Puck pluck

OSU's first female hockey team looking for opponents

By Dennis Fiely
Dispatch Assistant Reporter

It's said that pioneers can expect to catch some arrows, but Dara Thompson is catching hockey pucks — on her leg, arm, and back.

She has the bruises to prove it.

Thompson, 21, a graduate student in cartography, broke new ice in the fall when she organized Ohio State University's first women's hockey team.

Who are these brave trialblazers?

"Hot and sweaty girls," Thompson said with a laugh.

The Women's Hockey Club at OSU, also known as the Lady Buckeyes, listed 23 players on its roster for a recent game against a club team from Michigan.

The squad practices weekly and is trying to schedule games at the OSU Ice Rink through the spring quarter.

The novelty of women's ice hockey in Ohio and surrounding states has made it difficult for the Lady Buckeyes to find opponents. They have scrounged together a few games — home and away — against teams from the Detroit and Chicago areas. They soon expect to play a men's team from OSU's Army ROTC program.

"We've called schools such as Ohio University, Bowling Green and Miami University, and they don't have teams," player-coach Cyndy Schlaepfer said.

About 2,000 women play organized amateur ice hockey in the United States, compared with 55,000 in Canada, Thompson said. Universities on the East Coast and in hockey-mad Northern states, such as Minnesota, have varsity women's teams.

At the University of Illinois, Thompson played four years in the Hockey Association of Women's Clubs, a seven-team league that included four high school teams.

"Playing hockey is second nature for me," said Thompson, a native of Lincolnshire, Ill. "But here, when people see me walking across campus with my hockey bag..."
and stick, I get weird looks.”

The players said they were attracted to hockey’s speed and action. Rules for men and women are the same, except women prohibit intentional body-checking.

“The hitting in women’s hockey is to move people off the puck, not to knock them down,” Thompson said.

“We get physical,” said Tammy Brown, 26, a junior from Cincinnati. “There’s always somebody riding you or having a stick on you.”

Fights, a staple of men’s hockey, are rare in the women’s sport.

But the competitive fires burn brightly, and tempers sometimes flare. Brown remembers being a marked woman in one game, when her opponents declared, “Hey, let’s get that No. 26.”

“For an entire hour, I was chased, picked on and prodded,” Brown said. “I got beat up pretty good.”

After the Lady Bucks put on their pads and appear on ice, “you wouldn’t know we were women except for our long hair,” said Louise Mallory, a veteran player from Stony Creek, Ontario.

The popularity this season of the Columbus Chill — the city’s new professional hockey team — helped stir interest in hockey among women, Thompson said.

Roller blading, Schiaparelli noted, also has introduced urban kids to the joys of skating.

Thirty to 40 women showed up for the Lady Bucks’ first tryout. They included former collegiate players from the East Coast and Canada, a small group of women who had been playing in the men’s intramural league and raw beginners, such as Brown.

“I had never been on hockey skates until January,” she said. “I didn’t know anything about the rules ... but I love it. Everybody should try to play at least once.”

The unofficial record of the Lady Bucks is 4-2. Rink time expired before one game could be completed. During another game, the OSU club lent players to a short-handed opponent.

The intramural department at OSU lends most of the equipment.

But the new women’s team is last in line for rink time, having to practice at 6:45 a.m. With just one locker room at their disposal, they have dressed for some games in the hallway.

Thompson would like to see women’s ice hockey develop into a varsity sport at OSU. Until then, she is trying to encourage Ohio’s other universities to form club teams for an in-state league.

“I love the sport; I like being on the ice,” Thompson said. “But my mother almost died when I came home one day and said I was going to play ice hockey. I had a boyfriend who didn’t want me to play. He was long gone after that.”
Women hockey players keep goals in mind

By Melanie Carroll and Molly Meinhardt
Independent Sports Writer

Blades slide across the ice as the puck slams against the wall. The coach calls through her small orange horn: the drill changes. A woman wearing multiple layers of padding skates up the rink, pushing the puck towards the goalie. Staring through her face mask, the goalie anxiously watches as the black sphere hurls towards her. It is midnight at the O.S.U. Ice Rink. The Women’s Ice Hockey Club is in the midst of their first practice this year.

Dara Thompson single handedly started the Women’s Ice Hockey Club two years ago after coming from Illinois to do graduate work. With a list of co-ed intramural hockey players and letters written to the administration she provided women the challenge of playing hockey against each other. Last year there were only 17 players, this year there are more than thirty.

According to Amy Renwald, the Club’s President, the Club offers several levels for a variety of players: some of the women have never been on the ice in their lives. Players range from first quarter freshman to veterinarian students and hail from all over the country, as well as Canada. Renwald said that Women’s Hockey is equally demanding to Men’s Hockey, however there are a few differences; there is no checking and violence in the games is minimal.

