



PRESS RELEASE

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TOP LEAGUES TO SWAP OFFICIALS ***Jeff Bunyon (HEA) and Bill Mason (WCHA) trade dates***

As part of an ongoing project to develop officials across league boundaries, the Hockey East Association and the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) will once again swap individual referees for a series of upcoming non-conference games. This is the fifth consecutive season that the WCHA and Hockey East have shared officials in this manner.

Bill Mason of the WCHA will head east this weekend to officiate Clarkson at UNH on Friday, followed by Clarkson at UMass Lowell on Saturday. On the weekend of December 17-18, veteran Hockey East referee Jeff Bunyon will officiate a two-game series featuring Canisius at North Dakota. Each of the games will involve three leagues, each non-conference game being officiated by a referee from a third conference. Local assistant referees will be used at each site.

“We have been completely pleased with the results of this ongoing program,” said Hockey East Commissioner Joe Bertagna. “It has provided insight for both leagues and has increased the opportunity for development of our respective officials.”

“This program provides coaches and players a chance to see how other leagues operate,” said Greg Shepherd, Supervisor of Officials for the WCHA. “That has proven very beneficial at national tournament time.”

Bunyon, in his 14th year as a Hockey East official, has worked numerous Hockey East and Beanpot championship games and represented Hockey East in the swap of officials two seasons ago. Mason is in his 10th year with the WCHA and 19th year of officiating overall. He has worked both the WCHA Final Five and the CHA Final Five.

The Hockey East Association is a nine-team, Division-I men’s college hockey conference, with offices based in Wakefield, Mass. Founded in 1983, the league recently celebrated its 20th anniversary season, and has won four NCAA championships in the past 12 years. The conference also sponsors a six-team women’s league, founded in 2001, which will expand to eight Division-I programs in 2005-06.

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association is a 10-team, Division-I men’s college hockey conference, with offices based in Denver, Colo. Founded in 1951, the league celebrated its 50th anniversary season in 2001-02, and has won 34 NCAA championships overall since its founding. The conference also sponsors an eight-team women’s league, founded in 1999, which has won five consecutive national championships.

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