What you missed in Quinnipiac Athletics this weekend

By EMILY MARQUIS and COOPER WOODWARD

Busy this Valentine's Day weekend? Here's what you missed in Quinnipiac Athletics.

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY CLINCHES NO. 3 SEED IN ECAC TOURNAMENT

The Quinnipiac women's hockey regular season finale against the Yale Bulldogs proved to be one of the most impactful of the season, as its 4-3 overtime victory clinched the No. 3 seed in the ECAC Tournament.

After falling behind in the Battle of Whitney Ave. 3-1 in the final period, the Bobcats were able to score two goals in 37 seconds with the extra attacker to tie the game in regulation.

The Bobcats would take two points with the victory when leading goal-scorer, junior forward Kahlen Lamarche, scored on a one-on-one with Yale freshman goaltender Samson Frey.

Although a win in regulation could've put the Bobcats in contention for the top-seed with a Princeton Tigers loss, Quinnipiac can take solace in a bye to the conference quarterfinals for the first time since the 2022-23 season.

The Bobcats will open up the tournament Friday, Feb. 27. Puck drop is set for 6 p.m. in Hamden, with the opponent to be announced at the end of the first round of single-elimination games.

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY SECURES BYE IN ECAC PLAYOFFS

Quinnipiac men's ice hockey secured a first-round bye in the 2026 ECAC Tournament with its win Sunday, defeating the Princeton Tigers 4-1.

The Bobcats' 12th straight conference victory earned the squad its 42nd point of the season with four conference games remaining. The Tigers sits13 points below that threshold.

If Quinnipiac is able to secure six points in its next four matchups, it will clinch the top seed in the ECAC Tournament for the fifth straight season.

These contests include a home matchup against the No. 2 team in the conference, the Cornell Big Red on Friday, Feb. 20.

The first opportunity Quinnipiac has to clinch the top-seed in the tournament is against the Colgate Raiders Saturday, Feb. 21, given the squad wins in regulation against the Big Red.

LAMARCHE MAKES HISTORY

Women's ice hockey standout Lamarche set the Bobcats' single season Divison I goal record, finishing with 35 goals on the regular season.

The previous record of 30, set by forward Kelly Babstock '13 in the 2010-11 season, has stood for 15 seasons.

Lamarche broke the record on Feb. 7, scoring her 31st and 32nd goals on the season in the Bobcats' 4-0 win against Dartmouth.

Lamarche would score three more goals in the Bobcats final two regular season contests of the year, including the game-winner against rival Yale. The Sudbury, Ontario native would finish second in the nation in goals, and leads the ECAC in scoring.

BASKETBALL IS ATLANTIC CITY BOUND

With its 73-58 win over the Canisius Golden Griffins on Feb. 5, the Quinnipiac women's basketball team officially punched its ticket to the MAAC Tournament in Atlantic City, N.J. The Bobcats will be searching for their fifth conference championship, with their latest win coming in the 2018-2019 season.

Two days later on Feb. 7, the men's basketball team clinched its spot in Atlantic City as well, defeating the Niagara Purple Eagles 56-55. Sophomore forward Grant Randall was the hero of the game for the Bobcats, nailing a three pointer as time expired.

With a spot in the postseason officially secured, the team looks to make history and capture its first MAAC Championship.

"Everybody knows what we're trying to go for, and thats the MAAC Championship and get to March Madness," sophomore guard Jaden Zimmerman said in an interview with Quinnipiac Athletics.

STAGS DOWN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Quinnipiac women's basketball dropped its Saturday afternoon contest to the Fairfield Stags 75-63, its first loss in MAAC play this season. The Bobcats are still knotted with the Stags atop the MAAC standings, with each squad boasting an impressive record of 16-1 in conference play.

Quinnipiac will now travel down I-91 to face the Sacred Heart Pioneers on Feb. 21, before wrapping up conference play at home with the Canisius Golden Griffins on Feb. 26 and the Niagara Purple Eagles on Feb. 28.

MONROE HITS 1,500

Men's basketball forward Amari Monroe crossed the 1,500 career point threshold in the Bobcats 74-62 win over the Siena Saints on Feb. 12. He is the first to achieve that milestone since former guard Matt Balanc '24 and the 17th Bobcat all time to do so.

