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Agent says ex-Gem should command three-year deal from Hawks

## \$600,000 pact could make Bennett rich

By PAUL SVOBODA  
 Herald Sports Editor

Adam Bennett could soon be the wealthiest teenager in Georgetown.

Bennett, 18, was selected first, sixth overall, by the Chicago Blackhawks in the first round of Saturday's National Hockey League entry draft in Bloomington, Minnesota.

According to Bennett's Toronto-based agent Anton Thun, the ex-Georgetown Gemini Jr. B defenceman could command a salary of \$600,000 in his first NHL contract.

"I'd say a rough estimate would be \$600,000 for three years," said Thun from his Toronto office Monday.

Thun would not comment on numbers when it came to discussing Bennett's possible signing bonus, but experts agree most NHL first rounders settle for something in the neighborhood of \$150,000.

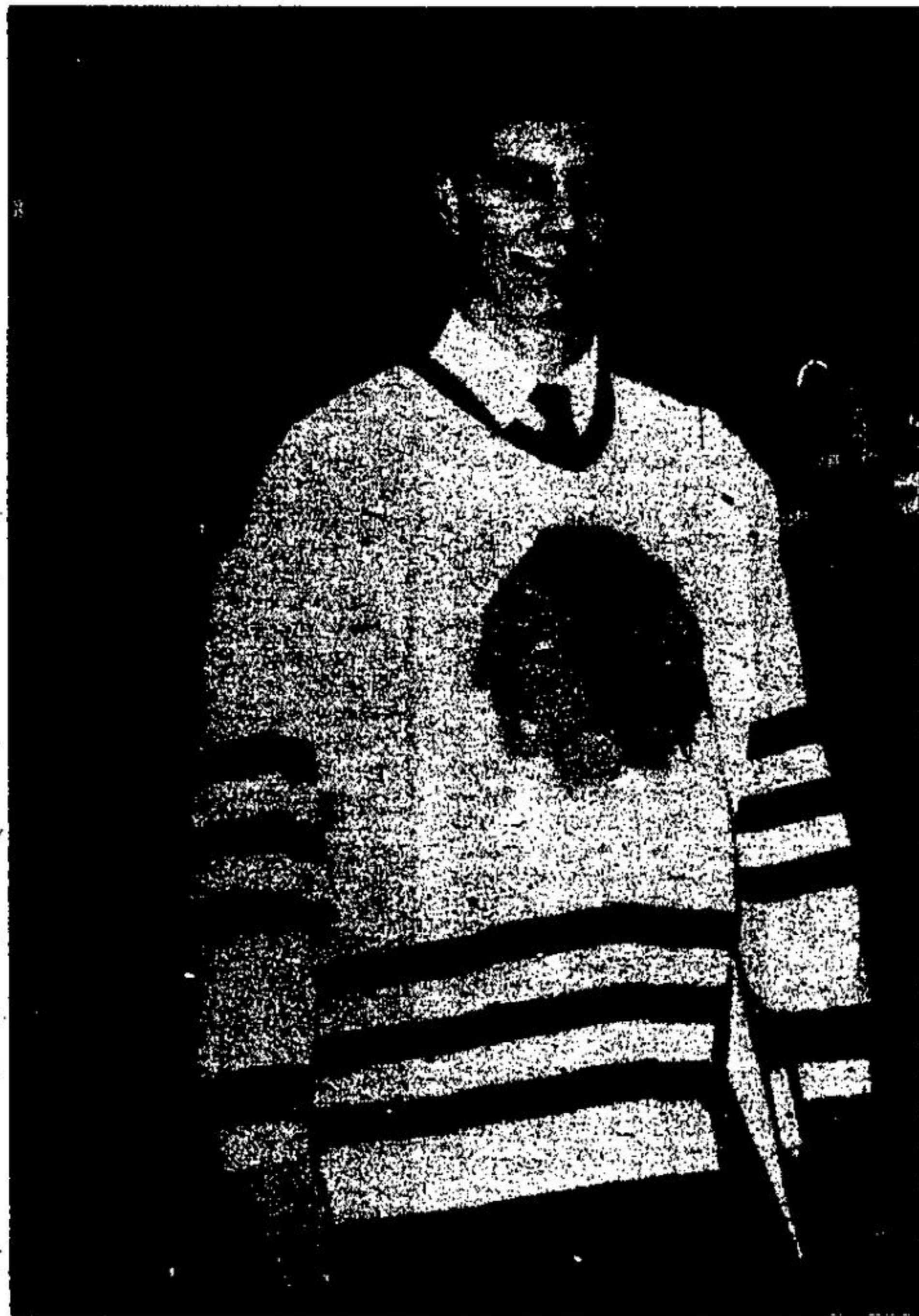
All of this is possible after Bennett, a 6-foot-4, 206-pound graduate of the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association, became the first blueliner selected in Saturday's NHL draft.

