

AMAZING HOCKEY STORIES

ALEX OVECHKIN

Lorna Schultz Nicholson
Illustrations by D. A. Bishop



Scholastic Canada Ltd.
Toronto New York London Auckland Sydney
Mexico City New Delhi Hong Kong Buenos Aires

To all young hockey players . . . always enjoy playing
this game as much as Alex Ovechkin! — *L.S.N.*

Scholastic Canada Ltd.

604 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5V 1E1, Canada

Scholastic Inc.

557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, USA

Scholastic Australia Pty Limited

PO Box 579, Gosford, NSW 2250, Australia

Scholastic New Zealand Limited

Private Bag 94407, Botany, Manukau 2163, New Zealand

Scholastic Children's Books

Euston House, 24 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1DB, UK

www.scholastic.ca

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: Alex Ovechkin / Lorna Schultz Nicholson ; illustrations by D.A. Bishop.
Names: Schultz Nicholson, Lorna, author. | Bishop, D. A. (David A.), illustrator.

Description: Series statement: Amazing hockey stories

Identifiers: Canadiana 20210160195 | ISBN 9781443187718 (softcover)

Subjects: LCSH: Ovechkin, Alexander, 1985—Juvenile literature. |

LCSH: Hockey players—Russia (Federation)—Biography—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC GV848.5.O95 S39 2021 | DDC j796.962092—dc23

Photos ©: cover: David Becker/NHLI via Getty Images; background:

Nick Merkulov/Shutterstock; 5 : Bruce Bennett/Getty Images;

18: Dave Sandford/Hockey Hall of Fame; 20: Vladimir Bezzubov;

22: Karl DeBlaker/AP Images; 25: Josh Holberg/Hockey Hall of Fame;

36: Mitchell Layton/Getty Images; 48: Bruce Bennett/Getty Images;

55: Roy K. Miller/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images; 60: Jonathan Newton/
The Washington Post via Getty Images; 64: Alex Brandon/AP Images.

Text copyright © 2021 by Lorna Schultz Nicholson.

Illustrations copyright © 2021 by Scholastic Canada Ltd.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording, or otherwise, without written permission of the publisher, Scholastic Canada Ltd., 604 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5V 1E1, Canada. In the case of photocopying or other reprographic copying, a licence must be obtained from Access Copyright (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency), www.accesscopyright.ca or 1-800-893-5777.

6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China 62 21 22 23 24 25



STARTING OFF WITH A BANG

OCTOBER 5, 2005
WASHINGTON CAPITALS VS.
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

TIME TO
SHOW THEM
WHAT I CAN
DO...

TATYANA,
THERE HE IS!

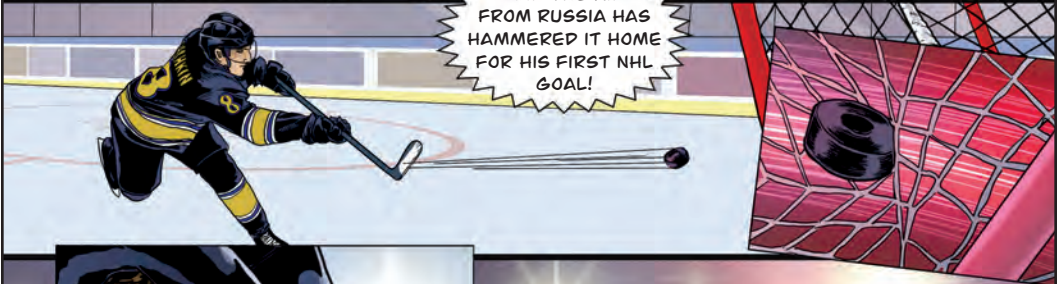
SHHH!
I NEED TO
WATCH.



WHAT A HIT
BY OVECHKIN! LESS
THAN A MINUTE INTO
THIS GAME.

OOPS--
MAYBE NOT
LIKE THAT.



