A tale of two teams: Sizing up Quinnipiac soccer

By CAYDEN STEWART
Copy Editor

It was the best of scorers; it was…only the best of scorers?

The lack of variation in scorers and stark differences in production among top producers are two areas garnering high levels of critique for both Quinnipiac soccer programs.

Both the men's and women's teams are highlighted by a top-20 scorer nationally as of publication, with graduate student forward Morgan Cupo leading the women with 10 goals, good for 14th nationally, and sophomore midfielder Taehyeon Lim's seven, good for 20th nationally, besting the men.

The main difference between these two teams, though, and a problem for the women's side especially, arises when you look deeper into the total shots taken and subsequent production from those shots.

While Lim is joined by three other Bobcats on the list of players with 15 or more shots taken this season, Cupo is the only Bobcat to hit that mark on the women's side, amassing 40 shots herself.

Quinnipiac women's soccer head coach Dave Clarke expressed his concerns since the early stages of the season.

"You can have one player who scores goals, but everyone else has to contribute," Clarke said after a loss to Niagara Sept. 5. "Right now that's not happening."

Many see this as a major issue, and while it certainly isn't ideal to have an entire offense run through one person, this current situation may not be as problematic as most would think.

The team has been more than capable of producing, even when Cupo hasn't. As of publication, Quinnipiac women's soccer is 8-3-1 with a 6-2 record in conference play, but most importantly, they are 3-2 when Cupo doesn't record a point.

Keep in mind, this 3-2 record includes a loss on the road against the University of North Carolina, the No. 1 ranked team in the nation. This is a much-needed improvement compared to last year, as Quinnipiac's 1-0 win at Yale Aug. 23 was the first time the team had won without a Cupo point since Nov. 7, 2024, having gone 0-3-4 in such games in that span.

The Bobcats themselves even have experience in succeeding with solo dominant scorers. Quinnipiac's 2022 MAAC Championship-winning team was led by then forward Rebecca Cooke, who took more than twice as many shots and scored nearly four times as many goals as the next most prominent Bobcat. With 22 goals, she was the only Bobcat to have more than six, a disparity which sounds similar to the 2026 squad.

Three of the top six ranked teams in the nation are also led by one dominant scorer. No. 2 Michigan State University, No. 3 Vanderbilt University and No. 6 Ohio State University have a lone representative in the top 35 scorers nationally, but nobody else in at least the top 175.

As a whole, each of the last nine MAAC women's soccer champions had either one or no players with more than 10 goals, and just one team in that span had more than two players score at least five goals in a season.

This is to say, while the conference name has since changed, the means by which teams have reached the top has shown no signs of doing the same.

On the other side of the pitch, the men's team has started to level out their own examples of scoring disparity, and seen similar success in doing so.

While Lim's 16 points, powered by a seven-point program record performance at Yale Aug. 28, convincingly lead the way atop the men's soccer statistical leaderboard, he's not the only player to produce.

Four other Bobcats have since joined him with more than 10 shots on the year, and six have amassed four points or more.

Sophomore forward Remy Barone is among the Bobcats seeing a noteworthy uptick in production over the last few games.


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Barone has registered nine shots, five shots on goal and four of his five points on the season across his last four games.

"I think he's coming into his own," men's soccer head coach Eric Da Costa said Oct. 9. "He's a player who's capable of doing more; we think he's a guy who can score more goals. I think as the games go on he'll continue to produce offensively."

The Bobcats' success has grown along with their coach's confidence, holding a 5-4-1 record with a 3-1-1 mark in conference play as of publication. The team also recorded a three-game winning streak in early October to kick off Metro play.

While each side of the sport is using its own means of getting there, both Quinnipiac men's and women's soccer teams are in good shape for a Metro playoff run.

After a 4-0 win over Iona University Oct. 10, the women find themselves in a tie for second in the Metro standings, while the men's draw at Saint Peter's University the same day places them in a solo second in conference play.

