

## Blog Posts on QU Men's Ice Hockey

On Friday February 14th there was more than just love in the air. The Quinnipiac Men's Ice Hockey team had arrived to play number 5 ranked Clarkson for a match that would really start of the weekend. Around a week earlier I had received an email asking if I wanted to reserve tickets. Unfortunately, that I had to make a good amount of progress on an upcoming assignment. Despite this, I still listened to the game cheering on the team from my dorm.

Surprisingly, the game started out with the Bobcats allowing a goal. I had grown used to our team striking first but I guess this what makes hockey such an exciting game. I can imagine what kind of impact that goal had on our players and fans. Soon after that Clarkson scored another. It seemed as though we were going to be finishing the period without a goal, but luckily one was scored within the last three minutes.

I could imagine that the second period started off fast paced and with a purpose. That guess was soon confirmed as Quinnipiac was able to earn a powerplay opportunity and Ethan Leyh capitalized. Just when it seemed the tide was turning for the Bobcats, another weird fluke occurred which resulted in Clarkson sliding back into the lead. In my opinion the best kind of games are the ones that were occurring right then. They not only entertain and excite you but they also keep you on the edge of your seat.

Sadly, Quinnipiac's determination and support from the crowd was not enough as the Bobcats came up a goal short as Clarkson was able to skate away with a victory.

I can say without a doubt that if it hadn't been for the assignment I was simultaneously working on, I would have definitely been at the game.

A live play by play can be viewed by visiting: <https://gobobcats.com/sidearmstats/mhockey/summary>

This weekend couldn't have been more cozy. This was because I went home for the weekend and spent most of my time with my parents and two cats. In addition to this I was also able to listen to the Men's Ice Hockey games that was being broadcasted.

To be honest RPI is not a team I am particularly familiar with even though we have our fair share of games with them. I was somewhat surprised when they were the team to strike first, ultimately keeping the Bobcats scoreless in the first period. From my experience at Quinnipiac I knew this would have lit a fire underneath the players. That is certainly what happened when we ended up outshooting the opposing team 20-16. Despite everyone's hard work we were still not able to score in the second. For me, now was the time where I found myself start to worry but I tried my best to push the negative thoughts away. Unfortunately that Friday evening the team was not able to contain RPI effectively as they went on to win the game 4-0. I felt as if we just had an "off" game. No team can certainly be perfect every single game. There was also another game tomorrow evening that I looked forward to, now even more so because we had lost.

In contrast to RPI, Union was a team I was more familiar with because when I was first looking at colleges I was also looking at there as well. As usual I started off excited and somewhat charged from last night's game. However, it soon felt like a déjà vu as the Bobcats were the first to concede a goal. The second period didn't offer much relief as another Union player scored. Quinnipiac had challenged the goal but it was ruled as a good goal. In situations like this, players from the QU team get even more motivated and fired up and luckily this happened when we were finally able to score soon after. Now I too felt like we were back within in it as this was a fresh slate of sorts. In a somewhat comedic moment during the third, one of the Bobcats had shot a goal that seemed to go in but upon further review it had actually gone under the net. Man, I can't even imagine how frustrating that must be! Odeen Tufto who has currently been on fire once again this season, was able to score the tying goal and in overtime he was deemed hero status when he scored the game winner.

The Quinnipiac versus Yale game is one I've never missed and this year was just as epic and exciting. In comparison to the past couple of years, I bought an actual ticket off of Stub Hub. Student tickets are not only hard to get but you are not guaranteed a seat. This is what happened last year as I was one of the many individuals who watched the game standing up.

When the game on Saturday first started, things were not looking good at all for the Bobcats. I heard others around me expressing their concern but internally held on to some hope since this seemed to be a trend for this season. This can go in either one of two directions and luckily things drastically improved once we scored our first goal. When we scored I think I yelled the loudest I had since last year's game. Due to the fact that I was among adults and not students, I found it particularly interesting and funny to hear their chuckles and comments about the student sections chants and taunts. I know it's part of the rivalry but I can certainly understand where some of them came from.

For each period, I watched every second of the game on the edge of my seat. I only grew aware of the ache in my back when the horn sounded signaling the end of the period. The atmosphere at the end of the game could have powered a few city busses and I couldn't have been any more proud to be a Bobcat in that moment.

Many of my friends have attended or do attend university's with football teams. While Quinnipiac may not have one, we have one of the best college hockey rivalries in the nation. It is because of this I can say that in the end I didn't miss out on a thing.

While I was not at Quinnipiac when Alex Whelan first joined the team, I still have been able to witness and celebrate the many goals he has scored. In addition to that many stand out moments of his assists also fill my memory. From the second I first started watching Alex play I knew he had a bright future ahead of him. In hockey a player can be called the term “sniper”. Alex is definitely part of that category. Basically a sniper is someone who can shoot the puck with an extreme amount of accuracy and speed. From what I hear he has always been known as one— even when he first committed to Quinnipiac. I do not claim to know Alex now have I ever spoken with him but based on his work ethic and personality feel that he would fit well within any team. In my experience hockey players are serious on the ice but once they step off it things change. The main question is will they become the “jokester”, “the quiet one”, or player to become heavily involved in giving back.

On March 23rd I saw that Alex had signed an entry level contract with the Hartford Wolfpack, the New York Rangers minor league team. Such an announcement was not shocking to me. In fact I had expected it but due to the COVID-19 pandemic I did not know how things would work out. For the past few seasons the New York Rangers have been in the rebuilding stage. Having Alex join their affiliate team would allow them to watch him further and would ultimately allow them to see how he develops further.

I am looking forward to the 2020-2021 season for the Quinnipiac Bobcats. I strongly believe that the premature end to the season this year will motivate new and old players even more. Based on the team's record (21-11-2) I would imagine they would want to start where they left off with the ultimate goal of improving the record even further. While the team is losing several players due to graduation, we thankfully still have players on the team that could have decided to sign with an NHL team. Additionally, I am also looking forward to the freshman class to see how they will adjust to Division 1 college hockey and how much of an impact they have from the moment they first step out on the ice. However I completely understand that it may take some time for the new players to adjust and their talent will only improve and show with time.

When I first started looking at colleges to attend, one of the requirements on my personal list was that the school must have a Division 1 hockey team. I have not only met my goal but I have far exceeded it because I can call Quinnipiac University my second home.

To read more team stats for this season [Click Here](#).