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## AHL ANNOUNCES NEW CLASS OF INDUCTEES INTO AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE HALL OF FAME

**SPRINGFIELD, Mass.** ... The American Hockey League today announced the four people selected for induction into the **American Hockey League Hall of Fame** as the Class of 2020.

Honored by the AHL Hall of Fame Selection Committee as the 15<sup>th</sup> group of enshrinees are **Robbie Ftorek, Denis Hamel, Darren Haydar** and **Fred Thurier**.

"Since 1936, the history of the American Hockey League has been defined by the people who have helped build upon its foundation of excellence," said **David Andrews**, AHL President and Chief Executive Officer. "Each of these four individuals performed at the highest levels throughout their careers, and the AHL Board of Governors unanimously endorses the Selection Committee's recommendation for their induction into the American Hockey League Hall of Fame as the Class of 2020."

The Class of 2020 will be honored as part of the festivities at the **2020 AHL All-Star Classic presented by Ontario International Airport**, hosted by the Ontario Reign. The American Hockey League Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Ceremony is scheduled for January 27.

Formed in 2006 to recognize, honor and celebrate individuals for their outstanding achievements and contributions in the American Hockey League, the **AHL Hall of Fame** is housed online at **[www.AHLHallofFame.com](http://www.AHLHallofFame.com)** and is accessible to fans worldwide as part of the AHL Internet Network.

In operation since 1936, the American Hockey League serves as the top development league for the players, coaches, managers, executives, broadcasters and staff of all 31 National Hockey League teams. Nearly 90 percent of NHL players each year are American Hockey League graduates, and more than 100 honored members of the Hockey Hall of Fame spent time in the AHL in their careers.

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Contact:

Jason Chaimovitch, Vice President of Communications  
Hannah Bevis, Manager of Digital and Social Media  
(413) 781-2030 | @AHLPR





## Robbie Ftorek

A veteran of nearly five decades in hockey as a player and coach, **Robbie Ftorek** successfully combined player development with winning during an impressive tenure behind American Hockey League benches.

A native of Needham, Massachusetts, Ftorek turned pro with the AHL's Virginia Wings in 1972, just months after winning a silver medal with the United States Olympic team in Sapporo, Japan. Ftorek would total 141 points in 138 AHL games over 13 pro seasons before signing on to serve as head coach of the New Haven Nighthawks in 1985.

Ftorek led New Haven to a pair of playoff appearances and was in first place on Dec. 9, 1987, when he was promoted to head coach of the NHL's Los Angeles Kings. After two seasons in L.A., Ftorek was named head coach of the AHL's Halifax Citadels, and earned another promotion to the NHL after just four months when he was elevated to an assistant's role with the Quebec Nordiques.

Ftorek joined the New Jersey Devils organization in 1991 and enjoyed his greatest AHL success. He won back-to-back Louis A.R. Pieri Awards as the league's outstanding coach, first in 1994-95 as he led the Albany River Rats to a Calder Cup championship, and then in 1995-96 on the strength of a 54-win, 115-point regular season, one of the best campaigns in league history. Ftorek's time guiding the Devils' top prospects helped propel players like Martin Brodeur, Bill Guerin, Steve Sullivan, Scott Pellerin, Brian Rolston, Mike Dunham and Jay Pandolfo to lengthy NHL careers.

After turns running benches in New Jersey and Boston, Ftorek returned to the AHL and coached Albany again from 2003 to 2006. He currently ranks 11<sup>th</sup> all-time with 354 wins as an AHL head coach, and remains the only coach in the last 30 years to win the Pieri Award twice.

AHL Totals: Robbie Ftorek			Regular Season – Head Coach							Playoffs – Head Coach			
Season	Team		GP	W	L/OTL	T/SOL	Pts	WPct.		GP	W	L	WPct.
1985-86	New Haven Nighthawks	AHL	80	36	37	7	79	.494		5	1	4	.200
1986-87	New Haven Nighthawks	AHL	80	44	25	11	99	.619		7	3	4	.429
1987-88	New Haven Nighthawks	AHL	27	16	8	3	27	.648		--	--	--	--
1989-90	Halifax Citadels	AHL	53	26	22	5	57	.538		--	--	--	--
1992-93	Utica Devils	AHL	80	33	36	11	77	.481		5	1	4	.200
1993-94	Albany River Rats	AHL	80	38	34	8	84	.525		5	1	4	.200
▶ 1994-95	Albany River Rats	AHL	80	46	17	17	109	.681		14	12	2	.857
1995-96	Albany River Rats	AHL	80	54	19	7	115	.719		4	1	3	.250
2003-04	Albany River Rats	AHL	28	7	18	3	20	.304		--	--	--	--
2004-05	Albany River Rats	AHL	80	29	45	6	71	.400		--	--	--	--
2005-06	Albany River Rats	AHL	80	25	52	3	57	.331		--	--	--	--
			<b>748</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>.527</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>.475</b>

