

 **GOAL**

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THE GOAL MOUTH

When we told freelance photographer Bruce Bennett we wanted to profile him in "The GOAL Mouth," he said, "But I've only got *one* photo in this issue." Bruce was right (it's on page 7), but we told him that didn't matter because we had to profile somebody so it might as well be him.

All kidding aside, Bruce Bennett deserves all the accolades he gets. Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1955, Bennett began his photography career in 1973, while attending C.W. Post College. Since then, Bruce has become one of the country's most prolific hockey photographers and he estimates that well over 3,000 pictures bearing his credit have appeared in publications such as SPORT Magazine, The Hockey News, Newsweek, The Sporting News, the defunct Hockey Pictorial and Action Sports Hockey and, of course, GOAL.

In his desire to get the best hockey photographs possible, Bennett attends over 90 games a year. It shouldn't be a surprise that along the way Bruce has experienced his share of battle scars. He recalls one game when he was struck in the back with a shot off a Boston Bruin stick. "I was knocked to the floor by the shot," Bruce remembers. "I was moaning with pain and the players and officials gathered at the boards above me. One of the linesmen bent over and told me that, 'The girl in the front row wants to know if your date is still on for tonight.'"

Because of the great speeds at which the players move, hockey is probably one of the most difficult sports to photograph. Says Bennett: "Anticipation is the key, especially in the Stanley Cup Finals (Bruce's anticipatory eye was so keen during last year's Finals, that he captured shots of Islander captain Denis Potvin receiving the Stanley Cup, a photo ultimately turned into a full-color commercial poster). The poster was the result of many years of experience that led me into making the right decision as to which lens to use, as well as the proper place to station myself." If you've been a reader of GOAL over the past few years then you'll know Bruce Bennett often makes the right decision.

—The Editors



Bruce Bennett