Renowned hockey photographer and innovator, Harold Barkley, goes over the details of a photo shoot with Jean Beliveau of the Montreal Canadiens. Barkley, who joined the staff of the *Toronto Star* in 1958, pioneered colour action hockey photography with his use of spot lighting via powerful strobe lights synchronized to his cameras. He lugged his equipment, which weighed about 350 pounds, to all six of the Original Six cities, but could most often be found working at Maple Leaf Gardens. Barkley's best-known work appeared in the *Star Weekly*, a popular colour supplement to the newspaper, and his photos later found their way into the pages of *Hockey Illustrated*, *Time magazine*, and *Sports Illustrated*.

Location · City, State | Year   Photographer | Photo Description

Before every single NHL game was televised and cameras equipped with zoom lenses as long as your arm could bring a bead of sweat into sharp focus from 100 feet away, the photographers who chronicled hockey had to make do with the equipment they had, as bulky and heavy as it was. They more than got by over the years thanks to their own ingenuity and an access to the action on the ice that would be unheard of today. In many cases, the images they captured possess a stark beauty worthy of a museum or art gallery wall.

The game's first cameramen were more like old-time newspaper photographers than sports specialists, strolling out onto the ice, huge cameras in hand, to shoot fight and injury scenes like they were car crashes. Those who wanted to capture the actual game action set up as close to the ice as possible, in open spots along the boards and in corners, shooting through holes cut in the protective wire or glass.

Early photos were often dark, with only weak arena lighting and camera flash bulbs illuminating the scene. Flashes were soon mounted high on the glass, and later, strobe lights installed above the ice surface provided better lighting as black and white gave way to colour. Soon, cameras fired by remote controls would be installed above and even inside the nets.

Promotional photography was another thing altogether. In the beginning, it was crude, with uniformed players hauled outdoors to be photographed against brick walls or, like schoolchildren, fake nature backdrops. To simulate action, complex scenes were staged out on the ice, where players were asked to strike and hold poses replicating ferocious body checks and other collisions.

Today's games are chronicled by professionals working with state-of-the-art equipment. At special events, like the annual outdoor games, video cameras travel along cables to follow the action up ice. Photographers can now fire off thousands of shots per game and then quickly scroll through them to select the best ones. Their pioneering counterparts, on the other hand, could afford no such luxury, and had to rely on their knowledge of the game and the players to get the perfect shot. Both methods could produce stunning results. Shooting the game was, and still is, an art form.

Such great memories.

This newspaper photographer wants to get close, but not too close, to the fight taking place between members of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Boston Bruins. Boston captain, Milt Schmidt (No. 15), appears to be one of the combatants.

Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | March 31, 1951 Turofsky | B/W · slide · 35mm

Before the members of the Stanley Cup-winning Montreal Canadiens can even hit the ice in celebration, a newspaper photographer has beaten them to it. In a time before powerful zoom lenses and other technological advances, hockey photographers had to be as physically close as possible to the action they wanted to capture on film. This game, giving the Habs their record fifth Cup in a row, was the last for Maurice Richard, wearing the "C", on the bench next to coach Toe Blake. Toronto's Tim Horton, No. 7, looks on.

Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | Undated ○ Michael Burns Sr. | B/W · acetate · 4" x 5"

Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | March 28 or 20, 1948 Turofsky | B/W · slide · 35mm

To capture the game from a different perspective, photographers might perch in the stands behind the nets when possible. In this photo, the camera flash is illuminating the logo in the middle of the puck, tracked by goalie Harry Lumley, Ted Lindsay and Gordie Howe of the Red Wings and Vic Lynn of the Toronto Maple Leafs are part of the action.

Dave Kryskow of the Atlanta Flames (No. 8) and
Bob MacMillan of the St. Louis Blues (No. 21) pre-
pare to jump into play in this unique faceoff shot
taken at ice level at the St. Louis Arena during the
1975-76 season. The Blues would prevail, 7-3.

