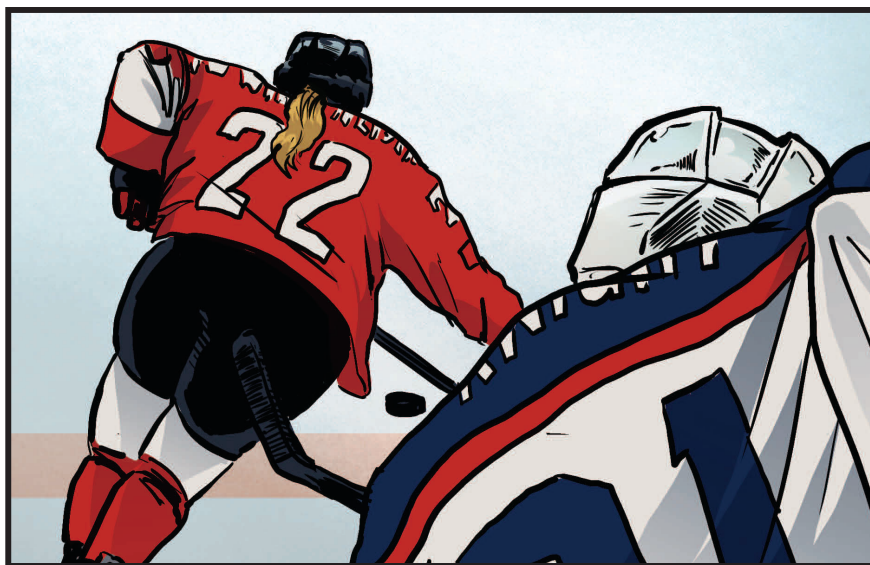


AMAZING HOCKEY STORIES

HAYLEY WICKENHEISER

Lorna Schultz Nicholson
Illustrations by D. A. Bishop



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With huge thanks to Hayley for all she has done to empower girls and women. You are a true role model. — *L. S. N.*

Scholastic Canada Ltd.

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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

Scholastic Children's Books

Euston House, 24 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1DB, UK

www.scholastic.ca

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Schultz Nicholson, Lorna, author

Hayley Wickenheiser / Lorna Schultz Nicholson ; illustrated by D.A. Bishop.

(Amazing hockey stories)

ISBN 978-1-4431-6309-5 (softcover)

I. Wickenheiser, Hayley, 1978- --Juvenile literature. 2. Women hockey players--Canada--Biography--Juvenile literature. I. Bishop, D. A., author II. Title. III. Series: Schultz Nicholson, Lorna. Amazing hockey stories.

GV848.5.W52S38 2018

j796.962092

C2018-900093-7

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LEGENDARY WINS

After the 2000 Summer Olympics, Hayley's life changed in some big ways. At the age of 22, she'd fulfilled her Olympic softball dream. Her experiences with the women's hockey teams had influenced her greatly — she took her responsibilities more seriously than ever. She had a new boyfriend who was the father of a baby boy, Noah. Hayley decided she needed to simplify things. Competing in two sports at the Olympic level and taking care of a baby was too much. One sport would be enough . . . so Hayley chose hockey. And with the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, USA, just around the corner, she needed to train.



HAYLEY OFTEN BROUGHT NOAH ON THE ICE TO SHARE IN THE TEAM'S VICTORY CELEBRATIONS.

DISASTER STRIKES

Hayley was named to the 2001 Canadian Women's National Team. The Women's World Championship would be held in April, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. But just before the tournament, Hayley injured the medial collateral ligament in her knee and could not play. The Canadian team prevailed, winning their seventh consecutive World Championship.

But would Hayley be off the injured list in time for the Olympics? She did extensive physical therapy and the careful work and patience paid off. Hayley had healed just in time for her to take part in the brutal training program developed by Canadian coach Danièle Sauvageau. Coach Sauvageau had the team work out at a Canadian Armed Forces base, using the army's obstacle course, cement walls and all. This team was going to be tough and ready. For extra practise, eight games were set up between Canada and the United States.

**WHO IS HAYLEY'S
FAVOURITE SUPERHERO?**

WONDER WOMAN!

THE TEAM STUMBLES

Those eight games were dubbed the pre-Olympic tournament. On October 20, 2001, in Salt Lake City, Canada took to the ice with confidence. Veteran Cassie Campbell was the team captain, and Vicky Sunohara and Hayley were alternate captains. They felt the team was ready, but Canada lost that first game 4–1. It was early in the pre-Olympic season, so the team wasn't too worried.

