



# SAY CHEESE

*If you're a regular reader of The Hockey News, Sports Illustrated, NHL.com and even this publication, you've probably seen Bruce Bennett's work. As far as hockey and photography go, he's seen and done it all. In fact, as you'll read below, he's probably seen a little more than he ever wanted to.*



> JASON HOPKINS

**PuckLife:** For any hockey nut, you've probably got one of the coolest jobs on the planet. How did you get this gig?

**Bruce Bennett:** Back in 1973, I shot some pictures from the blue seats, upper bowl, at Madison Square Garden, and a couple others at a New York Islanders game. I sent a few 5x7 prints to The Hockey News in Montreal inquiring if they might need a photographer. They said they did, as their New York based freelance photographer had become a journalist when the Islander franchise started the year before. So, for \$3.00 (Canadian) per photo, I started shooting in the 1974-1975 season.

**PL:** Were you a hockey fan as a kid?

**BB:** It's hard to think back that far. Was there hockey back then? Was there ice? I think I was about ten years old when I started to become interested in hockey. I grew up 30 miles outside of New York City and followed the Rangers, as they were the only game in town. I played a lot of street hockey and roller hockey, the four wheel variety, growing up, and when all my friends made the switch to ice, I had a tough time as I had never ice-skated before. It was a long adjustment, and I'm definitely better on ice now than I was back then.

**PL:** Any idea how many games you've shot?

**BB:** Strangely enough, I have a pretty good estimate on how many games I've shot. I got an accounting degree in college and since I ran my own business for 30 years before being acquired by Getty Images, numbers have always been important to me. So since you asked, up to September 1, 2010: 3,926 regular season and playoff games, 242 preseason games, 28 NHL All-Star games, 30 Stanley Cup deciding games, 8 WHA games, 144 Olympic hockey games spread across three Olympics, 183 International tours, tournaments, exhibitions and Championships, 18 Old-timers and Masters games, 45 minors, juniors and college games. The 3,926 is an estimate as there were three of four years where my records aren't precise. But all the other stats are correct and I did it all in 34 seasons.