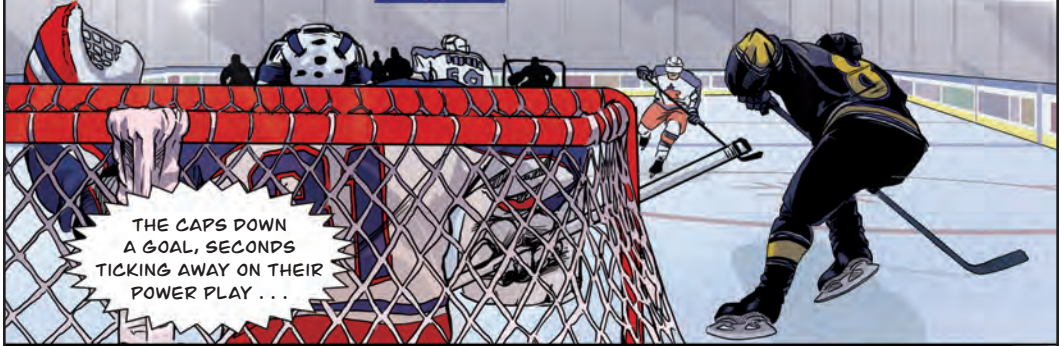


2nd 12:41

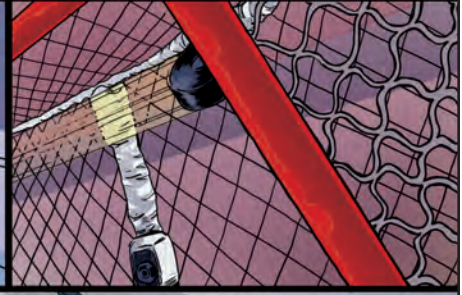
CBJ 2

WSH 1

PP



THE CAPS DOWN A GOAL, SECONDS TICKING AWAY ON THEIR POWER PLAY ...



AND THERE IT IS! A PAIR FOR THE ROOKIE. AND THE FANS ARE LOVING IT!



THIRD PERIOD

... GOAL!
THE CAPS ARE
AHEAD 3-2!

I AM PROUD--
BUT THEY STILL
MUST WIN.

FWEEEEET!

WHY DID I
TAKE A PENALTY?
WHAT IF I LOST
US THE GAME?

NUMBER 8
TWO MINUTES,
HOOKING.

WE HAVE
TO WIN.

BZZZZZZZ!

I MUST THANK
MY TEAM FOR GIVING
ME TWO EXCELLENT
PASSES.
IT'S MY FIRST GAME
IN THE NHL, WE WIN AND
I SCORE TWO GOALS.
IT'S A NICE START.



HITTING THE HIGHLIGHT REEL

Alex showed Caps fans and management they had a superstar in the making. On January 13, 2006, in his 43rd game, he hit another milestone. The Caps were playing against the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim, and the first period went by with no scoring. Early in the second, Alex skated through the traffic and popped in the first goal of the game for the Caps.

The Ducks answered back, and the score was 1–1. The tie was short-lived because Alex once again got in the Ducks' zone, and this time he did a curl and drag before blasting the puck into the back of the net. With less than three minutes left in the third, the Ducks scored again to tie the game. The buzzer sounded. It was going to overtime. At 3:04 of the overtime period, young Alex circled around a few Ducks . . . and wheeled in to score the OT winner. His teammates hugged him, knowing he'd won it for the Caps — with his first NHL hat trick, no less!

Three days later, the Caps were in Phoenix facing the Coyotes. Alex scored the first goal of the game and picked up an assist in the second period. The Caps were up 5–1 in the third period and set for an easy win. That didn't stop Alex from doing what he loves to do: score goals. In a defining moment,

Alex stormed down the ice and into the Coyotes' zone using his strong stickhandling skills. A Coyotes defenceman tripped him up, and he tumbled to the ice. As he was sliding along the ice on his back, and with only one hand on his stick, he reached for the puck. He smacked at it, sending it into the net on a backhand! Jaws dropped. It was an unbelievable goal, and it has been played over and over in sports broadcasts. It's been called one of the greatest ever.

About a month after his highlight-reel goal, Alex was selected for the Russian Olympic Team at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. It was another dream come true. The tournament started off well. The Russians put on a good show in the round robin, losing only one of the four games they played. In the quarter-final matchup, they faced Canada. Alex scored the first goal, which proved to be the game-winner, and the Russians ended up taking it 2-0. They advanced to a semifinal against Finland, which Russia lost. They also lost the bronze-medal game. Alex was determined to represent his country on the Olympic stage again one day. He was proud to wear the jersey of his home country.