

# Sports

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2012

## MEN'S HOCKEY



News Photo/Zack Williamson

The men's hockey team defeated the reigning national champions Boston College Eagles for the first time since Feb. 19, 2011, ending their 19-game win streak dating back to last season.

## Freshmen fight off No. 1 BC Eagles at Matthews

By Eoghan Kelly  
NEWS STAFF

The freshman class of the men's hockey team arrived at Northeastern from all over North America — a small lake town in Northeast Quebec to the cold, snowy heart of Wisconsin to nearby South Boston.

They took different routes to get here, some coming by way of the United States Hockey League, others through Canada's top junior

leagues,

one even via the U.S. National Team Development Program. They each brought with them their own style of play but were surrounded by questions of whether their talents would transfer over from their junior careers to Hockey East when they arrived on campus.

Those doubts were put to rest Saturday night at sold-out Matthews Arena.

The talents of the Northeastern

rookies were on full display as four freshmen — forwards Kevin Roy, Cam Darcy and Ryan Belonger, and defenseman Colton Saucerman — and second-year transfer Dax Lauwers helped the Huskies knock off defending national champion and then-No. 1 Boston College, 3-1.

"This league, you need contributions from freshmen if you're gonna be successful," head coach Jim Madigan said after Saturday's game. "You look at the team we just played tonight, they've got freshmen who were very successful last year. We need the same thing and early in the year we're getting it."

In their first two games, the Huskies' newcomers played major roles and combined for four goals, two game-winners and six assists, springboarding Northeastern to its first 2-0 start since 1999.

Darcy's shutdown physical play in the defensive zone helped silence a BC (0-1) offense that ranked third in the NCAA and out-scored the Huskies 15-5 in 2011-

12. He also established himself as a legitimate two-way player, earning his first two collegiate assists on plays that led to Belonger's and Saucerman's first-career goals at Northeastern.

But Darcy said the value of Saturday's game came from the win.

"My whole life, I always dreamed of playing college hockey in Boston and always grew up watching Northeastern, [Boston University], BC," Darcy said. "And then to now be at Northeastern, beat a team like BC, especially when they're ranked No. 1, it's always a dream come true."

Despite each earning an assist in the Huskies' season-opening 4-2 win over Merrimack College (0-1) on Oct. 10, Saturday was the coming out party for Northeastern's young defensemen Saucerman and Lauwers.

Saucerman lived up to his label as a playmaking blue-liner, quarterbacking the Huskies to a number of chances on the power play and scoring his first career goal

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Magnusdottir's sister and mother all made the trip from Iceland to be with the girls for their senior day honoring, which was an emotional event for the team.

"It is devastating," Magnusdottir, a forward, said of her last home game at Parsons. "[I] get [tears] thinking about it."

All the seniors saw playing time in this contest with Penn and Vecchiarello coming off the bench to contribute to the victory.

Penn, a goalkeeper, said she was going to miss the chemistry of the team the most.

"On and off the field we are so close," Penn said. "For the past four years these [have been] my sisters."

Samuelsdottir's career at Northeastern has left her in the record books with three games and the CAA tournament left to play:

Leone doesn't want to see the senior class go, but recognizes the importance of their contributions to the program.

"They provided great leadership for our team and they really get what it is like to be a team," Leone said. "They came to practice with a smile everyday whether they were playing or not."

During the senior day contest, the Huskies (7-8, 5-2 CAA) attack was led by redshirt sophomore

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## WOMEN'S SOCCER

## Seniors sent off with 2-0 victory

By Trevor Wenzel  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

For seniors Greta Samuelsdottir, Bianca Vecchiarello, Sandra Magnusdottir and Megan Penn, Sunday's 2-0 win over the George Mason University Patriots was the last regular season game at Parsons Field as Huskies.

"It was great to get a win for the seniors," head coach Tracey Leone said. "They put

Northeastern 2  
George Mason 0

Northeastern 2  
Towson 1

program and so to [have] their potential last game at Parsons Field be such a memorable experience is great."

Samuelsdottir's mother and

She's fourth all-time in goals, with 23, and points with 57; her 11 assists is good for fifth all-time.

She is sad to see it coming to an end, she said, but has enjoyed her time spent with the team.

"It has been the most amazing four years and I have learned so much and I will never forget any of it," Samuelsdottir said.

Leone doesn't want to see the senior class go, but recognizes the importance of their contributions to the program.

