



The Rookie: A Season with Sidney Crosby and the New NHL

Shawna Richer , Roy MacGregor

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Sidney Crosby has already been hailed as the NHL's next saviour. Young, bright, photogenic, personable and a media darling, the only question that remained was whether he could handle the big time. From an international advertising deal with Reebok to a season that seems to go from triumph to triumph, Sid the Kid has proven that he already is the man. In the tradition of *A Season on the Brink* and Peter Gzowski's *The Game of Our Lives*, Shawna Richer has had the exclusive assignment of chronicling Sidney Crosby's incredible rookie season. Beginning with the NHL entry draft that almost never was, Richer follows Crosby to Pittsburgh, where he is greeted as the team's saviour and moves in with living legend Mario Lemieux. From there it's onto the ice, where the team's youngest player proves to be its best player day in and day out, staying on pace to set rookie scoring records while the team loses and is forced to fire its coach.

The Rookie: A Season with Sidney Crosby and the New NHL Details

Date : Published September 1st 2006 by Triumph Books (first published 2006)

ISBN : 9781572439184

Author : Shawna Richer , Roy MacGregor

Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Sports, Hockey, Nonfiction, Sports and Games, Biography

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Elena says

A few repeated anecdotes, but all in all, a compelling and engaging read. It's a bit hagiographic, but since Crosby tends to attract either hagiography or hatred, I'll be satisfied with the former.

Chris says

Very good account of Sidney Crosby's rookie season with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 2005-2006. I'm pretty sure that any use of the phrase "beestung lips" is too many - this book used it three times! As a Pens' fan, it was fascinating to discover the origin of the much-repeated taunt about Crosby diving (blame the Flyers) and disheartening to realize that several of the things Crosby knew he needed to work on during his rookie season (such as letting rival teams get him wound up to put him off his game) remain problems for him today.

Michael says

I liked this book.

Shari says

Aw, now I'm emotionally invested in the Penguins. I should have known this would happen. At least I got out of it some more material to fuel my hate-on for Don Cherry.

Single best sentence: "Flyers fans don't even like themselves."

In all seriousness:

I really want to give this book more stars, because it consistently held my interest, but the quality of the writing isn't quite there. It's very repetitive in spots (practically identical sentences only a few pages apart) and the timeline is occasionally hard to follow. Most of the book is chronological but every so often Richer throws in a chapter that focuses on an individual subject (eg the rookie scoring race between Crosby and Ovechkin) that spans the entire season or large parts of it, and it's difficult to mentally adjust. In one notable instance, she gives a quick rundown of the Olympics and then goes on to a play-by-play of the last game BEFORE the Olympic break. Sports journalism, ladies and gentlemen.

I think it's more of a question of poor editing than anything else. It's still better than most sports nonfiction I've read, and absolutely worth reading if the subject matter interests you.

Evonne says

How could anything with Sidney Crosby not be great?!

Cat says

Regardless of your opinion on Sidney Crosby, this is an interesting look into his rookie year.

Laura says

This book made me see Crosby in a whole new light. It goes in depth with the struggles of the Penguins as well.

Kieran Mcadams says

Great book amazing person

Kellybean says

i always liked crosby, but even more so after i read this book. a must read for any fans of hockey!

Ale says

My obsession with Sidney Crosby is officially off the rails. Still though, it was a super interesting read, it never got dull or overly technical and it was pretty insightful.

Benjamin says

Outstanding sports book! (If anyone knows of any other other good Hockey books, please drop me a line!). Highly recommend this book to any Hockey fan or Sports fan.

Thegirlintheafternoon says

Task: #45 - A book related to a hobby or passion you have - 3/5 stars

Brian says

great behind-the-scenes access to a team that comes out of the NHL lockout with great hopes but watches them crumble ... A season that saw the retirement of a legend (Mario Lemieux), the retirement of an enigma (Ziggy Palffy) and the firing of a coach (Eddi Olczyk) also saw Sidney Crosby prove himself in the NHL. The writing could have been a bit stronger, but the access and anecdotes are worth the price.

Melanie Ting says

In a properly run world, more women would be writing about sports. Richer balances her hockey expertise with an eye for human nature to craft a fascinating book out of a single hockey season. She writes with humanity yet detachment, and never follows the party line like male reporters. I began with neutral feelings about Crosby, but by the end, I was cheering him on.

Riley says

Quite a good read if you like hockey and even better if you are a fan of Sidney Crosby. The book talk about the NHI's tranistion into a faster pace. Another the book talks about is the new and upcoming star Sidney Crosby, more precisly how Sidney Crosby got to the NHL.
