CAPITALS NHL AWARDS NOTES

Capital gains? – Three Capitals are finalists for four awards at the 2008 NHL Awards Show: Alex Ovechkin (Hart Trophy, Lester B. Pearson Award), Nicklas Backstrom (Calder Trophy) and Bruce Boudreau (Jack Adams Award).

Only the Detroit Red Wings (six finalists for five trophies) have more finalists and the chance to win more trophies than the Capitals.

All-everything – In addition to the individual awards, the Capitals could be represented on the NHL All-Star Teams and All-Rookie Team that are revealed at the awards show. Top candidates:
- Alex Ovechkin, the only Capital forward ever named to a postseason all-star team, could earn NHL First All-Star Team honors for the third year in a row. The last player to do so in his first three years in the league was Detroit goaltender Terry Sawchuck (1951-52-53).
- Mike Green, who at 22 became the youngest player to lead all NHL defensemen in goals in 25 years (since Paul Coffey), could be named to one of the two NHL All-Star teams.
- Nicklas Backstrom, who set a Caps rookie record with 55 assists, could join Ovechkin as the only Capitals forwards ever named to the NHL All-Rookie Team.

Year to remember – The 2007-08 Capitals captured the Southeast Division championship with a win in their final game, completing a remarkable comeback. The Capitals became the first NHL team in history to come back from 14th or 15th place at midseason to make the playoffs. Washington is the second team in NHL history to finish a season in first place in its division immediately after three (or more) consecutive last-place finishes: the Hamilton Tigers finished in last place in a four-team NHL each season from 1920-21 through 1923-24, then finished in first place in 1924-25 in a six-team NHL.

Washington was in 30th place in the NHL on Thanksgiving Day when Bruce Boudreau took over as head coach. The Capitals were last in the Eastern Conference as recently as Dec. 30 and only held down a playoff position for eight days since mid-October. In contrast, they were 15th in the Eastern Conference for 53 days.
Banner season – The Capitals captured the fourth division title in their history, having won the Southeast Division in 1999-00 and '00-01 and the Patrick Division in 1988-89.

In good company – Alex Ovechkin (65 goals) and Mike Green (18 goals) became the first teammates to lead the NHL in goals and goals by a defenseman, respectively, since Hall of Famers Mario Lemieux and Paul Coffey in 1988-89.

Finishing strong – Bruce Boudreau led the team to a 37-17-7 record in his 61 games behind the bench, a 109-point pace for a full season. Boudreau’s team had the NHL’s fourth-best record since Thanksgiving, trailing only the two Stanley Cup finalists and the San Jose Sharks.

Most Points Since Thanksgiving
1. Detroit Red Wings.................84
  Pittsburgh Penguins .............84
  San Jose Sharks..................83
  Washington Capitals..............81
  Anaheim Ducks.....................79

Rock The Red – Attendance spiked at Verizon Center in the second half of the season, with crowds of more than 17,000 at each of the 19 home games after the start of February, including 11 sellouts in the last 15 games (counting playoffs). The 21 regular-season games after Alex Ovechkin signed his new 13-year contract extension drew an average attendance of 17,219 – a 26.2% increase from the average attendance through the first 20 home games (13,643).

Washington’s average attendance for the regular season (15,473) was its best since 2002-03, the last time the team reached the playoffs, and was up more than 1,500 people per game from the 2006-07 average (13,931).

The Capitals’ eight regular-season sellouts were more than the last three seasons combined (seven) and the most at Verizon Center since 2001-02 (14). All four playoff games were sold out.

Never say die – The Capitals had 17 comeback wins under head coach Bruce Boudreau (out of 36 wins) after coming from behind just once in the first 21 games of the season.

Follow the leader – Alex Ovechkin is the first Capital and first Russian-born player to win the Art Ross Trophy and the first Capital to win the Maurice “Rocket” Richard Trophy (although Peter Bondra did lead the league in goals twice before the trophy was established). Ovechkin is just the sixth player to lead the league in both points and goals in the last 35 years – joining Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, Phil Esposito, Jarome Iginla and Guy Lafleur, who combined to do it 11 times. Nine of the last 11 times that the same player led the league in goals and points he has won the Hart Trophy as the league’s most valuable player.

On display – Three Capitals donated pieces of equipment to the Hockey Hall of Fame here in Toronto in 2007-08. Olie Kolzig donated the stick he used in his 300th victory. Nicklas Backstrom donated his gloves from his back-to-back four-assist games. Alex Ovechkin gave two items: the stick he used to score his 50th goal and the visor he wore when he scored his 60th goal.

Sharp dressed man – The night before the NHL Awards Show in Toronto CCM-Reebok will unveil Alex Ovechkin’s new line of designer street wear at an exclusive VIP cocktail party.
IF THEY WIN …

If Ovechkin, Backstrom and Boudreau all win
- The Capitals would be the first team since the inception of the Jack Adams Award (1973-74) to have the coach of the year, player of the year and rookie of the year

If Ovechkin and Backstrom win
- This would mark the second year in a row – and only the second time since 1964 – that the Hart and Calder winners were teammates

If Ovechkin and Boudreau win
- This would mark the seventh time since the inception of the Jack Adams Award (1973-74) that the Hart Trophy winner and Jack Adams Award winner came from the same team, the last being 2004 (Martin St. Louis and John Tortorella)

If Ovechkin wins the Hart or the Pearson
- He would be the first Capital to win either award
- He would be the first Washington, D.C., athlete in a league recognized as the best in the world to win an MVP in 25 years (since Joe Theismann of the Washington Redskins, 1983)
- He would be the second Russian to win either award and first since 2007-08 teammate Sergei Fedorov won both with Detroit in 1994

