



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mark Laingen Named Head Coach of Cyclone Hockey's Division III Team

AMES, Iowa- The Cyclone Hockey team continues to expand and improve its program, with the recent move of the Cyclones Men's Division III JV team from the American Collegiate Hockey Association's (ACHA) Independent League, to the prestigious Division III North Central Collegiate Hockey Association (NCCHA). The team will be led by former Illinois State University Division II Coach **Mark Laingen** (Geneseo, Ill.). Laingen began his tenure in the hockey world first serving for four years on the Board of Directors in the Quad City Hockey Association (QCHA) in Davenport, Iowa. While with the QCHA, Laingen contributed to many of the youth programs, including the Learn to Skate programs, and coaching at Squirt, Bantam Select, Bantam Travel, and Midget Travel teams.

Laingen began his collegiate coaching career in 2006 as Assistant Coach of the Illinois State Icebirds. During the 2006-2007 season, Laingen helped lead the Icebirds to the Mid-American Collegiate Hockey Association (MACCHA) Silver Division Championship, as well as the Mid-West Collegiate Hockey League (MCHL) Championship. The Icebirds finished the season with an impressive 31-2-4 overall record and went undefeated in the MCHL with a 12-0 record. At the conclusion of the 2006-2007 season, the Icebirds expanded to include a Varsity Redbirds and Junior Varsity Icebirds team, where Laingen then accepted the task of head coach of the JV team. He led the Icebirds to a regular season first place finish—which the Icebirds shared with league rival Loyola—and to a heartbreaking 6-5 loss to Loyola in the league Championship game.

Laingen is anxious to take on the former ACHA JV Cyclone hockey team and feels the move for the team to NCCHA will benefit and only continue to improve the program at Iowa State.

"I definitely think that [the move] was a positive move," said Laingen. "The schedule will be a lot more challenging with good team opponents to play and with a roster of returning veterans and incoming freshman, I have no doubt we as a team will be successful."