They got on the plane and travelled to San Jose to play their second game, on October 23. They were pumped at the chance to even out the series, but at the end of the third period they headed to the dressing room with another 4–1 loss. Then the strangest thing happened to Hayley's team: they lost five more games in a row to the United States. Seven losses! What was happening?

Finally, on January 8, it was time for the last game in the pre-Olympic tournament. Canada had home ice at General Motors Place in Vancouver. Would the Canadian crowd see another devastating loss?

When the final buzzer sounded, the Canadian women filed to the dressing room with their heads hung. The score was a devastating 3–2 for the United States. They shut the door and the team sat silently

for a while. Sweat dripped down Hayley's face. On the inside she was fuming. How could they have lost so many games? Something needed to change.

Finally, someone spoke up and said, "We played okay."

Hayley couldn't hold in her anger anymore. She stood up and said, "We lost eight in a row! This is not okay."

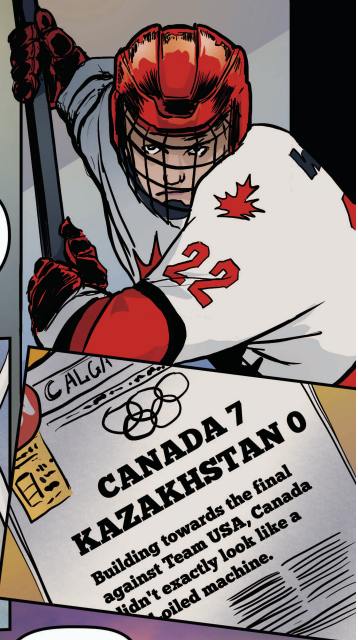
Suddenly, some players were shouting, others were crying and some were just sitting mute. Team Captains Cassie Campbell and Vicky Sunohara got the room under control. It was time to talk it out . . . so they did. When the team left the room hours later, things were different. They had discussed how they would work as a team both on and off the ice. They would play soccer together before games. They would eat together. They would motivate each other with slogans and cheers. They wouldn't listen to fans criticizing them. They would ignore the media and anyone else saying they couldn't do it. They would stick together. Nothing would get in the way of the belief that they could win the gold.

THE POWER OF BELIEF

EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT THE UNDERDOG CANADIAN TEAM'S EIGHT STRAIGHT LOSSES . . .

SALT LAKE CITY OLYMPICS, ROUND-ROBIN GAME ONE: CANADA VS. KAZAKHSTAN

WE ARE NOT THE UNDERDOGS!



FIRST GOAL OF THESE GAMES FOR CANADA IS A BLISTERING SLAPSHOT FROM WICKENHEISER!

OUR QUOTE OF THE DAY IS "SO MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE IN YOU, MAKE SURE YOU'RE ONE OF THEM."

WE KNOW HOW TO WIN THIS!

YOU GOT IT, WICK!



WHY ARE THEY BEING SO NEGATIVE? WE'RE WINNING!

JUST IGNORE THEM.

FINAL ROUND-ROBIN GAME: CANADA VS. SWEDEN FEBRUARY 16, 2002



SEMIFINAL: CANADA VS. FINLAND

FORGET THE MEDIA.
LET'S FOCUS ON OUR TEAM,
THIS GAME AND GETTING TO
THE GOLD MEDAL FINAL.
OUR GAME IS ON THE ICE!

WICKENHEISER HAS
GIVEN THE CANADIANS
A TWO-GOAL LEAD.

THE FINNS
SCORE!

03:46

AND THE
FINNS ARE IN
THE LEAD!

THIRD PERIOD

WICKENHEISER
SCORES -- CANADA'S
BACK IN IT!

CAN 7	FIN 4	CAN 7	FIN 4
FINAL		FINAL	



GOLD MEDAL GAME:
CANADA VS. U.S.A.

WE'RE GOING
TO WALK INTO
THAT RINK TOGETHER,
AND WHEN WE ARE
SUCCESSFUL, WE'LL
WALK TOGETHER
FOREVER.

WE'RE GOING
TO WIN THIS -- NO
MATTER WHAT.

CANADA SCORES!

NUMBER 22,
DELAY OF GAME.

THAT WAS
A BAD CALL!

NO KIDDING.

A PENALTY?
FOR WHAT?

WHAT A BLAST
FROM NUMBER 22!
CANADA'S GOT A
ONE-GOAL LEAD.

