



PRESS RELEASE

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FIVE FORMER HOCKEY EAST PLAYERS NAMED TO U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM ***Former Terrier Rick DiPietro expected to be squad's starting goaltender***

USA Hockey announced the entire roster for the 2006 U.S. Men's Olympic Team yesterday, and Hockey East was well-represented as usual. Three former Boston University players and two former Boston College players will provide the foundation for the squad, which opens competition Feb. 15 vs. Latvia in Torino, Italy.

Three of the five former Hockey East players are veterans of the 2002 Olympic team, which won the silver medal in the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. One-time BU sniper Keith Tkachuk is a three-time Olympian, playing for Team USA in 1992, 1998 and 2002. Chris Drury (BU), Bill Guerin (BC) and Aaron Miller (UVM) were also on the silver squad in 2002.

Two more recent superstars will finally get the call to represent the U.S. in the world's most prominent hockey tournament. Hockey East's all-time leading goal-scorer, Brian Gionta, is now starring for the New Jersey Devils and will be playing in his first Olympics. The same is true of Rick DiPietro, the first overall pick in the 2000 NHL Entry Draft, and the most likely choice to be Team USA's starting goaltender.

"Hockey East has always offered a great proving ground for future Olympians," said Hockey East Commissioner Joe Bertagna. "Our best players have consistently gone on to excel against elite competition."

HOCKEY EAST SELECTIONS TO THE 2006 MEN'S OLYMPIC TEAM

<u>Player</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>NHL Team</u>	<u>Olympic Experience</u>
Rick DiPietro	G	BU	Winthrop, MA	NY Islanders	First appearance
Chris Drury	F	BU	Trumbull, CT	Buffalo	2002
Brian Gionta	F	BC	Rochester, NY	New Jersey	First appearance
Bill Guerin	F	BC	Wilbraham, MA	Dallas	1998, 2002
Aaron Miller *	D	UVM	Buffalo, NY	Los Angeles	2002
Keith Tkachuk	F	BU	Melrose, MA	St. Louis	1992, 1998, 2002

* Aaron Miller played for Vermont before the Catamounts were a member of Hockey East

In addition to the players named above, Hockey East was also honored by the selection of Mike Sullivan as one of the team's assistant coaches. Sullivan, currently the head coach of the Boston Bruins, was BU's captain in 1989-90.

The Hockey East Association is a 10-team Division-I college hockey conference, with offices based in Wakefield, Mass. Founded in 1983, the conference is entering its 22nd season as one of the premier collegiate hockey conferences in the country. Hockey East teams are consistently ranked among the top programs in the nation and member teams have won four NCAA championships in the past 13 years. The conference also sponsors a women's league, founded in 2001, which currently features eight Division-I programs.

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