Ranked seventh overall heading into the lottery, Bennett was the first pick of a rebuilding and-upwardly mobile Blackhawk club, that surprisingly reached the Stanley Cup semi-finals last season before losing to eventual champions Calgary Flames.

"I'm delighted for Adam that he went to Chicago," said Thun. "It's a good organization."

Another Thun client, defenceman Mike Speer of the Ontario Hockey League's Guelph Platers, was Chicago's first choice in the second round and the Toronto agent feels both players have a bright future with the Hawks.

"Chicago needed defencemen and they got two in the first two rounds that will be mainstays for them for years," said Thun.



Former Georgetown Jr. B Gemini rearguard Adam Bennett fulfilled a dream when he donned a Chicago Blackhawk jersey after the National Hockey League club made the 18-year-old its first pick, sixth overall, in the first round of the NHL entry draft Saturday in Minnesota. Bennett's agent Anton Thun of Toronto said the 6-foot-4, 206-pounder could ink a deal worth \$600,000. (Photo submitted)

While Thun agrees with insiders who suggest 1989's NHL entry draft selections all require a further year of seasoning before hitting the big time, he says anything's possible.

"The concensus from this year's draft is that they won't be able to step right in and play," he commented. "But if Adam can do well in training camp he may stick, even if it's for a few games."

Under NHL rules, a junior-aged player not kept on the parent club's roster must be returned to his junior team for the remainder of its season.

That would mean another season in Sudbury for Bennett where last year he tallied seven times and added 22 assists in his rookie OHL season. Wolves picked him first, second overall, in the OHL priority draft in 1988.

Meanwhile, although Thun admitted the draft is still a bit of a crap shoot when trying to predict where individual players might end up, he did say he had a good feeling about Bennett going to Chicago.

"I had a pretty good idea, probably by about noon Friday that Chicago was interested," he said. "You never know for sure and you never know about the picks ahead of you. But we had a pretty strong belief that it would be Chicago."

"Chicago was picking for needs," he added. "In Adam's case, Chicago is not strong on defence and they have some older players that they'll lose in two years. Adam is building himself up pretty rapidly. In two years it's possible he and Mike Speer will be playing together on the Chicago blueline."

As for becoming the first defenceman selected in the draft when Central Scouting had him third behind U.S. collegian Jason Herter and Western Leaguer Kevin Haller, Bennett's vast promise won over Chicago, said Thun.

"Adam's leadership ability and his potential moved him up in the draft," said Thun.

Two NHL clubs that drafted just ahead of Chicago, Winnipeg and

New Jersey, had also shown great interest in Bennett prior to Saturday but Thun wasn't surprised with their eventual picks.

"There wasn't as much excitement coming from my conversations with the Jets," said Thun. "New Jersey felt Adam was the best defenceman in the draft but they like to go with Americans if they're good enough and I would have been surprised if they had passed the opportunity to take a top American."

The Devils picked right winger Bill Guerin, a member of last year's U.S. world junior team, fifth, after Winnipeg chose centre Stu Barnes of the Western League, fourth.

Quebec Nordiques surprised no one by choosing Swedish youngster Mats Sundin first overall Saturday while New York Islanders next took second-ranked Dave Chyzowski of the WHL's Kamloops Blazers.

Toronto Maple Leafs, in third spot, selected centre Scott Thornton, one of three players from the OHL's Belleville Bulls chosen by Toronto in the first round.

**DRAFT NOTES:**

—Both Thun and Bennett related an interesting story which took place Sunday en route back to Toronto from the draft. Adam was the featured guest on a Chicago sports phone-in radio show and when he took a call from Deerfield, Illinois it turned out to be none other than another Thun stablemate, giant-sized forward Rob Woodward. The big (6-foot-4, 218-lbs.) U.S.-born winger went to Vancouver in round two.

—Bennett huddled Saturday with Blackhawks ownership led by the long-time NHL family, the Wirtz's. "They have good memories of Georgetown," said Bennett. "We seemed compatible."

—Adam's parents, Keith and Gail, accompanied him to Minnesota for Saturday's draft.

