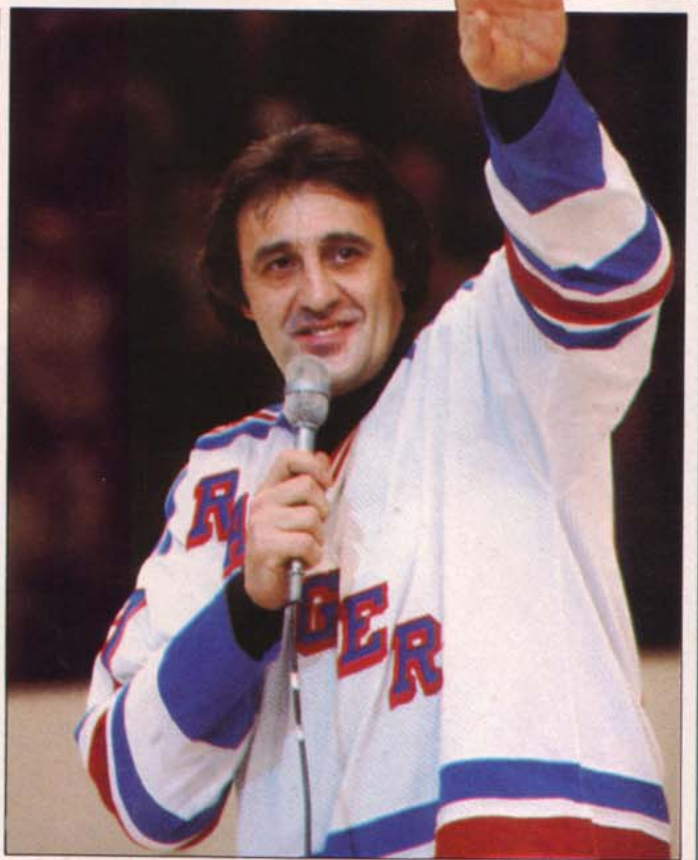
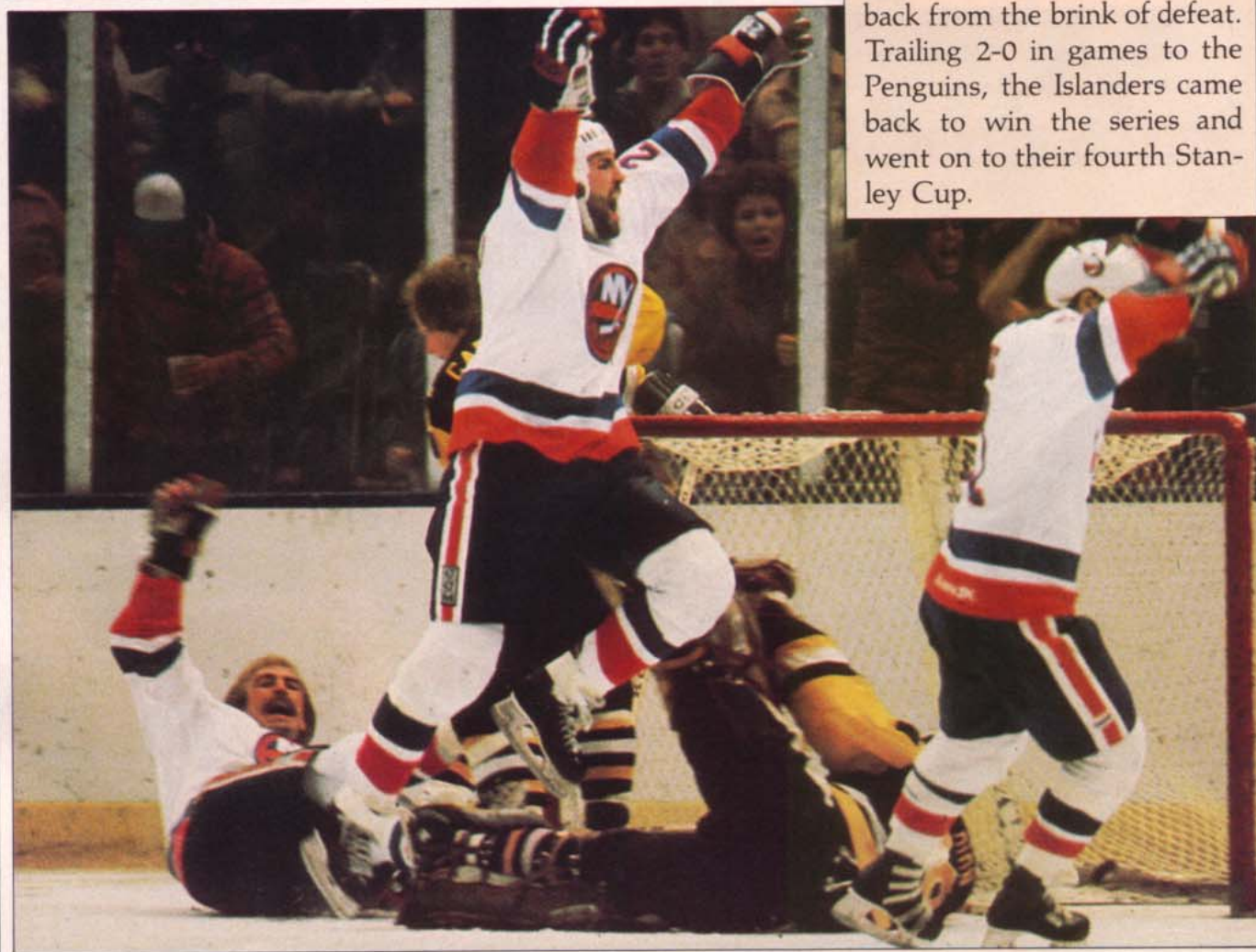


