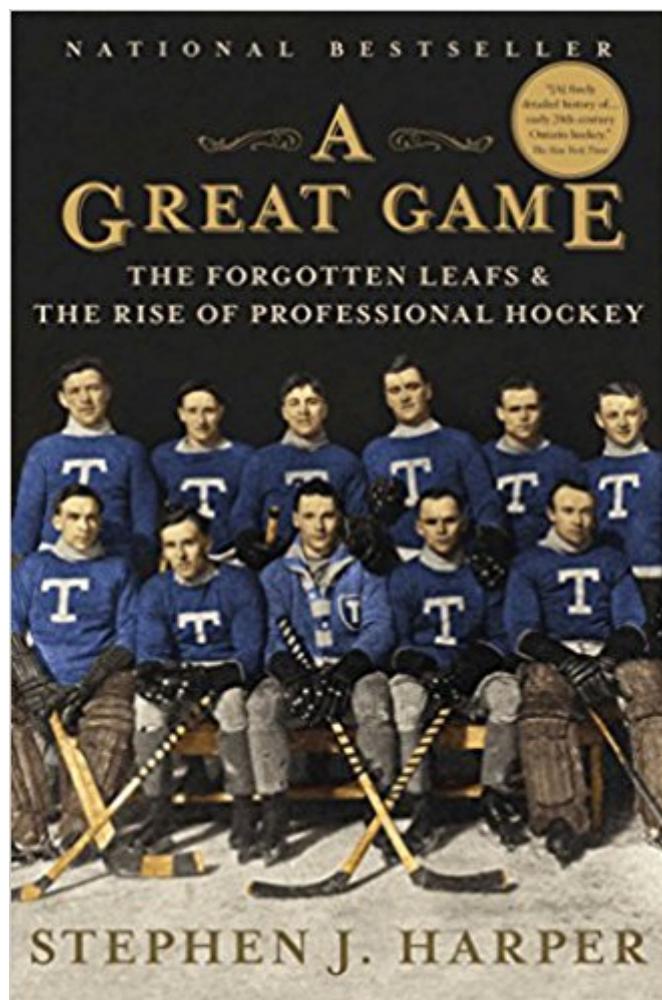


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# A Great Game: The Forgotten Leafs & The Rise Of Professional Hockey



## Synopsis

From Canada's twenty-second prime minister, the new trade paperback edition of the bestselling history of hockey's early days. Published to praise from reviewers in both the US and Canada, *A Great Game* brings alive the hockey heroes and hard-boiled businessmen who built the game of hockey and pays passionate tribute to the earliest star players of the game "lavishly illustrated with captivating photographs throughout. Stephen Harper has crafted a "readable and entertaining historical exposition of the early organizational days of Canada's most beloved sport" (Toronto Star). With a historian's perspective and fan's passion, Harper presents a riveting, often-surprising portrait, capturing everything from the physical contests on the rinks to the battles behind the scenes and the changing social conventions of the twentieth century. *A Great Game* shows that many things have stayed the same. Rough play, fervent hometown loyalties, owner-player contract disputes, dubious news coverage, and big money were issues from the get-go. Harper's meticulous research yields "insightful examinations of class and religion and the roles they played in a country that still saw itself as a pillar of the British Empire, all viewed through the prism of hockey at the dawn of the pro era" (The New York Times). An instant Canadian bestseller, *A Great Game* resurrects the history of hockey's first decades. With photographs of the game's earliest arenas and star players, this impressive and original account will entertain and educate you from start to finish. "Thanks to Stephen Harper's impressive book of early hockey history in Toronto, the 'forgotten Leafs' will be forgotten no more" (The Washington Times).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have no idea how Stephen Harper found the time to write *A Great Game*, what with his day job of prime ministering and all. His love for the subject shines through, as does excellent research, and a firm grasp of the history of early hockey. As a Pittsburgher, I was struck by the extension of his coverage from Toronto in particular and Canada in general, to the Western Pennsylvania Hockey League. The book is surprisingly scholarly and methodical. There are times in which this makes it kind of a dry read, but it is well worth the effort.

Setting aside my acute feelings for Harper, I found this book second hand and gave it a good read before deciding not to buy it ... This isn't a hockey book, it is a Master's thesis. It looks at a fairly obscure bit of hockey history and lards on the minutia and trivia. It is primarily concerned with Toronto and as such is a fairly narrow social history. And History it is, with a capital H. On the whole it is not badly written, especially since the subject matter does not invite more exciting or gripping prose. Honestly, I like sports books as a bit of a lark, as I find them refreshing and easy reads. This is neither. If the subject matter and the style of this book are your cup of tea, well knock yourself out! You may love this laborious labour of love. If not, there are SO MANY better hockey books out there.

Covers the 1906-07 through 1908-09 seasons. Very interesting book, with some nice statistical info in the appendix. There are a few cases where this book has standings that do not appear in *Total Hockey*. The book appears to be very well researched.

This is not a popular history of hockey in Toronto. It is a detailed, academic study of the development of professional hockey and the struggle against amateurism in Toronto until 1917. If one keeps that in mind, it is a great book. Harper showcases a great talent in scholarly study on the topic, and provides a great argument in this book. He provides a clear picture of the rise of professional hockey in Toronto, and Ontario as a whole, at the start of the 20th century. It is a subject little studied by hockey historians, and this offers a great addition to those looking at a serious history of the sport. The addition of photos of nearly all the players mentioned throughout the book is also a nice touch, and despite being a rather obscure subject makes for a fairly easy read.

PM Harper's book is a very detailed account on the infancy of amateur and professional hockey in Central and Eastern Canada. Pro's: Does a great job of explaining how hockey spread across

CanadaBook moves fairly quickly within and between seasons Decent job at building the main characters throughout their years in professional hockey Con's: Focuses too much on each game detail. Some games are a goal by goal recap of the game. Little detail on the business side of the game. Toronto focused, at the expense of the Montreal Wanderers and even Pacific Coast Hockey teams. If you're a hockey fanatic--especially a Leafs fan--the book is worth a read. But for a general sports fan, there are better sports books worth your time (Book of Basketball, Blind Side, The Breaks of the Game).

This hockey book will help me a lot in my study of old time hockey. Especially 1900s thru 1920s, the quick delivery helped, thanks.

Absolutely love old hockey history. Game was much better back then. Book is fantastic, well written and easy to follow

Bought this for a gift for my Leaf fanatic MIL. Came in time, looks great!

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