"They provided great leadership for our team and they really get what it is like to be a team," Leone said. "They came to practice with a smile everyday whether they were playing or not."

During the senior day contest, the Huskies (7-8, 5-2 CAA) attack was led by redshirt sophomore

## MEN'S SOCCER

## NU comes out on top in double OT

By Eoghan Kelly

NEWS STAFF

The men's soccer team was riding a 12-match home winning streak going into last night's game against Hofstra University at Parsons Field — but a different streak secured their names in the Northeastern record books.

Senior midfielder Andre Ciliotta scored his first goal of the season 31 seconds into double overtime and senior goalkeeper Oliver Blum made a season-high six saves as the Huskies beat the Pride 1-0 Wednesday, marking their all-time program-best ninth consecutive contest without a loss.

The win boosted the Huskies

into first

place over

Drexel

University in the

Colonial

Athletic

Association with

three conferences

games left to play.

Northeastern is now 4-0-2 in games going into extra time and has earned at least a point in every match since a 4-1 defeat to the University of Michigan on Sept. 9.

"We always keep working, we always pick each other up and help each other out," Blum said. "If someone makes a mistake, there's always somebody there to cover and we're just a strong team this year. We've got a good team attitude."

Northeastern (10-1-2, 5-0-1 Colonial Athletic Association) was kept off the scoresheet in the first half for the third consecutive game. The Huskies dominated possession and scoring chances, but the Pride (9-4-1, 3-3 CAA) produced the best chance of the half when a sophomore forward Maid Memic's shot from inside the penalty box forced Blum to make a diving save to keep the game scoreless.

The teams combined for six shots on goal in the second half but could not break through either goalkeeper. Sophomore forward Donovan Fayd'Herbe de Maudave nearly gave the Huskies the game-winner in the 68th minute, but senior goalkeeper Adam Janowski made a fingertip save on

Fayd'Herbe de Maudave's curling ball.

Ciliotta finally netted the match's deciding goal in the 11th minute off a cross from senior forward Don Anding. After combining with Fayd'Herbe de Maudave, Anding beat a defender on the right flank and slotted a ball from deep in the penalty box for Ciliotta to tap in for the game-winner.

"We started back in our half," Ciliotta said. "I just tried to follow with [Anding] and he crossed it and I just put it in."

Anding now has a team-best nine goals and five assists and is tied with for the CAA lead in goals and points. Blum earned his fourth clean sheet of the season and is No. 1 in the conference in goals against average and save percentage.

The Huskies had pushed their unbeaten streak to eight games on Saturday courtesy of their three leading scorers.

Freshman forward Terence Carter, Anding and Fayd'Herbe de Maudave tallied goals in a decisive second half that propelled Northeastern past Georgia State University, 3-1.

Carter gave the Huskies their first lead of the game when he buried a cross from Anding in the 53rd minute. But the Panthers (4-8, 1-4 CAA) equalized seven minutes later when freshman forward William Mellors-Blair beat Blum to a loose ball and put a shot into the vacant net.

It took Anding just more than two minutes to respond with his fourth game-winner of the year, and Fayd added a late goal in the 79th minute to give the Huskies a bit of breathing room.

But the win didn't come easily as Blum was forced to make each of his three saves in the final 12 minutes to preserve the win.

Northeastern will host the University of North Carolina-Wilmington at Parsons Field on Saturday as it looks to extend its home winning streak to 14 consecutive games — but head coach Brian Ainscough said that's not something his team will be worried about.

"This is our home field, so even if we didn't have a record that we have to protect, I don't think that plays into it," Ainscough said. "I just think it's our home field and we go out and expect to win."



News Photo/Zack Williamson  
Senior midfielder Andre Ciliotta scored his first goal of the season 31 seconds into double overtime last night.

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY

# Coyne picking up where she left off

By Madeline Sattler  
NEWS STAFF

She burst on the college hockey scene last season and this year sophomore forward Kendall Coyne is picking up where she left off.

In five games this season, Coyne

<b>Northeastern</b>	<b>1</b>	has five goals and three assists which puts her in a first place tie with Klara Myren of the University of Vermont for most points
<b>BU</b>	<b>4</b>	
—	—	
<b>Northeastern</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Union</b>	<b>1</b>	
—	—	
<b>Northeastern</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>RPI</b>	<b>0</b>	

(8) in the Women's Hockey East Association.

"[Coyne] has been great always," head coach Dave Flint said. "Usually when we need someone to step up, she's there and she's done a great job for us."

