2002-03 – A Historic Season To Remember

You only have one shot so don’t miss your chance because an opportunity comes once in a lifetime. Those words by singer Eminem took on added significance for the 25 members of the 2002-03 Ferris State hockey team as the Bulldogs caught the nation’s attention by registering their best season ever in the program’s 25th-year anniversary as a NCAA Division I member.

Picked to finish ninth in the preseason Central Collegiate Hockey Association polls and having finished no higher than sixth place once during the last 20 years, FSU proceeded to compile a school-best 31-10-1 overall record while winning its first-ever CCHA Regular-Season Championship title with a first-place 22-5-1 league mark.

Under the 2002-03 CCHA Coach of the Year Bob Daniels, Ferris State also earned its first-ever bid to the NCAA-I Championship Tournament and owned the distinction of being the nation’s first team to reach the 30-win plateau.

Other season highlights included a school-record 12-game winning streak and an appearance in the championship game of the CCHA Super 6 Tournament for the first time in 23 seasons.

Senior left wing Chris Kunitz, who’s pictured with head coach Bob Daniels (left) and assistant coach Drew Famulak (right) at the NCAA Frozen Four Championship Tournament in Buffalo, N.Y., was among three Hobey Baker Memorial Award Hat Trick finalists as the nation’s top collegiate player in NCAA Division I.

Kunitz was also honored as the 2002-03 Central Collegiate Hockey Association’s (CCHA) Player of the Year and became the first Ferris State skater to receive the award. Kunitz was a first-team All-America selection by the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA).

A four-time CCHA Offensive Player of the Week selection, Kunitz led the CCHA in points, goals, assists, and plus/minus. He set a FSU single-season record with 79 points on 35 goals and 44 assists in 52 contests for the 2002-03 campaign.