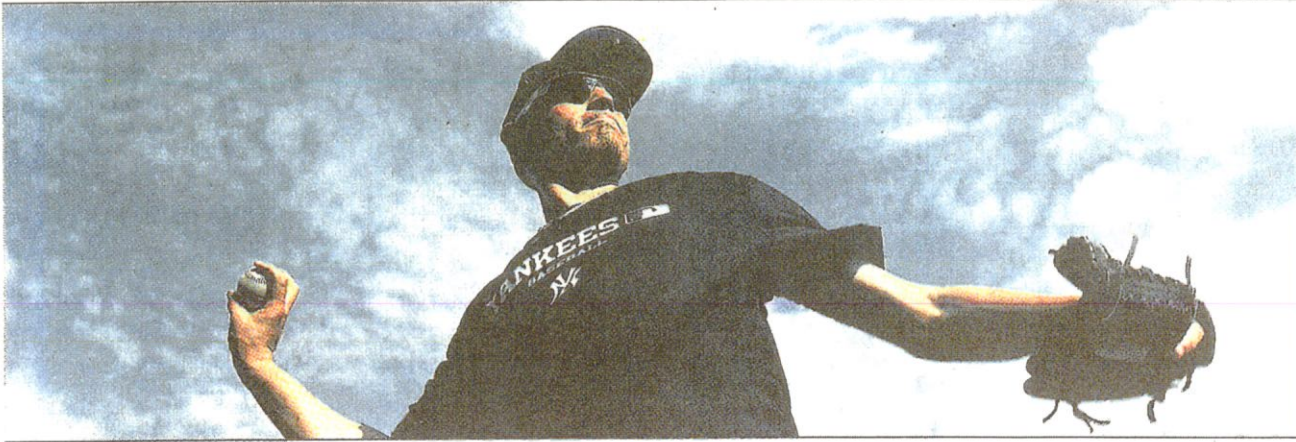
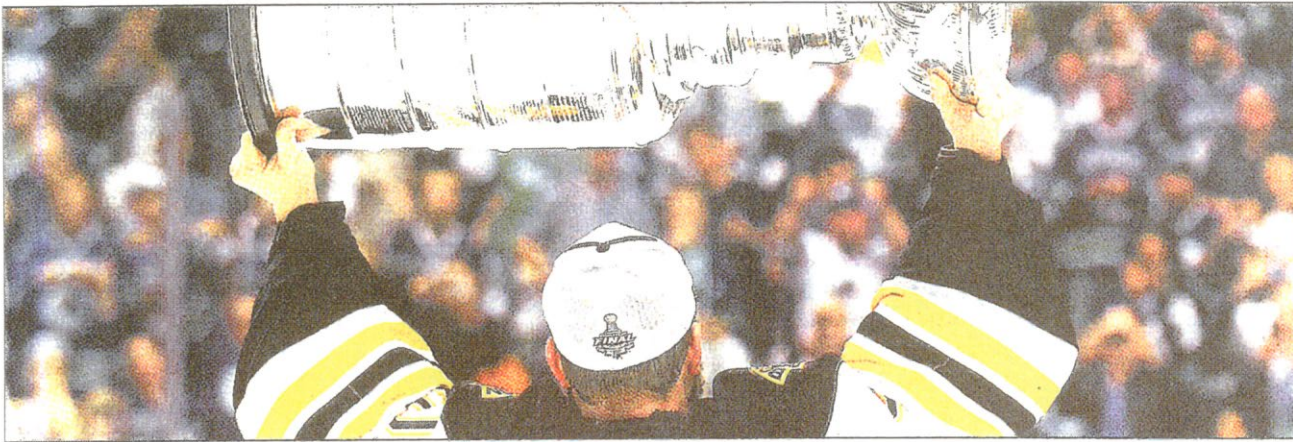


# 2011: A LOOK BACK

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JOHN TULLY / Monitor staff



AP



JIM COLE / AP

Jordan Cote being drafted by the Yankees ranks as the area's top sports story of 2011, and a couple of hockey games rank second and third, with the Bruins winning their first Stanley Cup since 1972, and the Black Ice Pond Hockey Championships taking over White Park.

frame and a blue-collar work ethic. Cote was sure to be drafted. It was just a matter of where.

That question was answered on June 7 when the Yankees took him in the third round with the 118th overall pick. Cote also had a full scholarship to baseball powerhouse Coastal Carolina, but, in what he said was "the easiest decision of my life," the kid from Sanbornton (and lifelong Yankees fan) signed a contract with New York in mid-August, complete with a \$725,000 signing bonus.

He pitched well this fall in an instructional league in Florida, and again at New York's facility in the Dominican Republic, and now the 19-year-old is eagerly waiting to report to his first spring training.

## **2) Bruins win Stanley Cup**

After watching the Patriots, Red Sox and Celtics parade through Boston in duck boats, the region's puck heads finally got their moment in the sun in June when the Bruins won their first Stanley Cup since 1972.

Every championship is sweet, but this one was truly tasty. Three of Boston's four playoff series concluded in the most dramatic setting - Game 7. The opening-round win came against the hated Canadiens, after the Bruins dropped the first two at home. Then came a revenge sweep of the Flyers, the team that came back from a 3-0 deficit the previous season to humiliate the Bruins out of the playoffs. There was a 1-0 Game 7 win against the Lightning in the conference finals, with Nathan Horton supplying the winning goal, just like he did in Game 7 against Montreal.

Boston completed its run by upsetting the favored Canucks in the finals with a 4-0 win in Game 7 in Vancouver, a result that sparked riots in that city.

The long-awaited title for the Bruins was also extra sweet because this team was full of likable characters, from the humble greatness of goalie Tim Thomas, to the youthful fire of rookie Brad Marchand, to the perseverance of Mark Recchi, the 43-year-old who retired after hoisting the Cup.

## **3) Black Ice hockey**

While the celebration around the Bruins displayed our region's love for the puck, our town showed its colors by dropping six mini-rinks in White Park for the inaugural 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Championships.

Fifty teams signed up for the event, which is labeled with the "1883" because it's believed the first ice hockey game in the country was played at St. Paul's School that year. Around 350 players laced 'em up and skated, including Gov. John Lynch, who played in the 50-and-over men's division on the "Lynch Gang." There were also light towers, concessions and plenty of fans for the three-day event, which ended with five teams winning "Hobey Sticks," the trophy named after St. Paul's alum and college hockey great Hobey Baker - Jack Edwards Teeth (men's 18-and-over), NEWTS (women's 18-and-over), Capital City Diner (men's 'A' 35-and-over), So Suck Swamp Rats (men's 'B' 35-and-over) and White Park Hockey Club (men's 50-and-over).

If you missed out on Concord's hockey nirvana last year, don't worry, the Black Ice returns to White Park Jan. 27-29.