

## **DARTMOUTH FIGURE SKATING TEAM WINS - AGAIN!**

You might not have guessed it had you seen a dozen students, sitting on luggage, huddled over their laptops, tapping intensely at their keyboards in the Philadelphia Amtrak station late Saturday night. You might not have guessed it if you knew a student had been traveling for 6 days, back from foreign study in New Zealand, to compete with her Team. You might not have guessed it if you heard the persistent cough, or knew of the dozens of papers due the upcoming week, or learned of the trains, planes, and automobiles adventure these students endured. But then again, there is something that is easy to guess or predict - that the Dartmouth Figure Skating Team will go out and achieve beyond expectations - and they did, once again!

With eastern rival, University of Delaware, at its peak, Dartmouth took first place at their eastern qualifying competition on Sunday. Dartmouth's 102 points topped Delaware's 95.5, BU's 74.5, and Cornell's 68.5 in a competition that was too close for comfort. But then again, this sport is not about comfort. It is about rigorous competition in unforgiving ice rinks. It is about staying on your skates and all the while looking confident, strong and beautiful when you're feeling nervous, weak, and ugly.

Sporting four gold medals, captain Nicole Newman '08, accompanied by captain Dan Dittick '08, led the Team to yet another win in the Dartmouth Figure Skating Team's string of victories. There were individual event wins by classmate Hallie Damon '08, Cynthia Chen (PhD student), Tenley Brownwright '10, and Dan Dittrick '08, as well as points added for second through fifth place finishes by Rachel Feder '09, Kate Schmidt '09, Natalie Falsgraf '10, Vanessa Szalapski '10, Rory Grant '11, Jenny Friedman '11, and Alex Mahler-Haug '11. Zoe Dmitrovsky '09 and Julie Corwin '09 helped boost the Team's score to over 100 points.

Its thousands of little details, added together, in a seemingly magical way that have resulted in the Team's ongoing success. Without a defeat since the spring of 2002, the Dartmouth skaters are preparing to defend their National Championship title in Ann Arbor, Michigan on April 5 & 6.