THE BENNETT COLLECTION

*Hockey photographer
Bruce Bennett presents
his most memorable shots*





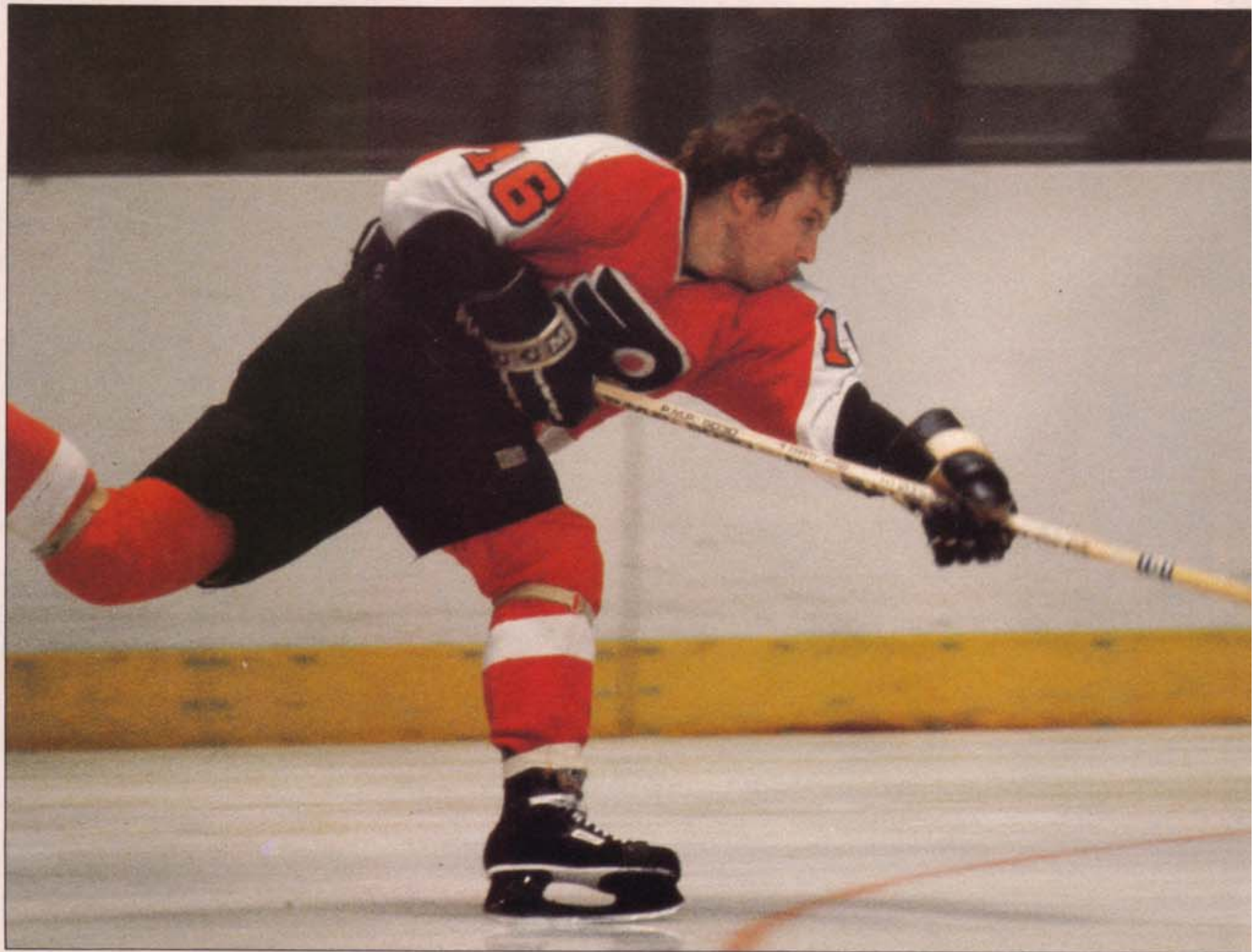
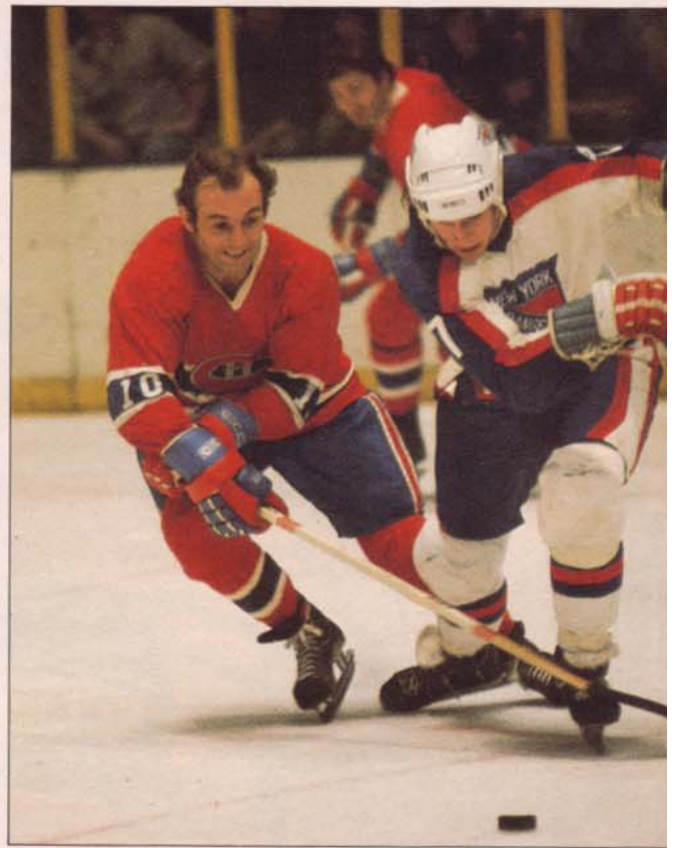
On assignment Bennett was in New York when Phil Esposito retired (far left) and (below) in Buffalo in 1982 when Wayne Gretzky scored his 77th goal to surpass Esposito's record of 76 goals in one season. The Gretzky photo remains "the most timely photo" Bennett has ever taken. He remembers Bob Gainey (left) raising the Stanley Cup in Montreal in 1979 because security guards kept him off the Forum ice and he had to chase around behind the glass before catching a most memorable picture. In 1983, Bennett caught John Tonelli's overtime goal (below) which brought the Islanders back from the brink of defeat. Trailing 2-0 in games to the Penguins, the Islanders came back to win the series and went on to their fourth Stanley Cup.

The guys who make hockey so exciting to photograph are the guys with speed like Miké Bosy (below). The guys who have the ability and breathtaking speed to swoop in on a breakaway. They may not always score but they are hockey's most exciting players," says Bennett. The game's intensity is captured in the pile-up in front of former New York Rangers goaltender Steve Weeks (right).



