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**WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

**PRESS  
RELEASE**



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## **ALL-STAR GAME COACHING STAFF SELECTED** ***UConn's Linstad to lead Hockey East against U.S. Olympic Team***

Hockey East is pleased to announce the selection of University of Connecticut head coach Heather Linstad as the head coach of a one-time Hockey East All-Star team that will face-off against the U.S. Olympic Team on December 11 as part of the Hilton Family Skate to 2006 Tour. Hockey East, in conjunction with USA Hockey and the University of New Hampshire, will host the unique All-Star game at UNH's Whittemore Center.

A 1989 graduate of Providence College, Linstad was conference Player of the Year in her senior season. She started her coaching career with Northeastern in 1992-93 and racked up 161 career victories there (including a league title in 1997) before moving on to become UConn's first-ever women's ice hockey varsity head coach in 2000-01. She steered UConn to an 11-5-4 record in Hockey East play last year, advancing the Huskies all the way to the championship game.

Joining her behind the Hockey East bench as assistants on the team will be Providence College head coach Bob Deraney and Boston College head coach Tom Mutch, one of Ben Smith's assistants on the U.S. Women's Olympic Team that won gold in the 1998 Olympics. Erin Whitten Hamlen, a 1993 graduate of UNH and now an assistant coach at her alma mater, rounds out the Hockey East coaching staff. Whitten Hamlen was a standout goaltender at UNH from 1989 to 1993 and on Team USA's World Championships entries from 1992 to 1997.

The top players from each of the eight Hockey East teams will be selected to represent the league in this All-Star-style competition against the 2006 U.S. Olympic Team, which is loaded with America's best at every position. Included on Team USA's roster will be former Northeastern goaltender Chanda Gunn, a three-time Patty Kazmaier Award nominee, and former UNH sniper Tricia Dunn. Dunn won the gold medal as a member of Team USA at the 1998 Olympics and was also on the silver-winning squad in 2002.

Face-off for the game is slated for 2:00 p.m and will be televised live by Comcast CN8 in New England and in selected other regions. The All-Star roster and ticket information for the event will be announced soon.

The Women's Hockey East Association is an eight-team, Division-I college hockey conference, with offices based in Wakefield, Mass. Charter members UNH, Northeastern and Providence combined to win 15 ECAC conference championships prior to the new league's inaugural season of 2002-03.

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