Last year, Coyne scored 45 goals, the third most among WHEA players. She led the league with six short-handed points and seven game-winning goals.

In Tuesday evening's match against the Boston University Terriers, the Huskies were on the short end of a 4-1 score. That was despite a valiant effort by Coyne, who had 10 of the team's 25 shots.

"Obviously it was a frustrating loss, losing 4-1 to our opening Hockey East game," Coyne said.

"But it shows where we need to get to."

In the opening minutes, Coyne carried the puck down the ice and launched a laser at the Terrier goalie, junior Kerrin Sperry. Sperry managed to come up with the save which became a theme of the evening.

"We're still trying to find consistency and play 60 minutes and we're just not there yet," Flint said. "I liked the way we played the first two periods, I just wish they did better in the third."

The Huskies had numerous opportunities including five power plays. However, they were only able to get one goal. Senior forward Casey Pickett picked up the tally off an assist by sophomore defender Ann Doherty and Coyne.

"We struggled at first and they put a lot of pressure on us on the penalty kill which is something we're not used to right now," Flint said.

Coyne also played an instrumental role in the Huskies 4-1 win over Union University on Friday night.

"[Coyne] created opportunities because of her hard work and her speed," Flint said. "She's our go-to a lot and she knows that."

The score was tied at one heading into the final period of play. Coyne took advantage of a tripping penalty by Union sophomore defender Haley Welch. Sophomore goalie Chloe Desjardins handed the puck off to sophomore defender Colleen Murphy who

then tapped it to Coyne, who connected with nylon for a power play goal.

"When it was 1-1, you just had to put together 20 minutes for the end of the game and try to finish it out because you get to rest afterwards," Coyne said.

The Palos Heights, Ill., native took the puck all the way down the ice and scored her first of three goals.

Less than five minutes later, Coyne scored her second goal. Junior defender Maggie Brenolt took a shot that bounced off the Union goalie, senior Alana Marcinko. But Coyne was right there to push the puck in the net.

"She actually wasn't feeling well that game," Flint said. "But she cranked it up in the third period and did a great job."

The sophomore's final goal of the game came off an assist from Pickett and senior forward Brittany Esposito.

"It was good to see someone to step up and we need those people on the team," Desjardins said. "Kendall stepping up like that was good for everybody and she did very well."

The Huskies also had another victory over the weekend on Saturday. They shut out Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute 1-0. Although Coyne did not have any points in the game, she did lead the team with five shots.

"RPI was a tough game," Flint said. "They're a big physical team and they are well-coached, so we

gutted it out and got the 1-0 win."

Junior forward Katie MacSorely scored the only goal on the day. Esposito and Doherty combined for the assist.

In the first two weeks of the season, Coyne has twice been named

WHEA player of the week.

"As long as the team is winning, I'm happy," Coyne said.

Coyne and the Huskies have this weekend off and will take on Robert Morris University on Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. at Matthews Arena.



News Photo/Zack Williamson

Sophomore forward Kendall Coyne already has five goals and three assists for eight points after five games this season.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

# O'Donnell nets two game-winning goals

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midfielder Hannah O'Donnell who scored the day's two goals, raising her season total to four.

The tally came at 13:06 when junior midfielder Hanna Terry took a shot that rang the crossbar and O'Donnell was sitting on the doorstep to put the rebound in. The assist was Terry's team-leading fifth on the season.

The second goal came early in the second half at 53:02 and was assisted by Magnusdottir (2).

Sophomore goalkeeper Paige Burnett reeled in five saves in the victory to record her fifth shutout of the year. Terry led the team with four shots while the Huskies and Patriots each recorded 10 shots in the contest.

Earlier in the weekend, O'Donnell was the team hero. On Friday night at Parsons Field, the Huskies defeated the Towson Tigers, 2-1, thanks to her second half goal.

Redshirt sophomore forward

Devin Griffin put the Huskies on the board at 24:20 for her second goal of the season.

"It was great, everyone was on the same page [and] working together," Griffin said.

The Tigers (1-12-1, 1-5 CAA) answered back early in the second half when junior forward Emily Barnes netted her second goal of the season, unassisted, at 55:09.

The Huskies did not panic and were able to regain the lead at 61:22 when O'Donnell notched the game winning goal assisted by Griffin.

The Huskies were in control of the tempo throughout the contest which included generating many quality scoring options. They had a balanced attack throughout the contest with Samuelsdottir leading the team with five shots while Terry registered three shots in the match.