If Ovechkin wins the Hart
- He would be the first player ever to win the Hart and the Calder Trophy in a span of three seasons
- He would be the fourth player to have won both the Calder and Hart Trophies, joining Bobby Orr, Bryan Trottier and Mario Lemieux

If Ovechkin wins the Hart and the Pearson
- He would be the fourth player this decade to win both in the same season (joining Sidney Crosby, Martin St. Louis and Joe Sakic)
- He would be the first player since the inception of the Maurice “Rocket” Richard Trophy to win the Hart, Pearson, Art Ross and Richard
- He would be just the fifth player and first since Mario Lemieux in 1996 to win the Hart, Pearson and Art Ross and lead the league in goals (Phil Esposito, Guy Lafleur and Wayne Gretzky are the others)

If Backstrom wins
- Washington would be the first team to win two Calder Trophies within three years since Calgary, 1988-90 (Joe Nieuwendyk and Sergei Makarov)
- He would be the first Swede to win the Calder since Daniel Alfredsson in 1996
- He would be the second Capital to win the Calder (Alex Ovechkin, 2006)

If Boudreau wins
- He would be the second Capitals coach to win the award, joining Bryan Murray (1984)
- He would be the first midseason hire to win the award since Bill Barber (Philadelphia, 2001)
CAPITALS NHL AWARD HISTORY

Calder Trophy
Alex Ovechkin (2005-06, pictured right)

Jack Adams Award
Bryan Murray (1983-84)

Vezina Trophy
Olie Kolzig (1999-00)
Jim Carey (1995-96)

Norris Trophy
Rod Langway (1983-84)
Rod Langway (1982-83)

Art Ross Trophy
Alex Ovechkin (2007-08)

Maurice “Rocket” Richard Trophy
Alex Ovechkin (2007-08)

William Jennings Trophy
Al Jensen/Pat Riggin (1983-84)

Frank Selke Trophy
Doug Jarvis (1983-84)

King Clancy Memorial Trophy
Olie Kolzig (2005-06)

NHL First All-Star Team
Alex Ovechkin (2006-07, LW)
Alex Ovechkin (2005-06, LW)
Olie Kolzig (1999-00, G)
Jim Carey (1995-96, G)
Scott Stevens (1987-88, D)
Rod Langway (1983-84, D)
Rod Langway (1982-83, D)

NHL Second All-Star Team
Sergei Gonchar (2002-03, D)
Sergei Gonchar (2001-02, D)
Al Iafrate (1992-93, D)
Larry Murphy (1986-87, D)
Rod Langway (1984-85, D)
Pat Riggin (1983-84, G)

NHL All-Rookie Team
Alex Ovechkin (2005-06, F)
Jim Carey (1994-95, G)
Scott Stevens (1982-83, D)
Alex Ovechkin  8
Left Wing
Ht.: 6'2"  Wt.: 220  Shoots: Right
Born: Sept. 17, 1985 (Moscow, Russia)
Drafted: Capitals' first-round choice, first overall, in the 2004 Entry Draft

One of the game’s elite players, Ovechkin won the Art Ross Trophy (most points) and Maurice “Rocket” Richard Trophy (most goals) in 2008 ... He is the first player in 55 years to be named to the NHL First All-Star Team in each of his first two full seasons in the league and a candidate to be named to the team for the third time ... Has played in two NHL All-Star Games ... Already ranks 10th in career goal scoring for the Caps; ranks 18th in career points ... Only Wayne Gretzky and Mike Bossy have scored more goals in their first three years in the league ... Has scored 17 more goals than any other NHLer in the past three seasons ... The only Capital in history with two 100-point seasons or three 90-point seasons ... Became the third Capital (joining Peter Bondra and Dennis Maruk) and the fourth player this decade (joining Pavel Bure, Dany Heatley and Jaromir Jagr) with two 50-goal seasons ... Has appeared in 195 consecutive games, the longest current streak on the team ... Has 18 games with 10 or more shots on goal in his career, more than any other active player

2007-08: A finalist for the Hart Trophy (player most valuable to his team) and the Lester B. Pearson Award (most outstanding player by vote of his peers) ... Led the NHL in points (112), goals (65), power-play goals (22), game-winning goals (11) and shots (446), all of which were career highs ... Captured the Art Ross Trophy as the league’s leading scorer and the Maurice “Rocket Richard” Trophy as the league’s top goal scorer ... His 65 goals set an NHL record for goals by a left wing, breaking Luc Robitaille’s mark of 63 (1992-93), and were more than any active player has ever scored besides Teemu Selanne (76, 1992-93) ... The first player since 1996 to reach 60 goals; one of only 12 players all-time to score 65 or more goals ... Set Capitals single-season records for goals and shots; tied the Capitals record for power-play goals ... Scored a higher percentage of his team’s goals than any other player (27.3%) and had a hand in more of his team’s goals than any other player (47.1%) ... The NHL’s First Star for the months of January and March; a five-time selection as one of the Three Stars of the week ... Selected for his second straight NHL All-Star Game and became the first Capitals player to score two goals in an All-Star Game ... Earned the Esposito Award for the league’s most valuable player from Phil Esposito on XM Radio’s NHL Home Ice ... Named “Monster of the Year” by TSN’s Pierre McGuire ... Selected as the MVP and named best player by The Hockey News ... Named the top Clutch Scorer by USA Today and unanimous selection as MVP by the paper’s panel ... Voted The Sporting News Player of the Year, earning 250 of a possible 287 votes from fellow players ... Named a Sporting News All-Star ... Won the Kharlamov Trophy for the third straight year as the top Russian player in the NHL ... Scored more goals than the top two goal scorers on 19 of the 30

