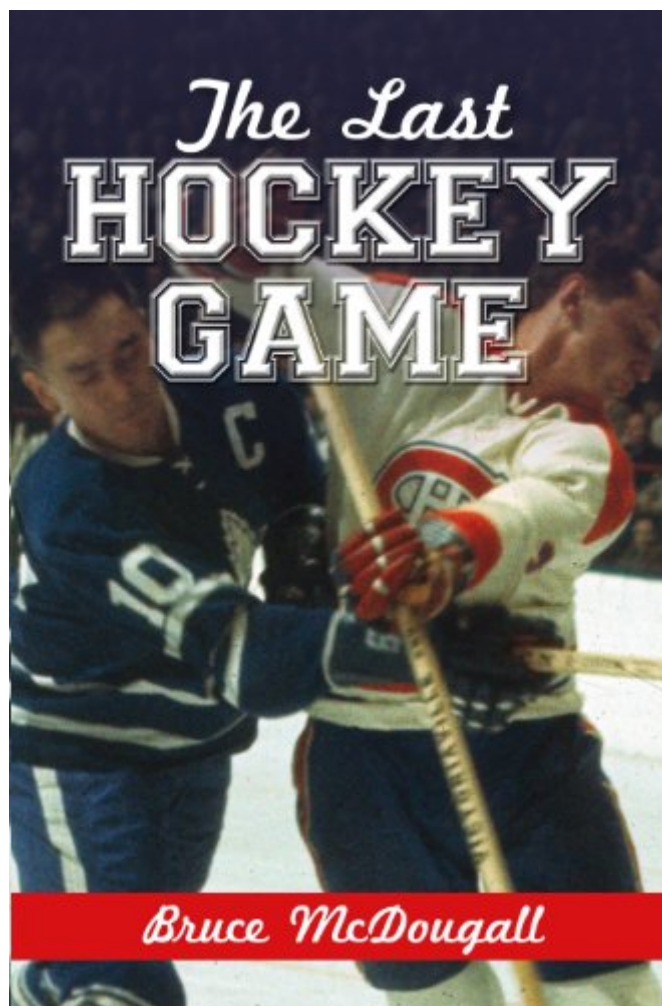




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The Last Hockey Game



Synopsis

On May 2, 1967, Montreal and Toronto faced each other in a battle for hockey supremacy. This was only the fifth time the teams had ever played each other in the Stanley Cup finals. Toronto led the series 3-2. But this wasn't simply a game. From the moment Foster Hewitt announced "Hello Canada and hockey fans in the United States," the game became a turning point in sports history. That night, the Leafs would win the Cup. The next season, the National Hockey League would expand to twelve teams. Players would form an association to begin collective bargaining. Hockey would become big business. The NHL of the "Original Six" would be a thing of the past. It was The Last Hockey Game. Placing us in the announcers' booth, in the seats of excited fans, and in the skates of the players, Bruce McDougall scores with a spectacular account of every facet of that final fateful match. As we meet players such as Gump Worsley, Tim Horton, Terry Sawchuk, and Eddie Shack, as well as coaches, owners, and fans, The Last Hockey Game becomes more than a story of a game. It also becomes an elegy, a lament for an age when, for all its many problems, the game was played for the love of it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have been reading a number of hockey books lately and I found this one to be a gem. Author Bruce McDougall has done a masterful job in bringing to life the final playoff game for the Stanley Cup between the Toronto Maple Leafs and Montreal Canadians in 1967. The book's title comes from the last game played prior to expansion. Up to this time the N.H.L. had six teams namely Toronto, Montreal, New York, Boston, Detroit, and Chicago. The book is divided into the pregame, 1st period, intermission, 2nd period, intermission, 3rd period, and post-game wrap-up. What made the book more interesting to me is that the entire book contains nuggets of information regarding the names of players I remember from this time period. Also included are anecdotes relating to relations between the owners, coaches, and players. Management would take advantage of starry-eyed youngsters who would like nothing more than to play with their favorite team and sign them for a pittance. There would also be threats from management to banish a player to the minors a year short of qualifying for a pension for the player having the audacity to ask for a raise in pay. When I first saw how the book was divided into chapters I thought the ones involving the three periods would be merely a play-by-play of the game. This, thankfully, was not so. Crucial parts of each period are included but also included are stories involving the players that make the book more interesting. Maple Leaf's coach George "Punch" Imlach is not viewed favorably in this book. He certainly would not be a coach I would relate favorably to. My only complaint with the book is that it doesn't contain any photographs. I don't follow hockey but I do remember the players involved in this book. For a true hockey fan this book would be a must for you.

If you're a hockey fan of a certain vintage, you will love this book. It is a great story about the end of an era; in some ways good and in some ways bad. I couldn't put it down...

Outstanding book! I felt I was 14 all over again. If you grew up in this era (The Golden Age In Hockey) you can relate to every player in the book. I wish the author Bruce McDougall would of mentioned the fan in Montreal who would blow his horn before and during the game. And the fan of Montreal who had seats behind the net with a Canadiens cowboy hat and a cowbell at the Garden. I can still see the guys with the horn and the cowbell. Write another book!!!

The best ice hockey book I have read and one of the best sports books. I had to make a copy of the 1967 team rosters to keep the characters straight at first but they quickly came alive in the story.

Two truly great hockey books have been written. Ken Dryden's *The Game* and this one. It is an amazing tour de force. The amount of personal information about players and the end of the 6 team NHL is indeed memorable and at times heart-breaking. I could not recommend it highly enough to any true hockey fan, especially those who loved the Original Six. No one has better described what happened to hockey after the Original Six. Players today owe so much to the players of those rugged days and most of them and most fans do not even know their names.

A thoroughly enjoyable read which emphasized again how terribly the players were treated by management. I grew up with these heroes watching Saturday night after the first period was over because owners would not let the games be televised in their entirety. Great stories.

A well written story of the game of hockey within the last game of the Original Six Era. The author has done his homework so the reader may enjoy the history of hockey as a series of connected people and their stories. Very readable and informative at the same time.

This is a fine review of how the system worked when there were only six teams. If you enjoy hockey, this has enough historical content and interesting viewpoints to keep you in the book.

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