## McNeily nets six as Selects win Bolton tourney

On Sunday, the Bolton Wanderers Soccer Club hosted their first annual girls soccer tournament. Andrea McNeily of Georgetown led the attack with six goals for the day, which was amazing since she just returned from a fairly serious injury, as Georgetown Selects won the championship.

The first game pitted Georgetown against Brampton at 11:30 a.m. The first goal, an Andrea McNeily header, was followed by a left-footed goal by centre half Tracy Fowler. Next, a Leanne Inglis shot deflected off a Brampton defender and past a surprised goalie into the net to make it 3-0 at the half.

In the second half, a patient Andrea beat the defence, out-waited the goalie and scored. Great scoring chances were created by ever attacking endy Padillo. A Joanna Miller cross and confusion resulted in another timely goal by Andrea. Leanne Inglis showed determination and second effort by scoring even after being knocked to the ground. The scoring was rounded out by Melanie Booth, who fired the ball over the goalie after a nifty pass from Leanne Inglis. Final score 7-0, Georgetown.

At 2:15 p.m. Georgetown met Bolton. Georgetown started off very slowly, but again an Andrea McNeily goal had Georgetown ahead 1-0 after the first 35-minute

half. Hustle by Melanie and a great cross by Joanna Miller resulted in Andrea's second opportunistic goal. Joanna, not to be outdone, lofted a long shot that beat the unsuspecting Bolton goalie.

Joanna then scored on a power-

ful header from left wing. On a roll, Joanna scored again - rounding out her genuine hat trick. As in the previous game, Melanie closed out the scoring on a low, hard shot.

In the championship final at 4:30 p.m. a determined aggressive

Bolton team gave Georgetown all they could handle after yet another slow Georgetown start. Great defensive plays by Kim Mizener, Lisa Vogt, Mylene Benito, Michelle Boulanger and Michelle Doyle and superb goaltending by gutsy Jen-

nifer Apgar, held off the Bolton attacks. With Georgetown slowly improving, Melanie Booth's quick deflection from another fine Leanne Inglis cross, resulted in a much-needed goal, 1-0 at the half.

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## Windy City best stop for travelling Bennett



**Paul's Call**  
 Paul Svobeda  
 Herald Sports Editor

The Windy City will definitely be the place to be for Adam Bennett next fall.

Chicago Blackhawks plainly needed defencemen in this year's entry draft Saturday (they took three with their first three picks) and with Bennett leading the way the opportunity is there for him to become a Chi-Hawk stalwart in years to come.

As Bennett's agent Anton Thun pointed out Monday, the Hawks had only three "young" defencemen on the blueline in April when they were the

Cinderella team of the Stanley Cup playoffs, making it to the semi-finals before being steamrolled by Lanny and his eventual championship teammates from Calgary.

With Doug Wilson and Bob Murray both over 30 and with Keith Brown knocking on the door (29) at least three spots will open up within the next two years. Chances are Adam will spend another year grooming in the Nickel City and then he could quite conceivably step right into the Hawk lineup.

—Adam's impression of Hawks head coach Mike Keenan, often portrayed as Captain Bligh by the media? "You have to respect a guy who knows when it's time to play and when it's time to get down to business," said Bennett.

—Prior to the draft, the Minnesota North Stars may have thought Bennett would be around

for their first selection as they picked seventh, right behind the Hawks. Adam was featured in a Minneapolis Star Tribune article Saturday entitled: "Bennett may be Stars' top pick." Sorry, Minnesota.

—Blackhawks' coaching staff wasted little time squeezing in a holiday following the draft. A call to Hawks' head office in Chicago Stadium Monday revealed head coach Keenan and assistant Jacques Martin were both winging their way to Hawaii for 10 days. General Manager Bob Pulford was in Chi-town, but was unavailable for comment.

**PASMA NEXT?** Thun says another Georgetown client of his, Rod Pasma, may be the next local GMHA grad to mount the NHL draft day podium. "There's no reason why Rod couldn't be a first round pick next year if he has a good year in Cornwall,"

said Thun. Pasma, a defenceman, was taken first, ninth overall, by the Royals in the recent Ontario League priority draft.

**BITS AND PIECES:** Hornby resident Bryan Lewis is expected to be named the NHL's new director of officiating in the wake of the untimely death of Georgetown's John McCauley who held the post for three years...

The Brampton Minor Hockey Association has apparently freed up about four hours of ice time, paving the way for the Central Jr. B league's Etobicoke Capitals to move to Brampton next season...

Newest rumor concerning the possible relocation of the Guelph Platers? Owen Sound. Insiders still say, however, the Platers are simply bucking the city for a new rink.