



## 7-TIME ACHA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACHA  
National  
Champions  
2003, 2002  
2001, 2000  
1998, 1990  
1984

National  
Runner-up  
2005, 2004  
1999, 1995  
1993, 1985  
1983

National  
Final Four  
1997, 1996  
1992, 1991  
1988, 1986  
1982

ACHL  
Champions  
1994, 1993

ICHL  
Champions  
1992, 1989

MACHC  
Playoff  
Champions  
1980, 1979

MACHC  
Regular  
Season  
Champions  
1977, 1978  
1979, 1980

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### **#1 ranked, Defending National Champion Illinois Comes to Battle 4th ranked Icers in Rematch of Last Years Title Game**

The No. 4 Penn State Icers (17-4-2) will meet the reigning National Champions-- No. 1 University of Illinois Illini (18-2)-- at home this weekend. The Icers last met the Illini in the 2005 ACHA National Championship, where they were defeated 4-3. Coach Joe Battista, who recently celebrated his 500th win, will be recognized at the game for his accomplishments. The puck is set to drop Friday night (January 13) at 9 p.m. and Saturday (January 14) at 3:30 p.m. at the Penn State Ice Pavilion. Each game can be heard on 970am WBLF and on the internet at [www.FightOnState.com](http://www.FightOnState.com).

"These are huge games for us for a lot of reasons, said Icer Head Coach Joe Battista, "We have unfinished business from last year but more importantly we have a chance to knock off the #1 team in our building and help ourselves in the rankings with Nationals only 7 weeks away. We've got a great rivalry going with Illinois and I am sure all the hockey fans in the area will get their money's worth from this battle."

Since returning from their semester break, the previously undefeated Illini dropped two games to 2nd ranked Ohio University 4-3 and 4-1 in Athens, OH. The Illini are lead in scoring by last year's ACHA Player of the Year Mike Roesch (15 goals, 28 assists) and Johnny Liang (22 goals, 14 assists), and Nick Fabbrini (16 goals, 12 assists). Last Season's First Team All America Goalie Mike DeGeorge has started as goalie 19 out of the team's 20 games with a save percentage of 91.52 percent. Last season the teams were 1-1-1 with PSU winning 2-1 and tying 3-3 at Illinois and the Illini defeating the Icers 4-3 in Chicago at the National tournament.

Penn state is on an eleven-game winning streak, winning their last three games on the road, sweeping the Arizona Desert Classic. The Icers are lead in scoring by sophomore Mike McMullen (22 goals, 24 assists) and freshman Luke DeLorenzo (19 goals, 22 assists). Sophomore Chris Matteo (.912 save %) and Senior Paul Mammola (.915 save %) have been sharing goal-keeping duties.

Ice chips ... A ceremony will be held before Friday night's game to commemorate Coach Battista's 500th victory as Head Coach of the Icers. On Saturday, the first 1,000 fans will receive 2005 National Championship rematch T-shirts. The Icers met the Illini in the National Championship game in 2002 in Laurel Maryland with the Icers prevailing 4-0.