

## **Minnesota High School Hockey Well Represented at NCAA Frozen Four**

Despite the fact that there are no Minnesota collegiate teams at this year's Men's Hockey Frozen Four, there is no shortage of Minnesota high school hockey graduates to cheer for! Mike Lundin of Maine never played one period of junior hockey. The remaining players participated in junior hockey only after they completed their high school careers and graduated from their respective communities.

University of North Dakota's star players **TJ Oshie (Warroad)** **Chris VandeVelde (Moorhead)** and **Brian Lee (Moorhead)** finished their high school careers in the Minnesota State High School League. Oshie starred for the 2005 Class A State champions from Warroad. And Brian Lee and Chris VandeVelde led Moorhead high school to two state finals in their junior and senior seasons. *Brian Lee 2005 Mr. Hockey Award Winner*. Also playing a prominent role with North Dakota are **Scott Foyt (Blaine)**; Foyt was a state champion at Blaine High School in 2000 and **Michael Forney (Thief River Falls)**. Forney is a 2006 graduate who led the Prowlers to the state tournament last year.

**Carl Sneep (Brainerd)** and **Joe Adams (Breck School)** will compete for the Boston College Eagles. Adams was member of Breck's last state championship team.

**Mike Lundin (Apple Valley)** and **Brian Plaszcz (Eastview)** play defense for the Maine Black Bears.

**Tyler Howells (Academy of Holy Angels)** now stars for the Michigan State Spartans. Howells was a star performer on Holy Angels 2002 state championship team.

Clearly the quality of high school hockey in Minnesota continues to thrive! The representation of Minnesota high school hockey is especially significant in that, other than North Dakota, Michigan State, Boston College, and Maine largely draw their players from the East Coast or the Michigan area.

### **NHL Draft**

Of the 27 players in the Frozen Four who have been drafted by the NHL, **Brian Lee** and **TJ Oshie** are #1 and #2 respectively. Both of these players were drafted in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the NHL Draft. **Carl Sneep** is #6 on the list having been selected in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round by the Pittsburgh Penguins in the 2006 draft. **Chris VandeVelde** and **Mike Lundin** were chosen in the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the draft. VandeVelde in 2005 and Lundin in 2004. All of these players were drafted out of high school.

### **Minnesota High School Coaching Alumni in the Frozen Four**

Cary Eades is an assistant coach with the University of North Dakota. UND is making its third straight Frozen Four appearance. Eades was the head coach at Warroad High School from 1994 to 2004. During that time he led Warroad to 7 state tournament appearances

and won three state championships. Eades was the *John Mariucci High School Coach of the Year* in 1996.

### **Minnesota State Tournament Connection**

Seven of the nine players representing high school hockey skated on the biggest prep sports stage in high school sport. **TJ Oshie (Warroad), Joe Adams (Breck), Tyler Howells (Holy Angels)** and **Scott Foyt (Blaine)** were all members of state championship hockey teams. **Brian Lee (Moorhead)** and **Chris VandeVelde (Moorhead)** played in two state championship games. And **Michael Forney** led **Thief River Falls** to its first state tourney appearance in 30 years in the 2006 State Tournament.