Quinnipiac soccer programs looks to secure its spot in Metro playoffs

By EMILY MARQUIS
Associate Sports Editor

Both Quinnipiac's soccer programs are both looking to build off last season's playoff appearance. With each squad mounting up for its final few Metro games of the season, here's everything you need to know about their playoff chances.

MEN'S

Quinnipiac men's soccer finds itself in a fresh race to reach the Metro playoffs. At this point last season, the Bobcats had a 2-4 record and needed to win out to squeak into the playoffs as the sixth seed.

This season, the Bobcats are in a more favorable position with just four games left before Metro playoffs begin. Boasting a 3-1-2 record, with Quinnipiac's lone loss coming against the top-seeded Fairfield Stags, the Bobcats are sitting second in the conference.



SARAH MASCIA/CHRONICLE

The success comes off an extremely successful opening conference slate, where the Bobcats took down Rider, Manhattan and Canisius by a combined score of 9-1 to firmly take command of their own destiny in securing a playoff berth.

However, following that Oct. 7 loss, the Bobcats have struggled in conference contests. Back-to-back ties against teams that currently sit below the playoff line, including a 1-1 draw against Sacred Heart, have cut into the Bobcats' points lead. That early win over Rider puts Quinnipiac in second in the head-to-head tiebreaker with 11 points on the year and a game in hand.

So what will it take for the Bobcats to secure their third straight conference tournament appearance? It begins with finding the scoring that initially powered their success. Quinnipiac has managed a win just once when scoring fewer than two goals. Despite boasting the highest average goals per game in conference play at 2.167, Quinnipiac's shots per game sits in the middle of the pack, at around 12 shots on goal with just 5.83 of those chances being on frame.

One way that could prove critical to increase chances on net could be from corners. Quinnipiac currently secures four corners per conference game, good for third-worst in the Metro. Holding possession in the final third will not only earn more corners to create grade-A chances off the set piece, but can also lead to more shots on frame during the pace of play.

Despite holding the second seed in the conference, at the time of publication, the Bobcats have a tough final slate. With four games remaining, Quinnipiac will face two teams currently situated in a playoff spot. Along with that, each of their remaining opponents — Mount St. Mary's, Iona, Siena and Merrimack — sit within four points of the Bobcats in the playoff race.

However, this is nothing new for the Bobcats, and something the squad is entirely prepared for.

"I really think that the standings won't be sorted out until the last week," head coach Eric Da Costa said Oct.14. "It's usually what happens. You get that last week, and then it's still usually about nine teams fighting for these top six positions."

For now, Quinnipiac's playoff destiny remains solely in its hands, with a chance at securing a first-round bye if the squad is able to win out. The first step of that starts Saturday, Oct. 24, with a 1 p.m. home matchup against Mount St. Mary's.

WOMEN'S

Quinnipiac women's soccer is also in the middle of a dogfight at the top of the table. After a late-game goal by sophomore forward Isabella Torelli secured the victory over Rider on the road Oct. 17, a bit of scoreboard watching by the Bobcats was in order as the other two top teams in the conference, the Niagara Purple Eagles and Fairfield Stags, duked it out in upstate New York.

A late-game goal from Niagara secured the win, meaning all three squads are sitting flush at 21 points in the standings.

This makes next Wednesday's contest against the Stags on the road that much more critical, especially with Fairfield holding a game in hand over both squads. With the Bobcats maintaining a 7-2 conference record with three games remaining in their Metro slate, the squad is in the home stretch when it comes to securing a playoff berth.

For the Bobcats, this is in reach — any point-scoring result against Fairfield will secure them 22 points, which is enough to tie the seventh-place Sacred Heart Pioneers' highest possible finish. A 1-0 win against Sacred Heart Oct. 7 gives the Bobcats the tiebreaker.

What Quinnipiac needs for this upcoming stretch is scoring. Six of the squad's nine Metro contests this season have been decided by one score, including three of the Bobcats' last four wins coming in 1-0 fashion. It's been well documented how critical graduate student forward Morgan Cupo has been in that success, scoring 10 total goals and seven in Metro play, good for second and first in the conference respectively.

However, as teams start to figure Cupo out, Torelli has become the breakout talent netting goals for the Quinnipiac side. The King City, Ontario native has scored in each of the Bobcats' last three contests, including a pair of game-winning goals against Rider and Sacred Heart to help power the Bobcats into a position to jostle for a first-round bye in this year's Metro Championship playoffs.

A first-round bye could be critical for the Bobcats. Last season, the Bobcats faced a heartbreaking loss in the first round of the MAAC playoffs, snapping a four-year conference title-game appearance streak. Securing that bye starts with a tall order: securing its first win at Fairfield since Oct. 1, 2022.



COLLEEN DIETHER/CHRONICLE

Bobcats on the brink: A Quinnipiac field hockey scouting report

By CAYDEN STEWART
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The Quinnipiac field hockey program has long been a team destined to underperform every season; that was, until last season.

