

Ex-Panther netminder among tops in Division I hockey



By Jake Courtepatte

The Union College Dutchwomen tied an NCAA record last month for the longest winless streak in women's hockey.

16 seconds into overtime, the Yale Bulldogs scored for a 2 ? 1 victory to push Union's streak to 33 games, their own record they set in 2006-07.

Melissa Black, the losing goaltender, left a 43-save performance on the ice.

Her team's record may not show it, but individually, Black is as strong as any between the pipes in the American college league. With a .944 save-percentage, she is in the top three in the East Coast Athletic Conference, and eighth overall in all of Division I, the top division of college hockey.

Even her goals-against-average is good for sixth in the east, despite being forced to make almost an incredible 200 stops more than any other goaltender in the conference.

A freshman from Newmarket, Black cut her teeth last season with the Aurora Panthers of the Provincial Women's Hockey League, posting some of the league's top numbers en route to five shutouts and a 9-10-1 performance.

She majors in Sociology at Union College.

Most recently, Black made 29 stops against the University of Maine to preserve a 2 ? 2 tie heading into the winter break.