



Episode Ten: **Reclaiming the Game**

First Period

We Watch/ We Write! Viewing Guide

Prologue

1. What sad event takes place in Montreal in 2000?
2. What seemed to have “corrupted” minor league hockey in Canada in the new century?
3. What was “rink rage”?

Open Ice

4. What was the Open Ice Summit?
5. What was Franc Jeu?
6. What new role did former Team Canada captain France St. Louis play?

Olympian Task

7. What were Hayley Wickenheiser’s two Olympic sports?
8. What brought Lemieux out of retirement?

Game Faces

9. How did the two Team Canadas do at the Salt Lake Olympics in 2002?
10. What “secret” was Gretzky trying to keep at the Salt Lake Olympics?
11. Who watched the gold medal game in Kandahar?

Epilogue

12. Why is hockey considered a blessing and a curse to those who play at the highest level?
13. What important role does hockey play for Canadians?
14. What were some of the results of the player’s strike?



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Second Period

Cross-check

For each of the blanks in column A place the corresponding letter from the item in column B in that most closely fits.

A

1. Gretzky Bounce ____
2. Ken Dryden ____
3. Steve Larmer ____
4. Mario Lemieux ____
5. Rink rage ____
6. Trent Evans ____
7. Wayne Gretzky ____
8. Canada's gift ____
9. Influenza ____
10. Wickenheiser ____

B

- a. hockey violence
- b. first NHL player-owner
- c. Olympic Team manager
- d. popularity of minor hockey
- e. making hockey fun
- f. 5 Vezina trophies
- g. cancellation of Stanley Cup competition
- h. great Canadian player
- i. Hockey
- j. Lucky loonie

Answers: 1-d, 2-f, 3-e, 4-b, 5-a, 6-j, 7-d, 8-i, 9-g, 10-h



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Third Period

Slapshot

For each of the following questions circle the answers that are correct.

1. On how many Stanley Cups teams did Ken Dryden play?
6, 8, 5, 3
2. In what year did Team Canada's women's team win its first gold medal?
2002, 2000, 1998, 2006, never
3. In what year was the Stanley Cup not fought for?
1919, 1939, 1914, 1999, 2001
4. When did the player's strike stop the Stanley Cup finals?
2003, 2004, 1972, 2006, 1912
5. What was Mario Lemieux's jersey number?
76, 99, 9, 66, 11

Answers: 1-6, 2-2002, 3-1919, 4-2004, 5-66



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If time permits, consider completing one of these learning opportunities.

1. What is “rink rage?”
2. What memories do you have, if any, about “rink rage”? Describe the situation and your reaction to it.
3. What do you think should be done to stop “rink rage?”
4. Why is the 1999 Open Ice Summit considered so important?
5. How would you recommend that hockey be made more fun? Or, is it fine that way it is? Explain.
6. What is Mario Lemieux’s major hockey legacy?
7. Do you think the buried loonie at centre ice in the Sault Lake City Olympics helped Canada win? Explain.
8. How important is hockey to Canadians?
9. Do you think that a female will ever play in the NHL? Explain.

“Our Game”

As early as 1893 a Canadian monthly magazine wrote that hockey was “the National Winter Game.” During the 1930s hockey became even more ingrained in Canadian culture as Hockey Night in Canada reached a national radio audience. By 1935, over two million listeners tuned in to hear Foster Hewitt’s famous opening line, “Hello Canada and hockey fans in the United States and Newfoundland.” Never had so many Canadians in all parts of the country engaged in the same cultural experience at the same time.

Beginning in 1952, television broadcasts of Hockey Night in Canada on CBC allowed baby



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boomers to watch either the Canadiens or the Maple Leafs every Saturday evening from autumn to spring. Hockey Night in Canada became a national ritual and a significant part of our common experience.

In the 1970s Peter Gzowski wrote in *The Game of Our Lives* that hockey was an expression of Canadian culture. In his book *The Death of Hockey*, Bruce Kidd wrote that "Hockey is the Canadian metaphor, the rink a symbol of this country's vast stretches of water and wilderness, its extremes of climate, the player a symbol of our struggle to civilize such a land." Other writers agree that there is a connection between hockey and Canada's geography. With its speed and intensity, hockey is suited to a land in which winter is so long. Al Purdy's poem *Hockey Players* argues that success in hockey heals our anguish of inferiority, by being good at something the Americans aren't.

Hockey is everywhere. It is seen in art galleries, television movies, commercials, government advertising, and commemorative stamps. It is on the back of the \$5 bill.

Hockey is enjoyed by people of all occupations, genders, religions, and ethnic groups. It is played in high schools and universities, from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island, by men and women, and by people of almost every age. By rooting for the home team, fans become part of a broader community of like minded people with something in common. On a broader level, Hockey Night in Canada brings Canadians closer together.

International competition provides an opportunity for even more collective identification. It is us versus them. Canada's 1972 victory over the Soviet Union, for example, was celebrated by players and commentators as a triumph of Canadian virtues of individualism and character.

Questions

1. Explain what either Bruce Kidd or Al Purdy meant by their statements.
2. What role has hockey played in the development of Canadian nationalism?
3. On 10 December 2001, Dylan White wrote the following letter to *Sports Illustrated*, "I am very proud to be a baseball fan. After September 11 Americans felt vulnerable, but the game



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helped the healing process. Thanks to the Diamondbacks and the Yankees...” For thousands of Americans, cheering for the Yankees became equated with supporting the United States. According to some psychologists, in times of major upheavals and uncertainty, people turn to familiar symbols of strength for comfort and for a sense of normalcy. Sports provide a comfortable haven apart from the tensions and pressures of modern life. This concept is called the Normalcy Theory. To what extent does hockey fit this concept for Canadians?

