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MEN'S RELEASE

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Pete Souris

Director of Public Relations

Hockey East Association

591 North Ave - #2

Wakefield, MA 01880

Office: (781) 245-2122

Cell: (603) 512-1166

psouris@HockeyEastOnline.com

BC'S BRIAN GIONTA NAMED TOP GOAL SCORER DURING 25TH CELEBRATION ~League announces Top 10 Goal Scorers in overall 25th voting~

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – The Hockey East Association is pleased to announce that Boston College's Brian Gionta has been named Hockey East's Best Goal Scorer as the league continues its 25th Anniversary celebration. Gionta was chosen in a vote comprised of Hockey East fans and members of the league's 25th Anniversary Committee.

"Brian was a crowd favorite while he was here," said commissioner Joe Bertagna. "He was skilled. He was tough. And it wouldn't surprise me if his five-goal night might earn him another fan honor down the line."

As a senior in 2000-01, Gionta also earned a National Championship while a member of the BC Eagles when his team topped North Dakota 3-2 in overtime. Gionta finished his stellar career at the Heights as Hockey East's All-Time leading goal scorer, posting 83 goals in 96 career league contests. Gionta was named Hockey East Player of the Year in his senior season (2000-01) and was Hockey East Rookie of the Year in 1997-98. Gionta is the only player in Hockey East history to be named to the All-Star team in all four seasons of play. He was also a four-time All-American with the Eagles.

On January 27, 2001, Gionta performed one of the most memorable feats in league history when he scored five goals on five shots in the first period of a 7-2 win against Maine at Conte Forum.

Gionta is in his seventh season in the NHL with the New Jersey Devils. He won a Stanley Cup with the Devils in the 2002-2003 season and in 2006 he set the franchise mark for goals in a single-season with 48.

"He's the one guy here at Boston College who really turned BC back in the right direction. Of all my recruits that I've recruited here to Boston College, he was the catalyst that made the change to bring us back to become a national power. He was a phenomenal player and the best pure goal scorer that I've seen in college hockey. It was a real pleasure and honor to coach him for four years," said Eagles Head Coach Jerry York.

The remaining players that finished in the Top Ten voting for Best Goal Scorer were (in alphabetical order): Rob Cowie (NU), John Cullen (BU), Chris Drury (BU), David Emma (BC), Craig Janney (BC), Jason Krog (UNH), Shawn McEachern (BU), Jim Montgomery (ME) and Jon Morris (UML).

Hockey East's Top Goal Scorer was chosen by a fan vote through the league's official website – HockeyEastOnline.com - and votes from Hockey East's 25th Anniversary Committee, which includes representatives from each Hockey East school.

Throughout the season, fans can cast their ballots for Hockey East's All-Time Team, Top 25 Forwards, and Top 25 Defenders. In addition to these major categories, the conference will unfold a number of other ballot questions at regular intervals throughout the year. The next short-term ballot will begin on December 4 and run through December 14. At that time, fans will be able to cast their votes for "Hockey East's Best Defensive Defenseman."

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