Further, sophomore forward and University of Massachusetts transfer Skye Cuscuna is primed to make her return to the pitch soon, which will only add to a dangerous Quinnipiac offense.

The only question left for Quinnipiac soccer is what the final chapter will read.

Quinnipiac men's ice hockey welcomes seven freshmen with a plethora of hockey history

By CLAIRE FRANKLAND
Editor-in-Chief

Quinnipiac men's ice hockey welcomes seven freshmen for the upcoming se, with three defensemen, three forwards and one goaltender. Just four games into the season, this class has started to get its feet off the ground, rather quickly into collegiate play.

Let's break down their hockey history and performances thus far in their collegiate career:

NETMINDER

From across the pond, this season the Bobcats welcomed one freshman goaltender in Christian Kirsch, and thus far, he has lived up to the hype.

Before wearing Bobcat blue and gold, the Basel, Switzerland, native played in various international tournaments, representing Switzerland. Most notably, Kirsch represented Switzerland in the World Juniors twice, finishing his last appearance in the 2025-26 tournament with a .904 save percentage and a 2.69 goals-against average.

Additionally, last season, Kirsch played a huge role in leading the Kitchener Rangers to the Ontario Hockey League Memorial Cup. He finished the season with a .899 save percentage in 41 games, while allowing only 2.42 goals per game. In four games to win the Memorial Cup, Kirsch posted a .952 save percentage, allowing 1.50 goals per game.

"You see what he did last year in juniors and winning the championship he did, so he's been clean in big games like that before. I think obviously it's a regular season game, but the atmosphere is somewhat similar, so it was great to have him in net. Just hope he can carry it on," sophomore forward Ethan Wyttenbach said about Kirsch's performance.

If his stats prior to stepping into Hamden don't say enough about his capabilities, his performance speaks volumes.

In two games played so far, the San Jose Sharks' 116th pick in the 2024 NHL Draft sits with a .947 save percentage and a 1.50 goals-against average, only allowing three goals. Against a powerful Maine squad with home-ice advantage, Kirsch made a statement, silencing the Black Bears with 33 saves in their home opener.

"Shoutout (to) Chrisitan Kirsch for kinda having our back the entire sixty there," senior forward and captain Mason Marcellus said after the performance against Maine.

FORWARDS

In their pool of forwards, the Bobcats welcome freshman forwards Alex Kostov, Dylan Edwards and Gabriel Frasca.

Kostov is the only drafted forward of Quinnipiac's first-year class, as he was taken 177th overall by the Los Angeles Kings in Round 6 of the 2026 NHL Draft.

The Mississauga, Ontario native made his minor league debut playing in the Greater Toronto Hockey League for the Toronto Nationals U14 AAA in the 2019-20 season and the Markham Majors U16 AAA in the 2021-22 season.

While no stats were recorded during his time on the U14 AAA squad, as part of the U16 AAA team, Kostov would record 19 points on 12 goals and seven assists in 23 games played. His total would be good for fifth on the squad, behind notable teammates such as Calgary Flames ninth overall pick Zayne Parekh and Los Angeles Kings 26th overall pick Liam Greentree.

Kostov entered his OHL era in 2021 with the Soo Greyhounds. Over two seasons, he recorded 28 points on 11 goals and 17 assists before joining the Flint Firebirds, where he tallied 11 more points in the 2023-24 season.

Yet Kostov's playing career would ultimately take off during his 2024-25 and 2025-26 campaigns, when he tallied 100 points with 40 goals and 60 assists.

So far into the season, Kostov has utilized his offensive skill to generate scoring opportunities for Quinnipiac, tallying three assists in four games played.

From Scarborough, Ontario, the Bobcats saw the addition of Edwards this season, who, alongside Kirsch, captured the Memorial Cup last season with the Kitchener Rangers. In four post-season games to win the cup, Edwards contributed two goals and four assists to secure the championship.

