



NEWS RELEASE

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THRASHERS WIN DRAFT DRAWING, OBTAIN FIRST PICK FOR 2001 ENTRY DRAFT

NEW YORK (April 10, 2001) -- The Atlanta Thrashers won the National Hockey League Draft Drawing today and will pick first overall at the 2001 Entry Draft on Saturday, June 23, in Sunrise, Fla.

The Thrashers, who would have picked third based on inverse order of regular-season finish, had the third-greatest likelihood, 14.2%, that one of the number sequences assigned to them would be the winning combination.

The teams that participated in the proceeding at the NHL's New York office, in inverse order of regular-season finish, were: New York Islanders, Tampa Bay, Atlanta, Florida, Anaheim, Minnesota, Montreal, Columbus, Chicago, New York Rangers, Calgary, Nashville, Boston and Phoenix.

Fourteen balls, numbered 1 to 14, were placed in a lottery machine and four were expelled, forming a series of numbers. The four-digit series resulting from the expulsion of the balls was matched against a probability chart which divided the possible combinations among the 14 participating clubs. The chart showed the Thrashers had been assigned the numbers (1,6,8,11) that were chosen.

The Draft Drawing is a weighted system to give the teams that finished with the fewest points during the regular season the greatest chance of being selected. The Islanders, who finished the regular season with the fewest points (52), were assigned the greatest number of potential combinations (25%). Tampa Bay, with the second-lowest point total, was assigned 18.8% of the combinations, followed by Atlanta. The fourth through 14th teams had the following chances (by percentage): 10.7, 8.1, 6.2, 4.7, 3.6, 2.7, 2.1, 1.5, 1.1, 0.8 and 0.5 respectively.

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

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The 2001 Entry Draft will take place at National Car Rental Center in Sunrise, Fla., on Saturday, June 23 (rounds 1-3) and Sunday, June 24 (rounds 4-9). The order of selection for the first 14 selections in the first round, only, of the 2001 Entry Draft is as follows:

1. Atlanta
2. NY Islanders
3. Tampa Bay
4. Florida
5. Anaheim
6. Minnesota
7. Montreal
8. Columbus
9. Chicago
10. NY Rangers
11. Calgary
12. Nashville
13. Boston *
14. Phoenix

* Edmonton has the option to switch first-round picks with Boston in the 2001 or 2002 Entry Draft.

Results of Previous Draft Drawings

| Year | Selected | Effect on Draft Order | Player Selected |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1995 | Los Angeles | Moved from 7th to 3rd | Aki Berg |
| 1996 | Ottawa | Retained 1st selection | Chris Phillips |
| 1997 | Boston | Retained 1st selection | Joe Thornton |
| 1998 | Tampa Bay | Moved from 3rd to 1st via trades | Vincent Lecavalier |
| 1999 | Chicago | Moved from 8th to 4th | Traded pick |
| 2000 | NY Islanders | Moved from 5th to 1st | Rick DiPietro |

#####(4/10/2001)