

The Men and Moments That Made the Philadelphia Flyers



For over half a century, the Philadelphia Flyers have been a beacon of passion and pride for the city of Philadelphia and beyond. Throughout their storied history, the Flyers have showcased some of the greatest players, experienced unforgettable moments, and captivated fans with their unwavering spirit.

The Big 50: Philadelphia Flyers: The Men and Moments that Made the Philadelphia Flyers by LSATMax LSAT Prep

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The Founding Fathers

The Flyers were founded in 1967 as part of the National Hockey League's expansion into new markets. Led by general manager Keith Allen, the Flyers quickly assembled a talented roster that included future Hall of Famers like Bobby Clarke, Bill Barber, and Bernie Parent.

Clarke, known as "The Broad Street Bully," became the face of the Flyers. A skilled centerman with a fiery determination, Clarke led the Flyers to their first Stanley Cup victory in 1974 and later became the team's captain.

Barber, known for his blazing speed and scoring prowess, was a key member of the Flyers' "Fabled Phantom Line." Parent, nicknamed "The Big Save," established himself as one of the greatest goaltenders in NHL history, winning the Vezina Trophy twice and earning a reputation for making spectacular saves.

The Broad Street Bullies

In the 1970s, the Flyers became known for their aggressive, physical style of play that earned them the nickname "The Broad Street Bullies." With

players like Dave Schultz, Ed Van Impe, and Andre Dupont, the Flyers became one of the most feared teams in the NHL.

Their bruising approach paid dividends as the Flyers won the Stanley Cup twice more in 1975 and 1976. The Broad Street Bullies became a cultural phenomenon in Philadelphia, epitomizing the city's gritty and determined spirit.

The Modern Era

Following the glory days of the Broad Street Bullies, the Flyers experienced a period of transition. However, they remained a competitive force, reaching the Stanley Cup Finals several times throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

In 2010, the Flyers made another deep playoff run, reaching the Stanley Cup Finals once again. Led by stars like Claude Giroux, Jakub Voracek, and goalie Ilya Bryzgalov, the Flyers ultimately fell short of the ultimate prize but left an unforgettable mark on the city.

Unforgettable Moments

Throughout their history, the Flyers have been involved in numerous iconic moments that have left an indelible mark on the franchise and the sport of hockey.

- **The "Miracle on Market Street" (1974):** The Flyers overcame a 3-0 deficit to the Boston Bruins in the playoffs, winning Game 7 in overtime on a goal by Barber.
- **The "Slap Shot" Game (1976):** The Flyers' victory over the Boston Bruins in the Stanley Cup Finals was captured in the iconic movie

"Slap Shot," which became a cult classic.

- **The "Legion of Doom" Line (1980s):** The Flyers' top line of Rick Tocchet, Brian Propp, and Tim Kerr terrorized opposing defenses, combining speed, skill, and physicality.
- **The Return of the Broad Street Bullies (1997):** The Flyers reunited many of their former Broad Street Bullies for a special game to raise money for the Flyers Wives Carnival.

Legendary Characters

The Flyers have produced countless legendary characters that have left an enduring mark on the franchise and the hearts of fans.

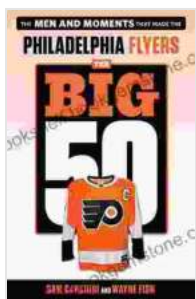
- **Bobby Clarke:** Captain and heart of the Flyers during their Stanley Cup victories, known for his tenaciousness and leadership.
- **Bill Barber:** The franchise's all-time leading goal scorer, known for his blistering speed and scoring touch.
- **Bernie Parent:** One of the greatest goaltenders in NHL history, known for his acrobatic saves and charismatic personality.
- **Dave Schultz:** A legendary enforcer, known for his intimidating presence and willingness to drop the gloves.
- **Kate Smith:** The Flyers' unofficial anthem singer, known for her stirring rendition of "God Bless America" before games.

The Flyers Legacy

Over five decades, the Philadelphia Flyers have established themselves as one of the most storied franchises in NHL history. With six Stanley Cup

championships, countless Hall of Famers, and a loyal and passionate fan base, the Flyers have become an integral part of the city's sporting and cultural landscape.

Their legacy is one of grit, skill, and unforgettable characters. The Flyers have endured the highs and lows of professional sports and remain a source of pride for Philadelphia and hockey fans everywhere.



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