

HOCKEY TRIVIAKIDS

Eric Zweig

illustrations by Bill Dickson

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To Amanda, whose favourite team sport is still baseball, and to Brent too.

— Eric

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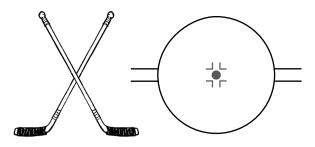
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Hart to Hart

When Connor McDavid and the Edmonton Oilers faced Taylor Hall and the New Jersey Devils on October 6, 2018, it marked just the second time in NHL history that the previous two winners of the Hart Memorial Trophy faced each other in a season opener. McDavid had won the award for NHL MVP in 2016–17, while Hall had won it in 2017–18.

The first time that happened was the season opener between the Detroit Red Wings and the New York Rangers on October 11, 1950. That game actually featured the previous three winners of the Hart Memorial Trophy, with Chuck Rayner (1949–50) and Buddy O'Connor (1947–48) of the Rangers facing Sid Abel (1948–49) of the Red Wings.



BY THE NUMBERS



Only five players in NHL history have scored 50 goals in a single season before their 21st birthday. Here's a look at that list:

PLAYER	TEAM	AGE / SEASON
Wayne Gretzky	Edmonton	19 years, 2 months in 1979-80
Jimmy Carson	Los Angeles	19 years, 8 months in 1987-88
Steven Stamkos	Tampa Bay	20 years, 2 months in 2009-10
Pierre Larouche	Pittsburgh	20 years, 5 months in 1975-76
Alex Ovechkin	Washington	20 years, 6 months in 2005-06

Hat Trick Fights Cancer

At the start of training camp before the 2017–18 season, Brian Boyle of the New Jersey Devils was diagnosed with a type of bone-marrow cancer. Boyle worked his way back into the lineup by November 1, 2017, missing only three other games that season. He scored 13 goals in 69 games, including a memorable one on November 24, 2017 — New Jersey's Hockey Fights Cancer night. Hockey Fights Cancer is an annual campaign organized by the NHL and the NHL Players' Association since 1998. Almost a year later, on November 5, 2018, Boyle scored his first career hat trick in the Devils' 5–1 win over the Penguins, which just happened to be the Hockey Fights Cancer night in Pittsburgh.

NAME GAME: Classic Edition

Gordie Howe was so good for such a long time it just became natural to refer to him as "Mr. Hockey." A few other players had been called by that nickname before Howe, but it described him so perfectly that it's unlikely anyone else will ever be known as "Mr. Hockey."

