The immediate impact of Ella Ryan

By COOPER WOODWARD
Associate Sports Editor

Seventeen point nine points per game, 591 total points and career highs in single game points, assists and rebounds. That's the kind of legacy former Quinnipiac guard Gal Raviv had on the women's basketball program.

Her history-making year made her transfer to the University of Miami Hurricanes much more impactful. Raviv's exit raised a very critical question for the 2025-26 season: Who was going to fill the void left in the Bobcat frontcourt?

Enter freshman guard Ella Ryan.

The Brentwood, Tennessee native is approaching her first collegiate season with a simple mindset: enjoy it.

"It's so much fun," she said. "It's nothing like I've ever experienced and I couldn't be more grateful."

Before Ryan ever stepped foot on Hamden hardwood, she had a high school career that was nothing short of historic. As a junior with the Brentwood High School Bruins, she averaged 24 points per game, shooting 35% from range and 91% from the free throw line.

Her senior campaign was even better.

In her final year as a Bruin, she averaged 25 points per game, finishing the year with a 38% three point shooting percentage. She left Brentwood with the career program records in points (2,321), rebounds (600), steals (275) and three pointers (309). Not to mention she also holds the single season point record (689) and single game point record (40). To say she left her mark on the program would be an understatement.

With a record-breaking career in the rearview mirror, several Division 1 schools came calling. For Ryan, it was the first impression with head coach Tricia Fabbri on a recruiting visit that made Quinnipiac feel like home.

"Knowing the kind of environment I'd be stepping into here outside of the great academics, that was really a big draw," Ryan said. "She knew that coming in, I'm obviously a freshman, I don't know anything, kind of nervous, jitters, trying to make a good impression. So knowing that she believed in me to play, it made me feel closer to her."

Coming to Quinnipiac gave Ryan a privilege very few athletes get to do: play collegiate athletics with their siblings by their side. In Ella's case, she gets to start her collegiate career with her sister, Sydney Ryan.

"It's honestly meant the world. She has been my No. 1 supporter. My day one. Been there through thick and thin," Ella said. "It's so amazing to be out there with her and laugh with her and share all these experiences that I missed out on over three years while she was at Furman…I'm so grateful for the opportunity."

For Sydney, taking the off-court bond on the court continues to be a blessing.

"It's just so gratifying," Sydney said. "It's just so amazing to watch her go run around and do all the things I've watched her work so hard for."

Sydney hasn't been the only one helping her adjust, with Ella crediting much of her early confidence to the steady mentorship of junior guard Karson Martin, helping the freshman navigate the pace of college basketball.

"She's been behind me from day one," Ella said. "She really has just been on the sidelines talking me through things, slowing it down for me, taking it play by play, and just really breaking it down into terms that I understand as someone who's new to all of this stuff."

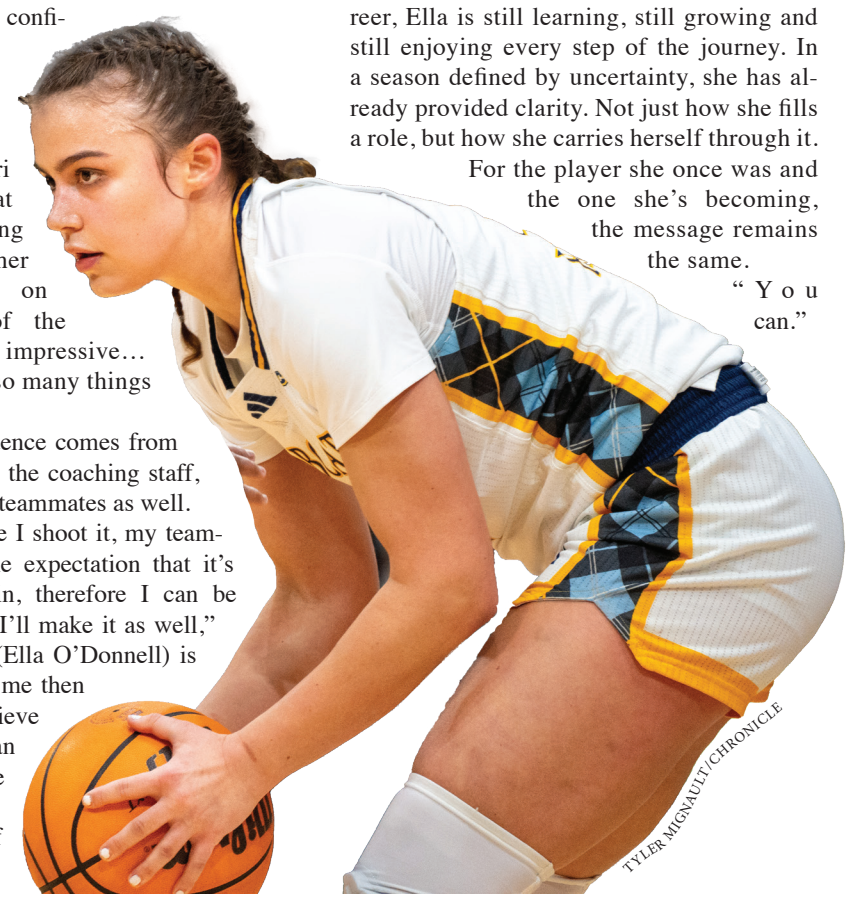
Twenty games into the year, Ella has made her impact. She is currently third on the team in points, with 208 and second on the team in three pointers with 44, shooting 42% from range. She also recorded a career high in points, with 22, against the College of Charleston on Nov. 21.

