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MAY 10, 1998

TAMPA BAY SELECTS FIRST OVERALL AT 1998 NHL ENTRY DRAFT JUNE 27 LIGHTNING ACQUIRES PICK VIA TRADES WITH SAN JOSE AND FLORIDA

NEW YORK (May 10, 1998) — The Tampa Bay Lightning will have the first overall selection of the 1998 Entry Draft, the National Hockey League announced today following the Draft Drawing at its offices in New York. The Entry Draft will take place at Marine Midland Arena in Buffalo, June 27.

The Lightning received the right to select first as the result of two earlier trades. The numbers assigned to the Florida Panthers were selected at the Draft Drawing, but the Panthers had traded their first round pick to San Jose in exchange for left wing Viktor Kozlov on November 13, 1997. On March 24, 1998, Tampa Bay sent defensemen Bryan Marchment and David Shaw and a conditional exchange of first round picks in the 1998 Entry Draft to the Sharks for right wing Andrei Nazarov and future considerations. The Lightning exercised the option today. As a result, San Jose will select second overall.

The ten non-playoff teams (or those teams that acquired the picks) and the expansion Nashville Predators participated in today's Draft Drawing. They were (in inverse order of regular season points): Tampa Bay, Nashville, San Jose (acquired from Florida), Vancouver, Anaheim, Calgary, the New York Rangers, Toronto, the New York Islanders, Chicago and Carolina.

Fourteen balls, numbered one to 14, were placed in a lottery machine and four were randomly drawn. The resulting four digit series (2, 8, 11 and 12) was matched against a look-up table. There were 1,001 possible combinations and each of the teams involved in the drawing was assigned a certain number of those combinations. The combinations were assigned by a computer on a random basis and Florida (acquired by San Jose) had the four numbers chosen.

The Draft Drawing is a weighted system to give the teams that finished with the fewest number of points during the regular season, the greatest chance to win the drawing. Therefore, Tampa Bay, which finished the regular season with the fewest number of points (44), was assigned 28 percent of the 1,001 number combinations. Nashville and Florida (acquired by San Jose), who finished with the second lowest point total in the regular season (63), were assigned 18.5 percent of the combinations. The fourth through eleventh teams had the following chances (by percentage) of winning the Draft Drawing: 10.9, 7.9, 5.7, 4.1, 2.8, 1.9, 1.2 and 0.5 respectively.

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Under the system, only the four teams with the fewest points and the expansion Predators had the chance to select first overall and no team could move up more than four spots in the draft order.

As a result of the Draft Drawing, the order of selection in the first round, only, of the 1998 Entry Draft is as follows:

- | Pick | Team (Traded from) |
|------|--|
| 1. | Tampa Bay (acq. from San Jose/Florida) |
| 2. | San Jose (acq. from Tampa Bay) |
| 3. | Nashville |
| 4. | Vancouver |
| 5. | Anaheim |
| 6. | Calgary |
| 7. | NY Rangers |
| 8. | Toronto |
| 9. | NY Islanders |
| 10. | Chicago |
| 11. | Carolina |
| 12. | Colorado (acq. from San Jose) |
| 13. | Edmonton |
| 14. | Phoenix |
| 15. | Ottawa |
| 16. | Montreal |
| 17. | Colorado (acq. from Los Angeles) |
| 18. | Buffalo |
| 19. | Colorado (acq. from Boston) |
| 20. | Colorado (acq. from Washington) |
| 21. | Los Angeles (acq. from Colorado) |
| 22. | Philadelphia |
| 23. | Pittsburgh |
| 24. | St. Louis |
| 25. | Detroit |
| 26. | New Jersey |
| 27. | Dallas |

Results of Previous Draft Drawings

Year	Winning Club	Effect On Draft Order	Player Selected
1995	Los Angeles Kings	Moved From 7th to 3rd overall	Aki Berg
1996	Ottawa Senators	Retained 1st overall selection	Chris Phillips
1997	Boston Bruins	Retained 1st overall selection	Joe Thornton

###5/10/98