Renwald encourages everyone to come and watch the Club’s first match. The team’s first game is at 12:30 a.m. on Friday February 26th at the O.S.U. Ice Rink. The team will be playing a community team from Canada called the Windsor Sharks. On Thurs., January the 28th, the team will be holding a fundraiser at 12:30 a.m. at the O.S.U. Ice Rink. The Great Late Skate- A- Round is a competition for the team members to see who can skate the circle the most times in a span of one hour. The players are raising money through donations which will enable them to travel to Chicago; Chicago has the only other Women’s Ice Hockey Club in the mid-west.
Skating away some stress

Women's Hockey Club plays by same tough rules

By David Tull

Every Monday and Wednesday evening in the University Ice Rink, about 30 women don heavy pads and sturdy skates for a few hours of ice hockey.

The women — staff members, students and wives of staff members — are members of the Women's Hockey Club, now in its third year.

So far this season, the skaters have a 4-4-1 record, which they'll take against the Lady Blues of Grand Oaks, Mich., at 5:45 p.m. Dec. 4 in the ice rink.

The women play 15 games at home and 15 away, according to Louise Mallory, hockey club president.

Mallory, a graduate student in welding engineering from Stoney Creek, Ont., is one of only four members of the team to have previous experience. "Most of the players just started from ground zero," when they joined the hockey club, she said.

Although there are 30 regular members, "there's plenty of room for more," Mallory said.

The women's rules are virtually the same as those for the men's team, except that intentional body checking is prohibited. Still it is a fast-moving and sometimes bruising sport.

Women's practices are at 9:45 p.m. on Mondays and 10:15 p.m. on Wednesdays. Games are open to the public and are free.

For additional information, call Mallory at 292-5402.
Breakin' the Ice

Women's club hockey edges toward their goals

Angie Carlson stretches out on the ice rink boards before practice.
Members of the women's hockey club listen as coach Cyndy Schlaepfer discusses the strategies for their upcoming game.

They have the helmets, the shin guards, the sticks, the hockey skates, and all the determination it takes to be great hockey players.

The only giveaway is the long hair spilling out from under their helmets. They are the 50 members of the OSU women's club hockey team, and their number is growing.

"The club was formed four years ago with only seven members and was given an hour a week in order to practice. There was no place in Columbus for women to play hockey at all," said Louise Mallory, a graduate student from Stoney Creek, Ontario. But as the popularity increased, the team has increased its practice time to three hours a week.

The women play teams from Minnesota, Wisconsin, West Virginia, the Harvard Women's Varsity team, New Hampshire Women's Varsity team and many other schools. One weekend a month they travel to play at other schools or tournaments, with four home games each month. The club includes undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff.

"Everything is as much time as you want to put into it," Ashley Beckam, president of the club and goalie for the team, said. "If you want to go to the away games you can, or if you want to only play the home games that is fine. We try to take everyone we can with us when we travel no matter what their level."

The club team is coached by Cyndy Schlaepfer, who played on Cornell's Women's Varsity team for two and a half seasons and began coaching when the Ohio State team was formed four years ago.

"Our coach is the best female player ever at Cornell. She is one of four women in the Hall of Fame at Cornell," Beckam said.

Unlike the men's team, the women play in a non-checking league. However, it is still hockey, and checking has been known to happen from time to time.

"At the end of last season there was a pretty big fight here at Ohio State between our team and another team and then one at an away game," said Beckam, a boyfriend of one of the players.

Another difference between the men's hockey team and the women's club is the equipment, and the development of women's shoulder pads with extra padding in the front.

"Otherwise, all of the other equipment is the same," Beckam said.

The team has set some exciting goals for the next three years, including the possibility of an OSU Women's Varsity team.

"I think it would be neat if they had a varsity team here at OSU. We are moving to, hopefully, a league next year that has some of the other Big Ten schools in it," said Coach Schlaepfer.

Lisa Halapy, a freshman from Point Marion, Pa., didn't even know how to skate when she joined the club last quarter, and she has already played in a game at Bowling Green.

"I would like for the team to get some recognition — and some more beginners so I don't look as much like a beginner out there," Halapy said.

Women interested in joining the club may come and try out for $5. Dues are $72 for new members, which includes insurance for a year, and $50 for returning members.

Practice times for the club are every Tuesday from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. for all members, Thursday from 9 to 10 p.m. for beginning skaters, and Thursday from 10 to 11 p.m. for advanced skaters at the OSU ice rink.

"The first hour on Thursday is very instructional...everything you need you can get here. Skates are $1 to rent and the intramural department has helped to supply helmets, shin guards, and other equipment," Beckam said.

Photos and Story by Jennifer Matthews
Heather Blechinger and Laurie Stevenson, members of the women's club hockey practice passing at the OSU Ice Rink.