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teams in the league and tied with two other teams ... He and Mike Green became the first teammates to lead the league in goal scoring overall and by a defenseman, respectively, since Hall of Famers Mario Lemieux and Paul Coffey in 1988-89 ... Ranked third on the team and third among NHL forwards with 23:06 of ice time per game ... Tied for seventh in the league with a +28 rating ... Ranked ninth in the NHL in both hits (220) and takeaways (68) ... Shared the NHL lead with three hat tricks; had two of the league’s four four-goal games all season ... Had three five-point games, a new career high ... His shot total was the second-best in NHL history ... Scoring totals improved as the game progressed: 31 points in the first period, 37 in the second, 40 in the third and four in OT ... One of four Capitals to play all 82 games ... Scored the team’s first goal 19 times and the game’s first goal nine times ... Team went 28-15-4 when he scored a goal and 37-22-5 when he had a point ... Registered points in each of the first six games of the season (10/5 – 10/18) ... Scored his 100th goal of the season 10/12 at NYR ... Had four straight multiple-point games 10/24 – 10/29, with nine points (4g-5a) in that time ... Enjoyed his season-long nine-game point streak from 11/8 – 11/26 (8g-3a) ... Registered his 1,000th career shot on goal 12/14 vs. BUF ... Skated in his 200th NHL game 12/26 vs. TB ... Posted his first career four-goal and five-point game 12/29 at OTT ... Scored his 30th goal 12/29 at OTT, joining Ilya Kovalchuk as the only players this decade to reach 30 goals before the end of December ... Scored in 23 of the Caps’ 42 games after the New Year, and Washington went 19-3-1 in those games ... Signed a new 13-year contract, the longest in Capitals history, on 1/10 ... Had goals in six straight games from 1/13 – 1/23 (7g), the first six games after he signed his new contract ... Scored four goals, including the OT winner, and added an assist 1/31 vs. MTL ... Had 60 points (33g-27a) in 39 games after signing his new contract ... Had 34 points (19g-15a) in his last 21 home games ... Had 41 goals in his last 47 games and 51 goals in 61 games under Bruce Boudreau ... Posted 10 multiple-point games in the season’s last 17 outings (17g-12a) ... Enjoyed the best month of his career in March, with 14 goals and 26 points in 15 games ... Had a natural hat trick in the first period, added two assists and was +3 3/3 vs. BOS ... Recorded his 300th career point 3/18 at NSH in his 237th game, the fastest to the milestone since Peter Forsberg ... Spearheaded the Capitals’ comeback 3/21 at ATL with four points (2g-2a), including his 60th goal of the season ... Scored two goals, including the GWG in the third period, 4/3 vs. TB ... Led the team with nine points and shared the team lead with four goals in the playoffs ... Scored two GWGs, tied for the club record in a playoff series ... Finished tied for second in the NHL in first-round scoring ... Had a team-high and first-round league-high 37 shots on goal ... Posted four multiple-point games in the playoffs ... Three of his four goals came in the third period ... Made his playoff debut and had two points (1g-1a), including the GWG, in Game 1 of the ECQF vs. PHI (4/11) ... Had three goals and four points in Games 6 and 7 combined, with nine shots on goal in each game ... Won a gold medal with Russia at the World Championship ... Named to the World Championship all-tournament team.

2006-07: A member of the NHL First All-Star Team for the second straight year ... Voted a starter in the 2007 NHL All-Star Game, the first Capital in the starting lineup since Rod Langway in 1986 ... Won the Kharlamov Trophy as the top Russian-born player in the NHL for the second year in a row ... Led the Capitals in goals (46), assists (46), points (92), GWGs (8) and shots (392) ... Finished fourth in the league in goals, tied for ninth in PPGs (16) and tied for seventh in GWGs ... Recorded the seventh-highest point total in Capitals history and tied for the 10th-best single-season
goal total ... Already ranks tied for 22nd in Capitals career goals (98) and 32nd in Capitals career points (198) ... Only the second Capital to record back-to-back 90-point seasons (Dennis Maruk, 1980-81 and '81-82) ... Led the NHL in shots on goal for the second year in a row, the first player to do so in back-to-back seasons since Pavel Bure (1999-00 and '00-01) ... His 817 career shots are the most by any player in a two-year span since Phil Esposito took 976 in 1970-71 and '71-72 ... The only Capital to appear in all 82 games ... Led all Caps forwards and ranked tied for 10th among NHL forwards with 21:23 of average ice time ... Ranked sixth among league forwards with 5:31 of power play ice time per game ... Won the Capitals’ Three Stars Award, earning a Rolex watch from Liljenquist & Beckstead Jewelers ... Was named the NHL’s third star of the week 12/11 ... Led the team and ranked ninth among NHL forwards with 184 hits ... Led the team with 27 multiple-point games, nine multiple-goal games and 10 multiple-assist games ... Scored 25 goals against division foes, the most of any player in the NHL ... Tied for the league lead with 26 goals on the road ... Scored 30 even-strength goals, tied for second in the NHL and just one behind leader Vincent Lecavalier ... Scored 19.7% of the Capitals’ goals, second in the league behind only Lecavalier (21.4%) ... Had 20 more even-strength points than any other Capital (30g-25a) ... One of nine players to lead his team in both goals and assists (Shane Doan, Martin Havlat, Dany Heatley, Marian Hossa, Jaromir Jagr, Olli Jokinen, Joe Sakic, Mats Sundin) ... His eight GWGs were the most by a Capital since 2002-03 (Jagr, nine) ... Scored the Capitals’ first goal 14 times and the game’s first goal six times ... Was named to the All-Star Team by TSN’s Pierre McGuire ... Had nine goals in eight games vs. ATL and six goals in four games vs. PHI ... 23 players assisted on his 46 goals ... Had at least two shots on goal in all 82 games ... Took 17.1% of the Capitals’ shots on goal in the league ... Had 12 points (5g-7a) in the last minute of a period, tied for the NHL lead ... Scored his first two goals of the year and had a career-high 15 shots on goal 10/7 vs. CAR ... Had goals in four straight games from 10/19 at ATL to 10/27 at VAN (4g-2a) ... Strung together four straight multiple-point games from 10/30-11/6 (4g-4a) ... Posted 23 points in December, his best offensive month of the season (9g-14a) ... Had 18 points in an eight-game scoring streak from 12/2-12/19 (7g-11a, +7 in that time) ... Matched a career high with three assists 12/6 vs. OTT ... Recorded his second career hat trick, scoring all three Capitals goals in a 3-2 OT win 12/15 at ATL ... His goal six seconds into OT at ATL (12/15) matched the fastest overtime goal in league history ... Finished 2006 with 54 goals in the calendar year, five more than any other player ... Recorded points in each of the first 13 games of 2007, his best career-point-scoring streak and the fourth-longest in the NHL on the year (1/1-2/1, 8g-12a) ... Tied a career-best with a +3 rating 2/8 vs. LA (0g-1a) ... Had a season-high four points (matching a career best) 2/27 vs. FLA (2g-2a) ... Scored back-to-back game-winning goals 4/3 vs. FLA and 4/4 at ATL ... Represented Russia in the World Championship in Moscow.