4. The Catharsis Theory argues that sports benefit society by defusing aggressive feelings. To what extent is this true for hockey?
5. The Identification Theory argues that sports are important because they provide people with an identity as part of a team, a school, a city, or a country. Is this true for hockey in Canada? Explain.
6. The Marxist Theory argues that sports, like everything else in society, reflect the existing class divisions in society and exist to benefit the ruling class. In the Medieval period, for example, sports served the interests of the feudal nobility. Games kept the peasants physically fit for agriculture and trained the nobility for warfare (jousting and archery tournaments). In later capitalist societies, athletics maintained a healthy work force, socialized workers by teaching them desired character traits such as obedience to authority, and diverted the energies of the oppressed from seeking change or revolution to playing games. To what extent can this theory be applied to hockey in Canada?



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Shootout

Women's Hockey

Several factors lead to the growth of women's hockey in the 1980s. Early in the decade, 13-year old Justine Blainey used the new Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to win the right for girls to play on boys' teams. When body checking and slap shots were forbidden in women's hockey in 1986, more parents were willing to let their daughters play hockey. At the same time, the government's new emphasis on fitness increased awareness of the need for young girls to play active sports. Fortunately for women, an increase in arenas and a decline in male interest provided more available ice time. Finally, the establishment of the WHA and the expansion of the NHL provided more exposure for hockey.

The best known female hockey player was Manon Rhéaume. She learned to play goal in her basement when her older brothers wanted a goalie to practice their shooting. When Manon's father needed a goalie for the boys' team he was coaching, 11-year old Manon volunteered.

Rhéaume later became:

- the first woman to play in the International Pee Wee Hockey Tournament
- the first woman to play in a major junior game
- the first woman to play in a NHL game
- the first woman to sign a professional hockey contract
- the first woman to play in a professional hockey game during the regular season.

In 1992, Phil Esposito, former NHL star and general manager of the expansion Tampa Bay team, drafted twenty-year-old Rhéaume. Although she played well in exhibition games, Rhéaume gained more notoriety for her beauty and her refusal to pose for Playboy. Manon later played six seasons in minor hockey leagues and helped Canada win a silver medal in the 1998 Olympics and gold in the 1992 and 1994 World Championships. "It's never been easy," she concluded, "but I've always wanted to play hockey. I love hockey. I'd rather play hockey than do anything else. If you have that kind of desire, I think you can achieve what you want to achieve."

In 2002, as a coach of an all-girl California team of 12-13 year olds, her team was the first all-girl squad to make the quarter finals of the Quebec International Peewee tournament. "It was a way for me to give those young girls a chance like I had," Manon stated.



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Success on the world stage often provides stimulus to the growth of a particular sport. Such was the case with women's hockey in Canada and the United States. Canada's national women's team won gold medals at every world championship starting from 1990. After each victory, more young girls registered. Predictions that women's hockey would be in the 1998 Olympics was followed by a flurry of parents signing up their daughters for girls' leagues. After the Nagano Olympics, the number of female players jumped from 29,000 to 38,000. In 2004, six million television sets in Canada watched the women's Team Canada win the gold medal.

Questions

1. List the various reasons for the growth of women's hockey since 1980, and then rank order them from most to least important.
2. Should women's hockey be judged on its own merits or by comparing it to men's hockey? Explain.
3. How important was Manon Rhéaume to the growth of women's hockey?



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Double Overtime - Debate/Discuss

Research

Which women had the greatest impact on woman's hockey? To narrow the choices, here are the individuals that several experts choose as the most significant woman in hockey history. For information on each of these women see, <http://www.hhof.com/html/wmspla02.shtml>.

- Andria Hunter (two-time gold medalist at the Worlds with Team Canada and producer of the 'The Women's Hockey Web' site): "The first ones that come to mind are Angela James and Cammi Granato for what they accomplished on the ice and Manon Rhéaume for the exposure she gave the sport."
- Dawn McGuire (two-time gold medalist at Worlds, who led the Canadian defense with 7 points at the 1990 Worlds): "Without hesitation, Shirley Cameron."
- Susan Fennell (President of the National Women's Hockey League and Mayor of the City of Brampton): "This is a difficult one. Many women have contributed in many ways. Fran Rider, Executive Director OWSHA, has been the stalwart through years of advancement. Justine Blainey, player and now Chiropractor, was the player who had the Human Rights Code changed in Canada to permit women to play on 'boys' teams over the age of 12. This historic moment made it possible for some of today's greats to develop where no teams are."
- Shelley Coolidge (Manager, Female Development, with the Canadian Hockey Association): "Four players. They would be Dawn McGuire, Shirley Cameron, France St. Louis and Angela James. The four pioneers would be Glynis Peters, Fran Rider, Karen Wallace, and Susan Dalziel, who all served on the council that brought female hockey to the Olympics."
- Brian McFarlane (author of more than 75 books including a history of women's hockey): "Manon Rhéaume, who broke the gender barrier in professional men's hockey, Angela James for her longevity, and Bobbie Rosenfeld for her considerable work on and off the ice in the first part of the 20th century."
- Andrew Podnieks (author of more than 20 hockey books): "Manon Rhéaume, who raised women's hockey to another level."



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▶ Double Overtime - Debate/Discuss

2. The Hockey Hall of Fame includes an education website with activities for children of all ages. See, <http://www.hhof.com/html/LLsamp.shtml#Intermediate%20Example%201>

3. Watch the 47 minute movie, *Manon Rhéaume: Woman Behind the Mask* (NFB 2000) and be prepared to explain what made her successful. Or consult, http://archives.cbc.ca/IDC-1-41-714-4231/sports/women_sports/clip7