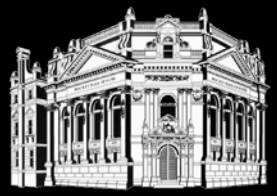
Legends OF HOCKEY

GREATNESS CALLING 2000-20

10-PART SERIES OVERVIEW

The legacy continues..

Celebrating the *players* and *plays* of a lifetime
called to The Hall from 2000 to 2020



EPISODE 1

A Fiery Road to Greatness

Mark Messier • Paul Coffey • Glenn Anderson • Al MacInnis
Jarome Iginla • Kevin Lowe • Jari Kurri

During the 1980s, the battle for NHL supremacy was fought on Alberta soil for seven consecutive years. The Edmonton Oilers challenged for the Cup six times and their provincial rivals, the Calgary Flames twice. Led by Wayne Gretzky and Mark Messier, the Edmonton Oilers proved to be one of the greatest hockey dynasties the NHL has ever seen. The Oiler dynasty had to fight fire on their way to Stanley Cup glory, as during the 1980s the Calgary Flames were a dominant force in the NHL and the number one rival and nemesis of the Edmonton Oilers. Conn Smythe playoff MVP defenseman Al MacInnis provided the fire power from the point with his legendary slapshot that powered Calgary to Stanley Cup glory in 1989. Jarome Iginla who grew up in Edmonton, cheering for the Oilers had to switch allegiances as he would become the face of the Calgary Flames. The Battle of Alberta is a hockey rivalry for the ages!

EPISODE 2

Best Defense is Offence

Mike Gartner • Pat LaFontaine • Dave Andreychuk
Denis Savard • Clark Gillies • Dale Hawerchuk • Bernie Federko

By the end of the 1970s, the NHL would grow by four new teams from the WHA merger and the style of play was focused on total offense. Mike Gartner, who started his pro hockey career in the WHA, joined the Washington Capitals and became one of the greatest goal scorers in league history. In the Norris Division, the Chicago Blackhawks scoring sensation Denis Savard dualled with Bernie Federko, the superlative playmaker for the rival St. Louis Blues. Dale Hawerchuk, was the first overall pick of the Winnipeg Jets; his Hall of Fame career took flight with Rookie of the Year honours. American Pat LaFontaine brought his scoring touch from the Quebec Major Junior League to the New York Islanders, where he would join forces with four-time Stanley Cup Champion power forward Clark Gillies. In Buffalo, Dave Andreychuk was a goal scoring machine, who recorded over 600 career goals and capped off his career with a Stanley Cup in Tampa Bay.

EPISODE 3

The Eastern Bloc

Igor Larionov • Pavel Bure • Sergei Fedorov • Viacheslav Fetisov
Marian Hossa • Sergei Makarov • Sergei Zubov
Vaclav Nedomansky • Aleksander Yakushev • Valeri Kharlamov

During the 1970s, we only saw a glimpse of the supreme hockey talent that was hidden behind the Iron Curtain with the likes of Vaclav Nedomansky, Valeri Kharlamov and Aleksander Yakushev. The 1980s signaled a decade of change in the world and in the NHL. Beginning in 1983, players from the Soviet Union (Russia) and Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic) were being selected in the late rounds of the draft, with the hopes the day would come where they would step onto NHL ice. In the late '80s, Igor Larionov, Sergei Makarov, and Viacheslav "Slava" Fetisov were finally granted permission to fulfil their dreams of playing in the NHL. They made the most of the opportunity, and in the process paved the way for future generations of Russian talent. By the 1990s, the gates were open and through them came a new legion of stars that included Sergei Fedorov, "The Russian Rocket" Pavel Bure, and Sergei Zubov. From Slovakia we saw the emergence of Marian Hossa, whose NHL dream was inspired by Peter Stastny, Hockey Hall of Fame class of 1998 and his brothers Marian, and Anton.

EPISODE 4

College Recruits

Brett Hull • Chris Chelios • Paul Kariya • Joe Nieuwendyk
Rob Blake • Phil Housley • Rod Langway • Dick Duff

Prior to the era of the NHL Entry Draft, St. Michael's College School in Toronto was one of the first schools to develop premier NHL talent. Six-time Stanley Cup Champion Dick Duff is among their illustrious list of student-athletes. In 1982, Phil Housley made the quantum leap from high school to the NHL, when the Buffalo Sabres drafted him sixth overall in the first round. The Montreal Canadiens, who were always a step ahead, expanded their search south of the border and drafted Rod Langway, from the University of New Hampshire, and Chris Chelios who went from the Moose Jaw Canucks to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1984, the Calgary Flames selected Brett Hull from the University of Minnesota Duluth. From the mid-1980s onward, prominent Canadian talent like Joe Nieuwendyk, Rob Blake and Paul Kariya chose the collegiate route to the NHL over major junior.