2005-06: Won the Calder Memorial Trophy, earning 124 of a possible 129 first-place votes in the balloting ... Named to the NHL First All-Star Team, the first rookie to earn that honor since Teemu Selanne in 1992-93 ... Named to the NHL All-Rookie Team ... Just the second NHL rookie in history to record 50 goals and 100 points, joining Teemu Selanne (1992-93) ... Set Capitals rookie records for goals (52), assists (54), points (106), PPGs (21) and shots (425) ... Set the NHL rookie record for shots on goal (425), the fourth-highest single-season total in league history ... Led all NHL rookies in goals (52), points (106), PPGs (21), SHGs (tied, 3), power-play assists (tied, 31), power-play points (52) and shots (425) ... Finished third in the league in points (106), tied for third in goals (52), sixth in PPGs (21), second in power-play points (52) and first in shots (425) ... Finished with the second-best single-season point total in Capitals history (106), tied for the third-best goal total (52) and the second-best PPG total (21) ... Was a finalist for the Lester B. Pearson Award (outstanding player as voted by the NHL Players Association) and two ESPY Awards (Best Breakthrough Athlete, Best Hockey Player) ... Won the Valery Kharlamov Trophy as the best Russian player in the NHL ... Won USA Today’s Clutch Scoring Award ... Was named the league’s best rookie by numerous media outlets, including The Hockey News, TSN, The Sporting News, Sports Illustrated and XM Radio ... Had the most points of any Russian-born rookie in history or any rookie left wing in history ... The only NHL player who had more than twice as many goals or shots than any teammate ... Scored 52 of the Capitals’ 230 goals (an NHL-best 22.6%); had a hand in 106 of 230 (46.1%) ... Had a hand in 52 of Washington’s 72 PPGs (72.2%) ... Recorded points in 65 of 81 games, and more than one point in 31 ... Scored a goal against every Eastern Conference team and 22 of the Capitals’ 24 opponents, the most teams any NHL rookie has ever scored upon (Teemu Selanne scored on 21 teams in 1992-93) ... Scored five goals in six games at 2006 Olympics and was the lone member of the All-Tournament Team whose team didn’t win a medal ... Was named NHL Offensive Player of the Week from the Month of October and Rookie of the Month for January, just the third player to earn both honors (Jim Carey, March 1995; Teemu Selanne, January 1993) ... Was named NHL Offensive Player of the Week twice (weeks ending 1/1 and 1/22), the only rookie to earn that honor this season ... NHL Rookie of the Month for December ... Enjoyed his best month of the season with 24 points (11-13-24) in 15 games in March (had been January, 11-10-21 in 14 games) ... Led the team and ranked second among NHL rookies with 172 hits ... Ranked 14th in the league (seventh among forwards) in hits ... Second on the team and first among rookie forwards in the NHL with 21:37 average ice time per game ... Tied for second in the league with six shootout goals (in 13 attempts); shared the league lead with three shootout-deciding goals ... Led or shared the team lead in shots 53 times, including 11 straight games (10/26-11/19) ... Had six games with 10 or more shots on goal, including one game with 12 (4/7 vs. CAR) and one
game with 13 (vs. TB 3/23) ... Scored Washington's first goal 19 times and the game's first goal an NHL-high 12 times ... He scored to give the Capitals the lead 22 times, more than any other player in the league; 10 more of his goals tied the score ... Scored two overtime goals among his five GWGs ... Set a Caps rookie record with a seven-game goal-scoring streak (2/10-3/8, 8g-5a); also had a six-game stretch from 12/22-1/1 (6g-6a) ... Set a Capitals rookie record with an 11-game point-scoring streak (3/18-4/7, 5g-12a) ... Had points in each of the last five games of the season (4/10-4/18, 4g-3a) and 16 of the last 17 games (3/18-4/18, 9g-15a) ... Had an eight-game point-scoring streak from 1/6-1/21 (9g-7a) ... Had back-to-back two-goal games twice (11/6-11/8 and 1/13-1/16) ... The first Capital ever to record a point in each of his first eight NHL games (breaking the record of four by Milan Novy in 1982 and Ryan Walter in 1978) ... Held the longest point-scoring streak to start an NHL career (eight games) since BOS's Dmitri Kvartalnov (14 games, 10/8-11/12/92, 12g-10a) ... Had a career-best four points twice (12/3 vs. NYR and 12/22 at ATL) ... Had eight games with three-plus points ... Became the first Capital ever to score two goals in his NHL debut vs. CBJ (10/5) ... Was the first No. 1 overall pick to score two goals in his debut ... Scored the first shootout goal in Capitals history vs. TB (10/16) ... Scored two goals, including his first SHG, at TB (10/28) ... Had two goals in each game of a home-and-home series with TOR (11/6-8) ... Recorded his first career hat trick at ANA (1/13), scoring all three goals including the OT winner ... Had a three-point game at PHX (1/16, 2g-1a), including a highlight-reel goal from his back that was viewed more than 100,000 times in the next week on WashingtonCaps.com and was named XM Radio's goal of the year ... Scored a goal and two assists and had 10 shots on goal vs. PIT (3/8) ... Had three points (2g-1a), 13 shots on goal and a +2 rating at TB (3/23) ... Scored his 50th goal of the season at Atlanta (4/13), just one game after recording his 100th point of the season – a game-winning overtime goal – at Boston (4/10).

