



NEWS RELEASE



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AUGUST 18, 2020

COMMISSIONER BETTMAN STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF DALE HAWERCHUK

NEW YORK (Aug. 18, 2020) – National Hockey League Commissioner **Gary Bettman** today released the following statement regarding the passing of **Dale Hawerchuk**:

“The National Hockey League mourns the passing of Dale Hawerchuk, an instant and enduring star who captured the hearts of two hockey-loving cities, represented his country with class and distinction, and is one of the most decorated players in our game’s history.

“A prodigy almost from the moment he first donned skates in his native Toronto, the precocious Hawerchuk immediately dazzled at every level – from a legendary performance at the Quebec Pee Wee Tournament to leading Cornwall to his first of two Memorial Cup titles as a 17-year-old to being named Memorial Cup MVP and Canadian Major Junior Player of the year in 1980-81. Selected first overall by Winnipeg in 1981, he won the Calder Trophy to commence a brilliant, nine-season career with the Jets that ultimately led to his No. 10 being honored by both the Jets and Coyotes. For his second act, upon being traded to the Sabres, he produced five superior seasons in Buffalo, where he also is considered a local hero.

“A revered leader whose commitment to charitable causes was tireless, Hawerchuk also was a force on the world stage, playing a pivotal role for Canada in both of its 1987 and 1991 Canada Cup triumphs. Inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2001, Hawerchuk was in the midst of a similarly successful post-playing career as a coach and director of hockey operations of Barrie of the OHL when he became ill and was taken from us far too soon. We send our condolences to his wife, Crystal; their three children, Ben, Eric and Alexis; and countless teammates and fans who were fortunate enough to see him play and call him a friend.”

(8/18/20)

NHL COMMUNICATIONS

1185 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10036 T: 212-789-2000
50 BAY STREET, 11TH FLOOR, TORONTO, ON M5J 2X8 T: 416-359-7900
MEDIA.NHL.COM • NHL.COM • @PR_NHL