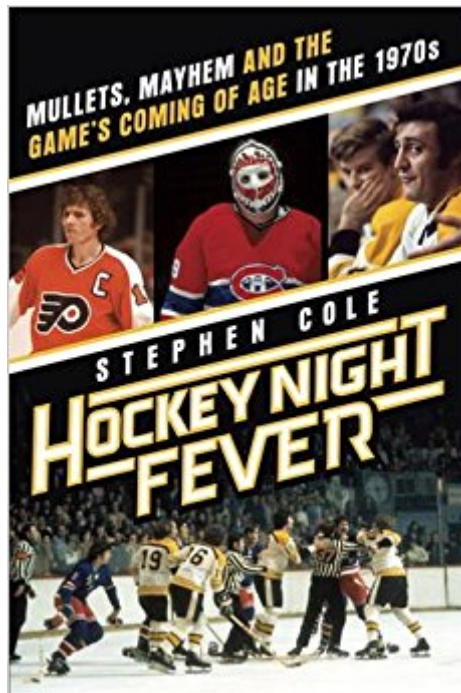


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Hockey Night Fever: Mullets, Mayhem And The Game's Coming Of Age In The 1970s



Synopsis

A wildly evocative chronicle of the decade that changed hockey forever. "Lady Byng died in Boston" read a sign in the Garden arena in 1970, a cheery dismissal of the NHL trophy awarded the game's most gentlemanly player. A new age of hockey was dawning. For 30 years, hockey was an orderly and (relatively) well-behaved sport. There was one Commissioner, six teams and five colours--red, white, black, blue and yellow. Oh, and one nationality. Until 1967, every player, coach, referee and GM in the NHL had been a Canadian. And then came NHL expansion, the founding of the WHA, and garish new uniforms. The Seventies had arrived: the era that gave us not only disco, polyester suits, lava lamps and mullets but also the movie *Slap Shot* and the arrest of ten NHL players for on-ice mayhem. But it also gave us hockey's greatest encounter (the 1972 Canada-Russia Summit), its most splendid team, the 1976-77 Montreal Canadiens, and the most aesthetically satisfying game--the three-all tie on New Year's Eve, 1975, between the Canadiens and the Soviet Red Army. Modern hockey was born in the sport's wild, sensational, sometimes ugly Seventies growth spurt. The forces at play in the decade's battle for hockey supremacy--dazzling speed vs. brute force--are now, for better or worse, part of hockey's DNA. This book is a welcome reappraisal of the ten years that changed how the sport was played and experienced. Informed by first-hand interviews with players and game officials, and sprinkled with sidebars on the art and artifacts that defined Seventies hockey, the book brings dramatically alive hockey's most eventful, exciting decade.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Look, I don't like to nitpick but I will. I found the vast majority of this book worth 5 stars for all the trivia and insight I had forgotten about the hockey I watched growing up and the new tidbits I learned (i.e., Ken Dryden was 25 wins and no losses in the Boston Garden during his Cornell University days, or that interest in Bobby Orr was so great that prior to him being eligible to join the Boston Bruins, his B's sponsored junior team Oshawa Generals played the Niagara Fall Flyers [of Derek Sanderson fame] at Boston Garden in 1965) totally fascinating. Where the author drove me nuts was his obsession with telling us repeatedly where the players drank post-game. Really? Briefly mentioning that wasn't enough. I didn't get that at all. Then to have a book subtitled "The Game's Coming Of Age In The 1970s" and to 90% focus on the NHL missed the whole point. He touches on the international game by having chapters on the Team Canada vs. USSR 1972 Summit Series, the 1976 Canada Cup as well as the infamous 1976 Super Series game between the Central Red Army (of Moscow) and the defending Stanley Cup champion Philadelphia Flyers, but he shunts the World Hockey Association off into small corners of asides in various chapters. I love he used a focus on the three Stanley Cup champion teams (the Bruins, Flyers and Montreal Canadiens) of that decade to tell the story BUT to not see the profound effect the signing of Bobby Hull by the WHA which led to more player freedom and new major hockey markets is sloughed over. Throw in his obvious focus on the violence of the game at the NHL level yet not getting into the Rick Jodzio attack on Marc Tardif nor the Birmingham Bulls' gooning it up other than in passing is shocking to say the least.

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