Terry has been involved in the flow of the offense throughout the year by generating chances for

herself and her teammates. In this contest, she had a good chance at scoring in the 7th minute but her shot was saved by sophomore goalkeeper Erin Quinn of the Tigers. She later set up O'Donnell for a quality chance when the shot unfortunately connected with the crossbar.

"We went into this weekend knowing how important it was," Samuelsdottir said. "Now we are part of the top teams and we plan to continue that."

The Huskies continue their conference season on Friday at 7 p.m. at Collefe of William & Mary whose team currently has the same record as the Huskies at 5-2 in the conference. The Huskies currently sit in a tie for fourth place in the CAA, adding extra tension in the remaining three games as only the top six teams make the postseason tournament.

"We are in a zone right now," Leone said. "We are really rolling and everyone is happy about that."



Redshirt sophomore Hannah O'Donnell's (left) three goals over the weekend earned her CAA Player of the Week.

## MEN'S HOCKEY

# Huskies set to face No. 3, No. 15 as a ranked team

MEN'S HOCKEY, FROM PAGE 12

on a neutral-zone knuckleball that stunned senior goaltender Parker Milner early in the third period.

Meanwhile, Lauwers – a transfer from Army – emerged as a true defensive defenseman, fearlessly blocking shots, punishing BC forwards along the boards and helping kill off two of the Eagles' three man-advantage opportunities.

Roy's success mixed with that of the other starting freshmen resulted in the youth movement at Matthews last week.

The rookie cemented his role as a perfect fit for the second line with juniors Braden Pimm and Cody Ferriero. After an impressive two-point showing against Merrimack, Roy buried a wide-open feed from Ferriero eight minutes into the first period Saturday for his second game-winning goal and third point in two games. He

also went 13-3 on faceoffs in those games and helped his line combine for 16 shots, the most of any Northeastern forward threesome.

As a result, Hockey East named Roy the Pro Ambitions Rookie of the Week on Monday.

"Our freshmen are picking things up pretty quickly," Madigan said. "They're learning fast, we're putting them in the situations where they have to learn quickly and they've shown that they've responded."

The Huskies' first two games did expose some of the young team's flaws – only seven seniors make up the 21 dressed players per game.

Northeastern struggled to stay out of the penalty box, particularly against Merrimack – the Huskies committed three penalties after giving up two unanswered goals to the Warriors, one infraction com-

ing with less than three minutes remaining in the third period – and allowed a power play goal in both games.

The Huskies were whistled for offsides at least five times in each contest and had difficulty preventing odd-man rushes, both products of the team's aggressive forecheck.

And senior goaltender Chris Rawlings was forced to make 63 saves over the two games, nearly half of which (31) came in the third periods when Merrimack and BC were pressing for a late goal. In neither game did the Huskies outshoot their opponent.

But the product of both games was victory, and the team's early-season resume – ending BC's 19-game winning streak, earning its first USCHO poll ranking since October 2009 and claiming first place in Hockey East – will over-

shadow its defensive shortcomings.

"It's a nice victory, there's no doubt, for our team," Madigan said. "Our club the last couple years has gotten off to some slow starts and it's hampered either our playoff spot or not getting in the playoffs."

Northeastern passed its first two tests of the season by beating ranked teams on home ice. But the crowd will not be on the Huskies' side when they play their next two games on the road against conference foes ranked in the top 15 – No. 3 Bos-

ton College on Saturday and No. 15 University of New Hampshire on Oct. 26 – as the No. 14 team.

The question on everyone's minds will be whether the freshmen can continue to produce.

Their first chance to answer will come Saturday night at BC's Conte Forum in Chestnut Hill.

"We're worried about what happens later in the year," Madigan said, "but we'll just continue now looking to game three [of the season], which happens to be again back against Boston College."

"Our freshman are picking up pretty quickly. They're learning fast. We're putting them in situations where they have to."

