Thanks For Our Past
Proud Of Our Present
Thrilled About Our Future

More Colgate Women’s Hockey History
U.S. women's hockey team Olympics debut builds on years of struggle

Twenty years ago, I played intercollegiate women's ice hockey.

It certainly was more of a novelty then than today. But those of us who gave our hearts and souls to the game understood then what most of the United States only now is coming to understand with the success of the Olympics debut: Women's hockey is great.

Many of my teammates couldn't skate, let alone shoot, when they signed up to try out. As a figure-skater-turned-hockey player, I had a jump on many others and started in games frequently, even during my freshman year.

I couldn't do much with the puck initially, but at least I could beat the others to it.

For four years, my teammates and I would climb into a university van on winter afternoons and head to wherever we could schedule games. We traveled from Gwengo to Dartmouth to Harvard to Cornell. More often than not, we returned to campus on the losing side of the score.

We were a club sport not eligible for many of the benefits Title IX bestowed on other women's teams. Our coach, when we could find one, was a student. Our equipment was largely hand-me-downs from the Division I men's team. Our ice time was limited, and our budget was tight.

We did our own scheduling, planning and coordination. In essence, we learned how to put the entire package together, and those of us who worked as hard on the administrative side as we did on the ice learned lifelong lessons about the importance of careful planning and teamwork.

I argue then and would argue now that the lessons I learned from women's hockey have served me better in life than the difference between an "A" and a "B" in calculus ever could.

We struggled, we practiced hard and we lost most of our games, but we graduated winners, taking those lessons learned on the ice and in the locker room into the operating room, the courtroom and the boardroom.

At a time when team sports were a part of life for many boys, most girls who didn't play field hockey, basketball or volleyball were unable to learn the valuable lessons team play provides.

And I have never underestimated the value of learning that I had the strength and power to knock someone over on the ice. I didn't have to use that skill — I just needed to know I could do it.

This sort of internalized knowledge has proved invaluable when making deals or negotiating contracts. I know I have the inner strength, if not the size, to dominate when necessary, regardless of who sits on the other side of the table. This is a lesson women's hockey taught all of us who played, regardless of our abilities as hockey players or our personalities off the ice.

So, as the U.S. women's hockey team makes its way toward the final rounds at the Olympics, I know my teammates and those from other schools who learned to love hockey as much as I did are all cheering as loudly as the fans in Nagano.

We know about the joys of playing hockey, both for its immediate rewards and those which take a lifetime to appreciate.

Martha Buyer
East Aurora, N.Y.

We, the writer, a lawyer and judge for the United States Figure Skating Association, was co-captain of the 1977-78 and 1978-79 Colgate teams.
Women’s Hockey Club Constitution 1973-1974

It’s official! Colgate has a club hockey team.

Constitution of the Women’s Hockey Club

I. Purpose

The Women’s Hockey Club shall function to promote student participation on a student initiated basis in women's hockey and furthermore expose women to new hockey skills and/or further develop already existing ones.

II. Eligibility

The Women’s Hockey Club membership is open to all females with an institutional affiliation. The traveling team shall be chosen by qualified people in the field of hockey. The traveling team will be limited in conjunction with the rules of other institutions.

III. Organizational Structure and Assistance

The Women’s Hockey Club will fall under the jurisdiction of and will exist within the extramural phase of the Department of Intramurals-Extramurals. The Women’s Hockey Club is not an official representative of the University in the sense that intercollegiate varsity teams are.

IV. Affiliation and Management

Externally, a Club Sports Council composed of a representative from each club, a representative from the Student Senate, and a representative from the Commission on Athletics together with the Director of Club Sports will decide general policy matters of the program.

Internally, the Women’s Hockey Club will consist of a President, a Secretary-Treasurer, an advisor, and the roster of members. Instructors will also be necessary.

V. Finance

The internal finances of the Women’s Hockey Club will be administered by the Secretary-Treasurer who must keep a record of all transactions and sign for all assumed debts or expenses of the Club. Club records will be kept in the Club Sports Office and all orders and receipts will be channeled through this office. For any order to be placed both the President’s and the Secretary-Treasurer’s signature are required on purchase orders.

