



[www.HockeyEastOnline.com](http://www.HockeyEastOnline.com)

# PRESS RELEASE

**Noah Smith**  
**Director of Media Relations**  
**Hockey East Association**  
Phone: (781) 245-2122  
Fax: (781) 245-2492  
[nsmith@HockeyEastOnline.com](mailto:nsmith@HockeyEastOnline.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NOVEMBER 6, 2003

## **COMMISSIONER SIGNED TO FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION** ***Joe Bertagna will continue to lead Hockey East through 2008***

The Hockey East Association announced today that league commissioner Joe Bertagna has agreed to terms on a five-year contract extension that will keep him in place through the 2007-08 season.

Bertagna is currently serving his seventh season as Hockey East's Commissioner. Already the longest-serving commissioner in the league's 20-year history, the new contract will extend his tenure to a minimum of 11 years.

Looking to ensure the stability of an elite league that has reached unprecedented heights under Bertagna's direction, the conference's Athletics Directors came to a frank and conclusive decision.

"We're very pleased to offer Joe Bertagna a lengthy extension to recognize the fabulous service he's given to the sport of college hockey and in particular to Hockey East," said Marty Scarano, Chairman of the Hockey East Executive Committee and Director of Athletics at UNH. "The league is very fortunate to have someone with Joe's knowledge and credibility in place as its leader."

Accepting the offer was similarly easy for Bertagna.

"I am obviously happy that the Directors have seen fit to extend my stay through this contract," said Bertagna. "I take it as an endorsement of what the entire Hockey East staff is doing on behalf of the league and I look forward to being part of the continued growth of this conference."

One of the premier college hockey leaders in the country, Bertagna is in his 22nd season as a Division I college hockey administrator. He became the fourth Commissioner in Hockey East history on July, 1, 1997, after serving 15 years with the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC).

A native of Arlington, Mass., Bertagna began working at the ECAC in 1982, when he was named Tournament Director. He was later named Executive Director of Ice Hockey and then became Ice Hockey Commissioner in 1991. His accomplishments at the ECAC included the league's first television package, the first hockey-only corporate sponsorships, and the establishment of the first U.S. women's intercollegiate ice hockey leagues.

Bertagna made his mark immediately at Hockey East, engineering a multi-year television deal in his first month on the job. Shortly thereafter, league tournament attendance rocketed forward, leading to the event's first-ever sellout in 2000. Most recently, Bertagna was instrumental in bringing about the formation of the Hockey East Women's League, just as he initiated league play for both Division I and Division III women's programs while with the ECAC. His association with women's hockey dates back to 1978 when he served as the first women's varsity head coach for Harvard University.

Nationally, Bertagna has served as the Executive Director of the American Hockey Coaches Association since 1991. In that role, he has overseen the growth of AHCA membership from just under 300 members in 1992 to over 1,000 members today. He also served a four-year term on the NCAA Ice Hockey Rules Committee, the final two years as chairman.

The 1973 Harvard graduate has enjoyed a fruitful playing and coaching career. After starring in goal at Arlington (Mass.) High School, Bertagna went on to Harvard University and played for Hall of Fame coaches Ralph "Cooney" Weiland and Bill Cleary. After Harvard, Bertagna played professionally for the Milwaukee Admirals and in Cortina, Italy. While in Italy, he led his S.G. Cortina d'Ampezzo squad to the 1975 Italian Championship.

He has authored books on goaltending fundamentals and edited "Crimson in Triumph", a book dedicated to Harvard athletic history. He also edited two successful issues of, "Not The Boston Globe," a newspaper parody sold throughout New England in the mid-1980's.

Bertagna began his professional coaching career in 1985 with the Boston Bruins, staying with the Bruins as the goaltender coach until 1991 and rejoining the team for the 1994-95 season. He also has coached with Team USA (1991 Canada Cup and 1994 Winter Olympics) and with the Milwaukee Admirals (1994-96). Bertagna has operated his own goalie camps in the summer since 1973 and has produced instructional videos for both ESPN and USA Hockey. He currently has three instructional goaltending videos on the market, which are available through Championship Productions of Ames, IA.

Bertagna and his wife Kathy currently reside in Gloucester, Mass., with their three children, Bobby, Joey and Grace.