



On Sept. 7-9, 2012, the USA Women's Sled Hockey Team was hosted by Quinnipiac University in the beautiful High Point Solutions Arena at the new TD Bank North Sports Center, high atop York Hill in Hamden, CT. Quinnipiac University was very gracious and provided a fun and professional weekend, complete with dining at the beautiful Rocky Top Lodge, spacious player facilities and accommodations fit for a professional team. They were proud to know that one of their own alumni is on the US team.

The team's new development players were given the opportunity to show their skills and learn about the team dynamics of playing with a national level team, during a team practice on Friday evening. These skills were then put to the test in two demonstration games on Saturday and Sunday against the Connecticut Wolfpack



Sled Hockey Team. Our women held a strong first period in both games but let CT show their years of teamwork experience come through in the second periods. Third periods were more evenly matched but not enough to keep CT down. Connecticut came out very strong and gave the women a good learning experience while integrating their new players into the game. After the games on Saturday, the women's team held a roundtable discussion with the Allied Health School's Physical Therapy students. The students had just watched our game and had many questions about the adaptive side of sports, especially hockey. This is best summed up by Eric Grgurich, executive director of the sports center,

"I am so happy that we were able to host your games this weekend. It was a great experience and I am so fortunate that I was able to meet such a great group of people! The only problem is that I am now going to bother you to keep me updated on your team's progress- I am a new fan! I am so impressed with everything that I saw on the ice and I was even more impressed that you and the entire organization took the time to chat and share your experiences with our group of students. That has to be an invaluable experience for the students to be able to hear your stories and it has to be empowering for them to realize that they can have a profound impact in their future careers. It was a great learning experience for the students and it is a perspective that they cannot gain in the classroom. Thank you!!"

The women's team hopes to return to CT with a full bench of players and take back those second periods!