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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **Missouri State Ice Bears headed to Nationals**

Springfield's own Missouri State Ice Bears will make their debut appearance at the American Collegiate Hockey Association's (ACHA) Men's Div. 2 National championship in March, following a weekend regional tournament in Chicago.

It's the first time the team has made it to nationals in its 13 years with the ACHA. The Ice Bears will be one of 16 teams competing for a championship crown March 21- 25 at the New England Sports Center in Marlborough, Mass.

The No. 7 ranked Ice Bears advanced after a pair of wins at the ACHA Central Regional Tournament in Rolling Meadows, Ill., with a 4-3 victory in overtime against Southern Illinois University 6 Edwardsville Feb. 22 and a 2-0 win over Robert Morris University Feb. 23. The Ice Bears currently have an overall record of 23 wins, 7 losses, 1 tie and 4 OTL.

"What a special moment in Ice Bears history," said Stan Melton, Ice Bears general manager. "In the 13-year history of the organization, this is a tremendous accomplishment and a great feeling to finally get that trip to the national tournament."

The Ice Bears have played at the Springfield-Greene County Park Board's Mediacom Ice Park since their beginning.

"We are proud for the Ice Bears to call the Mediacom Ice Park home," said Jeff Cumley, Jordan Valley Park Manager. "Their strong leadership and the players' hard work and dedication helped them win their way to Nationals. We couldn't be more happy for them and we wish them the best of luck in Boston."

For more information on the Missouri State Ice Bears, call Stan Melton, Ice Bears General Manager, at 417-887-9762; or Steve Casson, Ice Bears Director of Broadcasting and Media, at 417-880-8052; or visit [www.missouristatehockey.com](http://www.missouristatehockey.com).

For more information on Mediacom Ice Park, call 417-866-7444; or call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.