

2001 NHL MEDIA INFORMATION GUIDE

Norris Division

The Montreal Woolly Mammoths (WM)



The Mammoths claimed their third Stanley Cup title in 2000, ousting the dominating Card Sharks in the Campbell Conference Finals in a reversal of roles from 1999. Now they look to defend their title, adding Dominic Hasek as a free agent and Marius Czerkawski in the draft to in a talented core of Eric Lindros, Jeremy Roenick, Mats Sundin, and Marian Hossa up front, with Nicklas Lidstrom (right), Rob Blake, Derian Hatcher, and Al MacInnis on defense.



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'00 Season Record: 15-4-2
'00 Play-off Record: 12-5
Overall Season Record: 84-31-11 (.710)
Overall Play-off Record: 49-28 (.636)
Stanley Cup Record: 12-3
Best Season: 19-1-1, 1999

STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS—1995, 1997, 2000
Campbell Conference Champions—1995, 1997, 2000
Norris Division Champions—1997, 1998, 1999, 2000

President's Trophy—1997, 1999
Hart Trophy—Eric Lindros (1999)
Ross Trophy—Eric Lindros (1999)
Norris Trophy—Nicklas Lidstrom (1999)
Vezina Trophy—Curtis Joseph (1995), Jeff Hackett (1998)
Jennings Trophy—Jeff Hackett (1998), Tom Barrasso (1999)
Lady Byng Trophy—Nicklas Lidstrom (2000)
Conn Smythe Trophy—Jeremy Roenick (1995), Eric Lindros (1997), Al MacInnis (2000)
Adams Trophy—Rich Bremer (1997, 1999)

The Maine Mad Dawgs (MD)



With their recent problems, it is hard to remember that the Mad Dawgs won a Stanley Cup in 1996. Owner Scott Williams begins his second full season as the team's owner, and he'll make a go at it with captain Owen Nolan (left), Ed Belfour, Ron Francis, Todd Bertuzzi, and Doug Gilmour. While the Dawgs don't figure to chase after the Cup this season, perhaps the veterans will tutor the young players well.



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'00 Season Record: 6-11-4
'00 Play-off Record: N/A
Overall Season Record: 54-60-12 (.476)
Overall Play-off Record: 16-12 (.571)
Stanley Cup Record: 4-3
Best Season: 12-6-3, 1996

STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS--1996
Campbell Conference Champions—1996
Norris Division Champions—1996
Calder Trophy—Owen Nolan (1996)

The Buffalo Bigfeet (BF)



The Bigfeet are an explosion of youth waiting to happen. While they lost Chris Pronger to free agency, Joe Thornton (right), Sergei Samsonov, and Eric Daze represent the future of the team. Throw in grizzled veterans Joe Sakic, Valeri Kamensky, and first round draft pick Scott Niedermayer, and you've got nucleus for a contending team. The crease remains unsettled, however, with Ron Tugnutt and Tomas Vokoun sharing the load.



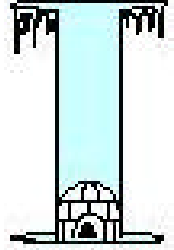
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'00 Season Record: 6-13-2
'00 Play-off Record: N/A
Overall Season Record: 35-73-18 (.349)
Overall Play-off Record: 0-0
Stanley Cup Record: 0-0
Best Season: 9-9-3, 1995

The Inglewood Iceholes (IH)



After two sorely disappointing seasons, the Iceholes figure to be one of the most improved teams this season. They spent a bundle on free agents, landing Peter Bondra (left), Peter Forsberg, Joe Nieuwendyk, and Scott Stevens. Add these players to Bill Guerin, Patrick Elias, Luc Robitaille, Theo Fleury, and Matthieu Schnieder, and watch the rubber fly! And who knows? Maybe the team's loss of Alexei Yashin to a contract holdout will prove to be addition by subtraction.



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'00 Season Record: 12-5-4
'00 Play-off Record: 2-4
Overall Season Record: 59-54-13 (.520)
Overall Play-off Record: 6-16 (.273)
Stanley Cup Record: 0-0
Best Season: 13-6-2, 1995

Norris Division Champions—1995
Jennings Trophy—Mike Richter (1995, 1996)

Smythe Division

The Hamburg Whores (WH)



The Whores won the Chris Pronger (right) sweepstakes, signing him to a large contract in order to shore up a defense that whose only other standout was Wade Redden. The team remains explosive on offense, with draft pick Scott Gomez joining Brett Hull, Brendan Shanahan, Vincent Lecavalier, Petr Nedved, Jeff O'Neill, and Alexei Zhamnov. But the fate of the team this year may largely rest on Patrick Roy's play, as many Hamburgers have yet to learn the defense-first philosophy emphasized by coach Barry Melrose.



