Quinnipiac men's ice hockey puts on a show in opening weekend of 2026-27 campaign

By CLAIRE FRANKLAND
Editor-in-Chief

Quinnipiac men's ice hockey kicked off its opening weekend of play in Hamden, facing off against the University of New Hampshire Wildcats and the Merrimack Warriors Oct. 2 and Oct. 3. And to say the Bobcats' opening weekend was anything less than dominant would be an understatement.

The Bobcats came into their opening weekend of play ready to make a statement and set the tone for the 2026-27 season.

Let's break down their play from this weekend:

Quinnipiac's offensive play was nothing short of stellar to open up its season, especially for a team featuring a mix of 16 returners and 10 newcomers.

In Quinnipiac's season-opening contest against the Wildcats, 16 Bobcats recorded a point, leading the way for their 10-2 victory.

Forwards sophomore Ethan Wyttenbach and junior Chris Pelosi recorded two goals in the matchup, while junior defenseman Elliott Groenewold, freshman forward Alex Kostov, sophomore forward Markus Vidicek and Wyttenbach recorded two assists each.

In similar fashion, against the Warriors, 13 Bobcats recorded a point, contributing to Quinnipiac's 6-3 victory.

Notably, in Quinnipiac's opening weekend of play, five Bobcat freshmen recorded a point, combining for nine points on the weekend.

Of the freshmen who recorded points, freshman forwards Dylan Edwards and Gabriel Frasca, and defenseman Parker Alcos all recorded a goal, with Kostov recording three assists. Edwards and Alcos would also pick up an assist, respectively.

If Quinnipiac's first-year Bobcats getting on the score sheet shows anything about this squad, it's most definitely their depth heading into the season.

"(The freshman class is) definitely good," sophomore forward Antonin Verrault said. "I think they all got a couple points in (the) first couple games, so it's definitely good."

Speaking of new Bobcats, senior forward Jack Stockfish showed out in his first two games in Bobcat blue and gold. The College of the Holy Cross transfer opened the season with three points, including Quinnipiac's first goal in its contest against Merrimack.

"It was like a no-brainer decision for me; it was where I wanted to go," Stockfish said about deciding to transfer to Quinnipiac.

Looking between the pipes, head coach Rand Pecknold played both of his new goaltenders, freshman Christian Kirsch and junior Rorke Applebee.

Against New Hampshire, Kirsch recorded a .913 save percentage, only allowing two goals on 21 shots on net. Applebee would take the crease against Merrimack, finishing the contest with an .893 save percentage, allowing three goals on 25 shots on net.

"I thought (Applebee and Kirsch) both played well. They both probably have things they need to work on a little bit," Pecknold said. "...you know, we'll let them keep kind of battling it out a little bit, and eventually we'll probably end up with one of them."

For Quinnipiac's offensive momentum, the Bobcats continuously put pressure on their opponents' netminders, forcing pucks in the back of the net when they mattered most.

Against New Hampshire, Quinnipiac put 16 shots on senior goaltender Michael Simpson before the Wildcats swapped him for sophomore goaltender Teagan Kendrick, who the Bobcats put nine shots on.



The Bobcats played in the same fashion Saturday night against Merrimack, hammering freshman goaltender Linards Feldbergs with 35 shots.

Moreover, the Bobcats capitalized on winning the small battles, finishing the weekend with a .648 faceoff percentage, compared to their opponents' .352 faceoff percentage. By winning the small battles on the faceoff dot, the Bobcats were able to control the game over their opponents, whether it fell to the offensive or defensive zone.

Despite all the positives coming off of this weekend, Pecknold still sees areas of improvement, mainly in the Bobcats' details and decision-making.

On the weekend, Quinnipiac recorded six penalties to its opponents' five, and while the Wildcats and Warriors only capitalized twice, penalties can not be a habit the Bobcats fall into, especially avoidable ones.

"We got to get a little bit better. Like, we took that too many men, like just really disappointing. Like, you can't. It's a mental mistake," Pecknold said. "...we can't have a player just jumped on really for no reason. So that's unacceptable. We got to get better with our details."

Quinnipiac will head to Maine this weekend to face off against the University of Maine Black Bears in a two-game weekend series.

The Bobcats and Black Bears have continuously put up a good fight against each other, with Quinnipiac having a record of 10-11-2 against Maine. Additionally, last time the Bobcats traveled to Maine to face the Black Bears in a two-game series, they came back to Hamden with two losses.

