

Noah Smith
Director of Media Relations
Hockey East Association
Phone: (781) 245-2122
Fax: (781) 245-2492
nsmith@HockeyEastOnline.com

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

**PRESS
RELEASE**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OCTOBER 27, 2003

FRIARS WILL WEAR CHAMPIONSHIP BADGE ***Star patch to identify regular season, tournament champs***

The Women's Hockey East Association will identify its defending regular season and tournament champions with a special patch each season, the league has announced.

The regular season winner will be designated with a small silver star affixed to the jersey of every player on that team during the following season. The tournament champions will wear a gold star patch.

The Providence College Friars, the champions of both the regular season and the postseason tournament in Hockey East's inaugural season, will receive the honor of wearing a combined patch, a gold star with a silver outline. The Friars wore the patch for the first time in last Thursday's game against Northeastern, a 1-1 tie, the opener in 2003-04 league play.

The patches are designed to serve as a season-long honor for the defending champions and as a special motivation for other teams trying to unseat them. Hockey East Commissioner Joe Bertagna suggested the idea to league coaches having observed the custom during his playing days in Europe.

"The team on which I played in Italy was the defending league champion and our jerseys were adorned with a red, white and green shield, called the 'scudetto'," said Bertagna. "They referred to the 'scudetto' like one would refer to the pennant in baseball over here. It was a great source of pride to wear that shield and to take the ice each night knowing that you were still the champion as long as that was on your jersey."