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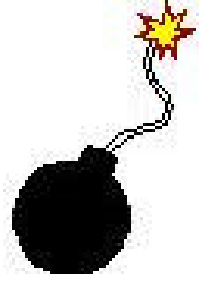
'00 Season Record: 7-11-3
'00 Play-off Record: N/A
Overall Season Record: 61-51-14 (.540)
Overall Play-off Record: 8-16 (.625)
Stanley Cup Record: 0-0
Best Season: 14-5-2, 1998

Smythe Division Champions—1996, 1998
President's Trophy—1998
Hart Trophy—Wayne Gretzky (1995)
Ross Trophy—Wayne Gretzky (1995)
Selke Trophy—Mikael Renberg (1996), Mike Ridley (1998)

The Bay City Blasters (BL)



In 2000, the Blasters looked to build on their franchise's first play-off appearance the season before, but it looks like more rebuilding is in order. While they do feature Trevor Kidd in goal, Chris Drury, Alexander Mogilny (left) and Frederick Modin are the only standout offensive players. They do have balanced scoring from their other forwards, though, and Calle Johansson and Alexei Karpotsev will play capable defense as the Blasters look to prove the critics wrong.



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'00 Season Record: 6-10-5
'00 Play-off Record: N/A
Overall Season Record: 56-54-16 (.508)
Overall Play-off Record: 1-4 (.200)
Stanley Cup Record: 0-0
Best Season: 12-6-3, 1999

Hart Trophy—Peter Bondra (1997)
Norris Trophy—Steve Duchesne (1996)
Lady Byng Trophy—Pat LaFontaine (1996)

Hammer's Hoodlums (from Orlando) (HO)



Despite a brief play-off appearance last season, the Hoodlums have been pretty quiet recently, but they are poised to make a run in 2001. Orlando has more talent than people remember, with Adam Oates leading a cast of characters that includes Milan Hejduk (right), Trevor Green, Ziggy Palffy, Miroslav Satan, Chris Simon, Chris Chelios, and Martin Brodeur. Look for the Hoodlums to collect on a few debts this year.



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'00 Season Record: 8-9-4
'00 Play-off Record: 0-4
Overall Season Record: 52-50-24 (.508)
Overall Play-off Record: 7-9 (.438)
Stanley Cup Record: 0-0
Best Season: 14-7-0, 1995

Smythe Division Champions—1995
President's Trophy—1995
Norris Trophy—Jeff Brown (1995), Chris Chelios (1998)
Selke Trophy—Mike Ridley (1995)
Lady Byng Trophy—Mike Ridley (1995), Adam Oates (1997)
Adams Trophy—Farhaad Hamsayeh (1998)

The Commerce Card Sharks (CS)



The Card Sharks finished 18-2-1 last year, which was the second-best record in NHL history. But like the team with the NHL's best ever record, their quest for the Cup abruptly ended in the conference finals. They figure to be in the hunt again, as Hart and Ross Trophy winner John LeClair (right), Jaromir Jagr, Sergei Gonchar, Mike Modano, and Peter Sykora will score plenty of goals, while Sean Burke and Tommy Salo should do a fine job in goal.



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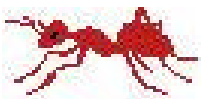
'00 Season Record: 18-2-1
'00 Play-off Record: 6-4
Overall Season Record: 75-39-12 (.643)
Overall Play-off Record: 34-21 (.618)
Stanley Cup Record: 6-5
Best Season: 18-2-1, 2000

STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS—1999
Campbell Conference Champions—1998, 1999
Smythe Division Champions—1997, 1999, 2000

President's Trophy—2000
Hart Trophy—Trevor Kidd (1996), John LeClair (2000)
Ross Trophy—Jaromir Jagr (1996, 1997), John LeClair (2000)
Selke Trophy—Dave Reid (1997)
Vezina Trophy—Trevor Kidd (1996)
Jennings Trophy—Martin Biron (2000), Arturs Irbe (2000), Chris Osgood (2000)
Conn Smythe Trophy—John LeClair (1999)
Adams Trophy—Chester Kaneko (1996, 2000)

Patrick Division

The Australian Flaming Fireants (FI)



The Fireants quietly put together the best record in their franchise's history last season, but they lost out on a play-off spot due to tiebreakers. In a development sure to negatively impact season ticket sales, they lost Peter Forsberg to free agency, but stalwart Aussie fans will recognize Tony Amonte, Martni Straka, Bryan Berard (right), Martin Rucinsky, and Michael Nylander as holdovers, and they will welcome rookie Michael York to the squad.