"I heard it's a pretty loud crowd there, so it's definitely going to be fun," Verrault said. "I mean, I don't know what to expect, but just know Maine's a tough team, so we're gonna go in there (and) hopefully, get a couple win(s).

For Quinnipiac to come back to Hamden with two wins against Maine, it will need to capitalize on its play style from opening weekend, categorized by maintaining fast, consistent pressure on the Black Bears while utilizing all of the Bobcats' skaters.

Game one of the series will kick off Friday, Oct. 9, with puck drop set for 7 p.m.



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

Balanced scoring brings wins to women's ice hockey as it begins the season

By EMILY MARQUIS
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Last season, Quinnipiac women's ice hockey's scoring identity went through one player: senior forward Kahlen Lamarche.

The forward shattered the program's single-season goal and point record during her 2025-26 campaign, leading the team in nearly every offensive statistic. Her eight game-winning goals prove that scoring had enough impact, helping the Bobcats close out their regular-season. However, after a seven-goal series against Brown in the ECAC, what powered the Bobcats through to the NCAA Regional Finals was their depth scoring.

Goal contributions from eight different Bobcats in the final four game stretch proved critical in securing their first NCAA Tournament win since 2023 and their first ECAC Championship Title since 2016.

Now, spreading out the scoring is powering Quinnipiac into its 2026-27 campaign. Just four games into the season, nine different Bobcats have recorded a goal, with an additional six recording a point.

That scoring spread is by design.

"I think it also means that we have, you know, a different line that can score each day, and I think it's going to relieve a little bit of pressure from some of our top players," head coach Cass Turner said.

Even looking into the Bobcats' most recent matchup against the Providence Friars Oct. 3, three lines contributed to the 6-1 final score line, including a productive performance from the Bobcats' leading goal scorer this season, senior forward Alex Law. Despite having four goals in as many games at the time of publication, Law spent the Providence series centering the third line.

For most squads, having the hottest stick in a bottom six role is far from typical. But for Quinnipiac, it's a testament to the competition the squad has brought in to defend its ECAC title.

"This is maybe one of the strongest lineups that we've had in terms of depth," Turner said. "Like that's really fun to have, you know. I think it's going to continue to push each line to be at its best."

The new additions bolstering that depth include the addition of five new forwards, with three of them already finding the scoresheet. Senior transfer forward Keara Parker leads the way with three goals and an assist in four games. Her former St.Thomas teammate, junior transfer forward Ilsa Lindaman, also has a pair of assists on the season.

It isn't just about the transfer additions. Freshman forward Cassidy Lobisser secured her first collegiate goal, joining defenders Clara-Mai Van Houtte-Cachero and Rosalie Breton as the first freshman to get points on the season.

"(The freshmen) really get in there every day and grind, and even though it's a grind, we come with a smile on our face," Lobisser said. "We're super supportive to one another."

According to Law, that scoring success for the team's newest Bobcats is just one more testament to how strong of a talent pool this team has.

"I think it really shows the depth of our team this early on, seeing this young talent," Law said.

That ability to spread the scoring has made the Quinnipiac offensive attack harder to stop. In its opening two series, the Bobcats have outshot opponents 139-81, the largest differential of any team in the ECAC and tallying the second most goals with 15 at the time of publication.

"I think we have some good chemistry already in all of our lines," Law said.

The Bobcats still have room to grow as the season progresses, but Turner believes that has been a strong suit for the side through four contests.

"I think there's a lot to learn in terms of like some positive pieces, honestly," she said. "We created those chances because of some really good things without the puck, to win it back. I thought our structure was pretty good in the offensive zone, some things that we wanted to see, we were really seeing, so that was good."

One of those areas that could use some work is the Bobcats' powerplay. While the penalty kill has held strong, killing off 14 straight chances at the man-advantage to begin the year, the powerplay has been less successful at the time of publication. Quinnipiac has struggled to capitalize, falling short of last year's 21.7% margin. If the Bobcats look to continue their early season success, Turner will need to find the right combination of that depth to man both units.

The Bobcats will have a chance to continue to spread out the scoring against the Northeastern Huskies, who head to Hamden for a two game series. Game one is set for Oct. 16, with puck drop at 6 p.m.



PATRICIO SOSA III/CHRONICLE

Senior forward Ilsa Lindaman lines up for a face off against Providence Oct. 2.