



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 27, 2003

HOCKEY EAST ALUMS SHOOT FOR LORD STANLEY ***Kariya headlines list of five former Hockey East players in final***

Ten years ago, Paul Kariya won the Hockey East Player of the Year award, the Lamoriello trophy, the Hobey Baker award, and the NCAA championship trophy, all within a one-month span. Over the next two weeks, he'll work to add the biggest trophy of them all: the Stanley Cup. A total of five former Hockey East players representing four different programs have the chance to share a piece of the glory with Kariya, as they compete for hockey's top prize.

At the New Jersey end, the Boston schools are represented by former Terrier Jay Pandolfo, the 1995-96 Hockey East Player of the Year, and by former Eagle Brian Gionta, the only player to ever be named a Hockey East All-Star in each of his four seasons. Their Beanpot rivalry is put aside when they put on the Devils' colors, especially now that they're in the finals. Pandolfo has already won one Stanley Cup, with the 1999-2000 Devils, while Gionta craves his first.

Anaheim is led by captain Paul Kariya, the Ducks' much-heralded first-ever draft selection who has been with the team since the start of his pro career, following a dominating freshman year with the University of Maine in 1992-93. Kariya finished with 100 points that season, steering Maine to a 42-1-2 record and the NCAA championship, the first for Hockey East. He is joined in the Ducks' lineup by fellow former Black Bear Keith Carney and by fellow Hobey Baker winner Jason Krog (UNH '99). The trio has led Anaheim to an improbable 12-2 run in the Stanley Cup playoffs, which included a four-game sweep over No. 2 seed Detroit, the defending champion.

Like Kariya, Pandolfo and Gionta have championship experience on which to draw. Pandolfo was a member of the 1995 NCAA champion BU squad while Gionta captained Boston College's 2001 championship team, culminating a run of four straight appearances in the NCAA Frozen Four.