



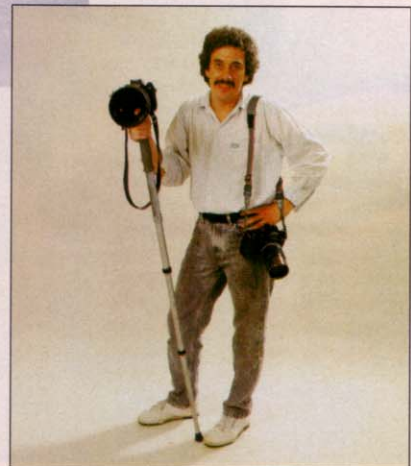
Gordie Roberts of the Minnesota North Stars and Mikko Makela of the Islanders, 1989—Bruce Bennett

BRUCE  
BENNETT

Fifteen years ago Bruce Bennett sent some photos he took of a New York Islanders hockey game (from the cheap seats using an inexpensive 135mm lens) to the *Hockey News*, along with a letter asking them if they needed a photographer. They did. Today Bennett is the Islanders' and Philadelphia Flyers' team photographer.

To handle the tough technical challenge posed by the white ice, Bennett doesn't rely on meter readings. "The best way to find your exposure is to meter off a neutral-toned jersey, then run a test clip," he advises. Color balance and light intensity vary radically from one arena to another. "You have much more latitude with print film. I'd only use slide film, filtered as needed, if I were shooting for publication." Finally, since all pro hockey rinks are enclosed in Plexiglas or Herculite, Bennett suggests sitting ten to 15 rows up so you can shoot over the barrier.

"Sit at center ice. Hockey is a very fast sport, so keeping things in focus takes practice." Bennett suggests that first-time shooters focus on one player at faceoff. "Wait for the puck to drop. Shoot the player just as he starts to react." He also prefers following one player for a while rather than jumping from player to player or following the puck.



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