NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **JUNE 1, 2000**

NEW YORK ISLANDERS GAIN FIRST SELECTION IN 2000 ENTRY DRAFT

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, N.J. (June 1, 2000) — The New York Islanders, who had been slotted to choose fifth, gained the first overall selection for the 2000 National Hockey League Entry Draft when the number combination assigned to them was selected at today's Draft Drawing at the Hilton Hasbrouck Heights.

Today's drawing marked the first time since the inception of the Draft Drawing in 1995 that a Club had moved from fifth to first as a result of the weighted lottery system. Last year, the Chicago Blackhawks moved from eighth overall to fourth when their number sequence was selected; two seasons ago, the Tampa Bay Lightning advanced from third overall to first as the result of trades that acquired the selection of another lottery team. In 1996 and 1997, respectively, the Ottawa Senators and Boston Bruins retained No. 1 through the Draft Drawing process and in 1995, the Los Angeles Kings climbed from seventh overall to third.

The 2000 NHL Entry Draft will be conducted Saturday, June 24 (Rounds 1-3) and Sunday, June 25 (Rounds 4-9) in Calgary.

The Atlanta Thrashers, the non-playoff Club with the lowest regular-season point total, had the greatest chance, 25%, of having the number sequence assigned to them selected in the Draft Drawing. The expansion Columbus Blue Jackets and Minnesota Wild joined the Tampa Bay Lightning with the next-greatest chance, 14.6%, of having their numerical combinations selected, with the Islanders next at 8%. Teams that also participated, either through the inverse order of regular-season points or through trades which secured the first-round selections of other Clubs, were the Nashville Predators, Boston Bruins, Calgary Flames, Chicago Blackhawks, Mighty Ducks of Anaheim, Montreal Canadiens and Carolina Hurricanes.

Fourteen balls, numbered one to 14, were placed in a lottery machine. The 14 balls created 1,001 possible numerical combinations and each of the teams involved in the drawing was assigned a certain number of those combinations by a computer, on a random basis, prior to the drawing. After four balls were ejected randomly by the machine, the resulting series (3, 10, 5, 9) was matched against a table which showed the Islanders had been assigned the numbers that were chosen. The drawing was supervised by the independent public accounting firm of Ernst & Young to ensure complete objectivity and randomness of selection.

As a result of the Drawing, the Thrashers dropped one place to second overall. The expansion Clubs, who were to have selected second and third, moved back one spot to third and fourth, with the order of their selection to be determined by a coin flip later today. Tampa Bay will round out the top five selections.

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Under the system, only the three teams with the fewest points in the 1999-2000 season and the expansion teams had the chance to select first overall. No team could move up more than four spots in the draft order and no team could drop more than one position.

The reconfigured order of selection for the first round of the 2000 Entry Draft, pending the coin flip that will determine the first-round spots assigned the expansion Clubs:

1) New York Islanders
2) Atlanta Thrashers
3) Expansion "A"
4) Expansion "B"
5) Tampa Bay Lightning
6) Nashville Predators
7) Boston Bruins
8) Tampa Bay Lightning (from New York Rangers)
9) Calgary Flames
10) Chicago Blackhawks
11) Chicago Blackhawks
12) Mighty Ducks of Anaheim
13) Montreal Canadiens
14) Carolina Hurricanes
15) Buffalo Sabres
16) Montreal (from San Jose)
17) Edmonton Oilers
18) Pittsburgh Penguins
19) Phoenix Coyotes
20) Los Angeles Kings
21) Ottawa Senators
22) New Jersey (from Colorado)
23) Vancouver (from Florida)
24) Toronto Maple Leafs
25) Dallas Stars
26) Washington Capitals
27) Colorado (from New Jersey, option to Boston)
28) Philadelphia
29) Detroit
30) St. Louis

Trade Summary of Transferred Draft Picks in 1st Round of 2000 Entry Draft

Pick 8 (NY Rangers to Tampa Bay)

Tampa Bay trades a 1st-round pick in the 1999 Entry Draft (4th overall, previously acquired from Chicago via Vancouver) to NY Rangers for **G Dan Cloutier, RW Niklas Sundstrom** and NY Rangers' 1st-and 3rd-round picks in the 2000 Entry Draft (6/26/99).

Pick 11 (Vancouver to Chicago)

Vancouver trades **D Bryan McCabe** and its 1st-round pick in the 2000 Entry Draft to Chicago for Chicago's 1st-round pick in the 1999 Entry Draft (4th overall) (6/25/99).

Pick 16 (San Jose to Montreal)

Montreal trades **C Vincent Damphousse** to San Jose for a 5th-round pick in the 1999 Entry Draft (previously acquired from Phoenix), San Jose's 1st-round pick in the 2000 Entry Draft and San Jose's 2nd-round pick in the 2000 or 2001 Entry Draft (San Jose's option) (3/23/99).

Pick 22 (Colorado to New Jersey)

New Jersey trades **LW Brian Rolston** and a conditional pick in the 2001 Entry Draft to Colorado for **RW Claude Lemieux**, a future conditional draft pick and the right to switch 1st-round picks with Colorado in the 2000 Entry Draft (11/3/99).

Pick 23 (Florida to Vancouver)

Vancouver trades **RW Pavel Bure, D Bret Hedican, D Brad Ference** and its 3rd-round pick in the 2000 Entry Draft to Florida for **D Ed Jovanovski, C Dave Gagner, LW Mike Brown, G Kevin Weekes** and its 1st-round pick in the 2000 Entry Draft (1/17/99).

Pick 27 (New Jersey to Colorado – option to Boston)

New Jersey to Colorado: See pick 22

Option to Boston: Colorado trades **LW Brian Rolston, C Samuel Pahlsson, D Martin Grenier** and a 1st-round pick in the 2000 or 2001 Entry Draft, at Boston's option, to Boston for **D Ray Bourque** and **LW Dave Andreychuk** (3/6/2000).

Results of Previous Draft Drawings

Year	Selected Club	Effect on Draft Order	Selection
1995	Los Angeles Kings	Moved from 7th to 3rd	Aki Berg
1996	Ottawa Senators	Retained first overall	Chris Phillips
1997	Boston Bruins	Retained first overall	Joe Thornton
1998	Tampa Bay Lightning	Moved from 3rd to 1st (per trades)	Vincent Lecavalier
1999	Chicago Blackhawks	Moved from 8th to 4th	Traded pick
2000	New York Islanders	Moved from 5th to 1st	N/A

#####(6/01/2000)