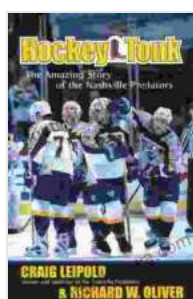


# The Amazing Story of the Nashville Predators: A Hockey Fairy Tale



## Hockey Tonk: The Amazing Story of the Nashville Predators by Craig Leipold

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 977 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 228 pages

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The Nashville Predators are one of the most inspiring stories in professional sports. The team was founded in 1998 as an expansion franchise, and in just over two decades, they have become a perennial playoff contender and one of the most beloved teams in the NHL.

## **From Expansion Team to Playoff Contender**

The Predators' early years were a struggle. The team finished with a losing record in each of their first six seasons, and they failed to make the playoffs until 2004. But under the leadership of general manager David Poile and head coach Barry Trotz, the team slowly began to turn things around.

In 2007, the Predators made their first Stanley Cup playoff appearance, and they have since become a regular fixture in the postseason. The team has won four division titles and has advanced to the Stanley Cup Final once, in 2017. While they have yet to win the Stanley Cup, the Predators have established themselves as one of the most respected teams in the NHL.

## **Key Players and Moments**

The Predators' success has been built on a foundation of strong players and memorable moments. Some of the key figures in the team's history include:

- **P.K. Subban:** The charismatic defenseman is one of the most popular players in the NHL. Subban is a dynamic offensive player who can also play defense at a high level. He has been a key part of the Predators' success in recent years.

- **Pekka Rinne:** The Finnish goaltender is one of the best in the NHL. Rinne is a two-time Vezina Trophy winner and has led the Predators to several deep playoff runs.
- **Shea Weber:** The former Predators captain was a dominant force on both ends of the ice. Weber was traded to the Montreal Canadiens in 2016, but he remains one of the most popular players in Nashville.

In addition to these key players, the Predators have also had some memorable moments throughout their history. Some of the most notable moments include:

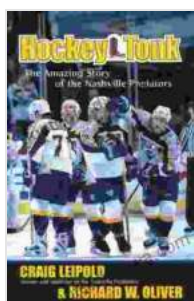
- **The "Smashville" Era:** In the early 2000s, the Predators' home games were known for their raucous atmosphere. Fans would pack the arena and cheer on the team with chants of "Smashville!" This era helped to put the Predators on the map and make them one of the most popular teams in the NHL.
- **The 2017 Stanley Cup Final:** The Predators made their first appearance in the Stanley Cup Final in 2017. They lost to the Pittsburgh Penguins in six games, but the run to the Final was a major accomplishment for the franchise.
- **The "Pekka Rinne Save:"** In Game 5 of the 2017 Stanley Cup Final, Rinne made an incredible save on a shot by Sidney Crosby. The save helped the Predators win the game and force a Game 6. It is one of the most memorable moments in Predators history.

## **The Future of the Predators**

The Predators are poised for continued success in the years to come. The team has a young and talented roster, and they are led by a strong core of

players. The Predators are also in a good financial position, which will allow them to make moves to improve the team.

The future is bright for the Nashville Predators. The team has come a long way in a short amount of time, and they are now one of the most respected teams in the NHL. The Predators have a passionate fanbase and a bright future. They are a team that is on the rise, and they are poised to make even more history in the years to come.



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