VI. Ratification and Amendment of the Constitution

The Constitution shall be ratified or amended when approved by a 2/3 majority of the Club Members.
First Game
The Colgate News - March 1, 1974

Women start varsity play
by Madeline Bayliss

The Colgate Women's Hockey Club officially began their intercollegiate game schedule at Cornell last Friday. Although dropping an 11-1 decision to the Big Red, Colgate women made an excellent showing at their first contest on the ice.

In the first period, the women played more of an intramural style of hockey which could not effectively match the Cornell intercollegiate plays. Colgate did hold their opponents off until Linda Smith scored on an assist from Kathy Jones at 6:41.

Smith and Jones again did the honors at 7:18. Then Smith paired up with Maria Roonik at 12:00 to give Smith a hat trick in the first period. Cornell scored their fourth goal just 18 seconds later and at 13:07 the scoreboard read 5-0.

Colgate came back in the second period and began to rush the puck much more than they had in the first. They forced Cornell into more aggressive play, which at one point caused Cornell to call a charging penalty.

At 5:28, Cornell finally got another goal. As previously planned by the coaches, Madeline Bayliss replaced Pat Scully in the goal at that time. Pat had 18 saves for the game, 12 in the first period.

Linda Smith was unassisted when she lifted the puck into the right corner of the net to make the score 7-0. Colgate then really began to hustle, and not only prevented any more goals in their net, but also got past Cornell defense to score at 14:25. Sally Boothe tipped the puck in on a pass from Patty Frazer.

Colgate showed signs of tiredness during the third period, but still held Cornell to only 4 goals. Two went in very early and close together off the sticks of Linda Smith and Kathy Jones. The score remained unchanged until the last three minutes of play when the last two goals went in, one of which Kathy Jones placed in the net unassisted.

 Saves for goalie Madeline Bayliss totaled 24, seven in the second period and 17 in the third. The fact that Cornell only had 4 saves shows that Colgate played a defensive game throughout the night. Ginger Karmus was named Colgate's star of the game for her fine showing as left defensive player.

Colgate again meets with Cornell in a tournament tonight and tomorrow, along with two Canadian colleges, Queen's and Arrondale. The women return to home ice for Monday's game at 4:45 against Ithaca College and Wednesday's match against Cornell at 6:30 pm.

Defeat has not altered the club's optimism. The club is confident that its intercollegiate experience will serve them well in the coming games and that victory is not the impossible dream.

It felt like the big time even though varsity play was still a couple of decades away.
Report on the first season

“The Sky’s the Limit”
Colgate Scene, April 1974

It was a sit-in in my room one day thinking that if women can play other teams in intramurals, why can’t we play other schools?” explained Ms. Auster. Knowing that ‘nothing could be done until someone acted,” Carol set out last November to establish a women’s ice hockey team.

The director of athletics was the first contact. John Beyer explained that a varsity sport must be preceded by a club sport. The club organization serves the double purpose of allowing students to participate in a sport and through this involvement indicate that there is sufficient interest in that sport to justify its existence and funding.

So the next step was at the office of Don Palmateer, director of intramural/extramural sports, who provided the necessary information on clubs. Equipped with this knowledge, Carol publicized a general organizational meeting for December 10.

Turnout for the meeting was greater than expected, and there were other women who called about their interest in the team. Even before Christmas vacation, 50 names were grace a list.

“I was very surprised at the amount of interest shown,” said Mr. Palmateer, “because I didn’t think the response in the first year of the club would be as great.”

This interest was put to work during January when four practices were held. Assisted by John Barnett and Mike Milbury, both varsity hockey players, and Jeff Allen, a core of ten women concentrated on the basic skating and stick-handling techniques. The practices were hampered somewhat by the fact that three out of four were after 10:30 p.m. The scheduling problem arose because by the time the club requested ice time, other groups had already reserved the best time slots.

Dedication to team prevailed, however, and when the remainder of the club returned for spring semester, the team was composed of 17 women. The two practices held before the recent contest against Cornell gave the women a chance to polish their position play. With only six team practices behind them, Colgate was to begin its intercollegiate career.

