

NEWS RELEASE

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BOSTON BRUINS WIN DRAFT DRAWING, OWN FIRST OVERALL SELECTION FOR 1997 ENTRY DRAFT IN PITTSBURGH JUNE 21

NEW YORK (May 11, 1997) – The Boston Bruins won the National Hockey League's annual Draft Drawing held today at the NHL's New York office and, as a result, own the first overall selection in the 1997 Entry Draft in Pittsburgh June 21. Boston had the greatest chance of winning the Draft Drawing (32.8%).

The clubs that did not qualify for this season's Stanley Cup playoffs, or clubs that acquired their 1997 first round draft picks, participated in the drawing to determine the order of selection for the first 10 picks of the 1997 Entry Draft. The clubs participating today were, in inverse order of regular season points, Boston (#1 and #8, acquired from Hartford), San Jose Sharks (#2), Los Angeles Kings (#3), New York Islanders (#4, acquired from Toronto, and #5), Calgary Flames (#6), Tampa Bay Lightning (#7), Washington Capitals (#9) and Vancouver Canucks (#10).

Fourteen balls, numbered one to 14, were placed in a lottery machine and four were randomly drawn. The resulting combination, regardless of order, was matched against a table to determine the club to which that combination was assigned, and Boston owned the four-number combination drawn. The combination, as drawn, was 3, 4, 10 and 14.

The Draft Drawing was weighted to give the clubs that finished with the fewest points during the regular season the greatest chance to win the Drawing. Boston, by finishing with the fewest number of regular season points, was assigned 30% of the 1,001 possible combinations, and had an additional 2.8% of the combinations for owning Hartford's pick (#8). San Jose, which finished with the second-lowest point total in the regular season, was assigned 21% of the combinations. Los Angeles, with the third fewest points, received 15.1% of the combinations.

The New York Islanders owned Toronto's pick (#4) to receive 10.9% of the combinations and finished the regular season with the fifth fewest points for another 8.0%, or 18.9% of the combinations overall. The remaining clubs had the following chances (by percentage) of winning the Draft Drawing: Calgary, 5.9%; Tampa Bay, 4.2%; Washington, 1.6%; and Vancouver, 0.5%. The combinations were assigned to the clubs by a computer on a random basis.

Under the rules of the Draft Drawing, the winning club could not move up more than four spots in the draft order, thus only the clubs with the #1 through #5 picks had an opportunity to capture the first selection overall. No club could move down more than one position as a result of the Draft Drawing.

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As a result of the Boston Bruins winning the Draft Drawing, the order of selection in the first round only of the 1997 Entry Draft is as follows:

Pick	Club
1	Boston
2	San Jose
3	Los Angeles
4	NY Islanders (acquired from Toronto)
5	NY Islanders
6	Calgary
7	Tampa Bay
8	Boston (acquired from Hartford)
9	Washington
10	Vancouver
11	Montreal
12	Ottawa
13	Chicago
14	Edmonton
15	Los Angeles (acquired from St. Louis)
16	Chicago (acquired from Phoenix)
17	Pittsburgh
18	Anaheim
19	NY Rangers
20	Florida
21	Buffalo
22	Hartford (acquired from Detroit)
23	Hartford (acquired from Philadelphia)
24	New Jersey
25	Dallas
26	Colorado

This marked the third NHL Draft Drawing. In 1995, the Los Angeles Kings won the Drawing, moving up from seventh to third overall, with the Ottawa Senators retaining the first overall selection. The Kings had a 4.2% chance of winning the Drawing.

In 1996, the Ottawa Senators won the Drawing, retaining the first overall selection. The Senators had the greatest chance of winning the Drawing (30 percent).