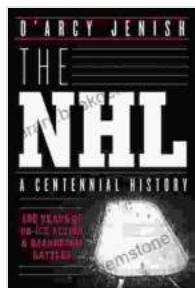


100 Years of On-Ice Action and Boardroom Battles: The NHL's Enduring Legacy



The NHL: 100 Years of On-Ice Action and Boardroom Battles by D'Arcy Jenish

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5703 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 596 pages



For a century, the National Hockey League (NHL) has captivated audiences with its thrilling on-ice action and off-ice drama. From its humble beginnings to its modern-day status as a global sporting powerhouse, the NHL has witnessed countless moments of triumph and heartbreak, innovation and controversy.

This article delves into the NHL's rich history, exploring its major milestones, key figures, and the challenges and triumphs that have shaped its enduring legacy.

The Early Years: Formation and Expansion

The NHL was founded in 1917 as a merger of the National Hockey Association (NHA) and the Pacific Coast Hockey Association (PCHA). The original six teams, known as the "Original Six," were the Montreal

Canadiens, Montreal Wanderers, Ottawa Senators, Quebec Bulldogs, Toronto Arenas, and Vancouver Millionaires.

In its early years, the NHL struggled to gain a foothold in the American market. However, the league's popularity grew rapidly in the 1920s and 1930s, thanks in part to the exploits of legendary players such as Howie Morenz and Eddie Shore.

The NHL's first major expansion came in 1967, when six new teams were added to the league. This expansion brought the NHL to cities across the United States, including Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh.

The Original Six Era (1942-1967)

The Original Six era is widely regarded as the golden age of the NHL. During this period, the league's six original teams dominated the Stanley Cup playoffs, with the Montreal Canadiens winning a record 18 championships.

The Original Six era was also a time of great innovation in the sport. The use of the slap shot and the development of the "Flying V" formation revolutionized the way the game was played.

The Expansion Era (1967-1992)

The NHL's expansion era began in 1967 with the addition of six new teams. This expansion brought the league to new markets, including Buffalo, Minneapolis, St. Louis, and Vancouver.

The expansion era was a period of growth and change for the NHL. The league's popularity continued to grow, and new stars emerged, such as

Bobby Orr, Wayne Gretzky, and Mario Lemieux.

The Modern Era (1993-Present)

The NHL's modern era began in 1993 with the addition of two new teams, the Florida Panthers and the Anaheim Mighty Ducks. This expansion brought the league to 28 teams and marked the beginning of a new era of growth and prosperity.

The modern era has been characterized by continued expansion, with the NHL adding four new teams in the 2000s and three more in the 2010s. The league now has 32 teams, with franchises in cities across North America and Europe.

Key Figures in NHL History

Over the course of its 100-year history, the NHL has been home to some of the greatest players, coaches, and executives in the history of sports.

Some of the most iconic figures in NHL history include:

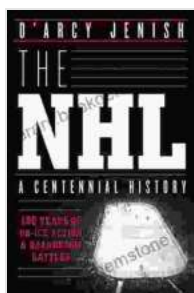
- **Wayne Gretzky:** The "Great One" is considered by many to be the greatest hockey player of all time. Gretzky played for four different teams during his 20-year career, winning four Stanley Cups and setting numerous scoring records.
- **Bobby Orr:** Orr revolutionized the way defensemen played the game. He was a brilliant skater and puck-handler, and he possessed a devastating slap shot. Orr won eight Norris Trophies as the league's top defenseman and led the Boston Bruins to two Stanley Cups.

- **Gordie Howe:** Howe is one of the most prolific scorers in NHL history. He played for the Detroit Red Wings for 25 seasons, winning four Stanley Cups and scoring over 800 goals.
- **Mario Lemieux:** Lemieux is one of the most skilled players in NHL history. He won two Stanley Cups with the Pittsburgh Penguins and was named the league's MVP three times.
- **Sidney Crosby:** Crosby is one of the most dominant players in the NHL today. He has won three Stanley Cups with the Pittsburgh Penguins and has been named the league's MVP twice.

Challenges and Triumphs

Like any major sports league, the NHL has faced its share of challenges and controversies over the course of its history.

One of the biggest challenges facing the NHL in the early years was



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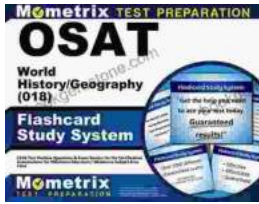
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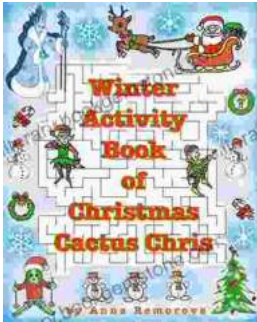
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