



- ANNOUNCING! -

A CELEBRATION OF 36 YEARS OF FUN AND GAMES

WHEN THEY WERE TEN

BY TERRY JONES

Featuring Photography of Dale MacMillan

COMING SOON

Over the years there have been dozens of hockey books published aimed at younger demographics and as many more aimed at older fans. But coming soon is a book to be embraced by both.

WHEN THEY WERE TEN

THE REMARKABLE STORY OF THE BRICK INVITATIONAL

FROM THE FIRST 28 YEARS of the 36-year tournament for nine and 10-year-olds at the iconic location of the Ice Palace of West Edmonton Mall the now 14-team tournament features “the greatest little hockey players in the world” and has been proclaimed by many to have become “the greatest minor hockey tournament in the world”.

More than 750 pint-sized players have emerged from the tournament to be selected in the Entry Draft. And by the end of the 2024-25

regular season, while many more were working their way from peewee up through the minor hockey age groups to junior, college and minor league pro, an astounding total of 422 had made it to the National Hockey League and to this point have played an even more astonishing 110,045 regular season games.





The tournament alumni include such names as NHL first-overall drafty choices Steven Stamkos, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Auston Matthews, Jack Hughes and the most recent — Connor Bedard and Macklin Celebrini in back-to-back years. Gavin McKenna had become a virtual unanimous projection to be chosen first overall in 2026. A late birthdate delayed his draft year but the three played in consecutive years for the same British Columbia team.

The book is a rich treasure trove of legend and lore involving the likes of Brent Seabrook, Andrew Ladd, Troy Brouwer and Colin Fraser who played in the Brick Invitational in 1995,

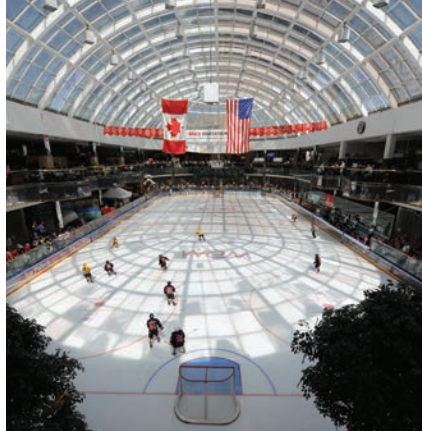
three of them on the same team, and went on to be reunited as Chicago Blackhawks, along with Dustin Byfuglien who also played in the tournament that year and a later Brick grad Jonathan Toews, where they would win the 2010 Stanley Cup.

The list goes on and on and even includes Shannon Szabados of Team Brick who was the first female to play in the tournament and became goaltender of the Canadian women's national team that won two Olympic gold medals and a woman who went on to play two years of pro hockey.

The publication reveals the treasured memories of many of the top names in hockey who share inspirational moments as players or parents of players.

And it tells the fascinating history of how the tournament was invented by Bill Comrie and created by Tournament Chairman Craig Styles and Executive Director Andy Wigston from the inaugural edition in 1990 to the production today that never forgets that the stars are 10 and that the experience, which includes a now famous beach party at the World Waterpark, should be fun.

The book is authored as a labour of love by Hockey Hall of Fame writer Terry Jones, the Edmonton sportswriter of 55-years with a list



of coverage credits and other Hall of Fame inductions unmatched in Canadian sports journalism history. It features the pictures of Edmonton's long-time pro sports national and international sports photographer Dale MacMillan who has saved a week in his busy schedule to focus on the kids in every tournament game for more than three decades.

The dozens of interviews with players and others connected to the tournament over the years reveal not only the special place the tournament has in their memories but is especially rich in anecdotes and behind the scenes stories. And the accompanying photos of kids playing for a Brick Cup Trophy almost as tall as them, are captivating. ■



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOK PRICING ON
WHEN THEY WERE TEN
 THE REMARKABLE STORY OF THE BRICK INVITATIONAL
 please email WhenTheyWereTen@BrickHockey.ca

