Women's ice hockey celebrates the 2025-26 ECAC title with generations of Bobcats

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Many of the Quinnipiac women's ice hockey alumni gathered inside M&T Bank Arena Saturday, Oct. 17, never shared a locker room. They played in different eras, different opponents and wore Bobcat blue and gold years apart. Yet, during the ECAC Championship banner ceremony, they came together to celebrate as members of the same family.

Following the lineup announcements and national anthem, attention shifted to the corner of M&T Bank Arena where Quinnipiac's championship banners hang. The ceremony offered a moment to acknowledge the accomplishments of the 2025-26 women's ice hockey team and the players who helped bring the ECAC title back to Hamden.

The honor of unveiling the banner was given to graduates from the 2025-26 championship-winning team. Forwards Emerson Jarvis '26 and Tessa Holk '26, defensemen Zoe Uens '26 and Mia Lopata '26 and goaltenders Tatum Blacker '26 and Calli Hogarth '26 were introduced before stepping forward together to pull the ropes and lower the covering.

The banner marked the latest achievement by the Bobcats, but its unveiling also brought together two championship-winning teams separated by a decade. For the alumni in attendance, the ceremony offered a chance to celebrate the current team while also reflecting on their own experiences in a program that has continued to connect its players even after they've left the ice.

Among the alumni in attendance was Liz Jankowski '03, who played for Quinnipiac during the program's inaugural season in 2001-02. More than two decades later, Jankowski remains connected to the program and offers a perspective that spans generations of Bobcats.

During the second intermission, Jankowski spoke on the ESPN broadcast about head coach Cass Turner's efforts to maintain relationships between alumni and current players.

"I think how she coaches and how she wants the alumni to be involved, and the players now to know the player before, she really keeps that connection going," Jankowski said.

Another alumna featured was Danielle Marmer '17, whose connection to Quinnipiac extends beyond her time as a player. Marmer was a part of the Bobcats 2015-16 ECAC Championship team before returning to the program as its head of hockey operations and player development from 2019 to 2022. Now the General Manager for the PWHL's Boston Fleet, Marmer has continued to build her career in hockey while maintaining strong ties to Hamden.

Despite the success she found at Quinnipiac, Marmer remembers the people she shared those experiences with more than the championship itself.

"What I appreciate the most about my time here, it's not necessarily the championship; it's really the people that you get to accomplish it with," Marmer said.

Her return to the program during the banner ceremony emphasizes alumni remaining connected to, and continuing to bring experience to the current players.

This experience and support were appreciated by players during the 2025-26 championship win. Multiple players gave their gratitude to former teammates and other alumni who sent messages in support as they advanced throughout the tournament.

Lopata, the captain during the title run, spoke about the impact that support has had on the players. Following the team's NCAA Regional semifinal game against Franklin Pierce in March during the championship run, Lopata emphasized how much it meant to have friends, family and alumni following the team's progress.

"They've supported us very well, so many parents and friends and family in the stands. It truly means a lot to us just to have their support, hear them cheering us on all game…we're getting a lot of texts and messages from alumni and friends and athletes on other teams," Lopata said.

Alumni support extends beyond just offering their congratulations. Former players can offer advice drawn from their own careers, offering current athletes another perspective as they navigate a demanding collegiate season.

Uens described the value of hearing from alumni and their continued involvement allows players to learn from those who wore the jerseys before them before their final game against the Wisconsin Badgers in March of the 2025-26 season.

"Yeah, I think it means a lot to have alumni (reach) out and just share some of their experience and give us some advice on what they think we need to do and focus on," Uens said.

The willingness of former players to extend advice and share their experiences reinforces the connection between Bobcats. Alumni continue to build a community of joy around this program, and current players can learn from those who skated before them.

For Turner, who has led Quinnipiac women's ice hockey for 12 years, seeing former players return to support the current roster is a meaningful part of the program. During the morning family and alumni skate, she watched former and current Bobcats laughing and having fun together, despite having played in different eras.

"There's people across generations in our program that are here celebrating 25 years, that maybe never played together, but you wouldn't know that when you're on the bench with them," Turner said.

For Turner, those interactions reflect the relationships that have developed during her time behind the bench. Former players remain part of the community after graduation while current players have opportunities to learn from those before them.

These relationships help bridge the gap between the past and present, making the alumni more than spectators during the championship banner celebration. They help maintain the culture that connects each generation of Bobcats.

The unveiling of the ECAC Championship banner is a permanent reminder of what the 2025-26 Bobcats accomplished. As alumni and current players came together to celebrate, the banner also represents the legacy current Bobcats are carrying forward.



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