▶ *Calder Cup (1995)*

2x *AHL Coach of the Year (1995, 1996)*

		Regular Season							Playoffs				
Season	Team		GP	G	A	Pts	PIM		GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
1972-73	Virginia Red Wings	AHL	55	17	42	59	36	5	2	2	4	4	
1973-74	Virginia Red Wings	AHL	65	24	42	66	37	--	--	--	--	--	--
1984-85	New Haven Nighthawks	AHL	17	9	7	16	30	--	--	--	--	--	--
1985-86	New Haven Nighthawks	AHL	1	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--
			<b>138</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	



## Denis Hamel

**Denis Hamel** was one of the American Hockey League's most dangerous goal scorers over his 12 years on the circuit.

A native of Lachute, Quebec, Hamel broke into the pro ranks with the Rochester Americans in 1998 and helped the club reach back-to-back Calder Cup Finals, leading the team with 34 goals during the 1999-2000 season while also making the first of his three AHL All-Star Classic appearances.

Hamel also played 130 games with the Buffalo Sabres before signing with Ottawa in 2003, and his three years spent with the Binghamton Senators included a 91-point campaign in 2005-06 in which he also captured the Willie Marshall Award for leading the league with 56 goals.

NHL stints with Atlanta and Philadelphia followed before he returned to Binghamton in 2007; his first season back saw him selected to captain the Canadian AHL All-Star team at the event hosted by the Senators, and later earn the Yanick Dupre Memorial Award as AHL Man of the Year for his outstanding work in the Binghamton community.

Hamel completed his AHL tour with the Adirondack Phantoms, leading the team in goals in both 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Hamel ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in AHL history with 338 goals, topping the 20-goal mark in each of his last 10 seasons in the league, and totaled 651 points in 850 games.

AHL Totals: Denis Hamel			Regular Season					Playoffs				
Season	Team		GP	G	A	Pts	PIM	GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
1997-98	Rochester Americans	AHL	74	10	15	25	98	4	1	2	3	0
1998-99	Rochester Americans	AHL	74	16	17	33	121	20	3	4	7	10
1999-2000	Rochester Americans	AHL	76	34	24	58	122	21	6	7	13	49
2002-03	Rochester Americans	AHL	48	27	20	47	64	3	3	2	5	4
2003-04	Binghamton Senators	AHL	78	29	38	67	116	2	0	0	0	2
2004-05	Binghamton Senators	AHL	80	39	39	78	75	5	1	0	1	4
2005-06	Binghamton Senators	AHL	77	56	35	91	65	--	--	--	--	--
2007-08	Binghamton Senators	AHL	67	32	23	55	60	--	--	--	--	--
2008-09	Binghamton Senators	AHL	63	25	25	50	36	--	--	--	--	--
2009-10	Binghamton Senators	AHL	73	22	29	51	45	--	--	--	--	--
2010-11	Adirondack Phantoms	AHL	66	25	25	50	50	--	--	--	--	--
2011-12	Adirondack Phantoms	AHL	74	23	23	46	14	--	--	--	--	--
			<b>850</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>69</b>

3x *AHL All-Star (2000, 2006, 2008)*

1x *First Team AHL All-Star (2006)*

1x *Led league in goals (2006; co-leader)*

1x *AHL Man of the Year (2008)*



## Darren Haydar

Highly decorated, record-setting forward **Darren Haydar** was a dominant performer over his 11 seasons in the American Hockey League.

The native of Milton, Ontario, made an immediate splash when he joined the Milwaukee Admirals in 2002-03, posting 75 points in 75 games and earning the Dudley (Red) Garrett Memorial Award as the AHL's outstanding rookie. The next year, Haydar followed a 59-point regular season by tallying 11 goals and 26 points in 22 postseason contests as Milwaukee captured its first Calder Cup championship.