Partially due to inexperience at the intercollegiate level of competition, the women spent the first period of the game getting adjusted to Cornell's style of play. The second and third periods saw a noticeable improvement in the team from Hamilton. It seemed that Cornell could not as easily place the puck in the net as they had in the first period.

There was obvious jubilation when Colgate’s Sally Boothe scored an assist on Patty Frazier. It was Colgate’s only point, compared with Cornell’s 11, but the final tally was not a complete defeat for the team. Goaltires Pat Scott and Madeline Bayliss had 18 and 24 saves respectively, and Ginger Kraus was named Colgate’s “Star of the Game” for some excellent defensive play.

Even more important are the implications this game will have for the future of women’s hockey. “Just from playing that game,” observed Ms. Auster, “we realized what we had to learn. It also raised the morale of the team because now it knows what it has to work for.”

March 1-2 saw the return of the Colgate team to the Cornell ice for a tournament. Friday’s game was a rematch between the Red Raiders and Cornell and once again the Big Red took the honors with a 16-1 decision.

Although the loss was a big one, the women showed that experience can be educational. Colgate played a harder and faster game than in the first encounter but in the effort lost some of the precision of position play. This left the goalies open to more shots on goal.

Colgate was not scoreless, however. In the second period of play Patty Connolly stickhandled the puck into the Cornell net. Carol Auster assisted. Also sharing some of the limelight was Deborah Coda who was named Colgate’s Star of the Game.

The following night Colgate contested Erinval of Canada for third place in the standings. Erinval pulled ahead with a score of 6-1, but not without a fight from the women in maroon. Coaches Barnett and Milbury considered the game a “fine showing.”

Undaunted by their 6-3 result, the Colgate team hosted Ithaca College on March 4 with visions of victory from the very first face-off. Cheered on by a home crowd, Colgate finished its season with an exciting 6-2 win in a sudden death overtime.

Carol had nothing but praise for Mr. Palmateer and his efforts to help organize the club. “I can truly say that all this could not have been done without his help.” Besides assisting in the arrangement for ice time, Mr. Palmateer was instrumental in providing the team with equipment from the intramural department. His actions are evidence of his statement that he is “100% behind women’s ice hockey.”

Mr. Palmateer also recognized Carol as a “driving force” behind the team. As a result of the enthusiasm and the interest that has been created in the Colgate community, he feels that now “the sky’s the limit” as to how far the team will develop. Two possible limiting factors may be funding and ice time. However, the latter will not cause the problem it has this year because the women will be scheduled for regular practices, second in priority only to the men’s varsity hockey team.

“One amazing thing,” concluded Ms. Auster, “is that such a group of people could get together and play without having been recruited. I think that one thing the Colgate Women’s Hockey Club proves is that Colgate women can effectively compete in sports.” By their enthusiasm, dedication and good playing, the women seem to demonstrate this point well.
A Salmagundi recap of the 1978-79 season

SUGAR 'N (SP)ICE

The Women's Hockey Team improved amazingly over this 1978-79 season. The rigorous 17-game season extended from mid-November through mid-March, and included trips to Harvard, Vermont, and Dartmouth among others. With an overall record of 9-8 (last year's record, 1:13) Colgate Women's Hockey has much to be proud of.

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Women’s Hockey

With a final record of 9-7-1, in 1986-1987 the Women’s Ice Hockey Team finished the best season in the club’s fourteen year history. Under the coaching of Dick Hanson ’86, Colin Cooper ’89, and Paul Tutun ’89, the team became strong competition for many of the varsity teams of the Northeast.

Led by senior co-captains Suze Levy and Vicki Curtin with 16 and 9 goals respectively, the team has made a great improvement within the last year. Linemate Jennie Cook added 17 goals this season, including four hat tricks, breaking all past Colgate single season records.

Overall, the scoring output this year more than doubled last season’s total. In addition, the club allowed significantly fewer goals to be scored on themselves, outscoring the opposition by 68-46 goals. Classmates Sandy Sheldon and Amanda Johnson established themselves as the anchors of the defensive squad, helping junior goalie Karen Wasilek maintain a 3.94 goals against average.

February proved to be the highlight of the season as the team went on a six game winning streak. The streak included a 6-2 win over the RPI team and a 10-1 drubbing of arch rival Hamilton College on Alumni Weekend.
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