



PRESS RELEASE

Noah Smith
Director of Media Relations
Hockey East Association
Phone: (781) 245-2122
Fax: (781) 245-2492
Cell: (617) 335-3709
nsmith@HockeyEastOnline.com

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AYERS, EAVES SHARE PLAYER OF THE YEAR ***Don "Toot" Cahoon credited for UMass turnaround***

For the second time in four seasons, and for only the second time ever, two players share Hockey East's highest individual honor as KOHO Player of the Year. In 2000, BC's Mike Mottau and UNH's Ty Conklin split the award, and it is once again BC and UNH with honorees Ben Eaves and Mike Ayers, respectively. Eaves ran away with the league scoring title (42 points) while Ayers finished first in league save percentage (.926) and second in GAA (2.22).

UMass named its first-ever All-Star this season (Thomas Pöck) and also got its first nod for CCM / Bob Kullen Coach of the Year, which went to third-year skipper Don "Toot" Cahoon. Cahoon steered the 2002-03 Minutemen to a vastly improved record, which included wins over BC, BU and Maine, and now has them in the Hockey East semifinals for the first time.

Maine had three special award honorees. Jim Howard's outstanding freshman season made him a strong selection as Rookie of the Year, teammate Martin Kariya was equally appreciated as the Len Ceglarski Sportsmanship Award winner, and fellow Black Bear Cliff Loya was named the Old Time Hockey Best Defensive Defenseman. Mark Mullen of BU was chosen as the Best Defensive Forward.

CCM / Bob Kullen Coach of the Year

Don Cahoon, Massachusetts
Runners-up: Richard Umile, New Hampshire

KOHO Players of the Year

Mike Ayers, New Hampshire
(Jr. G; Hingham, MA)
Ben Eaves, Boston College
(Jr. F; Faribault, MN)



KOHO

Rookie of the Year

Jim Howard, Maine
(Fr. G; Ogdensburg, NY)
Runner-up: Bryan Schmidt, Merrimack

Hockey East Scoring Champion

Ben Eaves, Boston College (42 pts)
(Jr. F; Faribault, MN)
Runner-up: Tony Voce, Boston College (32 pts)

Len Ceglarski Sportsmanship Award

Martin Kariya, Maine
(Sr. F; North Vancouver, BC)
Runner-up: Jon DiSalvatore, Providence

ITECH Goaltending Champion

Matti Kaltiainen, Boston College (2.20 GAA)
(So. G; Espoo, Finland)
Runner-up: Mike Ayers, New Hampshire (2.22 GAA)

Best Defensive Forward

Mark Mullen, Boston University
(Jr. F; Dorchester, MA)
Runner-up: Ed McGrane, UMass Lowell

ITECH®

ITECH "Three Stars" Award

Ben Eaves, Boston College
(Jr. F; Faribault, MN)
Joe Exter, Merrimack College
(Sr. G; Cranston, RI)

Old Time Hockey

Best Defensive Defenseman
Cliff Loya, Maine
(Sr. D; Pittsburgh, PA)
Runner-up: Freddy Meyer, Boston University