Coach Cyndy Schlaepfer runs through a passing and defense drill with Carol Ritchie Schoepf.
Women's club seeks new status

By Kim Chatfield
Lantern sports writer

In order to gain financial support from Ohio State and a more organized schedule, the OSU women's hockey club is applying for varsity status.

The club formed seven years ago, said Roger Vemy, who is in his second year as the team's coach.

By applying for varsity status, the team is following a trend in college hockey, he said.

Minnesota's women's hockey team recently received varsity status.

The club needs to fill out an application to be reviewed by the Athletic Council, said Susan Henderson, the human resources director of the Athletic Department.

The OSU women's team started playing in a newly formed Midwest league this year.

Karen Karamanoukian, a second year member of the team, is heading the application process.

She cited the increasing popularity of hockey as the reason the team decided to apply now.

"The number of people playing hockey in the United States has tripled," Karamanoukian said.

The OSU team will host the first National Collegiate Women's Club Championship held in two years and the first women's Olympic hockey team will be a part of the 1998 Winter Olympics.

Karamanoukian said some of the benefits of receiving varsity status would be free ice time at the OSU ice rink, uniforms, equipment and transportation to the games.

"The women in the club make all of the decisions concerning the club, and decided to apply for varsity status," Vemy said. "They decided it was the right time to go for it."

The team will play Michigan State in its next two games at 7 p.m., Jan. 11 and 12 p.m., Jan. 12 at the OSU ice rink.
Immediate Release
Contact: Robin Jentes / 614.292.6861

April 21, 1999

Susan Kempf Joins Women’s Ice Hockey Staff

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The Ohio State University athletic department announced today that Susan Kempf, the former Susan Mussey, has been hired as an assistant women’s ice hockey coach. Kempf joins head coach Jackie Barto and assistant coach Kevin Cunningham to complete the staff of the first-ever varsity women’s ice hockey team at Ohio State. Kempf will oversee all aspects of the program, but will primarily focus on the development of the team’s goaltenders.

Prior to Ohio State, Kempf was the women’s ice hockey associate head coach at Providence College in 1997-98. This past season, she was the assistant coach with the Wisconsin Challengers Girls Youth hockey team in her hometown of Madison, Wis.

A standout goalie and four-year letterwinner at Providence College, Kempf had an outstanding collegiate career. She was named MVP of the 1984 ECAC Championship team and a member of the 1986 ECAC All-Star team. She is one of only six women’s hockey members in PC history to be named Athlete of the Year. Kempf was also a four-year letterwinner in softball at PC.

After graduating in 1987 with a bachelor of arts degree in health administration, Kempf became the assistant coach for the women’s ice hockey, field hockey and softball teams at PC From 1990-92. She then went on to work for the Wisconsin Amateur Sports Corporation as administrative assistant of the Badger State Games from 1992-1997.

“What Sue brings to our program is an outstanding knowledge of goaltending and experience after being a successful college goaltender, herself,” head coach Barto said. “I am very excited to have someone of Sue’s capacity joining our staff.”

--OSU--
Complaints of sexual harassment prompt resignation of Ohio State women's hockey coach

By Ray Stein & Todd Jones

\textit{The Columbus Dispatch} • \textbf{THURSDAY MARCH 12, 2015 5:08 AM}

Ohio State women's hockey coach Nate Handrahan resigned on Monday in lieu of being fired for violating university policies of sexual harassment, inappropriate conduct and retaliation.

Handrahan, 37, recently completed his fourth season, with a career record of 67-64-15.

Ohio State began investigating Handrahan after the university received on Nov. 24 an anonymous complaint of sexual harassment involving Handrahan. The complaint came from a faculty member or instructor who said a student-athlete in class had shared that Handrahan made sexually explicit comments to "many" players on the team.

That complaint came a day after an incident at an airport on the way back from a series at North Dakota. Witnesses stated that Handrahan and assistant coach Carson Duggan were "intoxicated and unprofessional" and arrived at the airport smelling of alcohol after missing the team bus to the airport.

>> Not following @buckeyextra on Twitter? That's just madness

Handrahan received a written reprimand by the university on Dec. 1 and apologized to his team about his and other staff members’ actions, but in the course of the apology added that he wished the complaint would have "stayed internal" and not been taken to administrators, according to witnesses.

On Monday, Ohio State presented a report on its investigation of Handrahan to athletic director Gene Smith and human resources director for athletics Kim Heaton.

According to witnesses in the report, Handrahan made sexual comments or innuendos about female players and their relationships with their boyfriends, and he routinely used sexually explicit or vulgar language during practices and in games. Witnesses said that he occasionally implored his players to "get horny for the puck" during practice, a term that players found inappropriate.