Edwards contributed in huge parts to the Rangers' championship, putting up 48 points on 24 goals and 24 assists in 35 games played for them last season, with his number good enough for fourth on the squad despite coming in halfway through the season.

Prior to joining the Rangers, Edwards played for the Erie Otters and Toronto Patriots in the Ontario Junior Hockey League, putting up 219 points across both leagues through five seasons.

So far for the Bobcats, Edwards has appeared in all games, recording one goal and three assists.

Last but not least, the Bobcats welcomed Frasca, who has only appeared in two games so far.

The Caledon, Ontario native previously played in the OHL for the Kingston Frontenacs, Erie Otters and most recently, the Brantford Bulldogs. Last season with the Otters and Bulldogs, Frasca tallied a combined 54 points on 24 goals and 30 assists.

Throughout his 235 career games in the OHL, Frasca tallied 158 points on 69 goals and 89 assists.

In his collegiate debut against Merrimack, Frasca would earn his first collegiate goal and the game-winner in a 6-3 victory, earning that first collegiate point with his brother, Merrimack freshman forward Jacob Frasca, on the ice at the time of the goal.

"I didn't even realize he was on the ice, but that's pretty funny," Gabriel said after finding out. "I'm sure he'll say some words to me after. We'll find out."

DEFENSEMEN

On defense for the Bobcats, three freshmen join the squad this year with defenseman Jan Golicic, Parker Alcos and Drew Anastasio.

Golicic joins the Bobcats from the Quebec Maritimes Junior Hockey League, where he competed for the Gatineau Olympiques and the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada. In 180 games across the QMJHL, he finished with 108 points on 12 goals and 96 assists.

The Lesce, Slovenia native, has also represented his country various times across international competition, including the 2024-25 and 2025-26 IIHF World Junior Championship, finishing with 10 points in 10 games.

For the Bobcats thus far, the 118th pick by the Tampa Bay Lightning in the 2024 NHL Draft has recorded three points on one goal and two assists across four games. Golicic has been a strong lockdown defenseman for the Bobcats so far, alongside returning talent like junior defensemen Elliot Groenewold and Braden Blace.

In the wake of Blace's injury against Maine Oct. 9, Golicic has begun to prove himself as a play-making defenseman for the Bobcats, contributing an assist and a goal against the Black Bears.

"He's a really, really smart player," Pecknold said after the Bobcats loss to Maine Oct. 10. "He's a really good hockey player, and we're excited to have him."

Alongside Golicic, Alcos joins the Bobcats defense, appearing in all four games played so far.

Prior to Quinnipiac, the Port Moody, British Columbia, native played four seasons in the Western Hockey League with the Edmonton Oil Kings and Kelowna Rockets. Across his time with the WHL, Alcos recorded 60 points on seven goals and 53 assists, demonstrating his strong playmaking ability.

Alcos and the Rockets would further qualify for the 2026 Memorial Cup, but ultimately come up short in three games played.

With the Bobcats, the 189th pick by the Vancouver Canucks showed out in his first collegiate game, recording his first college goal and assist, but has since failed to record a point in the Bobcats' three other matchups. Yet, his fellow Bobcats have found his abilities to be a strong asset for this squad.

"He's been playing really well. He's still young, so he's still got some things he's fixing, whether it's coming from juniors, just learning our systems and things like that, but he's been awesome," Wyttenbach said. "He's made great plays; he's been a really, really good player for us, just hope he keeps it up."

Connecticut native Anastasio has also joined the squad this season, yet has not appeared in a game for Quinnipiac.

Before Hamden, Anastasio played for local organizations before starting his junior league career with the Trail Smoke Eaters in the British Columbia Hockey League. In his first season, Anasastsio recorded 18 points on eight goals and 10 assists, recording only five points in the following campaign before joining the Tri-City Storm in the United States Hockey League. In his lone season in the USHL, he tallied seven assists in 41 games played.

While Anastasio's talent has not been put to the test in collegiate play so far, time will tell when it is his turn to make his college debut.