



PENN STATE ICE HOCKEY

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First and Only: Icers Win Inaugural ESCHL Championship, McMullen Named MVP

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – The No. 3 ranked Penn State Icers are nothing if not resilient. And now, they have an ESCHL title to prove it.

Just one week after being swept by No. 4 Delaware in Newark, Penn State (31-3-4, 20-2-0 ESCHL) exacted revenge with a convincing 8-3 win in Sunday's ESCHL Championship Game.

Mike McMullen, who scored three goals and an assist in the playoffs, was named tournament MVP.

The win came one day after a scare, as the Icers scraped together a narrow 3-2 victory over Navy, the tournament host, in the semifinals for the right to face the Fightin' Blue Hens.

"We really came together as a team today," said head coach Scott Balboni. "We had a great team effort, 21 guys played great games and played with a lot of heart. [McMullen] played great and some key guys stepped up for us."

"It's obviously great to win in [the league's] first year of existence," said assistant coach Matt Bertani. "It's a great win, especially since we lost to [Delaware] last weekend."

On Saturday, Penn State's contest with Navy was decided when McMullen scored his second goal of the game on the power play with just 16 seconds left—in the first period. The goal broke a 2-2 tie, and both teams failed to find the net again.

Lukas DeLorenzo also scored for the Icers, and added an assist. Tim O'Brien also scored two points, and Nick Signet made 24 saves for the victory.

The championship game looked like it would be a shootout, as both teams found the net in the first 69 seconds of the game. But after building a 4-2 lead going into the final period, the Icers put up a four-goal period to seal the game and the ESCHL crown.

Signet made 36 saves for the win. Jaime Zimmer and Frank Berry each had three points apiece.

The Icers return home on Feb. 22 for their final regular season game of the season, a Friday night showdown with No. 16 SUNY-Stony Brook. It is also Senior Night, as seven Icers will be playing their final games at the Ice Pavilion.

For more information, visit www.pennstatehockey.com, or the Penn State Team Sports Ice Hockey blog at community.centredaily.com.

ACHA National Champions 1984, 1990, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
National Runner-Up 1983, 1985, 1993, 1995, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
