



# **PRESS RELEASE**

**Joe Bertagna**  
**Commissioner**  
**Hockey East Association**  
591 North Ave – #2  
Wakefield, MA 01880  
Office: (781) 245-2122  
jbertagna@HockeyEastOnline.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 19, 2006**

## **BRION O'CONNOR NAMED DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

The Hockey East Association has named Brion O'Connor as its Director of Public Relations, it was announced today by Hockey East Commissioner Joe Bertagna. O'Connor, a 1983 graduate of the University of New Hampshire, will begin his duties on August 14. He replaces Noah Smith, who served six years as Director of Media Relations.

"We are looking forward to Brion joining the Hockey East family," said Bertagna. "Noah Smith established a high standard here and we know Brion will maintain those same standards."

O'Connor has an extensive writing background, both as a freelancer and with a number of newspapers in the Northeast. He spent 15 years as a reporter and as a copy and design editor, the last 13 of those with the Salem (MA) Evening News. He has also been involved in hockey as a coach, assisting at Endicott College in Beverly, MA, for a number of years.

"Brion will be asked to expand the scope of this position, taking it from a pure Media Relations context to a more Public Relations position. He will still be our prime contact with the conference sports information offices and with the local, regional, and national media but we will collectively grow the position on Brion's watch," said Bertagna.

O'Connor, who graduated from UNH with a degree in environmental studies, with a dual concentration in journalism and political science, is the second Hockey East hire of the summer. Last month, Richard DeCaprio was named Supervisor of Officials, replacing Brendan Sheehy, who retired after 12 years in that position. A nine-month internship position remains to be filled before September 1.

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