European Career
Played 152 games in four seasons with Dynamo Moscow of the Russian Super League, totaling 68 points (36g-32a). 2004-05: Appeared in 37 games for Dynamo Moscow, during which he tallied 26 points (13g-13a) ... Despite missing 23 games while competing in international tournaments or recovering from injury, ranked seventh on the team in points, fifth in goals and sixth in assists ... Played in 10 playoff games, posting two goals and four assists ... Tied for third on the team in playoff scoring ... Helped lead Dynamo to the championship of the Russian Super League. 2003-04: Played in 53 games for Dynamo, notching 24 points (13g-11a) ... Led the team with 13 goals. 2002-03: Recorded 15 points (8g-7a) in 40 games for Dynamo ... Appeared in five playoff games. 2001-02: Played 22 games in his rookie year for Dynamo Moscow as a 16-year-old, posting four points (2g-2a) ... Played 19 games for Dynamo-2 in the Russia-3 league, where he recorded 26 points (18g-8a).

International
Has extensive experience representing Russia in international competition, appearing in three World Junior Championships (2003, 2004, 2005), five World Championships (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008), the World Cup of Hockey (2004) and the 2006 Olympics. 2008: Led Russia to its first World Championship gold medal since 1993, recording 12 points (6g-6a) in nine games ... Named to the all-tournament team ... Finished tied for second in the tournament in goals and tied for sixth in points ... Ranked tied for fourth in the tournament with a +11 rating, only on the ice for two even-strength goals against in nine games. 2007: Registered one goal and two assists in eight games to help Russia secure the bronze medal at the World Championship in Moscow. 2006: Named to the all-tournament teams at the Olympics in Torino, Italy, and the World Championship in Latvia ... Led Russia to a fourth-place finish at the Olympics with a team-high five goals in eight games ... Team finished fifth at the World Championship ... Finished second in goals (6) and tied for fifth in points (9) at the World Championship ... Had a hat trick against Kazakhstan (5/6). 2005: Led the team in goals (5), points (8) and GWGs (2) at the World Championship in Austria ... Was named the top forward at the 2005 World Junior Championship in North Dakota ... Led Russia in goals (7) and points (11) and earned a silver medal in that tournament. 2004: Recorded seven points (5g-2a) in six games at the 2004 World Junior Championship in Finland ... Made his World Championship debut in 2004, recording two points (1g-1a) in six games and scored one goal in two World Cup of Hockey games. 2003: Made his World Junior Championship debut as a 17-year-old, recording six goals and one assist in six games ... Helped lead Russia to a gold medal in Halifax, Nova Scotia. 2002: Posted 14 goals and four assists (18 points) in eight games to lead Russia to the World Under-18 Championship.

Transactions
Selected by Washington in the first round, first overall, in 2004 Entry Draft.

Personal
Supports Athletes Against Autism ... Joined Right To Play as an athlete ambassador in September 2006 ... Donated $10,000 from the NHLPA's Goals and Dreams Fund, which he earned as a 2006 Lester B. Pearson Trophy finalist, to Right To Play ... Purchases eight season tickets to Capitals home games and donates them to soldiers and needy children as part of Alex

phone 202.266.2200  627 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 850, Arlington, VA 22203  fax 202.266.2360

8
Ovechkin’s Crazy 8s program ... Scheduled to unveil his clothing line, in conjunction with CCM and designer Roger Edwards, at a launch party the night before the awards in Toronto ... Has appeared on the cover of The Hockey News seven times and the cover of The Washington Post Magazine once ... Cover athlete on EA Sports’ NHL 07 video game ... Threw out the first pitch at the Washington Nationals game on 9/27/06 ... Honorary chair of the Caps Care Classic on 10/2/06, Washington’s annual charity golf tournament, where he hit a hole in one while taking practice shots on the par 3, 160-yard fourth hole at the Springfield Golf & Country Club ... Celebrated his 22nd birthday by leading a beautification project at Shaw Junior High School in Washington, D.C., on 9/18/07 ... Was featured as the FOX News Sunday Power Player of the Week by Chris Wallace on 4/13/08 ... His mother, Tatiana, won two Olympic gold medals in basketball (1976 and 1980) ... Father, Mikhail, is a former professional soccer player ... Lives with his brother, Mikhail, in the D.C. area during the season ... Spends his summers in Moscow ... Idolized former Soviet great Alexander Mal'tsev while growing up ... Listens to hip hop, R&B and techno/dance music ... Likes playing video games in his spare time ... Lists basketball as his favorite sport other than hockey ... Lists pasta and sushi as his favorite foods.
Nicklas Backstrom 19
Center
Ht.: 6’0” Wt.: 183 Shoots: Left
Born: November 23, 1987 (Gavle, Sweden)
Drafted: Capitals’ first-round choice, fourth overall, in the 2006 Entry Draft