– Jim Madigan,  
head coach

## STANDINGS

MEN'S HOCKEY EAST			
		HEA	Overall
1	Northeastern	2-0-0	2-0-0
2	BU	1-0-0	1-0-0
3	UMass Lowell	0-0-1	0-0-1
4	Vermont	0-0-1	0-0-1
5	Maine	0-0-0	1-2-0
6	UMass	0-0-0	1-0-0
7	UNH	0-0-0	2-0-0
8	BC	0-1-0	0-1-0
9	Merrimack	0-1-0	1-1-0
10	Providence	0-1-0	1-1-0

WOMEN'S HOCKEY EAST			
		WHEA	Overall
1	BU	2-0-0	4-0-0
2	Vermont	1-0-0	2-3-0
3	UConn	0-0-0	0-4-1
4	Maine	0-0-0	0-2-0
5	Providence	0-0-0	1-3-0
6	BC	0-1-0	0-1-0
7	UNH	0-1-0	2-1-0
8	Northeastern	0-1	4-1

CAA MEN'S SOCCER			
		CAA	Overall
1	Northeastern	5-0-1	10-1-2
2	Drexel	5-1-1	9-3-2
3	James Madison	3-1-2	5-5-3
4	George Mason	3-3	10-4
5	Hofstra	3-3	9-4-1
6	UNCW	3-4	6-8-1
7	Old Dominion	2-2-2	8-2-2
8	Towson	2-4-1	4-8-1
9	Delaware	1-2-3	3-8-4
10	William & Mary	1-4-2	3-9-3
11	Georgia State	1-5	4-9

CAA WOMEN'S SOCCER			
		CAA	Overall
1	Hofstra	6-1	10-5
2	Delaware	6-2	9-6
3	Drexel	5-2-1	11-3-2
4	William & Mary	5-2	7-8
5	Northeastern	5-2	7-8
6	UNCW	4-3	9-6-1
7	James Madison	4-4	6-10
8	George Mason	1-5-1	5-10-1
9	Georgia State	1-6	4-9-1
10	Old Dominion	1-6	3-12
11	Towson	1-6	1-13-1

CAA FIELD HOCKEY			
		CAA	Overall
1	Old Dominion	5-0	11-4
2	Northeastern	3-1	11-3
3	Drexel	3-1	11-5
4	William & Mary	3-2	10-5
5	James Madison	2-2	8-6
6	Delaware	1-3	5-10
7	Hofstra	0-4	6-8
8	Towson	0-4	1-15

CAA VOLLEYBALL			
		CAA	Overall
1	Towson	6-0	19-3
2	Northeastern	6-0	17-3
3	Delaware	4-2	10-12
4	William & Mary	3-3	11-9
5	James Madison	3-3	10-11
6	Hofstra	2-4	14-11
7	George Mason	2-4	4-15
8	Georgia State	1-5	3-15
9	UNCW	0-6	7-14

## VOLLEYBALL

# Huskies crush Hofstra Pride

By Madeline Sattler

NEWS STAFF

On Saturday night, the Northeastern volleyball team accomplished something they were not able to complete last year: sweeping the season series against Hofstra University.

"Hofstra is always going to be competitive, especially when you're at their place," head coach Ken Nichols said. "To be able to assert ourselves a little bit now and be able to sweep that season series is important."

Last season, the Huskies and the Pride each won on their own home courts, costing Northeastern the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) regular season title and the opportunity to host the tournament.

This time around, the Pride dropped straight sets in their Long Island gym (25-15, 25-22, 25-15). On Sept. 22, the Huskies beat Hofstra at Solomon Court in four sets.

"We beat Hofstra better this time than we did last time and that's really the goal when you play a team the second time," Nichols said. "Beating a team better the second time, I think, is a good indication that you're learning as a team and you're getting better."

Northeastern opened up the first set of Saturday's game with four straight points and never looked back. Junior outside hitter Janelle Tucker had five of her 11 kills in the opening frame, including the spike that won the set.

"The first game was, I think, the best hitting percentage-wise," Tucker said. "I came out, used a lot of shots, was tipping a lot and their defense was kind of back on their heels not expecting it."

The second set was a little closer as the Pride got on the board first. The two teams battled back and forth until they were tied at 18.

Hofstra went on a four-point run taking a lead 22-18. But the Huskies finished the set with seven straight points which included three kills by senior middle hitter Nicole Bishop, two kills by Tucker and a service ace by junior outside hitter Kelly Bacon.

"We had a seven-point run [in the second set] and it was awesome," Tucker said. "We just kept pushing one point at a time."

Bacon had four of her eight kills

in the set and tallied three service aces. Sophomore setter Jillian Briener notched eight assists in the set.

"We managed to come together as a team and work together," Bacon said. "We pulled our strengths together to win."

In the third set, the Huskies were aided by five Hofstra attacking errors to take a 7-3 lead.

"The third game we came out with all the momentum and just killed them which was awesome," Tucker said.

The Pride had 16 errors in the final set and a final attacking error sealed the win for the Huskies.