Witnesses also said Handrahan regularly spoke to players in a belittling or condescending tone, and several described him as a "bully." In one instance, according to the report, a player asked Handrahan to stop yelling at her during a meeting and the coach responded by saying, "I haven't yelled. Do you want me to show you what yelling is?"

The report noted that witnesses were fearful of going to Handrahan with complaints or concerns, based on how he had previously spoken to them.

According to the report, Handrahan, Duggan and fellow assistant Keith Maurice met with OSU investigators on Jan. 20. Duggan and Maurice referred to Handrahan as "direct," "intense" and "committed," but added that the coach did not threaten or intimidate players. Handrahan denied making any inappropriate or sexual comments and described his coaching style as "demanding but not demeaning."

Ohio State's review determined that Handrahan "engaged in a pattern of verbal conduct of a sexual nature that unreasonably interfered with the athletic experience of many students" on the team and found "sufficient evidence" of a violation of the university's policies on sexual harassment, inappropriate conduct and retaliation.

Maurice, a second-year assistant, also was found to be in violation of the university's whistleblower policy. It is not clear whether he resigned or was fired, but he is no longer included on the team's roster.
Handrahan did not return phone calls seeking comment. Neither Smith nor Shaun Richard, OSU's associate athletic director for sports administration, would comment other than to say that Handrahan had resigned.

Handrahan had received an overall "meets expectations" in OSU's latest performance review, in May 2014. In that review, he was credited for exceeding expectations in regards to student-athlete welfare and the academic success of the program. The university awarded Handrahan a 1.5 percent raise in August, improving his salary to $106,334.

A native of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Handrahan joined Ohio State after serving five years as head coach of the Robert Morris women's hockey program. He is a 2000 graduate of Niagara University.

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COMMENTS

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More bad news.

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Ohio State women's hockey

Troubled program brings in coach with name recognition

By Todd Jones
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Jenny Potter, a four-time Olympic medalist, needed no introduction when she met the players for the first time as coach of the Ohio State women's hockey team.

"A lot of us have idolized her growing up, watching her play," said Melani Moylan, a forward from Ontario, Canada, who will be a senior next season.

Buckeyes players actually nervous when Potter gathered with them on April 17 after being named the third coach in program history and successor to Nate Handrahan, whose four-season tenure ended last month in resignation.

"There was a little bit of being star-struck in a couple of girls' eyes," said Moylan, an assistant team captain last season.

Potter didn't big-time her new players with a recital of her résumé, which includes meeting three presidents and winning gold at the 1998 Nagano Olympics. Nor did Potter, 36, bombard them with any strategy or detailed expectations that she used the previous two seasons at coach at Trinity College (Conn.). There will be time for all that when the team reconvenes in August.

Instead, Potter spoke to the players about respect and the need for teamwork. She also offered a much-needed reminder that hockey is fun and how joy for the game can spur the necessary work ethic for success.

"It has a lot to do with me and how I view hockey," Potter said. "I have so much passion for the sport, and I care for them as people, and not just hockey players."

Respect and fun weren't exactly part of the Buckeyes' 2014-15 season, which ended with a 17-16-3 record and Handrahan's resignation in lieu of being fired for violating university policies on sexual harassment, inappropriate conduct and retaliation.

"I think we're just ready to move forward in a positive way," Moylan said.

Enter Potter, a legendary player from Eagan, Minn., who knows the ups and downs all players endure and how there's no excuse for a lack of effort.

"I've been there," she said. "It wasn't too long ago that I stopped playing. I think I can relate a lot to what drives them, what they want and where they want to go."

Potter grew up on skates, playing outdoors as a child, joining her first team at age 14, and then as a 19-year-old forward on Team USA in 1986 when the International Olympic Committee included women's ice hockey for the first time.

After winning gold in Nagano, Potter led Minnesota in scoring with 71 points as a college freshman. She then transferred to Minnesota-Duluth, where she won a national title in 2003 and graduated with the program's scoring record, including six goals in a game that still stands as an NCAA record.

Potter earned Olympic silver medals in 2002 and '10, as well as bronze in '06. She last played for the U.S. at the 2012 world championships, although she has not officially retired. Last season, when as Trinity coach allowed, Potter played for the Boston Blades of the Canadian Women's Hockey League.

Trinity was Potter's first collegiate coaching job. She began coaching in 1997 with the Community Olympic Development Program and later served as an assistant at two Minnesota high schools coached by her husband, Rob. They co-own Potter's Pure Hockey, a developmental camp.

"It was an unbelievable two years of my life at Trinity," said Potter, a mother of two. "I learned a lot about myself as a coach and as a person. I learned how much I can really have an influence on these kids and their lives."

"I've always considered myself a positive role model as a hockey player. People looked up to me and how I carried myself and how I ran my life. Being a coach at Trinity solidified that; just don't talk the talk. I walk the walk."

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