2007-08
A finalist for the Calder Trophy as the NHL’s rookie of the year ... One of only four Capitals to play in every game ... Paced all NHL rookies in assists (55) and finished second in points (69); finished 11th in the NHL in assists ... His 55 assists set a Capitals rookie record; he is the second most prolific rookie scorer in Capitals history ... Tied for third among rookies with a +13 rating and had the highest rating among the top 15 rookie scorers ... Led the Caps and all NHL rookies with 72 takeaways; tied for sixth in the league ... Had 60 points (13g-47a) after Thanksgiving, 30% more than any other rookie; was +18 in that time and had three four-point games ... Finished +19 outside the Southeast Division, which led all rookies against non-divisional opponents ... The only rookie with at least 45 points to have a plus-rating in both home and road games ... Tied for first among rookies in power-play assists (22) and ranked third in rookie power-play points (25) ... Tied for second among rookies with four game-winning goals (11/8 at OTT; 11/23 at PHI; 3/5 at BUF and 3/25 at ATL) ... Team was 11-2-0 when he scored a goal and 30-10-4 when he had a point ... Notched his first NHL point, an assist, in his first game, 10/5 at ATL ... Scored his first NHL goal 11/8 at OTT ... Posted his first multiple-point game (1g-2a) on his 20th birthday and Bruce Boudreau’s NHL coaching debut, 11/23 at PHI ... Became the first rookie in NHL history to post back-to-back four-assist games (1/19 vs. FLA and 1/21 at PIT); had his third four-point game (1g-3a) vs. TOR (3/3) ... In the final 18 games of the season he had 18 points (5g-13a) and was +16 ... Scored two goals within 32 seconds – the fastest two goals by a Cap this year – to lead Washington to a dramatic third-period comeback 3/21 at ATL ... Shared the team lead in playoff goals (4) and was tied for second in the NHL in first-round goals ... Led all NHL rookies in first-round goals and shared the lead among rookies in points ... Ranked tied for fourth on the team with six points in seven playoff games ... Finished a team-best +3 in the playoffs ... Had an assist in his first career playoff game, 4/11 vs. PHI ... Scored goals in four straight games to close out the ECQF series vs. PHI, notching the Caps’ first goal in each of those games ... Three of his four goals came in the first period ... Represented Sweden in the World Championship.

2006-07: Played 45 games for Brynas in the Swedish Elite League ... Led the team in points (40, 12g-28a) and assists (28) ... Finished 15th in the league in assists and 22nd in scoring despite playing fewer games than all but two of the players who finished with more points ... Played in seven playoff games, recording three goals and six points ... Represented Sweden in the World Junior Championship, posting seven points, all assists ... Played for Sweden in the World Championship, finishing tied for fifth on the team with six points (1g-5a).

2005-06: Named Rookie of the Year in the Swedish Elite League, a league all-star and the best forward for Brynas ... Played in 46 games for Brynas, leading the team in points (26) and ranking second in goals (10) ... Recorded one playoff goal in four games ... Represented Sweden in the World Junior Championship and the World Championship. 2004-05: Split the season between the junior and senior leagues for Brynas ... Played in 19 games in the Elite League ... Played in 29 games for the junior team, recording 34 points (17g-17a).

CAREER STATISTICS

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CAPITALS/NHL TOTALS
82 14 55 69 24 13 3 0 4 153 - - - -
International Career
Has represented Sweden in five international competitions, participating in the World Junior Championship twice and World Championship each of the past three seasons. **2008:** Tied for third on the Swedish team with seven points (3g-4a) in nine games at the World Championship ... Second on the team with 27 shots on goal. **2007:** Recorded seven points, all assists, in seven games at the World Junior Championship ... Posted six points (1g-5a) in nine games at the World Championship, helping Sweden to a fourth-place finish ... Ranked tied for fifth on the team in points. **2006:** Posted seven points (4g-3a) in six games in the World Junior Championship, leading the Swedes in goals and ranking second in points ... Named Sweden’s best forward in the tournament ... Finished tied for fifth in the tournament in points and tied for third in goals ... Made his debut at the World Championship, playing in four games and helping Sweden win the gold medal.

NHL Transactions
Selected by Washington in the first round, fourth overall, in the 2006 Entry Draft.

Personal
Son of Anders and Christine Backstrom ... Anders played professionally in Sweden and was a draft pick of the New York Rangers (10th round, 203rd overall, in 1980) ... Brother, Kristoffer, is a defenseman playing in Sweden ... Threw out the first pitch at the Washington Nationals-Baltimore Orioles game May 21, 2007, at RFK Stadium, the first baseball game he ever attended.
Bruce Boudreau
Head Coach

Bruce Boudreau, 53, became the 14th head coach in Washington Capitals history when he was named to the position on an interim basis, Nov. 22, 2007, and had the interim tag removed Dec. 26, 2007. His tremendously successful first season behind the bench in Washington landed the Capitals a playoff berth and earned Boudreau a spot as a finalist for the Jack Adams Award as the NHL’s coach of the year.

Boudreau led the Capitals on a remarkable comeback from 30th in the NHL when he took over on Thanksgiving Day to the Southeast Division championship. His record of 37-17-7 would be good for a 109-point pace in the course of a full season. The Capitals posted 17 come-from-behind victories under Boudreau and posted a 20-6-7 record in games decided by one goal. Boudreau was the fastest coach in club history to reach 20 wins (34 games) and 30 wins (53 games) and the first coach in NHL history to lead his team from 14th place at midseason to a playoff berth. It marked the 10th straight season that Boudreau has led his team to the playoffs.

