

# CALVIN HOCKEY



2004 Division III

# NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

American Collegiate Hockey Association Division III



**A** cross country trip produced a national championship for the Calvin club men's ice hockey team as the Knights captured the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) Division III National Championship with a 5-0 victory over the University of Georgia. The championship game was played at the Alltell Ice Den—the practice facility of the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes.

The victory over Georgia completed a three-day tournament run that saw Calvin rip off four straight victories to capture its first-ever national championship. Calvin finishes the year with a sparkling 29-1 record, establishing a new Calvin single-season record for victories.

Calvin sophomore forward Max Sieplinga of Grand Rapids Christian High School was voted the tournament's Most Valuable Player on offense and landed a spot on the all-tournament team for the second straight year. Sieplinga finished the tournament with four goals including the final goal in Calvin's 5-0 win over Georgia.



Calvin opened the tournament with a 5-0 victory over the University of Richmond on Thursday morning and then topped South Dakota State 8-3 Thursday night.

In a Friday semifinal contest, top-seeded Calvin met second-seeded Arizona State University, which also was the host of the 16-team tournament. Trailing 1-0 early on, Calvin rallied for three first period goals to take a 3-1 lead, and then broke open a 3-2 lead with two goals in the third, including a game-clinching goal by

junior Jason Koole (Tri-unity Christian HS) into an empty net that finished off a 5-2 Calvin victory.

“That was a huge victory,” said Calvin coach Mike Petrusma after the conclusion of the tournament. “We knew Arizona State was a high-flying offensive team and we knew it would be difficult winning in its own backyard. That victory gave us a lot of confidence for the championship final.”

In the final, Calvin freshman goaltender Gregory Clark (LaPorte, IN) collected his second shutout of the

## Season Results

Middle Tennessee State	7-2	win	Hope College	2-0	win
Lansing Community College	5-3	win	Lawrence Tech University	5-2	win
Hope College	4-3 OT	win	Kalamazoo College	15-1	win
Jackson Community College	6-4	win	Kalamazoo College	7-2	win
Muskegon Community College	9-3	win	Northwood University	6-2	win
Hope College	6-5	win	Lansing Community College	8-2	win
University of Colorado	4-3	win	Hope College	6-2	loss
Georgia Tech	1-0	win	University of Richmond	5-0	win
Butler University	11-1	win	(ACHA Tourney)		
Jackson Community College	11-8	win	South Dakota State University	8-3	win
Northwood University	10-1	win	(ACHA Tourney)		
Oakland University	7-4	win	Arizona State University	5-2	win
Lawrence Tech University	7-1	win	(ACHA Tourney)		
Lansing Community College	7-5	win	University of Georgia	5-0	win
Redeemer College	12-1	win	(ACHA CHampionship)		
Oakland University	6-3	win			
Muskegon Community College	11-1	win	<b>Season Team Stats</b>		
Dordt College	5-2	win	Games: 30	Overall record: 29-1	
Muskegon Community College	6-1	win	Goals for: 213	Goals against: 71	

tournament, while the Knights scored once in the first and once in the second to take a 2-0 lead into the final period of play. Koole picked up Calvin's first goal with sophomore Nick Verkuyl (Whitby, ON) scoring the second goal for the Knights.

"We felt pretty good about a two-goal lead," said Petrusma. "Our defense was sensational throughout the tournament and we felt that two goals was good enough to get the job done. At the same time, we wanted to keep attacking when the opportunities were there."


Calvin did just that as Koole scored his team-leading sixth goal of the tournament early in the third period to give the Knights a 3-0 lead. Calvin then went up 4-0 on a goal by freshman Bryan Bandstra (Terrace, BC), only to suffer back-to-back penalties which gave the Bulldogs a two-man advantage. It soon became a three-man advantage as Georgia lifted its goaltender, but Sieplinga made the Bulldogs pay as he won a faceoff, beat a gaggle of Georgia

defenders on a sprint up the ice and lifted a shot into an empty Georgia net with 50 seconds left to play.

