



Everett Sanipass

How fitting was it that Everett was drafted by and began his career as a first round draft choice, 14th overall, with the Chicago Blackhawks. As a Mi'kmaq native who grew up on the Big Cove reserve in New Brunswick, Everett was thrilled to be playing with the "Indian Head" crest on his jersey. In his teen years, he also attracted the attention of pro baseball scouts and travelled to the US to showcase his baseball skills.

As the first Native Canadian to be drafted out of New Brunswick, everyone in his Band was extremely proud of him and encouraged Sanipass to become a great player. It was the World Junior Championship in 1987 where Sanipass and his fellow Canadians battled the Soviets when a bench-clearing brawl started, resulting in the disqualification of both teams and giving the gold medal to Finland. The game has become known as The Punch-Up in Piestany. This was a rough time for Sanipass, but it resulted in a call-up with the Blackhawks.

After three-plus seasons in Chicago he was traded to the Quebec Nordiques. He wasn't able to regain the scoring touch that he had exhibited in junior, but he could fight and protect his teammates. Eventually a back injury forced him to retire from the NHL.

In his next career, Everett went to work for the Aboriginal Affairs Department and shared his experiences with Native children, encouraging them to pursue their dreams. Everett is a terrific role model to all Native children. He is also the first Native Canadian to be inducted into the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame.

