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WOMEN'S LEAGUE

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 24, 2007

LEAGUE REPRESENTED BY 15 AT FESTIVAL 12 current and former players to showcase skills at Lake Placid

The Women's Hockey East Association will have solid representation during the 2007 USA Hockey Women's National Festival next month in Lake Placid, NY, with 15 current or former players, coaches and staff members in the mix.

Boston College, which came within an overtime goal of reaching the NCAA finals this past spring, led the Hockey East parade with six selections. The Eagles will be represented by goaltender Molly Schaus (Natick, MA), defenseman Maggie Taverna (Howell, NJ), and forwards Meghan Fardlemann (Lansing, KS), Kelli Stack (Brooklyn Heights, OH), Allie Thunstrom (Maplewood, MN), and Becky Zavisza (Suffield, CT). Maria Hutsick (Southborough, MA), the athletic trainer for the Boston University Terriers, was named to the team staff as well.

New Hampshire, which won the Hockey East regular season and tournament titles, placed two players on the festival roster, defenseman Kacey Bellamy (Westfield, MA) and forward Sam Faber (Mount Sinai, NY). UNH Associate Head Coach Erin Whitten Hamlen (Hampton, NH) will also attend as an Under-18 Team assistant coach.

Bob Deraney (Shrewsbury, MA), the head coach of the Providence College Friars, will also serve as an assistant to the U-18 squad. Three former Friars – defenseman Kelli Halcisak (Grosse Ile, MI) and forwards Karen Thatcher (Douglas, MA) and Rush Zimmerman (Grosse Pointe, MI) – were named to the festival squad, as was former Northeastern and Olympic team goaltender Chanda Gunn (Huntington Beach, CA).

On Monday, USA Hockey announced the 66 players selected to participate in the festival, which will be held on Aug. 14-21. Participants will be divided into three teams (Red, White and Blue) for daily practices and games. Team White is comprised of the 22 players who will go on to represent the United States as part of the U.S. Women's Under-18 Select Team during a three-game series with Canada in Ottawa (Aug. 23-26). Meanwhile, Teams Blue and Red include 27 players in the Under-22 range, along with 18 post-NCAA athletes. The 27 younger players will be vying to be among the 22 selected for the U.S. Women's Under-22 Select Team that will host Canada for a three-game series at the Olympic Center from Aug. 23-26. Bellamy, Schaus, Taverna, Faber, Fardlemann, Stack, Thunstrom, and Zavisza are all trying out for the 2007 Under-22 Select Team. Stack, Thunstrom, and Faber were first-team Hockey East All-Stars this past season, while Schaus, Bellamy, Taverna and Zavisza all earned second-team accolades. Stack was also the league's Player of the Year.

All games and practices will take place in the Olympic Center complex in Lake Placid at either the USA Rink or the 1980 Rink Herb Brooks Arena.

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