EPISODE 5

Against All Odds

Doug Gilmour • Luc Robitaille • Martin St. Louis
Joe Mullen • Dino Ciccarelli • Adam Oates

The theme of this episode is the players who were late round draft picks or not drafted at all. Toronto Maple Leafs icon Doug Gilmour was passed over in his first year of draft eligibility and the following year he wasn't picked until the 7th round. The Los Angeles Kings discovered a crown jewel in the 9th round when they selected Luc Robitaille, who would become the highest scoring left winger in NHL history. Martin St. Louis had his bags packed for Europe, when at the last moment he received a try-out from the Ottawa Senators. Goal-scoring sensation Joe Mullen was raised in Hell's Kitchen, New York, a non-traditional place for hockey talent, and his small stature would see him go undrafted. Size and a broken leg hurt Dino Ciccarrelli's chances of being drafted, despite putting up impressive numbers in junior. Adam Oates was a late bloomer who broke records at the collegiate level before the Detroit Red Wings signed him to a contract. This group of future Hall of Famers were essentially on the outside looking in and had to overcome the odds for a shot at the NHL.

EPISODE 6

Scoring at the Draft

Teemu Selanne • Mark Recchi • Mike Modano
Mats Sundin • Eric Lindros • Peter Forsberg

The 1988 NHL Entry Draft featured three future Hall of Famers with Mike Modano, Mark Recchi, and Teemu Selanne . Modano, was the first overall pick by the Minnesota North Stars and lived up to the billing and became the face of the Minnesota/Dallas Stars franchise. Mark Recchi, went to Pittsburgh and in his third season Recchi would sip from Lord Stanley's Cup. Teemu Selanne , known as the "Finnish Flash," scored a remarkable 76 goals in his rookie campaign, which proved to be the beginning of a long illustrious career. Over the next three years, a trio of giants would be drafted. In 1989, Mats Sundin was selected first overall by the Quebec Nordiques. At the 1991 draft, the Nordiques would select Eric Lindros first overall, who they would then trade to Philadelphia in exchange for their first pick, Peter Forsberg.

EPISODE 7

Defending with Honour

Ray Bourque • Nicklas Lidstrom • Chris Pronger
Brian Leetch • Scott Stevens • Scott Niedermayer
Guy Carbonneau • Mark Howe • Larry Murphy

Defensemen are among their teams' most valuable players. They're difference-makers and anchors of their respective franchises. They contribute offensively, but aren't exclusively relied upon for their scoring prowess, as they play in all situations, even strength, shorthanded, and power play. Most often matched against the best forwards the other teams have to offer, defensemen appreciate and covet the support from a backchecking forward. Guy Carbonneau sacrificed offensive glory for defensive greatness. Carbonneau was famous for his penalty killing, shot blocking, face off wizardry, and ability to shut down the best centers in the game. He was honoured three times with the Selke Trophy as the NHL's Top Defensive Forward.

EPISODE 8

Saving the Day

Dominik Hasek • Patrick Roy • Martin Brodeur
Eddie Belfour • Grant Fuhr • Rogatien Vachon

It's the most thankless, underappreciated, and important position in hockey. When a puck gets past them, lights flash and sirens blare. This episode features the top three goaltenders of all time and it's remarkable they all played in the same era. Dominik Hasek had to invent his own style because he grew up in Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) without seeing NHL action. Patrick Roy had the daunting task of living up to a legacy of franchise-rich goaltending in Montreal, and Martin Brodeur, who was the centerpiece of the Devils franchise. Eddie Belfour had to fight his way to the NHL as he was undrafted. Grant Fuhr backstopped the Oiler dynasty to five Stanley Cups, and Rogatien (Rogie) Vachon, like Roy, had the pressure of a dynasty on his shoulders, and then went onto become the face of the LA Kings franchise.

EPISODE 9

The Trailblazers

Hayley Wickenheiser • Cammi Granato • Angela James
Geraldine Heaney • Angela Ruggiero • Danielle Goyette
Kim St-Pierre • Jayna Hefford

The 1990s saw an emergence of women's hockey led by a cavalcade of stars who forged the path of prominence for the sport. They faced enormous challenges during a time when girls teams and leagues were few. Angela James was one of nine children raised by a single mom in a tough Toronto neighbourhood, where hockey would be her saviour, and she emerged as one of the biggest names in the game. Despite being encouraged to play other sports, the game of hockey was Cammi Granato's destiny. Granato became a superstar and the face of women's hockey in the United States. Angela Ruggiero, a native of Simi Valley, Calif., is a four-time Olympic medalist and has played more games for Team USA than any other ice hockey player. Hayley Wickenheiser was a teenage sensation whose meteoric rise saw her become the greatest player in the world and a Canadian icon. The level of dedication and perseverance by this extraordinary group sparked the growth of the game on both sides of the border and produced an epic rivalry that is far ahead of any other competing nation.

EPISODE 10

The Legacy Continues

Joe Sakic • Steve Yzerman • Brendan Shanahan
Cam Neely • Ron Francis • Doug Wilson

This group of honoured players has the unique distinction of having an impact on the ice and in the front office. Joe Sakic has transcended his role from a superstar player to being the architect of the Colorado Avalanche franchise. Steve Yzerman, known in Detroit as “The Captain” during his playing days, is now the captain of the Red Wings front office. Cam Neely was the quintessential Boston Bruins player who successfully made the shift to the front office and built a Stanley Cup Champion. All-Star defenseman Doug Wilson, learned from the best and applied that knowledge to set the course of direction for the San Jose Sharks franchise. Ron Francis was an amazing talent on the ice and a born leader, now he is building the NHL’s newest franchise the Seattle Kraken. Throughout their illustrious careers, they transformed the game and now as executives, they are shaping the future of the NHL.



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