Boudreau has coached championship teams in the American Hockey League (AHL) and the ECHL and was in his third year as the head coach of the Hershey Bears, Washington’s AHL affiliate, when he was promoted to D.C. He led the Bears to the Eastern Conference championship and the Calder Cup finals in each of his two full seasons in Hershey, winning the Calder Cup in 2006. Boudreau compiled a 103-45-11-16 record with the Bears (a .666 winning percentage), including an AHL-best 51-17-6-6 record (.713) last season.

Boudreau spent nine seasons as an AHL head coach, having compiled a 340-216-56-43 career record. He spent four years with the Manchester Monarchs and two years with the Lowell Lock Monsters before joining the Bears. Before ascending to the AHL, he was the head coach and director of hockey operations for the Mississippi Sea Wolves (ECHL), where he won the 1999 Kelly Cup championship.

After making his head-coaching debut in the Colonial Hockey League with the Muskegon Fury in 1992-93, Boudreau took over the Fort Wayne Komets of the International Hockey League (IHL) in 1993-94. The Komets advanced to the Turner Cup finals in each of his two full seasons in Hershey, winning the Calder Cup in 2006. Boudreau compiled a 103-45-11-16 record with the Bears (a .666 winning percentage), including an AHL-best 51-17-6-6 record (.713) last season.

Boudreau played parts of eight seasons with the Toronto Maple Leafs and Chicago Blackhawks, recording 70 points in 141 NHL games. A third-round pick of the Leafs in the 1975 NHL draft, Boudreau enjoyed one of the best seasons ever by a Canadian junior player during 1974-75. He picked up 165 points for the Toronto Marlboros, a Canadian Hockey League record until Wayne Gretzky surpassed the mark during the 1977-78 season.

An outstanding AHL player, Boudreau ranks 11th all-time in scoring in league history with 316 goals and 799 points. No AHL player in the 1980s notched more points than Boudreau, as he played for the New Brunswick Hawks, Baltimore Skipjacks, Nova Scotia Oilers, Springfield Indians and Newmarket Saints during that time. He won the 1987-88 John B. Sollenberger Trophy for leading the league in scoring, and was also a member of the 1992 Calder Cup champion Adirondack Red Wings.

Boudreau’s Career Head Coaching Record

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CAPITALS NHL 61 37 17 - 7 81 .664 7 3 4 .429
Finalist Press Releases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 29, 2008

Alex Ovechkin Named a Finalist for Hart Trophy

Could become D.C. sports’ first MVP in 25 years and the first Capital to win the Hart

ARLINGTON, Va. – The National Hockey League announced today that Washington left wing Alex Ovechkin is one of three finalists for the Hart Trophy, which is presented annually to the player judged most valuable to his team. Ovechkin joins Calgary’s Jarome Iginla and Pittsburgh’s Evgeni Malkin as the three finalists.

Members of the Professional Hockey Writers’ Association submitted ballots for the Hart Trophy at the conclusion of the regular season, with the top three vote-getters announced as finalists. The winner will be announced Thursday, June 12, during the 2008 NHL Awards Television Special, which will be broadcast live throughout the United States on VERSUS and in Canada on CBC from the historic Elgin Theatre in Toronto.

Ovechkin could become the first Washington, D.C., most valuable player in a major North American sport (NFL, NBA, NHL or MLB) since the Washington Redskins’ Joe Theismann in 1983. He would be the first Capital ever to win the Hart Trophy and would join teammate Sergei Fedorov as the only Russian-born players to capture the award (Fedorov won in 1994 as a member of the Detroit Red Wings).

Ovechkin has already claimed the Art Ross Trophy as the league’s top point scorer (112 points) and the Maurice “Rocket” Richard Trophy as the top goal scorer (65 goals). He also led the league in power-play goals (22), game-winning goals (11) and shots (446), while playing all 82 games. Ovechkin scored a higher percentage of his team’s goals than any other player (27.3%) and had a hand in more of his team’s goals than any other player (47.1%).

His 65 goals set a Capitals record and an NHL record for goals by a left wing. Ovechkin wrapped up his third NHL season as the first player since 1996 to reach 60 goals and one of only 12 players all-time to score 65 or more goals. Ovechkin shared the NHL lead with three hat tricks and had two of the league’s four four-goal games all season.

Ovechkin’s +28 rating was seventh in the league and tied for first on the team with Viktor Kozlov and he was among the league’s top 10 in hits (220) and takeaways (69).

Ovechkin, who led the Capitals to the playoffs for the first time since 2003, appeared in his second NHL All-Star Game in January. He was the NHL’s First Star for the months of January and March and was a five-time selection as one of the Three Stars of the week. Ovechkin was named the MVP and the league’s best player by The Hockey News, the “Monster of the Year” by TSN’s Pierre McGuire, the Clutch Scorer and a unanimous choice for MVP by USA Today’s panel and the “Espo Award” winner as the league MVP by Phil Esposito of XM Radio NHL Home Ice.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 1, 2008

Alex Ovechkin Named a Finalist for Lester B. Pearson Award

Capitals star could win two awards at June 12 NHL Awards Special

ARLINGTON, Va. – The National Hockey League Players’ Association (NHLPA) announced today that Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin is one of three finalists for the Lester B. Pearson Award, which is presented annually to the “most outstanding player” in the NHL as voted by fellow members of the NHLPA. Ovechkin joins Calgary’s Jarome Iginla and Pittsburgh’s Evgeni Malkin as the three finalists.

Members of the NHLPA submitted ballots for the Pearson Award at the conclusion of the regular season, with the top three vote-getters announced as finalists. The winner will be announced Thursday, June 12, during the 2008 NHL Awards Television Special, which will be broadcast live throughout the United States on VERSUS and in Canada on CBC from the historic Elgin Theatre in Toronto. The Pearson Award winner will assign $20,000 to the grassroots hockey program of his choice through the NHLPA’s Goals & Dreams fund, while the two finalists will each allocate $10,000. Launched in November 1999, the Goals & Dreams fund was
created by NHLPA members to assist grassroots hockey, and has distributed more than $16 million worldwide to a variety of hockey initiatives.