Haydar helped the Admirals back to the Calder Cup Finals in 2006, potting 92 points in the regular season and 35 more in the playoffs. He then signed with the Atlanta Thrashers that offseason, setting the stage for one of the most memorable campaigns in AHL history.

Now with the Chicago Wolves, Haydar recorded a point in 39 consecutive contests to begin the 2006-07 season, averaging better than two points per game during the longest scoring streak in AHL history. He went on to lead the league with 122 points on the year and earn MVP honors before tallying 24 points in 15 playoff outings, finishing first overall in playoff scoring for the third time in four springs.

In 2007-08, Haydar wore the captain's "C" for the Wolves and led them to a Calder Cup championship, on the way becoming the AHL's all-time leader in postseason goals and points. He spent one season in Grand Rapids and one in Cleveland before returning to Chicago for his final three years in the league.

The leading career scorer for both the Admirals' and Wolves' AHL franchises, Haydar totaled 788 points in his 780 regular-season AHL games, ranking 14<sup>th</sup> all-time in scoring and 10<sup>th</sup> in assists (496), and he remains the league's all-time leader in postseason goals (63) and points (143).

AHL Totals: Darren Haydar				Regular Season					Playoffs				
Season	Team			GP	G	A	Pts	PIM	GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
2002-03	Milwaukee Admirals	AHL		75	29	46	75	36	6	1	4	5	2
► 2003-04	Milwaukee Admirals	AHL		79	22	37	59	35	22	11	15	26	10
2004-05	Milwaukee Admirals	AHL		59	24	26	50	42	7	3	4	7	14
2005-06	Milwaukee Admirals	AHL		80	35	57	92	50	21	18	17	35	18
2006-07	Chicago Wolves	AHL		73	41	81	122	55	15	10	14	24	14
► 2007-08	Chicago Wolves	AHL		51	19	39	58	52	24	12	15	27	8
2008-09	Grand Rapids Griffins	AHL		79	31	49	80	26	10	4	7	11	4
2009-10	Lake Erie Monsters	AHL		66	23	41	64	60	--	--	--	--	--
2010-11	Chicago Wolves	AHL		77	27	47	74	60	--	--	--	--	--
2011-12	Chicago Wolves	AHL		70	21	36	57	32	5	4	4	8	0
2012-13	Chicago Wolves	AHL		71	20	37	57	58	--	--	--	--	--
				<b>780</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>70</b>

- *Calder Cup (2004, 2008)*
- 3x *AHL All-Star (2003, 2007, 2012)*
- 1x *First Team AHL All-Star (2007)*
- 1x *Second Team AHL All-Star (2009, 2011)*
- 1x *AHL All-Rookie Team (2003)*
- 3x *AHL All-Star (2000, 2006, 2008)*
- 1x *AHL MVP (2007)*
- 1x *AHL Rookie of the Year (2003)*
- 1x *Led league in points (2007)*
- 1x *Led league in assists (2007)*



## Fred Thurier

**Fred Thurier** was one of the first bona fide stars in the fledgling days of the American Hockey League.

Thurier's pro debut came with the Springfield Indians in 1937, and two years later he was the club's leading scorer with 60 points in 54 games. Thurier was named a First Team AHL All-Star as he recorded 60 points in 41 games in 1940-41, and he added 44 points in just 22 AHL contests in 1941-42, splitting time between Springfield and the NHL's Brooklyn Americans.

The native of Granby, Quebec, missed parts of the next two seasons while enlisted in the Canadian Army during World War II, but quickly returned to dominance with the Buffalo Bisons. He scored 33 goals and totaled 73 points in only 39 games during the regular season and added 18 points in nine playoff contests as the Bisons rolled to the 1944 Calder Cup championship.

After skating for the New York Rangers in the NHL in 1944-45, Thurier finished his career over seven seasons with the AHL's Cleveland Barons. He helped the Barons to a Calder Cup in 1948 after scoring a personal-best 36 goals, and in the following years continued to climb the AHL's career leaderboard. On the final day of the 1950-51 season, Thurier notched both his 300<sup>th</sup> goal and his 700<sup>th</sup> point, becoming the first AHL player ever to reach either of those plateaus; a month later, Thurier and the Barons were Calder Cup champions again.

