

# New books promise great holiday reading

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**W**his season, cracking a sweat might be the most dangerous thing you can do.

With hockey riding high on the ice

thanks to the contributions of its youngest charter members, sometimes it's easy to forget about those who paved the way. Sure, gifted kids such as Sidney Crosby, Alex Ovechkin, Steven Stamkos and Matt Duchene are bringing unbridled passion and enthusiasm – not to mention skill – to the table, but this year's offerings from the

world of hockey books delves largely into the past to honor the heroes and characters that brought the game to where it is today.

Icons of the game such as Wayne Gretzky, Jacques Plante and Rocket Richard all get the royal treatment and ironically, so do a couple owners. Peter Pocklington and Harley Hotchkiss, of the rival Edmonton Oilers and Calgary Flames respectively, both have volumes for the purchasing right now.

But history is not reserved for individuals and there is more than just profiles in this sports literature canon, so without further ado, here's a look at some of the titles that you'll want to keep an eye on once the holiday gift-buying season begins.

## **THE PURSUIT OF HOCKEYNESS – 99 Things Every Hockey Fan Needs to do Before they Die**

Edited by Sam McCaig  
Transcontinental, \$19.95  
ISBN 978-0-9809924-3-4

The first of two offerings from your humble friends here at *The Hockey News*, *The Pursuit of Hockeyness* is the ultimate “bucket list” for puckheads. The whole staff contributed to this examination of games that must be seen, trips that must be taken and pursuits that must be indulged. From pilgrimages to junior hockey in Saskatchewan and the Quebec peewee tournament to serene pleasures such as building your own outdoor rink or heaving an octopus onto the ice at a Red Wings game, this tome is chock-full of splendid activities for those who live and die by the puck.

## **PUCK FUNNIES – Hockey, Humour, Hilarity and Hi-jinx**

Edited by Adam Proteau  
Transcontinental, \$19.95  
ISBN 978-0-9809924-6-5

Also available from *The Hockey News* is *Puck Funnies*, a wacky look at the game we all know and love. Despite the occasional high stick or broken orbital bone, hockey is a funny game, complete with a cast of characters to match. Gump Worsley, Marc Bergevin and The Hanson Brothers all make appearances in this edition, as do the best tales from all 30 current NHL teams. Even a few real comedians show up, including Denis Leary and Colin Mochrie. For pratfalls, pithy lines and practical jokes, this book has all you need to keep laughing all the way to the rink.

## **FEVER SEASON**

By Eric Zweig  
Dundurn Press, \$12.99 CDN \$10.99 U.S.  
ISBN 978-1-55488-432-2

For hockey insiders, the name Eric Zweig is very familiar.