PENN STATE ICE HOCKEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#4 Icers down #1 Illinois in another one-goal win to give Penn State a dozen-straight

Following a sweep of the ASU Desert Classic last weekend, the No. 4 Penn State Nittany Lion Icers stay true to form winning the first game of the weekend series against top-ranked Illinois for its 12th-straight victory in front of a sold-out Greenberg Ice Pavilion on Friday night. The game featured the two teams which played in the ACHA's 2005 National Championship game, won by the Illini 4-3.

The Icers (18-4-2) solely dominated the opening frame which was jump started by its leading scorer, forward Mike McMullen, who ripped a wrist-shot home for his 23rd goal of the season and a 1-0 lead at the 4:53 mark. Assisting on McMullen's power-play goal were forwards Nate Obringer (11) and Luke DeLorenzo (23). Less than five minutes later, Obringer jammed in his 10th goal of the campaign, which would go unassisted for a 2-0 Icer advantage to close out the first period.

The Fighting Illini (18-3) showcased its flashiness on offense just 41 seconds into the second period, as forward Kevin Wicklin cut the Icers' lead in half, 2-1, on his fourth goal of the year, which was assisted by forward Mike Roesch (29). Penn State would answer back thanks to defenseman Steve Thurston (2), who was assisted by Obringer (13) at the 7:53 mark to give PSU a 3-1 lead. Illinois forward Johnny Liang scored an unassisted goal for his team leading 23rd goal of the year to downsize Penn State's lead to 3-2. UI forward Andrew Lubesnick scored the equalizer and his sixth of the year off assists from forwards Joey Resch (12) and Marshall Chubirka to knot it a three at the 9:50 mark. But freshman scoring-sensation DeLorenzo soon scored two lightning fast goals (48 seconds apart) to push his total to 21 on the season; his first was a power-play goal assisted by forward Frank Berry (17) and defenseman Brendan Martin (10) at the 12:44 mark. Assisting his second goal was defenseman Matt Wallace (4) and forward Teague Willits-Kelley (2) as 6:28 remained. Before the second period could come to a close, UI's Resch scored his 12th of the year with help from Chubirka (7) as 3:11 lingered on the clock.

The third period concluded scoreless but the Icers skated away victorious, with goalie Paul Mammola earning his eighth win of the season (8-2-2). Mammola saved 14-of-18 shots, while UI goalie Mike DeGeorge, who played the first 40 minutes, stopped 15-of-20 shots. Goalie Andy Sundt played the third period for Illinois and saved all five shots faces. The Icers went a perfect 2-for-2 on the power play, while the Fighting Illini went 1-for-5. Penn State served 10 minutes in the box on five penalties, while Illinois spent four minutes on two penalties.

Penn State will play host to Illinois on Saturday (Jan. 14) afternoon at 3:30 p.m. at the Greenberg Ice Pavilion. The first 1,000 fans will receive 2005 National Championship rematch t-shirts.