Freddie "The Fox" Thurier retired in 1952 with more points in professional hockey than any other player to date, including 319 goals, 425 assists and 744 points in 642 AHL games and a league-record 85 points in postseason play. Thurier's post-playing career didn't take him too far from the action; he served as an AHL linesman from 1953 to 1962.

Thurier passed away in 1999 at the age of 82.

AHL Totals: Fred Thurier			Regular Season					Playoffs				
Season	Team		GP	G	A	Pts	PIM	GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
1937-38	Springfield Indians	IAHL	46	10	9	19	18	--	--	--	--	--
1938-39	Springfield Indians	IAHL	36	11	8	19	21	3	0	0	0	0
1939-40	Springfield Indians	IAHL	54	28	32	60	27	3	2	1	3	12
1940-41	Springfield Indians	AHL	41	29	31	60	36	3	0	1	1	0
1941-42	Springfield Indians	AHL	22	20	24	44	6	5	2	5	7	2
1942-43	Buffalo Bisons	AHL	7	6	9	15	2	--	--	--	--	--
► 1943-44	Buffalo Bisons	AHL	39	33	40	73	43	9	8	10	18	14
1945-46	Cleveland Barons	AHL	47	21	32	53	18	12	9	7	16	6
1946-47	Cleveland Barons	AHL	63	18	33	51	58	4	0	0	0	0
► 1947-48	Cleveland Barons	AHL	68	36	38	74	38	9	5	8	13	4
1948-49	Cleveland Barons	AHL	51	26	31	57	47	5	2	7	9	2
1949-50	Cleveland Barons	AHL	57	30	52	82	22	4	2	0	2	0
► 1950-51	Cleveland Barons	AHL	64	32	63	95	19	10	1	12	13	0
1951-52	Cleveland Barons	AHL	47	19	23	42	12	4	1	2	3	4
			<b>642</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>44</b>

- *Calder Cup (1944, 1948, 1951)*
- 1x *First Team AHL All-Star (1941)*
- 2x *Second Team AHL All-Star (1942, 1951)*
- 1x *Led league in goals (1941)*

<p align="center"><b>AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE HALL OF FAME</b>  <b>HONORED MEMBERS</b></p>
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Jimmy Anderson (2009)	Murray Eaves (2019)	Jean-Francois Labbe (2016)	Maurice Podoloff (2011)
John Anderson (2019)	Robbie Ftorek (2020)	Mitch Lamoureux (2011)	Noel Price (2008)
Jim Bartlett (2018)	Jody Gage (2006)	Bruce Landon (2016)	Eddie Shore (2006)
Harvey Bennett (2013)	Dick Gamble (2007)	Al MacNeil (2014)	John Slaney (2014)
Don Biggs (2018)	Ken Gernander (2013)	Willie Marshall (2006)	Brad Smyth (2019)
Bruce Boudreau (2009)	Fred Glover (2006)	Frank Mathers (2006)	John Stevens (2012)
Johnny Bower (2006)	Jack Gordon (2012)	Gil Mayer (2007)	Art Stratton (2015)
Jack Butterfield (2006)	Denis Hamel (2020)	Glenn Merkosky (2018)	Bill Sweeney (2010)
Frederic Cassivi (2015)	Darren Haydar (2020)	Jim Morrison (2013)	Fred Thurier (2020)
Don Cherry (2019)	Bryan Helmer (2017)	Rob Murray (2017)	Tim Tookey (2008)
Bruce Cline (2016)	James C. Hendy (2015)	Mike Nykoluk (2007)	Zellio Toppazzini (2012)
Fred "Bun" Cook (2007)	Bronco Horvath (2015)	John Paddock (2010)	Peter White (2013)
Joe Crozier (2012)	Ralph Keller (2016)	Marcel Paille (2010)	Larry Wilson (2011)
Les Cunningham (2009)	Macgregor Kilpatrick (2010)	Bob Perreault (2014)	Doug Yingst (2017)
Billy Dea (2017)	Brian Kilrea (2018)	Harry Pidhirny (2011)	
Bill Dineen (2014)	Steve Kraftcheck (2008)	Louis A.R. Pieri (2009)	

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