St. Louis Arena · St. Louis, MO | October 25, 1975   Lewis Portnoy | colour · slide · 35mm

John Zimmerman of *Sports Illustrated* became the first photographer to place a camera inside a net to shoot an NHL hockey game, capturing the action between the New York Rangers and Montreal Canadiens. He triggered his camera remotely from a wire running under the ice. In 1966, Barton Silverman, used a similar approach, having a special wooden box built to protect the camera he used. Not to be outdone, Frank Prazak of *Weekend Magazine* built his own five-inch camera for the assignment, and padded it to protect any players who might crash into the net.

Pacific Coliseum · Vancouver, BC **|** November 30, 1971 ○ Frank Prazak **|** colour · slide · 35mm

This staged photo shot during Detroit's training camp was meant to depict the rough-tumble nature of NHL hockey. Members of the Red Wings were all too happy to play their part.

Location · City, State | Undated ○ Frank Prazak | B/W · negative · 35mm

A group of hockey photographers and cinema-photographers capture the presentation of the Stanley Cup following Game 4 of the Finals between Montreal and Toronto. The Canadiens won the game 4-0, sweeping the series.
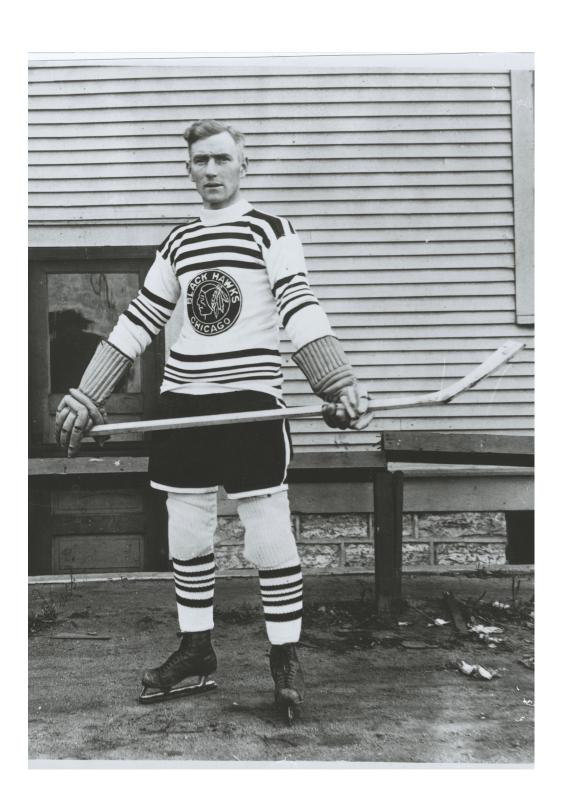
The Bruins' Marty Barry, the Leafs' Hap Day, the Lieutenant
— Governor of Ontario Herbert Bruce, Maple Leaf Gardens
President J. P. Bickell and NHL President Frank Calder are
shown prior to the game between Boston and Toronto.

Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | November 9, 1933   Turofsky | B/W · glass · 4" x 5"

The famed Turofsky brothers are shown on the other side of their own lens — it's a self-portrait — with their even more famous subject. Lou (left) and Nat Turofsky were preeminent photographers of their day, working tirelessly on all fronts in the Toronto area, particularly the sports scene. Athletes themselves, they were said to possess the instincts necessary to capture sports action, anticipating plays as they developed. Their hockey collection — some 19,000 images — is said to be the largest in the world and is entrusted to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | 1951 ○ Turofsky | B/W · acetate · 4" x 5"

London, Ontario-based O-Pee-Chee chewing gum company, working in conjunction with the Topps company in the U.S., produced annual sets of NHL player trading cards. Hired photographers would make the rounds of NHL training camps and photograph each player and send the results to the production office. The original photos were often taken outdoors for better light quality and retouched later. This photo of Bill Gadsby of the New York Rangers appeared in the Topps set for the 1959-60 season, minus the countryside in the background.

