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PRESS RELEASE

Delaware Sports Commission & UofD Awarded Sports Bid
ACHA Men's Division 1 National Championships Come to Delaware in 2011

Dover, Del. *(March 8, 2010)* – The Delaware Sports Commission (DSC) and the University of Delaware (UD) have been awarded the bid to host the 2011 American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) Men's Division 1 National Championships. The five-day ice hockey tournament to be held from March 5-9, 2011, is expected to generate an economic impact of over 650,000 dollars including overnight accommodations, food, transportation, shopping, and miscellaneous expenses.

"Hosting large sporting events draws out-of-state visitors to Delaware which has a positive effect on the economic climate and rallies the community," says Governor Jack Markell. "As tourism traffic increases, retail businesses and service providers will prosper in the State."

The ACHA is a collegiate governing body comprised of five divisions and 421 teams nationwide encompassing every state except Hawaii. "With Delaware's central location, easy accessibility, and University of Delaware's first-class ice arenas, Delaware is ideally suited to host the ACHA Men's Division 1 National Championships," claims Brian Moran, ACHA Men's Division 1 Commissioner. "We wanted to bring this tournament to the East Coast, and Delaware is the perfect fit! Since we had a successful experience when the 1999 tournament was held in Delaware, we wanted to come back."

The University of Delaware has a history of hosting major sports events including figure skating events and hockey tournaments. More recently, the University of Delaware hosted the 2010 U.S. Figure Skating Eastern Sectional Championships. Additionally, the 2010 Collegiate Figure Skating Championships will be held at UD on April 17 and 18, 2010.

"This sports event is representative of the caliber of tournaments that the Delaware Sports Commission is actively pursuing for Delaware," says Matt Sparks, Executive Director of the Delaware Sports Commission. "The Commission's priority is to bring more out-of-state players to Delaware, predominantly for national and regional amateur and collegiate events. We are excited about giving fans the opportunity to see competitive hockey and are proud to partner with the ACHA and the University of Delaware with its proven success in hosting major sports events."

The Delaware Sports Commission was established to attract large and small sporting events to Delaware to benefit the sports industry and community and to positively impact Delaware's economy. The Delaware Sports Commission also assists with the retention and growth of existing sports events.

Additionally, Delaware was recently selected as one of the top sports-friendly destinations in the nation and has been recognized for its excellence in service, innovative approaches, and dedication to sports by Readers of *SportsEvents* Magazine. Delaware is considered by sports event rights holders as one of the "places to watch" in 2010 to hold sporting events.

The Delaware Sports Commission, 99 Kings Highway in Dover, Del., promotes and recruits single-day and multi-day regional and national events and supports the growth of existing sports events for Delaware. For more information, visit the official Delaware Sports Commission website at www.delawaresports.org or call (302) 672-6832.

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