

Alex Carpenter profile – by Kat Hasenauer Cornetta

Ran in Peabody Weekly News – December 2012

When the Boston College women's hockey team got off to a slow start early this season, Peabody's Alex Carpenter knew it was due to her team's growing pains. After graduating the core that had led the Hockey East team to national fame in the last few seasons, the Eagles were trying to feel out their core of freshman.

"We're coming together well. At the beginning, we didn't click right away," said the sophomore center. "We're starting click now. There were a lot of new people we had to get used to."

It would take a superstorm to get the Eagles on the same page.

"It's kind of funny. We joke about it now," explained Carpenter. "The day we had Hurricane Sandy, we didn't have class the next day. So we hung out together as a team. We spend the whole day together and bonded."

That storm day was exactly what Carpenter's team needed, and just in time. Two days later, on Halloween, Boston College faced a league game against archrival Boston University. After that shaky start to the season, Carpenter scored a hat trick and chipped in two assists in a 7-1 win over the Terriers.

"That first game against BU, that's when I think my individual game clicked, as well as the team's," said Carpenter.

Since then, Carpenter and her team have been on a roll. The runner up for last season's Hockey East Rookie of the Year award has 12 goals and 13 assists, which is tied for first on the Eagles with freshman linemate Haley Skarupa. The Eagles have won six straight games, good for a 10-3-2 record overall and a 7-2-1 mark in their league. They also have shown a balanced scoring attack. Carpenter only had a goal and assist this past weekend, but BC still swept a two game series against the University of Maine by the scores of 7-2 and 10-0.

"We've peaked at the right time," said Carpenter of her teammates.

Carpenter is by no means resting on her scoring laurels. She spent the offseason and now in season practices working on multiple aspects of her game.

"I am working on everything. I'm always trying to get faster," said Carpenter. "Everyone is trying to always be a step ahead, so I have to keep up with that."

The Eagles count on her to be a playmaker and lead one of the most prolific lines in all of Hockey East this season. Centering junior Melissa Bizzari and Skarupa, the Eagles' starting line has seen all of its members earn league Player of the Week honors at least once this season.

While familiarity was an issue early on this season, Carpenter had a jump start with Skarupa.

“I’ve known Haley for a while. We played together on the USA U-18 team a while back,” said Carpenter. “We work well together because we keep each other in check. There might be a little bit of mentoring going on.”

The Governors Academy alumna has just one more game before the holiday break, a December 5th matchup against the University of New Hampshire . After the holidays, the Eagles have key league matchups that they will want to attack like they have the last month of games.

“We lost a few Hockey East games at the beginning of the season, and we were really focused on getting those Hockey East wins back,” said Carpenter. “Last year we were one point out of the regular season championship, and we don’t want to be in that same spot this year. This January will be a good challenge for us.”

But Carpenter and the Eagles’ focus won’t be solely on winning games. It will be on continuing that bonding that started on their October storm day.

“Our goal is to be a family on and off the ice,” said Carpenter. “ We want to really be there for each other.”