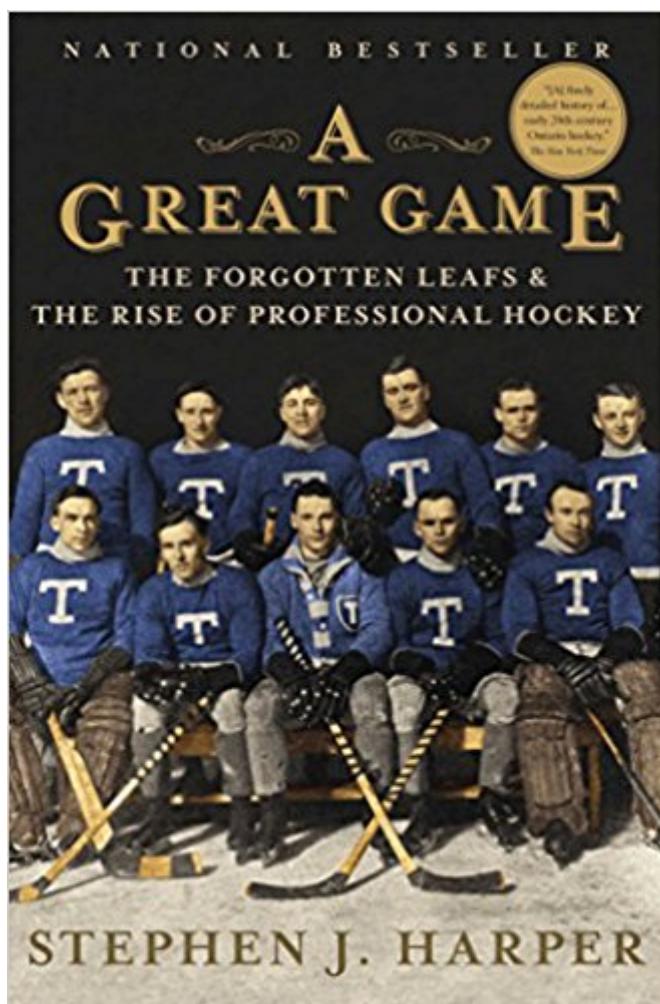


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# A Great Game: The Forgotten Leafs & The Rise Of Professional Hockey



## Synopsis

From Canada's twenty-second prime minister, the new trade paperback edition of the bestselling history of hockey's early days. Published to praise from reviewers in both the US and Canada, *A Great Game* brings alive the hockey heroes and hard-boiled businessmen who built the game of hockey and pays passionate tribute to the earliest star players of the game. Lavishly illustrated with captivating photographs throughout, Stephen Harper has crafted a "readable and entertaining historical exposition of the early organizational days of Canada's most beloved sport" (Toronto Star). With a historian's perspective and fan's passion, Harper presents a riveting, often-surprising portrait, capturing everything from the physical contests on the rinks to the battles behind the scenes and the changing social conventions of the twentieth century. *A Great Game* shows that many things have stayed the same. Rough play, fervent hometown loyalties, owner-player contract disputes, dubious news coverage, and big money were issues from the get-go. Harper's meticulous research yields "insightful examinations of class and religion and the roles they played in a country that still saw itself as a pillar of the British Empire, all viewed through the prism of hockey at the dawn of the pro era" (The New York Times). An instant Canadian bestseller, *A Great Game* resurrects the history of hockey's first decades. With photographs of the game's earliest arenas and star players, this impressive and original account will entertain and educate you from start to finish. "Thanks to Stephen Harper's impressive book of early hockey history in Toronto, the 'forgotten Leafs' will be forgotten no more" (The Washington Times).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An illustration of hockey's special place in the Canadian heart and mind...Harper has written a finely detailed history of the struggle between professionalism and amateurism in early 20th-century Ontario hockey...It includes insightful examinations of class and religion and the roles they played in a country that still saw itself as a pillar of the British Empire, all viewed through the prism of hockey at the dawn of the pro era." (The New York Times)"...the Prime Minister does a good job of taking you back to the country, and the time, that gave birth to the national game." (Globe and Mail)A Great Game is a "...readable and entertaining historical exposition of the early organizational days of Canada's most beloved sport...[Harper is] an unreconstructed sentimentalist about hockey. He romances the game, focusing on its sepia-toned infancy." (Toronto Star) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Like millions of other Canadians, Stephen Harper developed his love for hockey at a young age as he played at the arenas and on the shiny rinks and roads of his hometown. Today, long retired from his on-ice career with the Leaside Lions, he is the twenty-second Prime Minister of Canada and is happily married to Laureen, who, with their children Ben and Rachel, live in Calgary and Ottawa. A member of the Society of International Hockey Research with a particular interest in the early decades of the game, Mr. Harper is an amateur historian interested in exploring the sport's impact on the people and places that define Canada. A Great Game is his first published work on the game of hockey.

I have no idea how Stephen Harper found the time to write A Great Game, what with his day job of prime ministering and all. His love for the subject shines through, as does excellent research, and a firm grasp of the history of early hockey. As a Pittsburgher, I was struck by the extension of his coverage from Toronto in particular and Canada in general, to the Western Pennsylvania Hockey League. The book is surprisingly scholarly and methodical. There are times in which this makes it kind of a dry read, but it is well worth the effort.

Covers the 1906-07 through 1908-09 seasons. Very interesting book, with some nice statistical info in the appendix. There are a few cases where this book has standings that do not appear in Total Hockey. The book appears to be very well researched.

Bought this for a gift for my Leaf fanatic MIL. Came in time, looks great!

Absolutely love old hockey history. Game was much better back then. Book is fantastic, well written and easy to follow

loved the book, quick service

Very through and well written.

This hockey book will help me a lot in my study of old time hockey. Especially 1900s thru 1920s, the quick delivery helped, thanks.

Good reading with a history of the Leafs if you are a fan. Nice to learn the history of Leafs, great reference

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