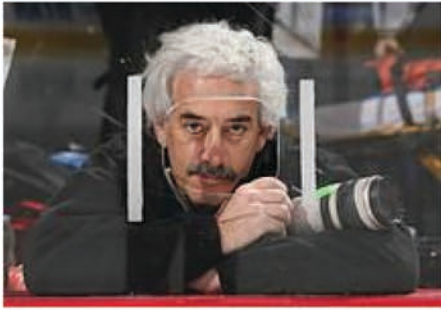


HOCKEY CELEBRATES THE MAN BEHIND THE LENS:



You won't find his name in the NHL record book nor Ripley's Believe It or Not but it should be.

Bruce Bennett of Old Bethpage, Long Island has earned the title, Mister All Time Hockey Photographer – and he has the pix to prove it; not to mention the games as well.

With a click-click here and a click-clack there Bennett knocked of his 5,000th night of hockey photography Tuesday April 8th, at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Landmark event did not go without notice. In fact, Bruce the media man became the center of media attention himself the night of game 5,000.

Bennett's remarkable numbers include over 4,500 NHL games, 192 international games, and even eight WHA games. Throughout his storied career he has shot 33 NHL Stanley Cup deciding games and worked in over 50 different arenas.

In Part Two of this two-part interview, our Scott Charles had a chance to go on one-on-one with Bennett.

* WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT?

I have been fortunate enough to be around hockey players all these years; they really

have such a great sense of humor. There are so many things that are fun that happen around the rink.

One moment that stands out was in 1979. I was not as prepared as I should have been and was not able to get on the ice for the Stanley Cup presentation. I did not speak French well at the time – nor do I now – and I misunderstood where to go.

With the help of some of the fans in the front row, I was able to get up on a chair and take some photos.

As it worked out that image of Bob Gainey on the shoulders of one of his teammates has become a great symbol of portraying the glory of winning the Stanley Cup.

* HOW DO THE PRICE TAGS COMPARE OF THE CAMERAS WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED TO TODAY?

Well times have changed, today I use two top of the line Canon cameras that are \$7,000 each. The lenses as well are a few thousand dollars. Back when I started it cost about \$250 for the camera and a few hundred dollars for the lenses.

* HAVE YOU SUFFERED ANY INJURIES IN YOUR CAREER?

Back in the day when you would shoot at the arenas, you would have a wide-open area either in the penalty box or next to it. It was really the best position within professional sports. You really felt like you were in the game.

But at Madison Square Garden we were just target practice. I broke some ribs there. A few years back, a puck hit me on top of the head. I was bleeding and ended up in

the locker room with a couple of doctors trying to close the wound.

Rick DiPietro was in the locker room at the time and just started giggling.

* DO YOU FEEL THE INTENSITY AT SPECIFIC GAMES?

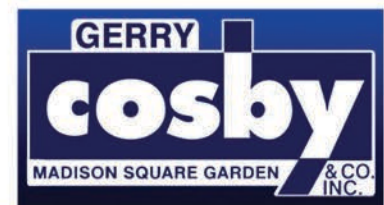
It is really important for a photographer to maintain an even keel and keep your emotions down. When I lecture to other photographers I say you can't be emotionally involved in a sport to photograph it.

As easy as it is for the players to get wrapped up in the frenzy of the fans going crazy, photographers can as well.

In 1980, the New York Islanders winning the Stanley Cup, I was somehow able to turn off my senses. When I left the ice and was walking towards the locker room, I could barely hear, from the deafening noise in the Coliseum.

* HOW HAVE YOU KEPT TRACK OF ALL THE GAMES YOU HAVE COVERED?

I actually have kept all the credentials in a scrapbook. It is kind of amazing to see the transformation of the credentials as well. When I started they were practically like tickets but now it is so different. It has all the legal stuff on the back of it.



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