



# NORTHEAST-10 CONFERENCE

## Media Relations

### **For Immediate Release**

November 4, 2005

#### **Saint Anselm College Tabbed Favorite in 2005 Northeast-10 Men's Ice Hockey Preseason Poll**

South Easton, Mass. – The Hawks of Saint Anselm College are the preseason favorites to win the Northeast-10 Conference Men's Ice Hockey Championship according to the pre-season coaches' poll.

The Hawks received 35 points including five first place votes, edging second pick Saint Michael's College. The Purple Knights took 30 points and the remaining first place bid.

Southern New Hampshire University took third in the poll with 24 points, while Assumption College took fourth, Stonehill College was picked fifth, and Franklin Pierce was picked sixth.

The NE-10 sponsors an ice hockey championship for the third year this season. It is the only NCAA Division II hockey championship in the nation.

In the 2005 Northeast-10 Ice Hockey Championship, Saint Anselm defeated Southern New Hampshire by a count of 7-3 in the title game to clinch its first ever Northeast-10 Championship. In the brief two-year history of the Northeast-10 sponsored championship, Saint Michael's claimed the first title in 2003-2004 before the Hawks captured the championship last year.

Prior to the Northeast-10 Ice Hockey Championship, the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) had sponsored a Division II Championship tournament. The ECAC began sponsoring a tournament for the programs when the other Division III leagues that these teams competed in received an automatic qualifier to the NCAA Division III national tournament, thus making the Division II programs ineligible to compete in their respective conference tournaments.

While competing for the NE-10 title in late February and early March, the teams will retain their ECAC affiliations. Saint Anselm and Saint Michael's remain affiliated with the ECAC East, while Southern New Hampshire, Stonehill, Assumption and Franklin Pierce remain affiliated with the ECAC Northeast.

The season opens November 5 as Assumption visits Lebanon Valley. The first NE-10 match up takes place November 9 when Southern New Hampshire travels to Franklin Pierce.

The Northeast-10 tournament opens February 25 with quarterfinal matches, followed by the NE-10 semifinal March 1 and the championship March 4.

Sponsoring 23 championship sports and 15 full-time members, the Northeast-10 is the second largest NCAA Division II athletic conference in the nation and sponsors the most championships of any Division II conference.

#### **2005-06 Northeast-10 Men's Ice Hockey Preseason Coaches Poll**

<b>Place</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>2004-05 NE-10 (Overall)</b>
1.	Saint Anselm (5)	35	5-0-0 (18-8-1)
2.	Saint Michael's (1)	30	4-1-0 (8-16-2)
3.	Southern New Hampshire	24	3-2-0 (18-7-3)
4.	Assumption	17	2-3-0 (12-12-3)
5.	Stonehill	12	0-5-0 (8-15-0)
6.	Franklin Pierce	8	1-4-0 (6-16-2)

(First place votes in parentheses.)