"Wow. What an accomplishment for this group of guys," said Petrusma. "We have such a wonderful blend of players who play so well together. We've got players from West Michigan, Canada and all over the United States but they're like a group of brothers who always look out for each other. I'm just tickled pink to see this group win a national championship."

Calvin sophomore defenseman Elijah DeGroot (Sarnia, ON) and Verkuyl were also named to the all-tournament first team.

Hope College took fifth at the tournament with a 3-1 record as the Flying Dutchmen split their first two games before rebounding to win their final two.

Prior to this season, Calvin had made two trips to the ACHA Division III Championships, finishing third in 1993 and in 2003. 

## Individual Stats

Player	Goals	Assists	Points
Max Sieplinga	48	60	108
Nick Verkuyl	45	56	101
Jason Koole [A]	30	26	56
Aaron Okkema [C]	26	20	46
Jeff Crawford	8	20	28
Jon VanderHoek	10	18	28
Dave Veeneman	6	14	20
Elijah DeGroot [C]	4	14	18
Dan Schrik	12	4	16
Dan DeKorne	5	8	13
Bryan Bandstra	3	8	11
Nate Heuker	4	7	11
Isaac Hoogland	1	9	10
Craig Baker	1	8	9
Aaron Bennink	2	7	9
Matt Evans	2	7	9
Tom Burry	2	5	7
Keith Capp	3	3	6
Brian Simonds	1	4	5
<b>Team Totals</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>511</b>

## Team Roster

- Gregory Clark, LaPorte, IN, Freshman, Goalie
- Tom Burry, Doylestown, PA, Junior, Forward
- Dan DeKorne, Grand Rapids, MI, Sophomore, Forward
- Isaac Hoogland, Grand Rapids, MI, Junior, Defense
- Bryan Bandstra, Terrace, BC, Freshman, Defense
- Elijah DeGroot, Sarnia, ON, Senior, Defense
- Brian Simonds, Farmington, MI, Freshman, Defense

**Head Coach** - Mike Petrusma, Georgetown, ON

**Assistant Coach** - Ron Koole, St. Catharines, ON

- Aaron Okkema, Ancaster, ON, Junior, Forward
- Jeff Crawford, Northville, MI, Freshman, Forward
- Nick Verkuyl, Whitby, ON, Sophomore, Forward
- Nate Heuker, Grand Rapids, MI, Sophomore, Forward
- Jon VanderHoek, St. Thomas, ON, Freshman, Forward
- Dave Veeneman, Grand Rapids, MI, Sophomore, Defense
- Jason Koole, St. Catharines, ON, Junior, Forward

**Assistant Coach** - Josh Chambers, Carleton, MI

**Assistant Coach** - John DeKorne, Grand Rapids, MI

- Matt Evans, New Alexandria, PA, Sophomore, Defense
- Aaron Bennink, Ancaster, ON, Junior, Forward
- Max Sieplinga, Grand Rapids, MI, Sophomore, Forward
- Dan Schrik, Brantford, ON, Junior, Forward
- Keith Capp, Beach Park, IL, Freshman, Forward
- Craig Baker, Strathroy, ON, Freshman, Defense
- Scott Leucht, Wheeling, IL, Sophomore, Goalie

**Goalie Coach** - Brad Kirker, Lynnwood, WA



*The 2003-04 Calvin College Men's Hockey Team  
thanks you for supporting them in their run for the national title.*

*Jeffrey #2*  
*Nate Harka #12*  
*John #15*  
*Keith Call #20*  
*By Brandon and Cole #5*  
*Mike Johnson coach*  
*Aaron Bennick #17*  
*Scott Luett #30*  
*Mike #9*  
*Max #16*  
*Greg Clark #2*  
*Aaron Elmer #4*  
*Mike #18*  
*David #13*  
*Don Scavo #19*  
*Nick Verkuy #10*  
*Craig Baker 21*  
*David #13*  
*Crazy Jonny LH. #13*