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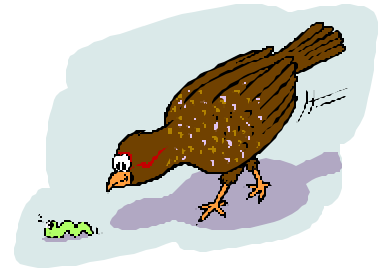
'00 Season Record: 8-6-7
'00 Play-off Record: N/A
Overall Season Record: 42-66-18 (.405)
Overall Play-off Record: 0-0
Stanley Cup Record: 0-0
Best Season: 8-6-7, 2000

Selke Trophy—Rod Brind'Amour (1999)
Cadler Trophy—Dan Cloutier (2000)

The Death Valley RoadRunners (RR)



The RoadRunners returned to the Stanley Cup finals last season, but were unable to stop Montreal's rush for the cup. To add insult to injury, Dominic Hasek left the team as a free agent and joined Montreal, leaving rookie Brian Boucher to fill some big shoes. His timely saves will have to combine with scoring by Mark Messier (left), Alexei Kovalev, Vaclav Prospal, Keith Tkachuk, and blueliner Eric Desjardins should Death Valley make another run at the Cup.



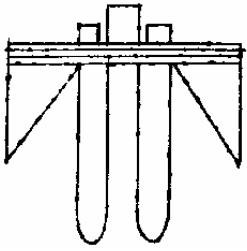
Kevin Maher
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'00 Season Record: 12-5-4
'00 Play-off Record: 9-6
Overall Season Record: 74-37-15 (.647)
Overall Play-off Record: 36-30 (.545)
Stanley Cup Record: 5-6
Best Season: 14-5-2, 1998

STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS—1998
Wales Conference Champions—1998, 2000
Patrick Division Champions—1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000

President's Trophy—1996, 1998
Hart Trophy—Keith Tkachuk (1998)
Ross Trophy—Keith Tkachuk (1998)
Norris Trophy—Eric Desjardins (2000)
Vezina Trophy—Dominic Hasek (1999, 2000)
Jennings Trophy—Dominic Hasek (1999)
Conn Smythe Trophy—Keith Tkachuk (1998)

The Victoria Thunderbirds (TH)



After a breakout year in 1999, the Thunderbirds struggled last year and were knocked out of the play-offs in the first round. The team got a chance to rest during the summer, and fresh legs could be just what the doctor ordered for the fleet-of-foot Sergei Fedorov (right), Pavel Bure, and Teemu Selanne. Adam Foote returns on the blueline, and Cliff Ronning will provide additional offense up front. Jose Theodore will get a chance in goal, and Victoria's success may ultimately depend on his play.



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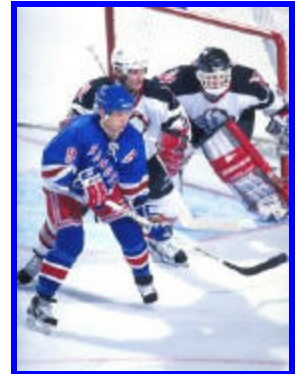
'00 Season Record: 9-7-5
'00 Play-off Record: 1-4
Overall Season Record: 51-60-15 (.464)
Overall Play-off Record: 12-14 (.462)
Stanley Cup Record: 1-4
Best Season: 11-8-2, 1999

Wales Conference Champions—1999
Lady Byng Trophy—Igor Kravchuk (1999)

The New Delhi Llamas (LL)



Some thought the Llamas overachieved in 1999 with a 6-7-8 record, but the roof fell in last season. The Llamas struggled on both ends of the ice last season, scoring the second-fewest goals in the NHL and allowing the third-most. New owner Rick Torkelson has some holes to fill, but he's got some talent to work with as well. Adam Graves (right), Mark Recchi, Jozef Stumpel, and Alex Selivanov are the big guns on offense, but Steve Shields figures to get plenty of action, as after first round pick Brad Stuart, the defense is thin.



