

# Yellow Jackets 'Swarm' ice

## Local college notebook

By DICK BAKER

On and off the ice, things are happening around the American International College hockey team.

A freak accident at home has shelved head coach Gary Wright for an undetermined amount of time.

The incident involved a garage door coming down on him, ripping the tendons off the bones of both quadriceps muscles.

Although he is just starting to be able to bend his knees without any weight, he managed with the aid of braces and a walker to make it to the Olympia last Friday to watch the home opener against Holy Cross while assistant coach Mike Field ran the bench. And Wright, who probably is at least a few weeks away from being able to even go behind the bench, had to be a happy although uncomfortable spectator.

The Yellow Jackets stunned a good Holy Cross team 3-0 for their first win of the season, and did so with some new found support in the seats and fresh talent on the ice.

Junior Lauren Silva, the president of the Student Athlete Advisory Council, was busy opening pizza boxes at a table outside Rink One between periods. The slices were being served for a busload of AIC students who were all wearing brand new yellow shirts that identified them as the "Swarm." The Swarm sat together at the end of the rink where the Jackets shot twice, encouraging the team throughout its terrific performance.

Meanwhile, former AIC goaltender Donnie Moorhouse, the longtime play-by-play voice of UMass hockey whose return there this year was only blocked because of contractual conflict concerns, was up in the press box doing the Yellow Jackets game on 91.9 FM.

Silva, who plays on the field hockey team and has also played lacrosse at AIC, is a marketing major looking for a career in athletics. Already, she represents the Northeast-10 at NCAA meetings. Chris Mercurio, the director of campus recreation, said that he hopes to have the Swarm back for future selected hockey

games as well as participate on campus at other athletic events. It's something that was tried a few years ago.

The Yellow Jackets followed up their Friday win by gaining a good 4-4 tie the next night in a rematch against the Crusaders at Worcester. Although AIC is 1-3-1 overall, two of the losses were non-league games, and one was a closer than expected 3-2 defeat at RPI – a program that was voted to have the ninth best recruiting class in the country.

AIC had several players who stood out Friday night with the most impressive coming from the freshman and sophomore classes. Those include the first two line centers – sophomore Nielsson Arcibal and Richard Leitner; freshman right wing Adam Pleskach, who already has five goals; and 6-foot-3 sophomore winger Mike Penny, who had 15 points as a freshman. Sophomore Steve McLeod had the first goal Friday, and Mike McMillan chipped in to represent the seniors with a short-handed goal to make it 2-0.

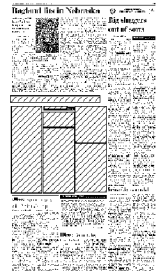
Fourth-line junior center Greg Vatrano, of East Longmeadow, was a pest as a forechecker, junior Mike Little, of Enfield, was a steady defender, and freshman goaltender Ben Meisner was as poised as a senior in registering the shut-out. Junior Dan Ramirez made 42 saves in the Saturday night tie.

AIC has three consecutive road games, two this weekend with Connecticut, before coming home for five straight at the Olympia starting Nov. 14 against Army.

**AMHERST:** Women's soccer senior Meg Murphy, of Springfield, notched her 10th career game-winning goal Sunday against Wesleyan in a quarterfinal play-off match, and was named the New England Small College Athletic Conference player of the week. It was also her third clinching goal of the season. The Jeffs face Middlebury Sunday in the semifinals.

**MCLA:** Talk about doing it all. Senior Joe Deady of Belchertown scored three goals and added an assist in a 4-3 win at SUNY-Cobleskil Oct. 29. Deady attempted 10 of the 22 shots for Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

**WESTFIELD STATE:** The women's volleyball team is the top seed for the Massa-



achusetts State College Athletic Conference championships. Westfield (17-15 overall) was 6-0 in conference play, and will host fourth-seeded Framingham State (15-15, 3-3) Saturday morning at 11 at the Woodward Center. Worcester State then faces Bridgewater State in the other semifinal at 1 p.m. MASCAC player of the week Stephanie Bartkus had 15 kills in the Owls' 3-0 win at Bridgewater that clinched the regular-season championship

**WESTERN NEW ENGLAND:** Men's soccer senior Tony Rosa was voted Commonwealth Coast Conference player of the week after scoring the tying goal and assisting on the winner in a 3-2 quarterfinal win over the University of New England. Coach Erin Sullivan was named conference coach of the year. Forward Jason Sabia, midfielder Justin Martins, defenders Alex Dos Santos and Marco Gomes, and goalkeeper Kyle Bak were selected to the all-conference first team. Rosa was a second-team selection. Freshman midfielder Shawn Fitzpatrick was an honorable mention.