



PRESS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 28, 2004

NHL DRAFT IDENTIFIES TOP PRO PROSPECTS *14 current and future Hockey East players chosen*

Four current Hockey East players, six incoming freshman and four future prospects were selected during this weekend's NHL Draft in Raleigh, N.C., starting with incoming Boston College goaltender Cory Schneider, who was picked 26th overall by Vancouver.

Schneider is Hockey East's lone first-round pick this draft year but becomes the 10th Hockey East first-rounder in the last five seasons. This illustrious list includes New York Islanders' starting goaltender Rick DiPietro (first overall in 2000) and Calgary Flames forward Chuck Kobasew (14th overall in 2001), who recently helped his team reach the Stanley Cup final.

Seven picks after Schneider, the Washington Capitals selected Chris Bourque, son of Hall of Fame defenseman Ray Bourque. The younger Bourque is slated to suit up for Jack Parker's BU Terriers at the start of next season. He was just one of three future Terriers picked up on the weekend. Kevin Schaeffer was the only current BU player selected, going to Nashville in the sixth round.

The third round marked Maine's turn to shine. One future Black Bear prospect, one incoming freshman (Rob Bellamy) and one current student-athlete (Mike Lundin) were picked in quick succession over a span of 23 selections encompassing the late third and early fourth round.

Ben Walter of UMass Lowell (160th overall to Boston) and Daniel Winnik of UNH (265th to Phoenix) were the other current player selections. Winnik was just one of four Hockey East picks in the ninth round, the most productive of any for the conference this year.

HOCKEY EAST 2004 NHL ENTRY DRAFT SELECTIONS *(current players and incoming freshmen only)*

Rd	Overall	Name	Pos	School	NHL Team
1	26th	Cory Schneider *	G	Boston College	Vancouver
2	33rd	Chris Bourque *	F	Boston University	Washington
3	92nd	Rob Bellamy *	F	Maine	Philadelphia
4	102nd	Mike Lundin	F	Maine	Tampa Bay
5	160th	Ben Walter	F	UMass Lowell	Boston
6	183rd	Trevor Ludwig *	D	Providence	Dallas
	193rd	Kevin Schaeffer	D	Boston University	Nashville
8	231st	Brian McGuirk *	F	Boston University	Columbus
9	265th	Daniel Winnik	F	New Hampshire	Phoenix
	275th	Craig Switzer *	D	New Hampshire	Nashville

* – incoming freshman

A total of four players slated to be Hockey East freshman in the fall of 2005 were also picked, bringing the overall total for Hockey East to 14.