The Bobcats' 10-8 record in 2025 marked the first time since 2013 that Quinnipiac field hockey finished the season above .500, and placed the squad within one game of a conference tournament spot for the first time since 2015. Clinching a spot in the conference playoffs would be a more than impressive feat for a Bobcat squad coming off a 2-16 season in 2024 and holding a 44-105 record from the 2016 season to the 2024 season.

While Quinnipiac wouldn't qualify for that final spot, suffering a loss at the hands of the University of Connecticut to close the regular season, it did make Hamden believe again.

So far in 2026, the Bobcat faithful have been rewarded for this belief, as Quinnipiac clinched a spot in the NEC tournament Sunday, Oct. 18.

As of publication, the Bobcats have three games remaining in their regular season and boast a 9-4 overall record, with a 5-1 record in conference play. As it stands, the Bobcats would be the No. 2 seed in the NEC tournament if the regular season ended today in just its first season returning to the conference.

The NEC tournament is a four-team single-elimination style bracket, which will see a total of three games played before a champion is crowned. With Quinnipiac locking in their spot, it's worth taking a look ahead to some potential first round matchups.

Quinnipiac currently sits just ahead of Rider University, Sacred Heart University and Stonehill College in the NEC standings, thanks in part to wins over the Broncs and Pioneers, making a matchup with one in the first round highly likely. One advantage Quinnipiac has over all of them, and the rest of the conference for that matter, is consistency.

As of publication, the Bobcats lead the NEC in goals scored per game at 3.0 flat and goals allowed per game at 1.62, and are the only group to have a positive average scoring margin. The next closest to their 1.38 margin per game is Sacred Heart's -0.2.

Quinnipiac's offensive attack can not be understated, as senior forwards Ava Bleier and Martina Calveira each rank among the team's leaders in goals and assists. Bleier's team-leading 11 goals and 25 total points on the year mark an incredible jump, having only amassed five total points in her first three seasons with the Bobcats.

Calveira has been equally impressive, setting career highs in both goals and points, with eight and 21, respectively, while tying her career high of five assists. Led by Calveira and company, Quinnipiac's 30 total assists serve as the highest mark in the NEC.

In that same breath, freshman goalkeeper Meike van Schoot has been nothing short of spectacular. The two-time NEC Defensive Player of the Week and Rookie of the Week anchors a Bobcat defense conceding the fewest goals per game in the conference, while recording the second-highest save percentage at .774. Van Schoot's .772 save percentage ranks among the nation's best, placing her 19th nationally.

This dangerous pairing of high-flying offense and stagnating defense will be a tough matchup for any opponent, but especially potential matchups like Sacred Heart, as the Pioneers rank second to last in the conference with a .584 save percentage. That being said, the Pioneers also lead the conference in total shots and shots on goal, with 220 and 132, respectively. Expect van Schoot to do battle often if they're Quinnipiac's first task.

The Bobcats do have their fair share of issues, though, as their 422 fouls and 32.46 fouls per game each rank second-most in the NEC. They'll have to be well-disciplined in matchups against Stonehill and Sacred Heart, who have 118 and 54 fewer fouls on the year, respectively.

The Bobcats would also like to create more scoring opportunities as a whole, as their measly 4.08 penalty corners per game serves as the 11th-lowest mark in the nation. While their high-scoring nature without needing corners is a big plus, getting the extra help never hurts.

Also worth noting, the Bobcats have played in three of the NEC's collective four overtime games this season, with Stonehill's opening day loss at The College of the Holy Cross serving as the other. This shows Quinnipiac has the legs to battle well into overtime, especially since the Bobcats pulled out a win in all three games.

The Wagner College Seahawks look to be Quinnipiac's toughest potential task. The Seahawks are in prime position to take home their first Northeast Conference Championship after three straight years of championship losses, and five straight years of conference tournament appearances without a title. Wagner also has home field advantage for the tournament regardless of its seeding.

The Seahawks' 180 fouls serve as the third-fewest mark in the NEC, and are less than half of Quinnipiac's total. Their 110 penalty corners are the conference's highest total, and are more than double what Quinnipiac has produced.

Wagner senior forward Floortje Leunisse will be its key to victory, as she leads the team in points and goals with 18 and six, respectively.

Even so, the Bobcats hold the advantage in net with a save percentage .183 higher, and 1.15 fewer goals allowed per game than the Seahawks. Quinnipiac's offense also bests Wagner in the points per game column, amassing 8.31 compared to Wagner's 6.0 per game.

The Bobcats have proven to be a strong force in their newest NEC campaign, but will have as tough a matchup in their two possible tournament games as they'll be for others.

The 2026 Northeast Conference Tournament begins Thursday, Nov. 5, at Wagner's home field in Staten Island, New York.



VANESSA STABILES/CHRONICLE

Junior midfielder Jule Hoefer carries the ball down the field against Merrimack Oct. 18.