The 100 Greatest Players In NHL History - Exploring the Legends and Their Impact on the Game

Ice hockey is a fast-paced, thrilling sport that has captivated millions of fans worldwide. At the heart of its popularity lies the NHL, the premier hockey league in the world, which has produced some of the greatest players the sport has ever seen.



The 100 Greatest Players In NHL History (And Other Stuff): An Arbitrary Collection of Arbitrary Lists

by Greg Wyshynski

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In this comprehensive article, we delve into the annals of NHL history to present you with the 100 greatest players who have graced the ice. These legends have left an indelible mark on the game, inspiring generations of players and fans alike.

Criteria for Selection

Compiling a list of the 100 greatest NHL players is no easy task. To ensure fairness and objectivity, we have considered the following criteria:

- Individual statistics, including goals, assists, points, and awards
- Team success, such as Stanley Cup victories and individual team achievements
- Impact on the game, including innovations, leadership, and overall legacy
- Longevity and consistency of performance over multiple seasons

The Top 10

Before we unveil the entire list of 100 players, let's take a closer look at the top 10, players widely regarded as the greatest of all time:

- 1. Wayne Gretzky
- 2. Mario Lemieux
- 3. Bobby Orr
- 4. Gordie Howe
- 5. Maurice Richard
- 6. Jean Béliveau
- 7. Guy Lafleur
- 8. Mark Messier
- 9. Sergei Fedorov
- 10. Alex Ovechkin

These players have transcended the sport, becoming icons whose names are synonymous with hockey excellence. They have shattered records, led their teams to countless victories, and left an enduring legacy that continues to inspire future generations.

The Complete List

Now, let's present the complete list of the 100 greatest NHL players in history:

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Rank	Player	Position	Years Active	Teams	Goals	Assists
1	Wayne Gretzky	Center	1979- 1999	Edmonton Oilers, Los Angeles Kings, St. Louis Blues, New York Rangers	894	1963
2	Mario Lemieux	Center	1984- 2006	Pittsburgh Penguins	690	1033
3	Bobby Orr	Defenseman	1966- 1979	Boston Bruins, Chicago Blackhawks	264	645

Rank	Player	Position	Years Active	Teams	Goals	Assists
4	Gordie Howe	Right Wing	1946- 1980	Detroit Red Wings, Hartford Whalers	801	1049
5	Maurice Richard	Left Wing	1942- 1960	Montreal Canadiens	544	421
6	Jean Béliveau	Center	1953- 1971	Montreal Canadiens	507	712
7	Guy Lafleur	Left Wing	1971- 1991	Montreal Canadiens, New York Rangers, Quebec Nordiques	560	793
8	Mark Messier	Center	1979- 2004	Edmonton Oilers, New York Rangers, Vancouver Canucks	694	1193
9	Sergei Fedorov	Center	1990- 2012	Detroit Red Wings, Anaheim Mighty Ducks, Washington	483	696

Rank	Player	Position	Years Active	Teams	Goals	Assists
				Capitals, Columbus Blue Jackets		
10	Alex Ovechkin	Left Wing	2005- Present	Washington Capitals	812	650

Beyond the Numbers

While statistics provide a glimpse into a player's greatness, they do not fully capture the impact they have on the game. Here are some additional factors that have contributed to the legendary status of these players:

- Leadership: Many of the greatest players have also been exceptional leaders, inspiring their teammates to perform at their best.
- Innovation: Some players have revolutionized the game, introducing new strategies and techniques that have changed the way hockey is played.
- Resilience: These players have overcome adversity, injuries, and setbacks to achieve their goals.
- Legacy: The greatest players leave a lasting legacy on the sport, inspiring future generations of players and fans.

The 100 greatest players in NHL history represent the pinnacle of ice hockey excellence. Their contributions have shaped the game and left an enduring impact on fans worldwide. From the legendary Wayne Gretzky to

the modern-day marvel Alex Ovechkin, these players have showcased exceptional skills, determination, and passion for the sport.

As we celebrate their achievements, let us also remember the countless other talented players who have graced the ice. The NHL is a truly global league, and its history is filled with remarkable stories of dedication, perseverance, and triumph.

May the legacy of these 100 greatest players continue to inspire future generations to strive for greatness both on and off the ice.

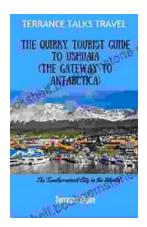


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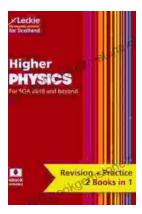
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