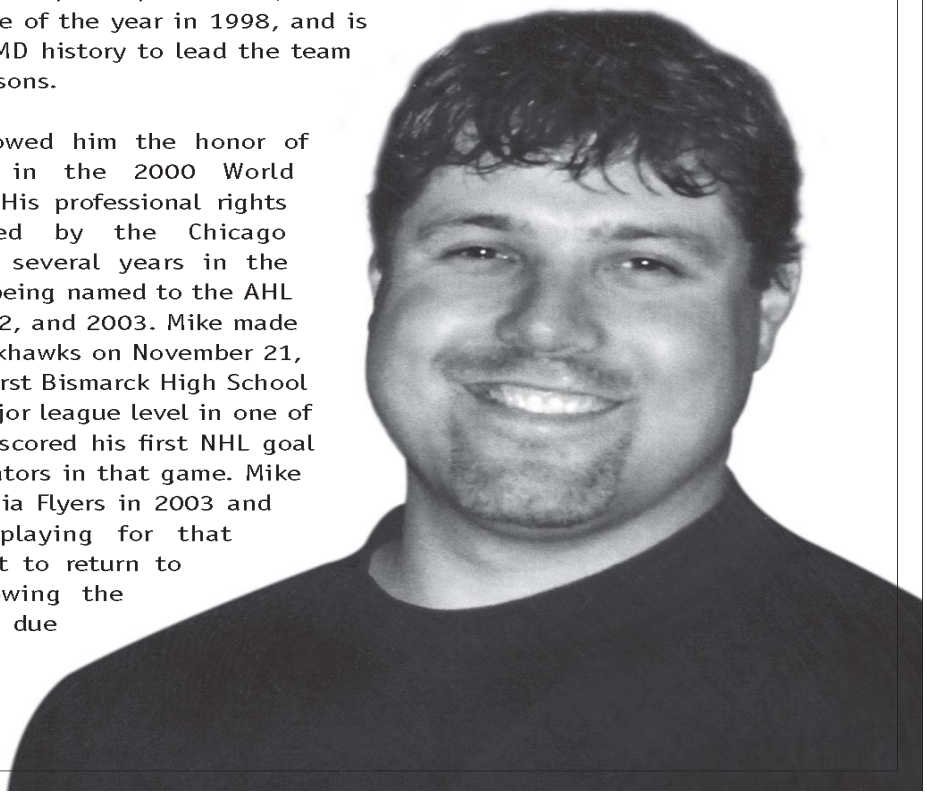
CLASS OF 1993

MIKE PELUSO

Mike Peluso is a 1993 graduate of Bismarck High School. During his junior year as a Bismarck Demon hockey player, Mike set a state single season scoring record, amassing 99 points in 1992. He was also named to the All-West Region Team and the North Dakota All State Team in both his sophomore and junior seasons. He was a member of the 1992 Bismarck High team that recorded its highest finish ever at a state hockey tournament, losing a thrilling 8-7 game to Minot High for the championship.

Mike chose to forgo his senior year of hockey eligibility at Bismarck High in order to play for the Omaha Lancers in the United States Hockey League, widely recognized as the premier junior development hockey league in the country. Mike was a member of the Clark Cup champion Lancers in both 1993 and 1994. He was also selected as a USHL All Star and MVP in 1993 and 1994.

Mike was drafted by the Calgary Flames in 1994. However, that fall he took his hockey talents to the University of Minnesota Duluth. While at UMD, Mike was named to the WCHA All-Rookie Team in 1995, the WCHA All-Third Team in 1997, the WCHA All-Second Team in 1996 and 1998, and the WCHA All-Academic Team in 1996, 1997, and 1998. Mike was named UMD's MVP in 1996, 1997, and 1998; he was named UMD's senior athlete of the year in 1998, and is only the third player in UMD history to lead the team in scoring during three seasons.

Mike's hockey talents allowed him the honor of playing for Team USA in the 2000 World Championships in Russia. His professional rights were eventually acquired by the Chicago Blackhawks. Mike played several years in the American Hockey League, being named to the AHL All-Star Team in 2000, 2002, and 2003. Mike made his NHL debut for the Blackhawks on November 21, 2001, thus becoming the first Bismarck High School graduate to play at the major league level in one of the four major sports. He scored his first NHL goal against the Nashville Predators in that game. Mike signed with the Philadelphia Flyers in 2003 and closed out his career playing for that organization, choosing not to return to professional hockey following the NHL lockout of 2004-2005 due to injuries.