NEWS RELEASE

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LIGHTNING'S NIKITA KUCHEROV WINS HART TROPHY

NEW YORK (June 11, 2026) – Right wing **Nikita Kucherov** of the Tampa Bay Lightning is the 2025-26 recipient of the **Hart Memorial Trophy**, presented "to the player adjudged to be the most valuable to his team," as selected by the Professional Hockey Writers Association.

A journey that involved planes, automobiles and jet skis, Kucherov was surprised with the trophy by **Phil Pritchard**, the Keeper of the Cup.

A Hart Trophy finalist for the third consecutive season (3rd in 2024-25 and 2nd in 2023-24), the 32-year-old Kucherov claimed his second career win and first since 2018-19. He becomes the third player to go seven-plus years between Hart Trophy wins, joining **Jean Beliveau** (eight years, 1955-56 and 1963-64) and **Sidney Crosby** (seven years, 2006-07 and 2013-14).

Kucherov emerged as the winner of an epic three-way Hart Trophy balloting race featuring a trio of former winners of the award – Kucherov, Edmonton Oilers center **Connor McDavid** and Colorado Avalanche center **Nathan MacKinnon** – who had combined to win it five times in the eight-season span from 2016-17 through 2023-24. For the first time since the current points allocation system was established in 1995-96, all three finalists received at least 25 percent of all first-place votes.

The Tampa Bay right wing was a top-five selection on 196 of 198 ballots and received 72 first-place votes in collecting 1,436 points to post a razon-thin margin of victory – 10 voting points – over McDavid, who appeared as a top-five pick on all 198 ballots, including 68 first-place votes, for 1,426 points. MacKinnon was listed on 195 ballots in collecting 52 first-place votes and 1,297 points for third place. Kucherov's winning margin of 10 points is the third-fewest in the 30 years under the current points allocation: **Jose Theodore** edged **Jarome Iginla** in a tiebreak (434-434, Theodore placed first with more first-place votes) in 2001-02 and **Chris Pronger** eked past **Jaromir Jagr** 396-395 in 1999-2000.

Kucherov finished second in the NHL with 44-86—130 in 76 games – 42 points more than his closest teammate (**Jake Guentzel**: 38-50—88 in 81 GP) – to power the Lightning to their ninth straight playoff berth. Kucherov's 42-point edge was the second-largest gap between a team's top two scorers in 2025-26, trailing just the 56-point difference between **Macklin Celebrini** (45-70—115 in 82 GP) and **Will Smith** (24-35—59 in 69 GP) of the San Jose Sharks. Kucherov, who found the scoresheet in 60 of his 76 appearances (78.9%), additionally ranked among the League leaders in points per game (1st; 1.71), even-strength assists (1st; 57), multi-assist performances (t-1st; 25), assists (2nd; 86), even-strength points (2nd; 92), multi-point performances (2nd; 40), plus/minus (t-3rd; +43), even-strength goals (4th; 35), power-play assists (4th; 29), multi-goal performances (t-4th; 8), power-play points (6th; 37), game-winning goals (t-7th; 8) and goals (8th; 44). Kucherov, who totaled 44-100—144 in 2023-24 (81 GP), became the 10th player in League history to produce multiple 130-point seasons. He also became the 17th-fastest player in NHL history to reach both the 1,000-point (809 GP on Oct. 25 vs. ANA) and 1,100-point (863 GP on March 12 vs. DET) milestones.

2025-26 Hart Trophy Voting

		Points	(1st-2nd-3rd-4th-5th)
1.	Nikita Kucherov, TBL	1,436	(72-60-52-12-0)
2.	Connor McDavid, EDM	1,426	(68-62-56-10-2)
3.	Nathan MacKinnon, COL	1,297	(52-54-69-17-3)

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4.	Macklin Celebrini, SJS	625	(5-20-18-103-36)
5.	Nick Suzuki, MTL	102	(1-0-0-19-35)
6.	David Pastrnak, BOS	82	(0-0-1-11-44)
7.	Zach Werenski, CBJ	53	(0-0-0-10-23)
8.	Cole Caufield, MTL	51	(0-2-1-6-14)
9.	Rasmus Dahlin, BUF	16	(0-0-0-3-7)
10.	Andrei Vasilevskiy, TBL	12	(0-0-1-1-4)
11.	Moritz Seider, DET	8	(0-0-0-2-2)
t-12.	Sidney Crosby, PIT	5	(0-0-0-1-2)
	Cale Makar, COL	5	(0-0-0-1-2)
14.	Jason Robertson, DAL	5	(0-0-0-0-5)
15.	Lane Hutson, MTL	4	(0-0-0-1-1)
16.	Matthew Schaefer, NYI	4	(0-0-0-0-4)
17.	Scott Wedgewood, COL	3	(0-0-0-1-0)
t-18.	Quinn Hughes, MIN	2	(0-0-0-0-2)
	Kirill Kaprizov, MIN	2	(0-0-0-0-2)
	Jeremy Swayman, BOS	2	(0-0-0-0-2)
	Tage Thompson, BUF	2	(0-0-0-0-2)
	Dan Vladar, PHI	2	(0-0-0-0-2)
t-23.	Jack Hughes, NJD	1	(0-0-0-0-1)
	Gabriel Landeskog, COL	1	(0-0-0-0-1)
	Ilya Sorokin, NYI	1	(0-0-0-0-1)
	Logan Thompson, WSH	1	(0-0-0-0-1)

(10-7-5-3-1 points allocation)

(6/11/26)