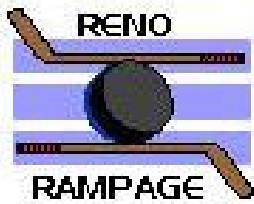
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'00 Season Record: 4-15-2
'00 Play-off Record: N/A
Overall Season Record: 46-58-22 (.452)
Overall Play-off Record: 8-15 (.348)
Stanley Cup Record: 0-0
Best Season: 12-7-2, 1995

Adams Trophy—Rob Myers (1995)

Adams Division

The Reno Rampage (RA)



For the second year in a row, the Rampage stalled in the second round of the playoffs, falling short against the RoadRunners. Despite their recent success during the regular season, the team has repeatedly posted disappointing playoff runs. Will this be the year that the Rampage are able to take the next step? If they do, they'll do it with Vincent Damphousse and Pavol Demitra leading a cast of characters that includes Doug Weight, Ray Whitney, Michael Peca, and Jason Allison. Sandis Ozolinsh and Kyle McLaren head the defensive corps, and Olaf Kozlig (right) is solid in net.



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'00 Season Record: 10-8-3
'00 Play-off Record: 5-6
Overall Season Record: 58-57-11 (.504)
Overall Play-off Record: 11-23 (.324)
Stanley Cup Record: 0-0
Best Season: 12-7-2, 1997

Adams Division Champions—1995, 1997, 1999, 2000

Vezina Trophy—Nikolai Khabibulin (1997)
Jennings Trophy—Nikolai Khabibulin (1997)
Calder Trophy—Derek Morris (1999)

The Sierra Wolves (from Reno) (WO)



The Wolves keep on trucking. They once again made the playoffs, but this year captain Steve Yzerman was not able to bedevil the Rampage as in years past, as they lost in the first round. Interim owner Julie Cole hopes Yzerman and his buddies, including Sergei Berezin, Radek Dvorak, Adrian Aucoin (left), Teppo Numminen, Darryl Sydor, and Roman Turek can put the pieces together for another run to the Stanley Cup Finals.



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'00 Season Record: 11-10-0
'00 Play-off Record: 2-4
Overall Season Record: 58-53-15 (.520)
Overall Play-off Record: 28-25 (.528)
Stanley Cup Record: 4-8
Best Season: 12-8-1, 1996

Wales Conference Champions—1996, 1997

Adams Division Champions—1996

Selke Trophy—Steve Yzerman (2000)

The Montana Wranglers (WR)



It was another disappointing year at the Corral. The Wranglers were the first Wales Conference Champions, and they seemed back on the pinnacle of success in 1998, but things have taken a sharp downturn since then. The core of the team, which includes Paul Kariya, Valeri Bure (right), Daniel Alfredsson, and Ray Bourque remains intact, but Donald Audette, Maxim Afinogenov, and Marc Savard will need to step up the pace. But aside from Bourque, the defense and the goaltending are big question marks.



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'00 Season Record: 4-14-3
'00 Play-off Record: N/A
Overall Season Record: 46-64-16 (.429)
Overall Play-off Record: 10-9 (.526)
Stanley Cup Record: 1-4
Best Season: 13-6-2, 1998

Wales Conference Champions—1995

Adams Division Champions—1998

Calder Trophy—Daymond Langkow (1998)

Lady Byng Trophy—Ray Bourque (1998)

The Atlanta Crossbars (CB)



The Crossbars are still waiting for the magic. They've been able to load up on talent, after having high draft picks over the years. But every year when the season starts, the Crossbars seem to be in a daze. Maybe this will be the year that they get out of the gate on the right foot. They've got a good selection of offensive weapons, including Jason Arnott (right), Pierre Turgeon, Scott Young, Sergei Zinov, and Radek Bonk, and Curtis Joseph doesn't mind facing a lot of shots. The defense had problems last year, though, as the experiment of keeping only 6 blueliners failed due to injuries and fatigue.



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'00 Season Record: 4-10-7
'00 Play-off Record: N/A
Overall Season Record: 31-78-17 (.313)
Overall Play-off Record: 0-0
Stanley Cup Record: 0-0
Best Season: 8-11-2, 1997

Calder Trophy—Guy Hebert (1997)