

Club Hockey Carves Out Unique Role on Bentley Campus

BY CLAIRE MEZZINA
SPORTS EDITOR

Hockey is Bentley's biggest sport. With the school's only Division I team being men's hockey, it is no surprise that the sport plays such a significant role on campus and in the athletic culture of the student body—in spending time on campus, you'd be hard-pressed to miss the Bentley Arena, the 76,000 square foot facility that is the pride of both the school and its varsity hockey program.

But what about Bentley's other two teams that play there? Among the large population of hockey-loving Bentley students are those that play the game but did not want, or did not have the option, to play at the varsity level. This is the niche that club hockey players find themselves in. Being the only club sport on campus with a varsity counterpart, these teams are the benefactors of a robust Division I program, but they also serve as a reminder that expanding a niche on a small campus isn't always so easy.

It may be a surprise to some that Bentley even has a women's



Bentley Women's Club Hockey Team

(Courtesy of www.bentleyfalcons.com)

hockey team at all. It was formed in 2018, the newest installment in Bentley's club sports catalogue and one that has established itself despite dealing with a predominantly male demographic in a small student body.

"We definitely have a lot of potential for growth in the future as a team," says Nicole Rege, a sophomore defenseman. "As a transfer student [from Quinnipiac], I didn't have an opportunity to play at my old school, and because I had been playing since such a young age, it was something I really

felt was missing. When I transferred here, I essentially gained a whole new team of people that wanted to do the same thing."

Nicole's sentiments concerning the lack of opportunity to play collegiate hockey is the reason that Bentley Women's Club Hockey was even founded at all. Started by junior goaltender Cece Purcell and junior defenseman Noelle Mandery, the team was the "niche" for women at Bentley who wanted to continue playing hockey during their college years. Many schools, like Quinnipiac, do not

offer women's club hockey. Bentley is lucky in that aspect, as the school's condensed hockey community is a great place to start for a women's team. Now the challenge that the team faces, as it is for most clubs at small schools, is expanding that start to something bigger and wider-reaching. This means finding more women who are interested in playing, establishing a regular game schedule with opponents, maintaining support from the school—and of course, letting the people of Bentley know that there is, in fact, a women's hockey team on

campus.

For the men, the challenges of visibility have become less significant in the last couple of years as the competition pool has grown. The team has been successful at bringing in talent in volumes, which has translated to success on the ice. Like their female counterpart, Bentley Men's Club Hockey is unique because it is an opportunity for players to continue their careers when they otherwise would not have been able to. At a small school that so heavily focuses on its varsity hockey program, this is not something that is found very often.

While it seems inevitable that such a big hockey school would have club hockey teams, it isn't. These two teams require the dedication of the players who refused to stop playing after reaching the college level. But the result is a stronger community for hockey on campus, as more students are able to participate in the sport without needing to be a varsity athlete. And at a small school like Bentley, which many feel lacks a true sense of community, this is important.

Bruins' 94 Points Top League Standings

BY WILL CHACE
MARKETING MANAGER

A hot streak after the All-Star Break in St. Louis, along with promising trade deadline acquisitions, should have Bruins fans excited for the playoffs. Eleven wins in twelve games has propelled Boston to the top of most NHL Power Rankings and now places them atop the league standings with 94 points.

At the trade deadline, the Bruins acquired wingers Nick Ritchie and Ondřej Kaše from the Anaheim Ducks, both of whom shined bright when they were placed on the second line with centerman David Krejci for Thursday night's tilt against the Dallas Stars. Ritchie, who came over from the Ducks in exchange for right winger Danton Heinen, assisted on one goal and saw the back of the net once. Kaše's trade required a bit more from the Bruins' end, as they sent a first-round pick along with veteran David Backes and prospect Axel Andersson

to Anaheim. Similar to the Rick Nash trade only a couple of years ago, Boston is hoping to pick up some scoring to feed another potentially long playoff run.

David Pastrnak has been spectacular this season, honored with All-Star captainship for the Atlantic Division a few weeks ago in St. Louis. "Pasta", as he is affectionately called, leads the league in goals scored and is currently second in points, thanks to his quick hands and

stellar one-touch finishes. On the other end of the ice, Tuukka Rask and Jaroslav Halak form arguably the best goal-keeping duo in the NHL today, as both place in the top ten in the league in goals-against allowed and shutouts this season.

The Bruins' regular season comes to a close in early April, and with some new faces, a healthy lineup, and a bit of Irish luck, the city of Boston just might have to start warming up the duck boats come June.



Bruins' David Pastrnak

(Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

Bentley Box Scores

Scores Since Feb. 19

Women's Basketball

Feb. 19 vs. Assumption... W, 80-73
Feb. 22 vs. Franklin Pierce... W, 75-52
Feb. 25 at Saint Anselm... L, 68-61
March 1 at Le Moyne... L, 54-51

Men's Basketball

Feb. 19 vs. Assumption... L, 84-81
Feb. 22 vs. Franklin Pierce... W, 105-72
Feb. 25 at Saint Anselm... L, 94-55
Feb. 28 vs. New Haven... L, 88-82

Ice Hockey

Feb. 28 vs. Holy Cross... W, 3-2
Feb. 29 vs. Holy Cross... W, 6-2

Women's Lacrosse

Feb. 26 at Molloy... W, 17-8
Feb. 29 vs. Mercy... L, 10-9

Men's Lacrosse

Feb. 29 vs. Le Moyne... L, 16-9

Baseball

Feb. 28 vs. Stonehill... W, 3-1
Feb. 29 vs. Chestnut Hill... L, 10-4
Feb. 29 vs. Chestnut Hill... W, 11-10
March 1 vs. Chestnut Hill... L, 7-6

Men's Tennis

Feb. 21 vs. Queens... L, 7-0

Men's Track and Field

Feb. 21 at NE-10 Championships... 9th of 10

Women's Track and Field

Feb. 21 at NE-10 Championships... 10th of 11