HOCKEY EAST
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PRESS RELEASE

Noah Smith
Director of Media Relations
Hockey East Association
591 North Ave – #2
Wakefield, MA 01880
Office: (781) 245-2122
Cell: (617) 335-3709
nsmith@HockeyEastOnline.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 26, 2006

HOCKEY EAST SHINES AGAIN AT NHL DRAFT

14 total prospects from eight different schools selected

The annual NHL Entry Draft took place Saturday in Vancouver, B.C. As usual, Hockey East shared in the celebration of the next generation of NHL stars, witnessing 14 of its current and incoming players chosen among the elite. The draft provided a great cross-section of the Hockey East talent pool, as eight of the 10 member schools saw at least one of its players/recruits chosen.

For the fourth consecutive year, Boston College claimed the highest pick among Hockey East teams when highly-regarded incoming blueliner Carl Sneep was selected with the second pick of the second round by the Pittsburgh Penguins. At 32nd overall, he was the first Hockey East player chosen, joining new teammates Brian Boyle (26th overall in 2003), Cory Schneider (26th in 2004) and Dan Bertram (54th in 2005) in that distinction.

Before the second round was over, hulking Maine defenseman Simon Danis-Papin was selected (Chicago - 61st overall) and was followed in rapid succession by two more blueliners, BU prospects Brian Strait and Eric Gryba, early in the third round.

The fifth round was the most active for Hockey East with four selections, including current Friar stars Jon Rheault and Cody Wild. Wild was one of two members of the 2005-06 Hockey East All-Rookie Team to be selected. BC's Benn Ferriero (196th overall) was the other.

The flagship state universities of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont all had one pick each, as did UMass Lowell. Martin Nolet, an incoming goaltending prospect for the UMass Minutemen, was chosen by the Los Angeles Kings 144th overall. Current UMass goaltender Jon Quick is also a Kings' prospect, selected in the third round last year.

The Hockey East Association is a 10-team, Division-I college hockey conference, with offices based in Wakefield, Mass. Founded in 1983, the league has won four NCAA championships in the past 13 years. The league also sponsors an eight-team women's league which began play in 2002-03.

HOCKEY EAST 2006 NHL ENTRY DRAFT SELECTIONS *(* incoming freshmen)*

Rd	Overall	Name	Pos	School	NHL Team
2	32nd	Carl Sneep *	D	Boston College	Pittsburgh
2	61st	Simon Danis-Papin	D	Maine	Chicago
3	65th	Brian Strait *	D	Boston University	Pittsburgh
3	68th	Eric Gryba *	D	Boston University	Ottawa
5	130th	Brett Bennett *	G	Boston University	Phoenix
5	140th	Cody Wild	D	Providence	Edmonton
5	144th	Martin Nolet *	G	Massachusetts	Los Angeles
5	145th	Jon Rheault	F	Providence	Phildelphia
6	161st	Viktor Stälberg *	F	Vermont	Toronto
6	169th	Chris Auger *	F	UMass Lowell	Chicago
7	186th	Peter LeBlanc *	F	New Hampshire	Chicago
7	196th	Benn Ferriero	F	Boston College	Phoenix
7	202nd	John McCarthy	F	Boston University	San Jose

One additional future recruit was also drafted, bringing the overall total for Hockey East to 14.

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