It's extremely rare to see this kind of play this early into a career. For Ella, it boils down to one word: confidence.

"We've put Ella on the fast track," Fabbri said. "What she's doing throughout her early career on both ends of the floor is really impressive… she just does so many things well."

That confidence comes from more than just the coaching staff, but her fellow teammates as well.

"Every time I shoot it, my teammates have the expectation that it's going to go in, therefore I can be confident that I'll make it as well," Ella said. "If (Ella O'Donnell) is throwing it to me then she must believe in me, so I can believe in me too."


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This kind of faith is set in a foundation built off the court.

"I'm just a little ball of energy and so ready to laugh," Ella said. "I love to laugh. I love being around people, I love playing guitar, I love coloring, I love a lot of random things and love to find out what I like."

Ella's infectious energy has taken deep roots in the program.

"I call her 'joy,'" Fabbri said. "She brings a lot of joy on and off the court."

Only a short way into her collegiate career, Ella is still learning, still growing and still enjoying every step of the journey. In a season defined by uncertainty, she has already provided clarity. Not just how she fills a role, but how she carries herself through it.

For the player she once was and the one she's becoming, the message remains the same.

"You can."

Three nations, four Bobcats

Past and present Bobcats set to travel to Milano Cortina for the 2026 Winter Olympics

By CLAIRE FRANKLAND
Sports Editor

Quinnipiac men's and women's ice hockey will be well represented in Milano Cortina for the 2026 Winter Olympics with three players and an assistant coach.

DEVON TOEWS

Quinnipiac men's ice hockey will have one athlete representing the program in former defenseman Devon Toews '17, who was selected to the Team Canada roster, as Hockey Canada unveiled on Dec. 31.

The British Columbia native played for the Bobcats from 2013-16, tallying 67 points during his collegiate career. During his freshman campaign, he was drafted 108th overall by the New York Islanders.

Toews has one Stanley Cup to his name with the Colorado Avalanche from the 2022 season, and is currently in his sixth season with the club. As of publication, he has recorded 12 assists and one goal in 40 games as an alternate captain.

Toews is currently dealing with an upper-body injury that he sustained on Jan. 3 against the Carolina Hurricanes. He is listed as week-to-week, with no set date to return to the Avalanche's lineup, or any discussion of his injury affecting his Olympic spot.

Additionally, Toews' Olympic appearance was already uncertain due to his wife's pregnancy, as SportsNet reported that "because due dates are not set in stone, Toews said that he will not leave his wife until the birth of their child."

Team Canada's men's ice hockey opens Olympic play on Feb. 12 against the Czech Republic at 10:40 a.m. EST.

BRENT HILL

Quinnipiac women's ice hockey will have three Bobcats representing the program, with the first announced being assistant coach Brent Hill, who will serve as an assitant coach for Team USA women's ice hockey.

Hill is currently in his sixth season with the Bobcats, having previously coached for Merrimack College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

His resume includes extensive international competition experience with the USA Hockey U18 Women's National Team at the 2015 IIHF Women's World Championships and Team USA during the 2025 Rivalry Series.

Hill will take to the bench alongside Team USA on Feb. 5 against the Czech Republic at 10:40 a.m. EST.

JADE BARBIRATI

Quinnipiac women's ice hockey freshman forward Jade Barbirati, who was the first Quinnipiac ice hockey athlete announced to play in the Olympics on Dec. 23, is set to take the Olympic stage with Team France.

The Savoie, France native has played 13 games for the Bobcats, tallying four goals and five assists. Prior to Quinnipiac, Barbirati competed for Team France at the IIHF World Championships, winning a gold medal in 2022 and a bronze medal in 2024.

Barbirati and Team France will take the ice on Feb. 5 against Italy at 8:40 a.m. EST.

KATI TABIN

The last Bobcat taking the trip to Milano Cortina is former women's ice hockey defenseman and captain Kati Tabin '20, who will join Team Canada, per Hockey Canada's announcement on Jan. 9.

Tabin skated for the Bobcats from 2016-20, tallying 52 points during her collegiate career, while being named to the 2020 Third Team All-ECAC with a season-high 18 points.

The Winnipeg, Manitoba native was the first Bobcat ever drafted into the PWHL and is in her third season with the Montreal Victoire, recording 18 points, with two playoff appearances.

Before playing in the PWHL, Tabin played for the Connecticut Whale and Toronto Six in the Premier Hockey Federation, recording 18 points, and in the 2022-23 season led all defenseman in scoring, helping the Toronto Six capture the Isobel Cup.

Additionally, Tabin competed for Team Canada in the 2025 Rivalry Series, appearing in two games.

Tabin will play in Team Canada women's ice hockey's opening game against Finland at 3:10 p.m. EST.



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