



AMAZING HOCKEY TRIVIA FOR KIDS

Eric Zweig

illustrations by
Jeff Martin

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For Amanda, once again.

— Eric

Scholastic Canada Ltd.

604 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5V 1E1, Canada

Scholastic Inc.

557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, USA

Scholastic Australia Pty Limited

PO Box 579, Gosford, NSW 2250, Australia

Scholastic New Zealand Limited

Private Bag 94407, Botany, Manukau 2163, New Zealand

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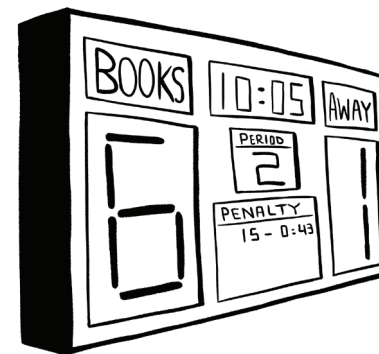
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Introduction

It's hard to believe that my first *Hockey Trivia for Kids* book came out in 2006! Back then I didn't realize it would be the first in a series, and I included all the great old hockey stories I knew. Fortunately, there are lots of great stories – enough to fill a lot of books. I still love the history of hockey, but my most recent books have lots of current hockey stories too. And a lot of what's new still echoes back to my old favourites. So I hope you'll find some familiar things and that you'll also learn something new about the history of hockey. Mostly I hope you'll have fun reading it!



Halifax Home Games

Like a lot of players, Sidney Crosby left home at a young age to pursue a career in hockey. The native of Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia, last played for a Halifax area team – the Dartmouth Subways under-18 team – in 2001–02, when he was 14 years old. His last game in Halifax before he went pro came at the end of his second and final season of junior hockey. On May 10, 2005, his team, Rimouski Oceanic, defeated the Halifax Mooseheads 4–3 to sweep the championship final of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. When Crosby was named the playoff MVP, the crowd cheered for him, even though he helped beat the local team. “It’s an amazing feeling to do this at home – it doesn’t get much better,” Crosby said. He was 17 years old.

After his stellar rookie season in the NHL with Pittsburgh in 2005–06, Crosby made his first visit to Halifax as a professional player when his Penguins played the Ottawa Senators in an exhibition game on September 19, 2006. Crosby had a goal and an assist, but Ottawa

won the game 5–2. Still only 19 years old at the time, he was truly “Sid the Kid.”

It would be 17 years before another NHL pre-season exhibition game in Crosby’s hometown. Again, his Penguins took on the Senators in the Nova Scotia Showdown at the Scotiabank Centre in Halifax on October 2, 2023. By then he was 36 years old. A crowd of 11,093 packed the arena and gave Crosby a long standing ovation before the game started. Once again, Ottawa won the game, this time 3–0. Obviously, Crosby got no points, but he was still chosen as the game’s third star.

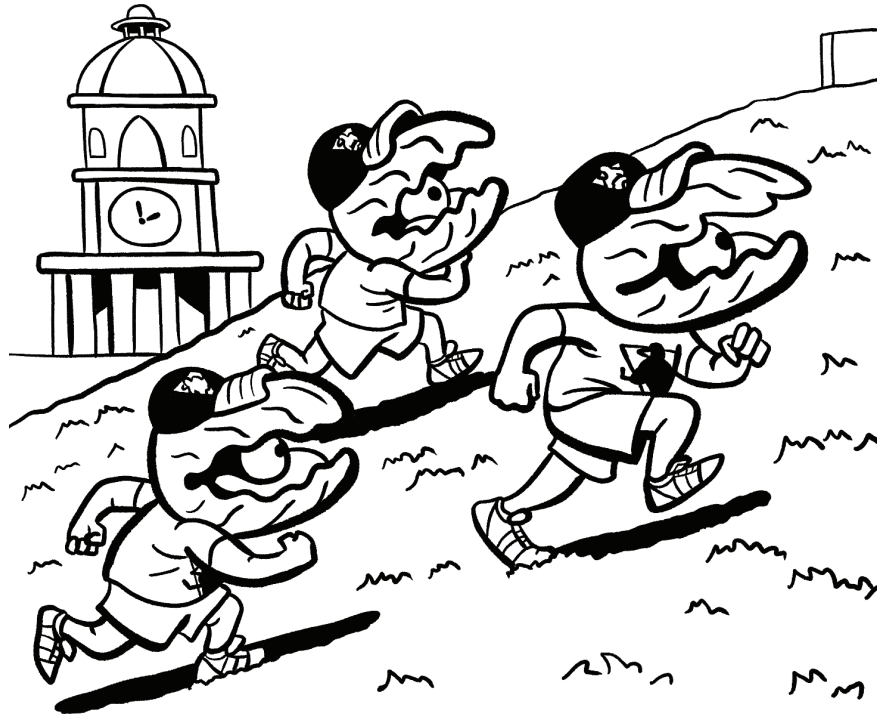
DID YOU KNOW?



In 2018, the Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Fame unveiled a list of the top 15 sports stars from the province. Sidney Crosby was chosen as the best athlete ever from Nova Scotia.

Amazing Race

Before the Monday, October 2, 2023, exhibition game, Crosby led his teammates in bonding activities all weekend, including an *Amazing Race*-style contest. Some of the events included shucking oysters, eating haggis, running up the hill at the Halifax Citadel (part of Crosby’s off-season training regimen), learning to tie a bowline knot at the Maritime Museum and carrying kegs at a brewery. Evgeni Malkin claimed victory for his team in the contest.



BFFs

With the opening of the 2023–24 NHL season on October 10, 2023, Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Kris Letang became the longest-tenured trio of teammates in the history of North American professional sports. The three played together for their 18th season, surpassing the 17 seasons Derek Jeter, Jorge Posada and Mariano Rivera all played with baseball’s New York Yankees from 1995 through 2011. The three Penguins teammates began playing together in 2006–07, when Malkin and Letang were rookies and Crosby was beginning his second NHL season.

NAME GAME *Team Names*

The Halifax Mooseheads were the first Canadian franchise in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) based outside of Quebec. They began play in the Nova Scotia capital in the 1994–95 season. The team was named after a local brewery.

QMJHL, M, N, O, P

The top junior league in the province of Quebec was originally founded in 1969. For years it was known as the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League . . . or the QMJHL for short. These days the league has 12 Quebec-based teams and 6 other teams in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In December of 2023, the “M” in the name was changed from “Major” to “Maritimes.”

