



PRESS RELEASE

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HOCKEY EAST RENAMES PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD IN HONOR OF CAMMI GRANATO

WAKEFIELD, Mass. - Hockey East Commissioner Joe Bertagna announced on Tuesday that the WHEA Player of the Year Award will be renamed as the Cammi Granato Player of the Year Award beginning with the 2008-2009 season.

The conference athletic directors voted in April to rename the honor, which will be awarded annually to the conference's top player. The most recent recipient of the award was UConn sophomore forward Dominique Thibault (L'Orignal, Ont.) in March of 2008.

"I am really honored that Hockey East has chosen to name this award after me," said Granato. "I have great memories from my time at Providence College and I take great pride in seeing how the women's game has grown at the college level. This is a tremendous honor for me and I thank the Hockey East coaches for proposing this."

"I think the naming of awards has great value in keeping alive our history and, in this instance, honoring someone who has been a role model for so many young female hockey players," said Hockey East commissioner Joe Bertagna. "So many players have directly benefited from the pioneering efforts of players like Cammi and others from her era."

Granato had a legendary four-year career at Providence College, establishing many scoring records for the Friars (139 goals in 99 games). Granato also took home individual honors in all four seasons in her career with Providence. She captured ECAC Player of the Year honors in three consecutive years from 1991-93, while leading the team to back-to-back conference titles in 1992 and 1993. Granato was also named ECAC Rookie of the Year in 1990.

A 15-year member of the U.S. Women's National Team beginning in 1990, Granato is the program's all-time scoring leader with 343 points (186-157) in 205 games. Granato achieved international fame by captaining Team USA to the gold medal at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, the first time women's ice hockey was included in the Games. There, she was honored by being chosen as the U.S. flag bearer for the closing ceremonies. Granato will be the first female to be inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in October of 2008 in Denver, Colorado.

The Women's Hockey East Association is an eight-team, Division-I college hockey conference which began play in 2002-2003, with offices based in Wakefield, Mass. The league also sponsors an 10 team men's league which began play in 1984-1985.

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