



PENN STATE ICE HOCKEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **ICERS COACH BATTISTA TO BE INDUCTED INTO PENNSYLVANIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

University Park, PA – October 13, 2004

Joe Battista, head coach of the Penn State Men's ice hockey team, will be inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame – East Boro's Chapter this Thursday, October 14. The ceremony will take place at the Edgewood Country Club in Pittsburgh, where Battista will be one of ten inductees.

This season is Battista's eighteenth as head coach of the Icers, with his resume including a combined winning percentage of .808, no losing seasons, a 462-103-22 record and a record 6 ACHA National Titles ('90, '98, '00, '01, '02, '03). During his tenure as head coach, his teams have also won 14 Nittany Lion Invitational Championships, three Chicago Classic Championships, two ICHL titles ('89 & '92), two ACHL titles ('93 & '94) and the Big Ten ACHA Tournament in 2003.

Battista has been named ACHA Division I Coach of the Year for the 1999-2000 and 2001-2002 seasons, as well as being selected by Blue-White Illustrated as Penn State's Coach of the Year for 2002. He was also selected by USA Hockey to be the head coach for Team USA at the World University Games held January 16-26, 2003 in Tarvisio, Italy.

Battista was also a standout defenseman for the Icers as an undergraduate at Penn State. During his career (1978 to 1982), he was a two-time MACHC First Team All-Star and was the team captain and MVP during his senior year. As a student, Battista was the President of the Ice Hockey Club and V.P. of Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society. He was an original member of the Lion Ambassadors, a volunteer for Second Mile, and graduated with a degree in marketing in 1983.

A Pittsburgh native, Battista attended Penn Hills High School where he played baseball, ice hockey and ran cross country. He was a 3-time captain of the Penn Hills hockey team and helped lead them to a pair of WPIHL Sectional Championships. He was the defensive MVP of the 1977 Dapper Dan All-Star Classic and a first team All-State defenseman his junior year. He was inducted into the Penn Hills Sports Hall of Fame in 1996.

After college, Battista was hired on full-time as Director of Amateur Hockey Development and Assistant to the Marketing Director for the Pittsburgh Penguins. He also coached the Junior Penguins, a 17- to 19-year old travel team, to three Mid-American championships, along with two third-place finishes at the USA Hockey National Championships. He has served USA Hockey as a Coaching Certification Instructor for the past 20 years and earned the USA Hockey Master Coach Award in 1987.

After his stint with the Penguins, Coach Battista joined the staff at Kent State, then an NCAA Division I team, as a graduate assistant coach. He then joined the hockey program at Culver Military Academy, a national prep school powerhouse, as an assistant coach before taking over at Penn State for the 1987-88 season.

Along with his coaching duties, Battista is also the coordinator of the East Area Locker Room Complex and a consultant to the Penn State Ice Pavilion. In addition, he directs the highly successful PSU summer hockey camp.

Battista resides in State College with his wife, Heidi (PSU BS 81, MS 83), a senior hydrogeologist with Meiser and Earl Consultants, and their three children Brianna (12), Jonathon (10), and Ryan (4).

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