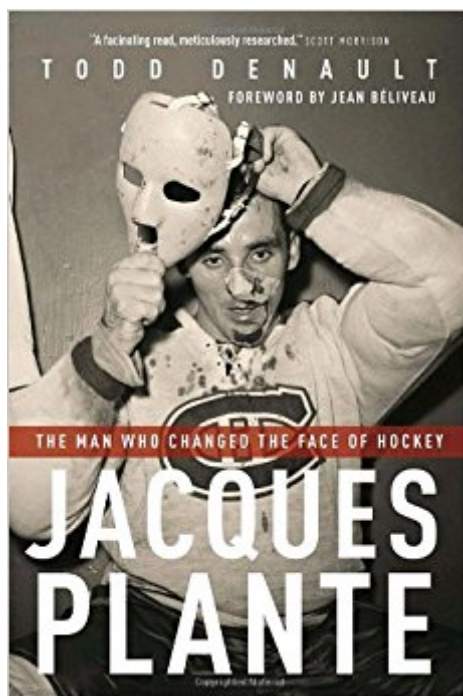


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Jacques Plante: The Man Who Changed The Face Of Hockey



Synopsis

The first full-scale biography of a legendary and award-winning NHL goalie who transformed the game. "There are a lot of very good goalies, there are even a fair number of great goalies. But there aren't many important goalies. And Jacques Plante was an important goalie." • Ken Dryden
On and off the ice Jacques Plante was a true original; he was extremely talented, boastful, defiant, mysterious, and complex. Throughout his tumultuous career as a goalie, he played for Montreal, New York, St. Louis, Toronto, Boston, and Edmonton. His contributions to and impact on the game were extensive and are reflected in today's rules, equipment, and style of play. Thoroughly investigated through archival and primary research, and including interviews with figures such as Jean Beliveau, Henri Richard, Dickie Moore, and Scotty Bowman, this biography sheds light on one of the most pivotal figures in the history of hockey. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

"In this engaging bio Todd Denault tells the story of a trailblazer." — Sports Illustrated "A fascinating read, meticulously researched." — Scott Morrison "A well researched and thorough examination of the life of an extraordinarily talented hockey player and complex man." — Al Strachan "This is a long overdue examination of one of hockey's pivotal players and most colourful characters" but Todd Denault has made the wait worthwhile." — Roy MacGregor "A complete, well-researched portrait of a complex man." — Montreal Gazette "After just a few pages into this book it was obvious Todd Denault had written an instant classic. I can not recommend this book enough." — Hockeybookreviews.com From the Hardcover edition.

A member of the Society for International Hockey Research, Todd Denault is a freelance writer who has had his work featured in numerous online and print publications. A graduate of Carleton University and Lakehead University, Todd resides in Cobourg, Ontario. This is his first book. From the Hardcover edition.

I chose to read this book because I remember Jacques Plante as being the first goalie to wear a mask in the National Hockey League in the late 1950s. I don't claim to be a hockey fan but I do remember many of those great French-sounding names that populated the rosters during this time. It took someone like Plante who possessed a confident personality willing to endure the catcalls from the so-called macho types to become the trail blazer in using a mask for protection against the onslaught of hockey pucks without any facial protection. The discovery of the slap shot by teammate Bernie "Boom Boom" Geoffrion added several miles-per-hour to the speed in which a puck traveled towards a goalie. Plante's coach Toe Blake was an old-school type who vigorously fought against Plante's use of the mask. Soon, however, all goalies except Gump Worsley used one throughout their career. It is unbelievable today to think that hockey players used to play without helmets and goalies were often forced to continue in a game or else use the unqualified "house" goalie provided by the home team. The game would be stopped sometimes for 20 minutes to a half an hour while a goalie was stitched up for an injury and then returned to the game. Although Plante played for teams such as the New York Rangers, St. Louis Blues, Toronto Maple Leafs, and Boston Bruins he always thought of himself as a Montreal Canadian. Plante had several accomplishments throughout his career, one of them being five consecutive years winning the Vezina trophy which was awarded to the goalie who successfully defended against the most shots on goal in one season. However, Jacques Plante will always be remembered as the goalie who pioneered the use of the mask to protect the face of goalies. I don't claim to be a hockey fan but I did thoroughly enjoy this book and came across the names of a number of players I remember from the 1950s and 1960s that I had forgotten about. If you claim to be a hockey fan you should familiarize yourself with this pioneer of the game. If you're not a hockey fan read the book anyway. You will enjoy it. This review is from a hardcover and not a paperback as listed.

Although he was one of hockey's all-time greatest goalies during his lengthy playing career, which lasted from the mid 1940s to the mid 1970s, Jacques Plante is probably best known as the goalie to wear, then popularize, the goalie mask. Before Plante donned a mask during a regular season NHL

game in November of 1959, goalies played the game barefaced. Until Plante, goalies tended to stay in their creases while Plante revolutionized the concept of the wandering goalie. This excellent biography is more than just a fascinating look at Plante's life, his hockey career, his most-ever 7 Vezina Trophies and his 6 Stanley Cup wins, it's an insightful look at hockey in its golden era. All of the NHL greats are here. I absolutely loved this book and could not put it down. Highly recommended for sports fans.

For many years I wondered so much about this enigmatic goaltender who revolutionized the position and also evolutionized it faster than anyone. He is the most important goalie to ever play hockey but better yet he helps the average fan understand the mentality of a goalie. The book itself pieces together his life and career with stunning detail with all of its edges. How Plante's legendary frugality becomes a product of his poverty. His self assuredness comes thru clearly in this book but doesn't describe too much detail of how his relationship was with his sons and how his absence may have played a huge role in his divorce and son's suicide if known. I was quite surprised to read him finding individual awards so important to him...almost as big as winning Stanley Cups. The book at times becomes a collection of newspaper clips and old interviews. It also appears to skip quickly to certain areas of his life without any build up to those moments. In the end however my thirst for knowledge regarding the great Jacques Plante is fairly well quenched and the author without question painted the picture quite well.

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