

Women's Hockey: A Forgotten Team

Since the merging of Roosevelt University and Robert Morris University, there have been an influx of students as well as sports. Women's Ice Hockey was one of the many that merged with the Universities. However, with the merge came many setbacks and disappointments for the team and players. Unfortunately, the merge happened the same year as the pandemic, which impacted the sport as well as many others.

English major Alex Schultz shares their experience the last four years with the sport.

"I came from Robert Morris University, and we used to have a really big team there," they said, "we had maybe 30 or 40 people, a full roster. After merging, that was cut in half but we were still able to play, though we've barely had any games and zero tournaments since Robert Morris."

The team now has three players and won't be playing until next year.

Because of the pandemic and lack of support, many of players decided to leave the team.

"I practice once a week in Bensenville with one other girl, but we don't have any games because of how small the team is currently," Schultz said.

After some unprofessional actions by their previous coach, , the team has struggled to find a new coach. One coach was hired, however failed to show up to the job. In July, coach Steve Martinson was signed to take over.

"We want players that work hard and strive to improve," Martinson said.

The team's scholarships were also cut by more than 50 percent.

"I think we used to get about \$5,000 per semester in grants and scholarships, and now we get \$1,000," Schultz said.

On top fewer scholarships, issues with coaches, and lack of players, the women's hockey locker rooms were given to the men's hockey players to share.

After asking for decorations and gear for years, Schultz was shocked when the men's team acquired those things after also acquiring the locker room.

Even their uniforms are hand-me-down men's jerseys from 2020.

With thoughts circulating around the team's minds about how to recruit for next year, Martinson is looking hopeful.

“My main focus on recruiting is to build on my background of developing players and creating a positive culture,” Martinson said.

Schultz has also been brainstorming about how to bring more awareness to the team, and lack of support they have been receiving.

“We thought about organizing some events to get people to come see us because even when we did have games, no one came to watch.” Schultz then goes on to say, “Our new coach has been doing a good job so far with recruitment so we are hopeful that next year will be different.”