its own destiny with a win on the final day.

That resilience was on full display in two gutsy wins over the Providence Friars and Yale Bulldogs to begin non-conference play. In both contests, the Bobcats found themselves trailing at halftime, down 2-1 and 3-1 respectively, but clawed their way back to not only tie it, but take the statement win on both occasions.

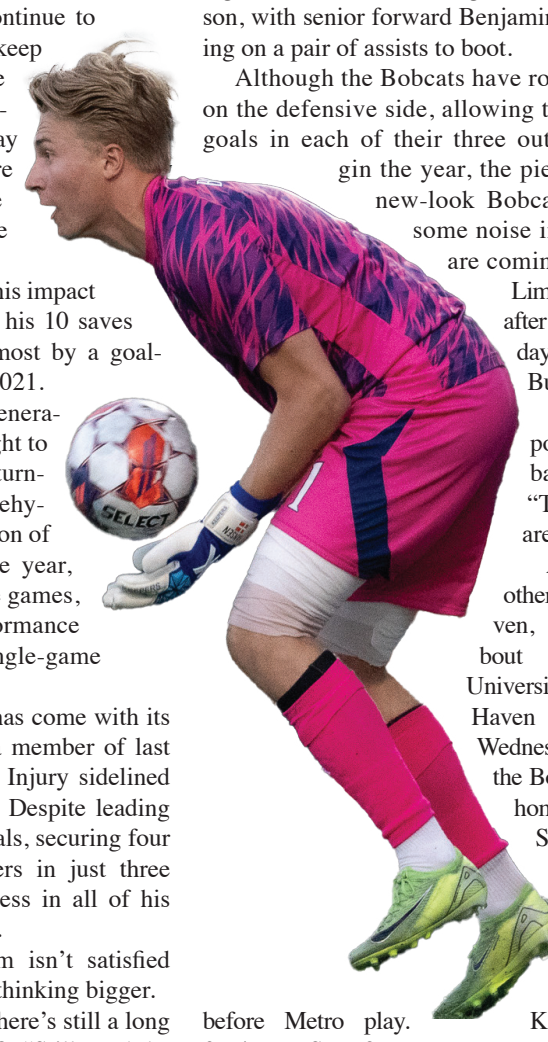
"We believe in how we play, we believe in who we are," Da Costa said Aug. 28. "We have an identity, and we have to continue … We have 45 more minutes to play a game, so until that clock hits zero, you know this team's gonna keep playing regardless of what the scoreboard says."

That belief is something that Da Costa and the coaching staff are steadily building with the young core. The freshman class, made up of 11 Bobcats, is the largest in over 15 years and is already making an impact. Freshman defender Giovanni Corsetti leads the team in minutes played, playing a full match in each of the Bobcats' first three contests to anchor an evolving defense still finding its footing after the loss of former Bobcat defenders Joao Pinto '26 and Luke Schierenbeck '26.

The true story of the freshman class is goalkeeper Alexander Hansen. In 2025, the Bobcats saw three different netminders take the helm, beginning with junior goalkeeper Emilio Balderrama. He ended the year with six appearances on the season. The other two, Matthew Pisani '26 and Nickolas Cardona '26, played in 10 and four, respectively.

Early in 2026, the Bobcats have found some stability in the net in the form of Hansen.

"The only way he can continue to grow and get better is to keep playing," Da Costa said. "He trains really hard … it's something he has to earn every day … I think that's why we're seeing him perform, because he's being pushed daily by the other two goalkeepers."



Hansen has already made his impact on Quinnipiac men's soccer; his 10 saves against Providence are the most by a goalkeeper in the program since 2021.

But as good as the new generation of Bobcats is, the highlight to start the season has been a returner. Sophomore midfielder Taehyeon Lim has been the definition of an impact player to start the year, netting 10 points in just three games, including a seven-point performance against Yale to break the single-game program record.

But the hot start for Lim has come with its own share of adversity. As a member of last year's squad, Lim struggled. Injury sidelined him for much of the season. Despite leading the Bobcats this season in goals, securing four along with two game-winners in just three games, Lim was held scoreless in all of his eight appearances last season.

Like any competitor, Lim isn't satisfied with just the accolades. He's thinking bigger.

"Obviously satisfied, but there's still a long way to go," Lim said Aug. 28. "Still need the championship at the end of the season. Job's not finished."

Along with Lim, other veterans have stepped up on the offensive end. Four returning Bobcats have netted a goal to start the season, with senior forward Benjamin Telle tacking on a pair of assists to boot.

Although the Bobcats have room to grow on the defensive side, allowing two or more goals in each of their three outings to begin the year, the pieces for this new-look Bobcats to make some noise in the Metro are coming together.

Lim put it best after his historic day against the Bulldogs.

"Just three points in the bag," he said. "The vibes are great."

After another New Haven, Connecticut bout against the University of New Haven Chargers Wednesday, Sept. 2, the Bobcats return home to face the Stony Brook University Sea Wolves in their final game before Metro play. Kick-off is set for 4 p.m., Sept. 9.