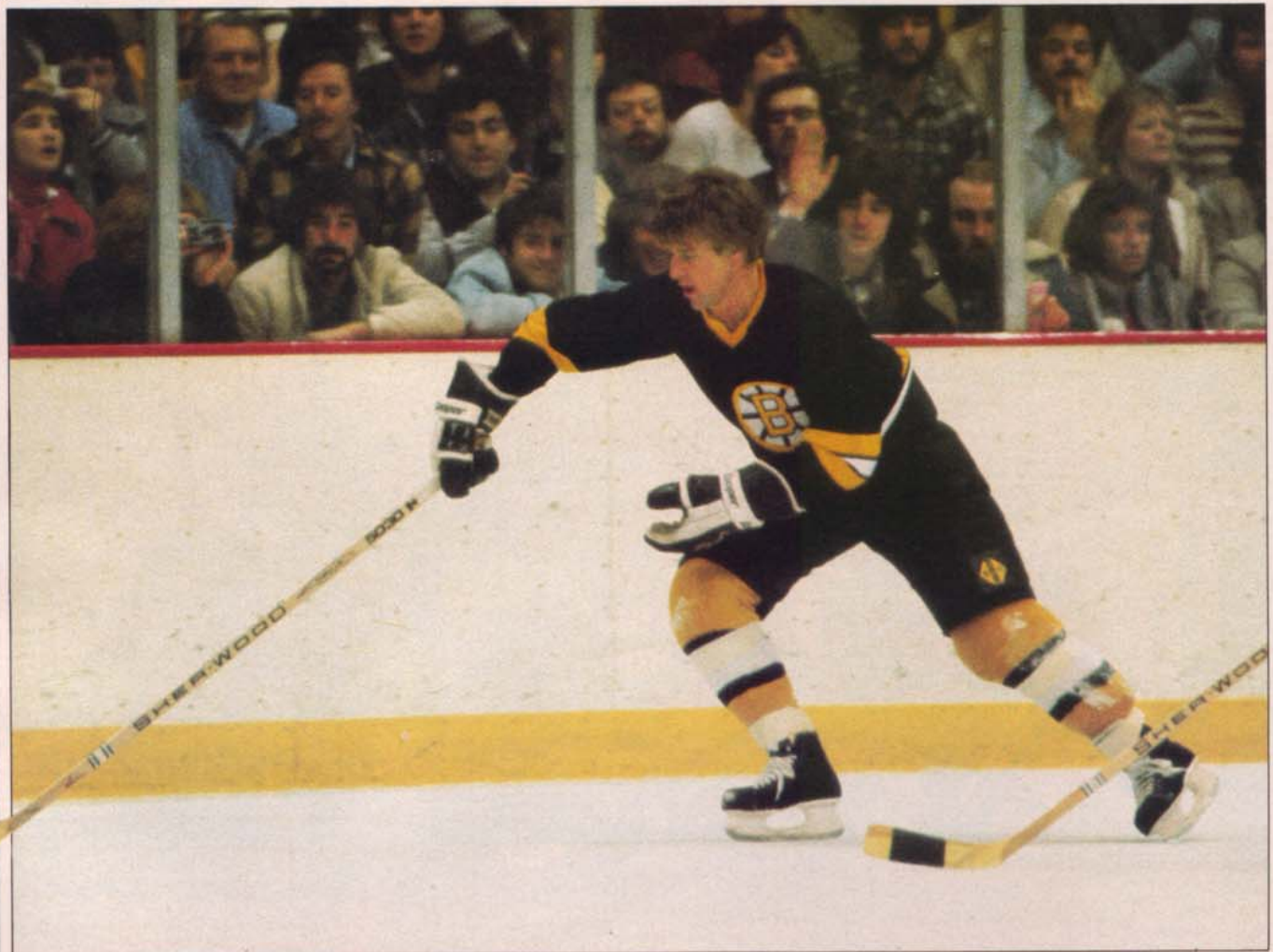
It was always fun to take pictures of Guy Lafleur (near right). He had such tremendous speed and flair. At a moment's notice he would turn and zip, be gone.

The important thing about any hockey photograph isn't whether it shows a stick or a puck, but how it shows the player's face. Bobby Clarke (below and far right), with his missing teeth and rugged facial expression was someone I always kept the camera on. He always showed the strain and intensity of the game."





I didn't get the chance to photograph Bobby Orr (below) all that often. But even as his career was winding down and his knees were gone, he was phenomenal. This photograph was taken at one of the Masters of Hockey matches in the Boston Garden and the ovation Orr received when he stepped on the ice was thunderous. When he played that night, he still showed the desire that made him one of the game's best.



I was always awed by Ken Dryden's size (right), and yet he could still hit the ice quickly when he needed to. He had such a passive approach to the game. He did the job and made the saves, but his mind always seemed to be in another sphere.

"After 12 years of photographing hockey, Billy Smith (below) stands out as one of the most exciting players. People either love him or hate him for what he does but when the chips are down, he's always there: Mr. Clutch. He's like Reggie Jackson."