The 2025 MAAC Player of The Year is in the midst of his final season in Hamden, averaging 15.5 points per game, 8.4 rebounds per game and shooting 27% from beyond the arc.



TAYLOR HUCHRO/LAYNIE CLARK/RYLEY LEE/CHRONICLE

'We want to prove people wrong'

Quinnipiac softball is ready to make noise

By COOPER WOODWARD
Associate Sports Editor

For softball programs across the country, losing 27 games in a season and exiting the postseason in the first round is a season to forget. But for Quinnipiac, it's remembering every one of those defeats as motivation to do what prior teams haven't: take home championship gold.

"My vision has always been about putting Quinnipiac on the map," Quinnipiac head coach Hillary Smith said. "Last year was just the first steps in doing that."

Her attitude is reflected in the Bobcats' No. 7 placement in the MAAC Preseason Poll, an increase of two spots from their 2025 campaign.

"They want it really bad," Smith said. "They're going to do whatever it takes to get there."

Let's break down what this season will look like for the Bobcats.

SCHEDULE

Kicking off the season, the Bobcats open with two invitational tournaments. With the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Tournament in the rear view mirror, Quinnipiac travels across the country to Hampton, VA., to take part in the Norfolk State/Hampton Tournament.

From there, the Bobcats continue their road trip to Jersey City, N.J. and New Rochelle, N.Y., beginning MAAC play against the St. Peter's Peacocks and the Iona Gaels, respectively, returning home March 18 to face the University of New Haven Chargers, a new opponent for the Bobcats.

The 2026 season sees conference and nonconference opponents sprinkled throughout their 30 game schedule. For the Bobcats, they're staying ready for anything that MAAC play has to offer.

"We don't prepare for the same thing every day," senior infielder Sofia Vega said. "We are prepared to always be uncomfortable."

On March 28 and 29, Quinnipiac will meet the Rider Broncs, the same team who bounced the Bobcats last May in a one-run defeat. Quinnipiac is not only hungry to avenge that loss, but to use it as motivation to get back to the MAAC Tournament.

"They got a taste of postseason success and they've been focused on that ever since we lost," Smith said.

In order to achieve quantifiable results, Quinnipiac will need to take full advantage of opponents it doesn't see every season to prepare itself for MAAC play.

NEW FACES

The 2026 campaign will welcome five freshmen to Hamden, comprising two position players, two pitchers and a two-way player. As always, new faces require a leadership group willing to mentor and teach. This year's team is ready and willing to step up to that task.

"We've really taken up the responsibility of showing the girls the standards," Vega said. "I think that once we leave a standard, they will continue it for years to come."

Smith has also given high praise to the leadership team of Vega, senior catcher Kennedy Demott and senior infielder Natalia Apatiga.

"I feel really confident in the leadership that we have," Smith said. "This is truly the best leadership we've ever had."

On the coaching staff, Smith is joined by two new assistant coaches Hannah Davis '24 and Xen Penny. Davis, a former Bobcat, will serve in a coaching capacity for the first time in her athletic career. Penny, a former minor league coach for the Arizona Diamondbacks, will bring a wealth of experience at the professional level to Hamden.

"He is very passionate about what he does," Smith said. "He's so confident in himself as a hitting coach and he cares about them so much. He has a hitting plan for every single kid."

Smith isn't the only one who has given high praise to Penny.

"Having that male here has definitely brought something else that our team needed," Demott said. "He pushes us harder than we may have in the past."

Penny's experience at the professional level, as well as Davis's young, fresh and relatable voice, will be instrumental in the Bobcats' quest to capture championship gold.



TYLER RINKO/CHRONICLE

MENTALITY

As the 2026 campaign begins, Smith and her squad are approaching each game with a simple motto: RIB. Be relentless, be intense and be a badass.

"We always stick to that idea," Vega said. "We want to be fighters."

In order to achieve their championship aspirations, the Bobcats will need just that. They will need to be relentless in how they prepare off the field, intense in how they approach challenges and matchups on the diamond and be a badass 100% of the time.

Quinnipiac will continue its 2026 campaign against the Saint Francis University Friars in the Norfolk State/Hampton Tournament on Friday, Feb. 20. First pitch is scheduled for 10 a.m.