Sophomore libero Natalia Skiba led the defense with 11 digs and also added one service ace. Junior setter Ina Kamenova led the team with 17 assists.

Last season, the Huskies dropped three games against CAA opponents, including the opening match against Hofstra.

"That game last year was the first conference game and really set us back, kept us from hosting and we really wanted revenge on that," Tucker said. "I think that every time we play [Hofstra] from now on, we'll think about that match and come out with a lot of fire and want to win."

One of the many goals coming into this year was to win the CAA championship and have the opportunity to host the post-season tournament. In the past six years, the host team has made it to the championship match and has won the title four times.

With the win over Hofstra, the Huskies improved to 6-0 against CAA teams (17-3 overall). They remain in a first-place tie with the Towson University Tigers (6-0 CAA, 19-3 overall).

The Huskies have six more games against CAA opponents including a match Sunday against the Tigers.

"It's probably going to be one of our tougher weekends," Bacon said. "I think we're coming out strong and getting ready to play them this weekend."

The Huskies travel to the University of Delaware on Friday evening and will take on Towson University on Sunday afternoon.

"The ball is still round, their court is still square and we want to prove ourselves," Nichols said.



Sophomore middle hitter Alexa Armstrong has 23 kills on the season.

## Men's hockey defeating the odds

Northeastern's men's hockey team is off to a phenomenal start this season. They are ranked 14th in the country by the latest USCHO poll after beating the defending NCAA champion and then-No. 1 Boston College and then-No. 19 Merrimack last week.

Through their first two games, the Huskies have been much improved since a disappointing end to last season. Over the past two years, they have made a lot of mental mistakes, especially on power plays, which resulted in opponents having too many odd-man rushes. Last year it seemed BC would get at least three odd-man rushes during each of their meetings.

A different hockey team showed up for the first two games of this season. The defenders were disciplined, and aside from one odd man rush in the BC game, they stuck to their assignments. The puck was kept in areas where senior goalie Chris Rawlings could make manageable saves. Without having to defend against the odd man rushes, he had an easier job, only letting up one goal against BC, which was on the power play.

Last year, the Huskies would follow the trend of playing an extraordinary first period, but then slowing down in the second and third periods. It seemed like they got tired when they had to play explosive teams for 60 minutes and just couldn't sustain their energy level.

Thankfully, the Huskies played full games against Merrimack and against BC. Even though five of their seven goals have come in the first period, they still generated a lot of good chances in the second and third periods of both games.

Another big difference from last year is the team's ability to maintain offensive pressure. While the Huskies have been able to score goals, it was difficult for the offense to stay in the zone. It always seemed like they were defending, and there were frequently large shots on goal disparities. So far, the Huskies have been able to stay in the offensive zone more, which went a long way towards alleviating the pressure. Keeping the puck in the offensive zone definitely made the end of the game less stressful for the fans, since there were a lot fewer opportunities for the Huskies' opponents.

Northeastern's 12 rookies were the major area of concern coming into the season. There were huge holes, especially on the defense, because of veterans going to the professionals. Through two games, freshmen have gotten themselves on the score sheet. Forward Kevin Roy has two goals and an assist, forward Ryan Belonger has one goal and one assist, forward Cam Darcy has two assists and defender Colton Saucerman has a goal and an assist. The defenders, as mentioned before, definitely played very good games. They didn't take as many dumb penalties, nor did they blow their assignments. Whenever Rawlings let up a rebound, the defense was there to clear it out of harm's way.

The biggest concern is that the Huskies are still struggling on the power play. They are having difficulty moving the puck around in the zone and then driving it on net. They just can't get into a rhythm. They have one power play goal on 12 attempts, for an 8.3 percentage.

In the third period power plays against BC, it looked like they were just trying to not let up an odd man rush. The power play should be able to provide big goals, but it is still tough to trust it.

With room for improvement is the passing – it doesn't seem as crisp and precise as it needs to be to move defenders out of position and open up the nets. Hopefully, they can get something figured out so they have something to fall back on in close games.

Still, the Huskies looked like the team that went on the eight-game winning streak last year, while beating then-No. 2s Notre Dame twice and Minnesota. Rawlings has been doing great in goal against two very talented teams, and the rest of the team has been supporting each other.

The Huskies are playing smart hockey and they need to keep this momentum going forward into BC on Saturday if they want to retain their national ranking.

– Chris Judd can be reached at sports@HuntNewsNU.com

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**DINNER AT HOME?**

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