For the Ferris State University men's ice hockey program, expectations and goals for the 2003-04 season and future campaigns will never be the same. One can attribute the bar being raised by last season's team, which registered the most successful campaign in the program's 25-year NCAA Division I history with a 31-10-1 overall record. In the process, the nationally-ranked Bulldogs also claimed their first-ever Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA) Regular-Season Championship title with a first-place 22-5-1 league mark and advanced to the CCHA Super Six Tournament Championship game for the first time since 1979-80. If that wasn't enough, FSU reached the championship game of the NCAA Championship Tournament's West Regional in its first-ever NCAA Tourney appearance.

Ferris State also earned the distinction of being the nation's first team in 2002-03 to reach the 30-win plateau as the Bulldogs recorded the third-highest winning percentage (.750) nationally. The national scene also showed FSU placing among the NCAA's top 10 in four other statistical categories—second in both scoring offense (4.48 avg.) and scoring margin (+2.10) and seventh in both scoring defense (2.38 avg.) and penalty-killing percentage (.853).

"It was certainly a noteworthy season not only for our program and fans but also transpired into one of college hockey's biggest stories," said FSU head coach Mike Brown. "We're deeper at the forward position than a season ago, is arguably one of the nation's best at his position. He also generated five multi-goal game efforts and placed 13th nationally in goals for the 2003-04 season and figures to be a future contributor.

**FORWARDS**

**RETURNING: 10; LOST: 4; NEWCOMERS: 5**

Despite the loss of All-American Chris Kunitz along with his league-leading goals (35), assists (44) and points (79), there remains some familiar faces that will continue thwarting opposing goaltenders. Juniors Jeff Legue (24-35-59) and Derek Nesbitt (20-35-53), linemates of Kunitz, will lead the way after posting impressive career-high offensive numbers. A '02-03 CCHA Second-Team pick, Legue tied for the eighth-highest single-season scoring output in FSU history while Nesbitt, a honorable mention all-league selection, recorded a 15th-place tying point total among the Bulldogs' all-time season point producers. Legue, a center, was a +35 and his 19 multi-point games were second best on the squad. He also generated five multi-goal game efforts and placed 13th nationally in goals for the 2003-04 season and figures to be a future contributor.

As a result of last season's success, expectations are naturally high as the Bulldogs reload for another CCHA title run and a NCAA Tourney bid.

"We're enjoying the attention of being a nationally-recognized program," said Daniels, the 2002-03 American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) Division I and CCHA Coach of the Year. "But now it's time for us to get focused on building off of last season's success. I believe we have the confidence and ability to be among the league's upper echelon teams this season."