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Yahoo Sports AM: Look at this photograph

Have you ever wondered how hockey photographers capture images from inside the net? We went behind the lens to find out.



Kendall Baker • Jeff Tracy

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🔔 HEADLINES

🏒 **Victory at last:** The Sharks beat the Flyers, 2-1, on Tuesday to snap an 11-game losing streak and avoid becoming the first team in NHL history to start a season with 12 straight losses.

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 **MLS Cup Playoffs:** Orlando City eliminated Nashville on Tuesday to join Kansas City, LAFC and Cincinnati in the second round ([see bracket](#)). Atlanta beat Columbus, 4-2, to force Game 3.

 **CFP rankings:** The top eight teams [stayed the same this week](#), but a shake up is coming with No. 2 Georgia hosting No. 9 Ole Miss and No. 3 Michigan visiting No. 10 Penn State on Saturday.

 **City clinch spot:** Manchester City beat Young Boys, 3-0, to [punch the first ticket](#) to the Champions League Round of 16 and advance to the knockout stage for the 11th straight season.

BEHIND THE LENS



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This week's photo: Kyle Palmieri of the Islanders watches a shot by teammate Noah Dobson get past Red Wings goalie Ville Husso during the third period of their game at UBS Arena. Detroit went on to win 4-3 in overtime.

- **Photographer:** Bruce Bennett
- **Location:** Elmont, New York
- **Date:** October 30

Behind the lens: This is Bruce's 50th season (!!!) photographing the NHL. I asked him to explain how he captures these photos from inside the net. Here's his answer, which I found utterly fascinating...

It seems like throughout my 50 years shooting hockey, there have never been images more popular than the ones shot from the netcam. So let me take you into the net where photos are made, and you don't have to worry about getting hit with a puck.

Let's handle the equipment first. My preference is the Canon R5, a high-end camera that allows me to shoot photos at 20 frames-per-second so nothing is missed. On that camera body is a Canon 15mm fish-eye lens so that I can capture two different looks — one where the entire scene is framed out by the posts, and one where the posts are cropped out.

And where exactly can I find the hockey netcam? It is not in use every game, but when there, the square camera housing is clamped to the center post about six inches off the ice. By NHL rules, the camera must be in place 2.5 hours prior to game time so NHL Hockey Ops personnel can inspect the

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same fashion as you would watch a ship being sent out from dry dock. That provides me with one last check that the camera is straight, and the ice crew haven't "bounced" the net knocking the housing down or crooked. If the housing gets wrecked 12 seconds into the game, I need to wait until the end of the period to make the necessary adjustments.

Also attached to the camera is a radio receiver manufactured by Pocket Wizard. From my shooting position, which I prefer to be at the far end of the ice, a one-second push on my transmitter will leave me with 20 frames on the netcam. Exactly when to push the button is based on an educated guess supported by experience and knowledge of the sport. To be clear, I am shooting blindly with no view from the net so when anything happens near the net, you hold that button down and end up with 20, 40, 60, 80 shots. You got the idea!

Sometimes you have an inkling what you will have shot, and sometimes the scoreboard replay will help you have a better idea, but it's always a thrill to see what you really have. That thrill is tempered of course by having to slog through 1,500-2,500 images. But when you capture a winner, the work is well worth it.

I would be remiss if I didn't give a shout-out to the ice crews who clean the netcam glass of snow at TV timeouts. Without them, the view quite often would be like looking out of a car window during an ice an snowstorm.



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