

## REFLECTIONS— A YEAR IN REVIEW

BY ROCKY BONANNO, NHL.COM

WHEN LOOKING BACK on the 2008–09 National Hockey League season, every fan will sort through his or her own personal catalogue of memories, each person certain to recall moments different than the next person. Whether it be a favourite team, player, game, or milestone from the regular season or playoffs, there is no shortage of spectacular flashbacks.

One set of eyes that has seen countless such moments belongs to Bruce Bennett, who has been photographing the sport of hockey for four decades. As the Director of Photography, Hockey Imagery for Getty Images, Bennett views thousands and thousands of snapshots—including those in this third edition of *Reflections*—taken each season by his staff as well as by all NHL team photographers. He estimates that between the regular season and playoffs, approximately 845,000 images are collected among the maximum 1,335 games that could be played. Choosing the very best of those images for this volume was an enormous undertaking.

“Capturing the sport of ice hockey in still photography is no simple task,” Bennett said. “Hockey photography is a highly specialized segment of sports photography in which photographers constantly are challenged as they attempt to shoot still images that depict the speed, intensity, action, and emotion of this fast moving sport.”

With the daunting task of selecting the most worthy and compelling photos now complete, let's jog the mind's eye with a review of what made 2008–09 so special.

The curtain on the 91st NHL regular season was raised on foreign soil for the second consecutive year with two games played in Stockholm and two in Prague, European cities with rich hockey traditions that have sent many players to the NHL. While fans in North America shouted “drop the puck,” in Sweden and the Czech Republic they proclaimed “nedsläpp” and “vřazujtc,” respectively.