



PENN STATE ICE HOCKEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Third-seeded Icers to battle familiar foe in first round, seeking ninth-straight ACHA title game appearance

University Park, Pa.: Monday, February 27, 2006

The opening round of the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) national tournament is scheduled to take place Thursday (March 2) and will continue through Sunday (March 5) at the Ice Line Arena in West Chester, Pa. The Penn State Icers are heading in as the No. 3 seed, and will gear up against a heated long-time rival, No. 14 Delaware, at 1:00 p.m. on opening day. The four-day tournament is a 16-team, single-elimination, which is the second consecutive year the tournament will be held in this format.

PENN STATE: The Icers finished its regular season 24-9-2, which included an impressive win on the road against NCAA Division I foe Robert Morris University and a 17-game winning streak from Nov. 12 – Jan. 28, 2006. Penn State is led in scoring by freshman Luke DeLorenzo (37 goals, 33 assists, 70 points), who broke the single season goal scoring record for freshman held by Jason Dickey since 1997. Other top scorers include Mike McMullen (27 goals, 38 assists, 65 points) and Frank Berry (21 goals, 22 assists, 43 points). Penn State's goal-tending duties are split between Chris Matteo (12-3-0, .900 save percentage) and Paul Mammola (10-6-2, .903); both goalies have two shutouts apiece.

DELAWARE: The Icers' last match-up against the Blue Hens ended in a sweep, with Penn State winning both games (6-3, 6-2). Delaware is led in scoring by Pete Gross (21 goals, 16 assists, 37 points), Kevin Neeld (11 goals, 21 assists, 32 points) and Howard Kosel (13 goals, 14 assists, 27 points). UD goalie Jimmy Depfer leads the team with 11 wins, but #1 goalie Mike Verdi is back after a lengthy injury and is 9-5 with a 2.38 GAA and has a 91.9 save percentage on the season. The Icers beat the Blue Hens in the 2001 national title bout. Delaware's assistant coach, John O'Connor, was a former Icer and played on the 1990 championship squad. This storied rivalry is owned by Penn State with a 59-9-3 all-time record, which dates back to the 1973-74 season.

QUARTERFINALS: Should Penn State prevail, they will be facing the winner of the No. 6 Weber State v No. 11 Duquesne Dukes game, which will be Friday at 1:00 p.m. Duquesne has made some late coaching revisions, and the team is now lead by assistant coach Mike Sargo, the interim head coach, after Tim Bosik stepped down as team leader. Penn State garners a 20-1-1 all-time record, which dates back to the 1939-40 season, against the Dukes. The lone tie came this season back on Oct. 28, when the two squads finished the game stuck at three, which was followed by a 7-4 road win for the Icers on Oct. 30. Penn State has never played Weber State (20-8-2).

DUQUESNE: The Dukes capped off a 21-7-1 campaign and a second-place finish in the Eastern College Hockey Association. Duquesne has three forwards ranked in the ACHA's top 40 in points; Team-leading point scorer Mike Papciak (third) had an impressive season with 68 points tallied by 31 goals and 37 assists. Mike Heath (tied-21st) racked up 29 goals and 23 assists for 52 points; he also is tied-second in the ACHA with eight game-clinching goals. Paolo DiPasquale (33rd) accumulated 23 goals and 22 assists totaling 45 points. Goalie Clint Hazen has not guarded the net since Jan. 28, when the Dukes lost, 2-1, on the road against No. 2 Ohio University in sudden death overtime. The six-foot five-inch Hazen, has a 12-7-1 record this year, with a save percentage of 91.5 and a 3.04 GAA; he also has two assists.

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



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WEBER STATE: The Wildcats have three players ranked in the top half of the ACHA's scoring list, they are: forwards, Eric Milliron (41st), who is the team-leader in points (42) and assists (26), and has 16 goals; Ian Soldano (61st), leads Weber in goals (24) and has 16 assists contributed to 37 points; he also has five game-winning goals, which is tied-13th in the league; and David Lorenzen (t-186th) completed his season with eight goals and 12 assists for 20 points. Goalie Kyler Gover finished his season with a 17-6-2 record with a 2.26 GAA and a save percentage of 92.6. Defenseman Aaron Dufford, who tallied 20 points on one goal and 19 assists, is the grandson of John Dufford, who played for the Icers' varsity team from 1939-1942 and is a member of the Icer Hockey Hall of Fame.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2006							
FIRST ROUND GAMES							
Game #1	First Round	10:00 AM	Rink #1	#4 Illinois	⊖	vs	#13 Robert Morris (IL) ⊖
Game #2	First Round	11:00 AM	Rink #4	#5 Iowa State	⊖	vs	#12 Oklahoma
Game #3	First Round	12:30 PM	Rink #3	#6 Weber State	⊖	vs	#11 Duquesne
Game #4	First Round	1:00 PM	Rink #1	#3 Penn State	⊖	vs	#14 Delaware
Game #5	First Round	2:00 PM	Rink #4	#7 Lindenwood	⊖	vs	#10 Arizona
Game #6	First Round	3:30 PM	Rink #3	#8 Arizona State	⊖	vs	#9 Michigan-Dearborn
Game #7	First Round	4:00 PM	Rink #1	#2 Ohio	⊖	vs	#15 Mercyhurst
Game #8	First Round	7:00 PM	Rink #1	#1 Rhode Island	⊖	vs	#16 West Chester

To view the complete national tournament bracket, go to:

<http://www.achahockey.org/league.php?scriptName=LEAGUEINFO&leagueID=7711&leagueInfoID=25974>

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