



NORTHEAST-10 CONFERENCE

Media Relations

For Immediate Release

March 4, 2004

Stonehill Is Overwhelming Favorite in Northeast-10 Women's Lacrosse Preseason Poll

South Easton, Mass. – Four time defending tournament champion and defending NCAA Division II national champion Stonehill College is the favorite to repeat according to the 2004 Northeast-10 Coaches women's lacrosse preseason poll.

The top-ranked Lady Chieftains, who have won or shared every regular season championship since the Northeast-10 began sponsoring women's lacrosse in 1999, were the top pick of 11 programs with 121 points and took all 11 first place votes. Stonehill posted a 17-2 overall record in 2003 including a perfect 9-0 NE-10 regular season mark, earned a second straight invitation to the NCAA tournament and won the national title over Longwood (Va.) after finishing as national runner-up in 2002.

The Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) has ranked Stonehill number one in its Division II preseason poll.

2003 NE-10 tournament runner-up Bryant College was picked to finish second in the poll with 103 points. Rounding out the top five, Saint Michael's College was picked third with 101 points, followed by Bentley College with 87 points and Assumption College with 77 points, respectively.

Merrimack College, Franklin Pierce College, Saint Anselm College, American International College, Southern Connecticut State University and first-year program Southern New Hampshire University round out the poll.

The season opens March 9 when Stonehill faces Longwood in a rematch of last year's thrilling national final, which Stonehill won 9-8 in the final seconds of the game. A number of teams begin their schedule in the next week.

The six-team Northeast-10 tournament begins April 28 with quarterfinal matches, followed by the NE-10 Final Four May 1-2 at the site of the regular season champion.

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.

2003 Northeast-10 Women's Lacrosse Preseason Coaches Poll

Place	Team	Points	2003 Record
1.	Stonehill (11)	121	17-2 (NCAA Champion)
2.	Bryant	103	12-6
3.	Saint Michael's	101	7-6
4.	Bentley	87	9-5
5.	Assumption	77	5-7
6.	Merrimack	60	4-10
7.	Franklin Pierce	56	5-9
8.	Saint Anselm	49	4-9
9.	American International	32	1-11
10.	Southern Connecticut	24	1-10
11.	Southern New Hampshire	16	First season.

(First place votes in parentheses.)