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## MEN'S RELEASE

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### **MAINE'S PAUL KARIYA NAMED TOP PLAYMAKER DURING 25TH CELEBRATION** **~League announces Top 10 Playmakers in overall 25th voting~**

**WAKEFIELD, Mass.** – The Hockey East Association is pleased to announce that Maine's Paul Kariya has been named Hockey East's Best Playmaker as the league continues its 25th Anniversary celebration. Kariya was chosen in a vote comprised of Hockey East fans and members of the league's 25th Anniversary Committee.

"I'm sure this won't be the only recognition for Paul during our 25th celebration," said commissioner Joe Bergagna. "He may very well have been the most exciting player we have ever had and his playmaking, as the fans have noted, was second to none."

Kariya, the 1993 Hobey Baker Award winner, left an indelible mark upon the league in only a season-and-a-half of play. He registered a 100-point season as a freshman in 1992-93 to set Maine's all-time record in both points and assists (75). Kariya won both the Hockey East Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year in 1992-93 season.

The 1992-93 Maine team is considered by many to be the greatest college hockey team of all time. The Black Bears compiled a 42-1-2 record while winning the National Championship in thrilling fashion as Kariya assisted on Jim Montgomery's third-period hat trick, propelling Maine to a 5-4 win over Lake Superior State in the national title game.

"Paul Kariya was the ultimate playmaker for the Maine Black Bears. His poise with the puck and his composure under pressure were unmatched in college hockey. Paul capped off a remarkable freshman year by assisting on three Jim Montgomery third period goals in the 1993 NCAA National Championship game," said Maine head coach Tim Whitehead.

Kariya has played 14 seasons in the NHL, including nine seasons for the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim. He scored a career-high 108 points in his second season with Anaheim in 1995-1996. Kariya has scored 946 points in 914 career games in the NHL. He also is a two-time winner of the Lady Byng Memorial Trophy in 1996 and 1997, given annually to the player adjudged to have exhibited the best type of sportsmanship and gentlemanly conduct combined with a high standard of playing ability. He also won a gold medal with Team Canada in the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Here is a list of the remaining players that finished in the Top Ten voting for Best Playmaker (in alphabetical order): Chris Drury (BU), David Emma (BC), Rob Gaudreau (PC), Nathan Gerbe (BC), Scott Harlow (BC), Jim Montgomery (ME), Jon Morris (UML), Scott Pellerin (ME) and Jean-Ives Roy (ME).

Hockey East's Top Playmaker was chosen by a fan vote through the league's official website – [HockeyEastOnline.com](http://HockeyEastOnline.com) - and votes from Hockey East's 25th Anniversary Committee, which includes representatives from each Hockey East school.

Throughout the season, fans can cast their ballots for Hockey East's All-Time Team, Top 25 Forwards, and Top 25 Defenders. In addition to these major categories, the conference will unfold a number of other ballot questions at regular intervals throughout the year. The next short-term ballot will begin on December 4 and run through December 14. At that time, fans will be able to cast their votes for "Hockey East's Best Defensive Defenseman."

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