Ovechkin has already claimed the Art Ross Trophy as the league’s top point scorer (112 points) and the Maurice “Rocket” Richard Trophy as the top goal scorer (65 goals), and he is one of three finalists for the Hart Trophy as the most valuable player as selected by the Professional Hockey Writers’ Association. He would be the first Capital ever to win the Pearson Award and would join teammate Sergei Fedorov as the only Russian-born players to capture the award (Fedorov won in 1994 as a member of the Detroit Red Wings). Ovechkin was a finalist for the Pearson Award once before, as a rookie in 2005-06.

Ovechkin (Pearson, Hart) will be joined by teammate Nicklas Backstrom (Calder Memorial Trophy finalist) and head coach Bruce Boudreau (Jack Adams Award finalist) at the NHL Awards show. The Capitals are the only team that could win four awards at the event.

In addition to goals and points, Ovechkin also led the league in power-play goals (22), game-winning goals (11) and shots (446), while playing all 82 games. Ovechkin scored a higher percentage of his team’s goals than any other player (27.3%) and had a hand in more of his team’s goals than any other player (47.1%).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 23, 2008

Nicklas Backstrom Named a Finalist for Calder Memorial Trophy

ARLINGTON, Va. – The National Hockey League announced today that Washington center Nicklas Backstrom is one of three finalists for the Calder Memorial Trophy, which is presented annually to the league’s top rookie. Backstrom joins Chicago rookies Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews as the three finalists.

Members of the Professional Hockey Writers’ Association submitted ballots for the Calder Memorial Trophy at the conclusion of the regular season, with the top three vote-getters announced as finalists. The winner will be announced Thursday, June 12, during the 2008 NHL Awards Television Special, which will be broadcast live throughout the United States on VERSUS and in Canada on CBC from the historic Elgin Theatre in Toronto.

Backstrom, who was one of four Caps to play every game, turned in the second most prolific season ever for a Capitals rookie, as he helped lead Washington to the playoffs for the first time since 2003. He finished second in rookie scoring with 69 points (Kane led with 72) and lead all rookies and set a new Capitals’ rookie record with 55 assists.

He had 60 points (13g-47a) in his last 61 games, was a +18 in that time and had three four-point games. In the last 18 games of the regular season, and with the playoffs on the line, he had 18 points (5g-13a) and had a +16 rating. Backstrom tied for third among rookies with a +13 rating and had the highest rating among the top 15 rookie scorers.

His four game-winning goals ranked second among rookies and his +19 rating outside of the Southeast Division paced all rookies against non-divisional opponents. Backstrom finished the season as the only rookie with at least 45 points to have a plus-rating in both
home and road games. He also became the first rookie in NHL history to post back-to-back four-assist games (1/19 vs. Florida and 1/21 at Pittsburgh.)

The 20-year-old turned in successful number of the power play as well. He tied for first among rookies with 22 power-play assists and ranked third in rookie power-play points with 25.

Backstrom’s linemate Alex Ovechkin is the only Capital to win the Calder Memorial Trophy. Ovechkin captured the award after the 2005-06 season when he tallied 106 points (52g-54a).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 30, 2008

Bruce Boudreau Named a Finalist for Jack Adams Award

ARLINGTON, Va. – The National Hockey League announced today that Washington head coach Bruce Boudreau is one of three finalists for the Jack Adams Award, which is presented annually to the coach who has contributed the most to his team’s success. Boudreau joins Detroit’s Mike Babcock and Montreal’s Guy Carbonneau as the three finalists.

Members of the NHL Broadcasters’ Association submitted ballots for the Jack Adams Award at the conclusion of the regular season, with the top three vote-getters announced as finalists. The winner will be announced Thursday, June 12 during the 2008 NHL Awards Television Special, which will be broadcast live throughout Canada on CBC and the United States on VERSUS from the historic Elgin Theatre in Toronto.

Boudreau is the third Capital finalist for a postseason award and will be joined in Toronto by Alex Ovechkin (Hart Trophy finalist) and Nicklas Backstrom (Calder Memorial Trophy finalist). The Capitals could become the first team since the inception of the Jack Adams Award (1973-74) to have the coach of the year, player of the year and rookie of the year. Boudreau would be the second Capital head coach to win the award, as Bryan Murray received the honor after the 1983-84 season.

Boudreau became the 14th head coach in Washington history when he was named to the position on an interim basis on Nov. 22, 2007. The interim tag was removed on Dec. 26, 2007.

The Capitals were in 30th place when he accepted the job, but Boudreau quickly turned things around starting with a stirring overtime victory in Philadelphia on Nov. 23, 2007. In his 61 games behind the bench the Capitals posted a 37-17-7 record and ended the regular season on a seven-game winning streak to win the Southeast Division.

Washington became the first team in NHL history to come back from 14th or 15th place at midseason and make the playoffs and became only the second team in NHL history to finish a season in first place in its division immediately after three or more consecutive last-place finishes.

Boudreau, who had the Capitals on a 109-point pace had he coached the entire season, was the fastest coach in team history to reach 20 wins (34 games) and 30 wins (53 games). Washington earned 81 points after Boudreau was hired, which was only three points behind Detroit and Pittsburgh, which led the league with 84 points during the same timeframe.

Boudreau rallied the Caps to 17 comeback victories and posted a 20-6-7 record in games decided by one goal. Washington ended the regular season with a club record 11 wins in overtime or shootout.