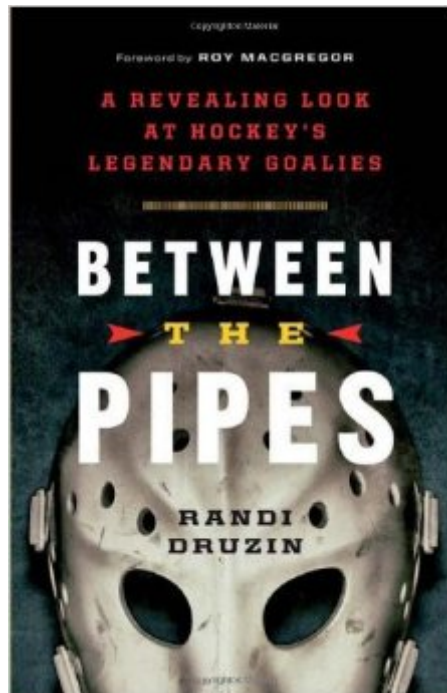


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Between The Pipes: A Revealing Look At Hockey's Legendary Goalies



Synopsis

Some NHL goalies are great and others are intriguing, but a dozen of them are legends because they're both. In *Between the Pipes*, Randi Druzin profiles these athletes, revealing the traits that make each one unique. Gump Worsley defied the laws of biomechanics by being nimble despite having a cabbage-shaped body. He was also one of the funniest men ever to start in goal. Glenn Hall used to wrestle with a trainer in the dressing room before games and Jacques Plante refused to stay at a particular Toronto hotel. Despite their quirks, these 12 goalies are among the best the game has ever seen. With wit and verve, Druzin paints unforgettable portraits of these masked mavericks.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Full disclosure upfront: Got a review copy after the author contacted me. Having said that, it's a terrific read especially if you're into some of the odd trivia about these goalies. For example, even though from reading Gump Worsley's biography I knew he was good enough at soccer to play against legendary English club side Tottenham Hotspur (has that blown your mind yet?) but also played semi-pro soccer in Quebec captaining a side to a national Final. Or she nails it but talking about that infamous playoff incident where in a scrum near the boards at Madison Square Garden the New York Rangers' Vic Hadfield rips off Toronto Maple Leafs' Bernie Parent's mask and tosses it into the crowd. The mask disappears forcing Jacques Plante to replace Parent in net as by that time no sane goalie played net without a mask. It's odd tidbits dispersed throughout the book like this that make this a fun read. Druzin is not writing some comprehensive end all and be all to the

best goalies of all-time. She chose 12 goalies from the '50s through to now to focus on. She gives us a bit of background on each goalie's rise to the NHL and then a season-by-season-ish look at what they accomplished is expounded on and follows up on their post-playing careers. She keeps it simple using wins, shutouts, goals against average and save percentage when throwing stats at us. Although, I think only save percentage really is of any value as after all, for example, Gilles Meloche was a great goalie stuck on a horrendously bad California Golden Seals team that won very few games. Once he got on a halfway decent team in the Minnesota North Stars, he led that team to the Stanley Cup Final.

As a hockey fan I find the position of "goalie" the most interesting of all players. As a matter of fact the performance of Antero Niittymaki at the 2006 Winter Olympics rekindled my love for the game and I've been following the NHL very closely ever since, which is pretty hard when you're living in the Netherlands. After reading "the game" by Ken Dryden some time ago, I wanted to read even more about goalies in the NHL and a couple of days ago I discovered this book. First of all it's a very informative book (at least for one who didn't grow up watching the NHL), it gives you insight in the lives and careers of some of the best goalies ever to play the game. I really loved reading about the goalies, most of them who were just names for me, very famous names nonetheless, but still obscure people. This book gave me a quick course on twelve elite NHL goalies. It's a very easy read, it took me almost no time to read, which I consider a downside as well: the language used is very simplistic, even for one whose native language isn't English, I often felt like I was reading a children's book (At least when considering the style, grammar and use of vocabulary). Furthermore there are some aspects about the writing that I found really annoying: firstly there is a lot (A LOT) of repetitiveness in this book, I believe I've read about 7 or 8 times that the Vezina Thorny, was awarded to the goalie(s) with the least amount of goals against pre-1982. The chapters are a bit short for my liking and seem rushed, like trying to write about an entire post season in 4 lines (that's really in there, trust me). Apart from that, every chapter is built in exactly the same way, often using exactly the same words.

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