
Ovechkin breaks the all-time goals record



Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals celebrates after scoring his 895th career goal. | Photo by Bruce Bennett

Everyone in hockey knew that Alex Ovechkin was headed towards Wayne Gretzky's NHL goal-scoring record and it was just a matter of time until it happened. I picked up the trail late and started with the Friday night in Washington where he tied the record. And then two days later, back to one of my 'home' arenas in New York. There really is no place like home when it comes to covering sports.

And as is common in professional sports, all the planning helps but the nature of the business can be summed up in one word — unpredictable. I placed three cameras in the rafters, which all ended up being at the wrong end of the ice for the big moment. And the sole camera at the record-breaking end was the hockey netcam and Ovechkin shot from too far away.

With the remotes not being a factor in this instance, I relied on my handheld camera to document the moment. And, if Ovechkin had scored at my end of the ice, I would have been blocked by a bunch of bodies, and he would have spun, jumped, and slid away from me.

But he scored, turned and skated towards me while diving on the ice. I shot a sequence of this historic moment from my 4x5 photo hole 120' away. I paced myself shooting the celebration as his teammates flooded the ice and then moved quickly to the Capital's team runway and out on the ice to capture the moment with his family, Wayne Gretzky and dignitaries. And in a flash, I then had a new favorite image from my 50+ years of ice hockey photography. —

Bruce Bennett