Location · City, State | Undated ◐ O-Pee-Chee | colour · transparency · 2¼″ x 2¼″

Get this man some skate guards! Dick Irvin, first star and top scorer of the Chicago Blackhawks in the inaugural season of 1926-27, poses for a promotional photo of sorts. Although this photo's exact origins are unknown, this image of Irvin did appear on an "All-Time Greats" card, a 1960 Topps set, but in illustrated form, with a more suitable backdrop. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of fame in 1958.

Location · Hibbing, MN | October, 1926 or 1926-27 Le Studio du Hockey | B/W · print · 8" x 10"
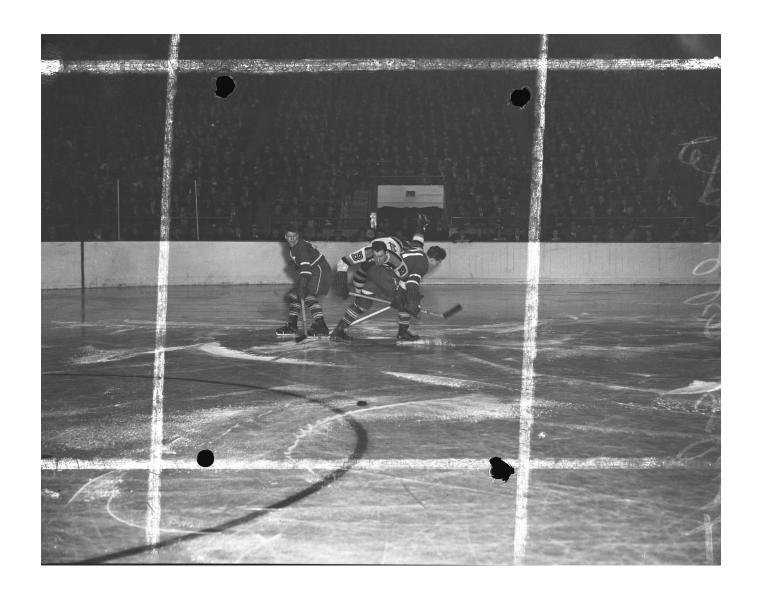
Hockey photographers like Bruce Bennett took the inside the net technique to new levels with the advent of wireless remotes to fire cameras. Today, digital cameras are installed inside protective boxes mounted at the base of the center bar in the back of the net. Dave Sandford, another netcam pioneer who built the first protective camera boxes approved by the NHL, took this photo of Pittsburgh's Kevin Steven trying to score against Buffalo's, Dominik Hasek, in the 2001 playoffs.

Marine Midland Arena · Buffalo, NY | March 28, 1999 ○ Dave Sandford | colour · slide · 35mm

Until the mid-1960s, most hockey action photos were taken from the corners of the rink so photographers could be close to the action swirling around the net. Camera flashes mounted on or above the glass helped illuminate the scene, and openings for the camera lenses were cut in the protective glass or chicken wire. Note the photographer and the flashes in the corner opposite the photographer responsible for this photo in a game between the Maple Leafs and Bruins. The Boston goaltender is "Sugar" Jim Henry. Toronto's No. 4 is Harry Watson.

Maple Leaf Gardens · Toronto, ON | 1950s ◯ Turofsky | B/W · acetate · 4" x 5"

A photographer has selected and cropped this photo for publication in a newspaper or magazine, and with good reason. He's caught this hip check thrown by Toronto Maple Leafs' defenceman, Bill Barilko, on Milt Schmidt of the Boston Bruins perfectly. Barilko's defence partner is Wally Stankowski.

CLASSIC PHOTOS

Xerovident fugiat is esti rest, custi reribus rem explitium aut faccullabo. Aliquam, omnimi, odio consecta pore nissit endi necabo. Nem esenecto comnimus eumquam nos eos mod quia audisi sum faceaque derfero erecate ni ipsunt invenihil istiorpor moloribus am eserum, cum fuga. Ut quistes sum rerem et autem in res mi, to dit illori dis esequae omni destet lam volestorro quis ped mo tes sit, cusciundae.

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