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# So You Want To Play In The NHL : A Guide For Young Players



## Synopsis

What does it take to make it in pro hockey? Los Angeles Kings forward Dan Bylsma and his father, Jay, offer a wealth of inside information for young players. Dan Bylsma shares his experiences rising up through the ranks of amateur and professional hockey while giving advice on issues including becoming a team player, knowing the rules, relating to coaches and teammates, and working hard.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In today's jaded sports world filled with pampered, trash-talking athletes, perhaps only a hockey player could write a book extolling the value of such old-school customs as practice, teamwork, personal responsibility, hard work, and perseverance. This book of life lessons is geared for younger readers. The Bylsmas previously published a book aimed at parents, *So Your Son Wants To Play in the NHL* (Sleeping Bear, 1998), and Dan Bylsma currently plays in the NHL himself. In addition to focusing on the eternal truths noted above, this book also discusses more specific topics for aspiring players: whether to play travel hockey, how to choose a hockey camp, and how to get a college scholarship. It also offers advice on how a child can try to deal with difficult situations involving coaches and loud, critical, pushy parents a phenomenon we see more and more with youth sports programs. Recommended for school and public libraries. John Maxymuk, Rutgers Univ. Lib., Camden, NJ Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Dan Bylsma is a member of the Los Angeles Kings of the National Hockey League. Along with his father, Jay, he wrote So Your Son Wants to Play in the NHL in 1998.

So, my coach made us read this book during the off season. While, I had no interest in reading another hockey book; this book was a great read. I would recommend even if you don't play hockey.

This is a great book. It should be a must read for any young person. Just put your choice of activity/life goal in place of hockey and it is a great guide for life. It is more about character, and the success of life then about the hockey.

Wonderful book. Easy to read, easy to digest. Great message for parents and kids. I refer to this book all the time when encouraging my children to do their best in school, on the ice, and also interpersonally.

You do not need to be a Pittsburgh Penguin Fan to enjoy this book. While Dan is now the Pittsburgh Coach, this is how to strive to always try to do your best! It is Easy Reading for the kids as well as the parents and coaches for ANY sport.

A great read and eye opening.

Very fun to read. Good book.

After receiving the book, I read it throughout the day as opportunity presented itself. I hated to put it down when I had other stuff to do. I felt like I was being forced to leave the game before it was over. I was enchanted by the book as if I'd never read it before, thrilled to play a role by helping with it and to be mentioned in this wonderful contribution to amateur hockey. As I read it, I thought about my roles as a father of a young player, as a coach, and as a coaching educator for USA Hockey. Two overwhelming thoughts came to mind as I read the printed version of the book. The truth conveyed by the material and the fact that at times I fall short of the goals conveyed by that truth from a child's perspective. Even though I speak or write about and teach many of these things quite often, I found myself addressing my mistakes in each of my roles as I read the book. But, even as I found myself addressing my mistakes, I was simultaneously using the ideas in the book to reaffirm many of my beliefs or to assimilate these ideas to address issues from a different perspective. And as stated in

the book, perseverance is a key to success. Taking responsibility is a key to success. Learning from mistakes or failure is what truly makes you better. "So You Want To Play In The NHL" has given me additional impetus in my goal to constantly strive to improve as a father, a coach and a coaching educator. Thank you for taking the time to inspire even us older hockey guys with a book written for kids, because really, we are all still kids at heart! By addressing the issues from a kid's perspective for kids, I believe you have succeeded in reaching adults as well. The heart of this old kid is much better as a result of the time and effort you have taken to share your thoughts with the hockey world. This new book, "So You Want To Play In The NHL", for kids, and the existing book for adults, "So Your Son Wants To Play In The NHL", set the standards by which all of us in the sporting world should continually strive to achieve. Cordially, Terry Vayda USA Hockey Associate Coach-In-Chief (Southeast District--Florida)

As a coach and someone who knows the personal dedication it takes to achieve life's goals, this book confirms everything I have done in my life and teach to the players on my team. This book is more than a book about hockey. It spells out a recipe for success in life, in and out of hockey(or any team sport for that matter). Every page has something that will inspire you and remind you what is important in life. I am making this book required reading for my team because it confirms everything I have ever said in the locker room and to parents. While this is one man's journey through life to the NHL, the story is one shared by most people in the struggle to define who they are as they grow up and to achieve the goals that they want.

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