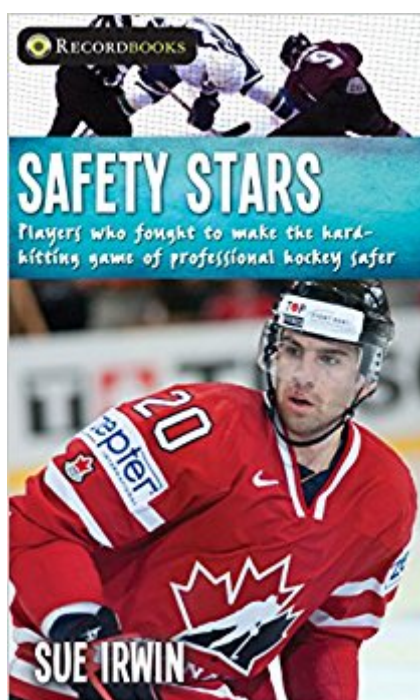


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# Safety Stars: Players Who Fought To Make The Hard-hitting Game Of Professional Hockey Safer (Lorimer Recordbooks)



## Synopsis

Professional hockey is a fast game, and a dangerous one. Skates slice like razors; a hard-shot puck can take out an eye; and the ice surface is as hard as rock, especially when skulls are slammed against it. Innovations in equipment make the game faster and more exciting -- and have to be countered by measures that keep it safe for players. From hockey heroes like Jacques Plante, Mario Lemieux, and Sidney Crosby, to an avid 11-year-old player on a mission, there have been players who have campaigned to make hockey a safer game. They have done this often in the face of denials and opposition from league managers, sports writers, fans, and sometimes other players, too. But they've persisted and made the game safer for players of all ages. This book tells the story of hockey's safety stars, the opposition they faced, and how they persisted and ultimately succeeded in their campaigns. [Fry reading level - 4.4]

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL720L (What's this?)

Series: Lorimer Recordbooks

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Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4 Up  
In 1959, Jacques Plante of the Montreal Canadiens became the first goalie to wear a mask in an NHL game after a slapshot left him with stitches in his face and nearly put him out of the competition. But it was not until the 1970s that masks became common, and it took a series of eye injuries before goalies began wearing the now-common helmet and cage style of protection.

Irwin traces this trend along with several other advances in technology, rules, and playing style that have made the once ruthless sport less threatening to athletes. Readers learn about Bill Masterton of the Minnesota North Stars, who died from a traumatic brain injury after hitting his head on the ice in a 1968 game (though it was not until 1979 that the NHL began requiring helmets), and Brendan Shanahan, a three-time Stanley Cup champion with Detroit who later served as the NHL's director of player safety and gained a reputation as an unbending enforcer of safety rules. Brief sidebars offer light but informative perspectives on personalities and concepts. The book closes with a lengthy acknowledgements section that lists sources, but there are few specific citations. Some later chapters detail health concerns that are unrelated to hockey. Still, this is an intriguing take on the history of the game and brings attention to the increasing focus on player safety and health.

VERDICT Written in an engaging style and featuring occasional black-and-white photos, this hi-lo title should catch the attention of hockey players and fans. —Bob Hassett, Luther Jackson Middle School, Falls Church, VA --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"[Safety Stars offers intriguing facts and back-story on a perennially important topic." (Publishers Weekly 2015-08-06)"This accessibly written, straightforward text, interspersed with black-and-white photos and lively touches of hockey action, will likely draw in reluctant readers and hockey fans." (Shelle Rosenfeld Booklist 2015-08-13)"Safety Stars is a good examination of the important topic of safety in professional hockey. She discusses the contributions of several hockey greats such as Jacques Plante, Mario Lemieux, and Sidney Crosby. Irwin also describes the determination of 11-year-old Chase McEachern, a devoted hockey fan who suffered from atrial fibrillation (AF), to place life-saving automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all schools and hockey arenas." (Myra Junyk, Resource Links)"For readers who enjoy sports stories and sports information, this book combines the two by using real-life happenings to showcase the dangers of the sport and how they have been addressed. This is interesting and easy to read nonfiction." (Suzanne Costner, Librarian at Fairview Elementary School Library 2015-04-24)"There is perhaps no other health and safety topic that is so timely as concussion awareness in youth and adult sports and recreation. Sue's book is an invaluable resource for teachers and students and it is written in easy-to-read format ideal for middle school students, struggling readers and ESL students." (Sam Hammond, President, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario)"A child who reads this book and then watches an NHL game will realize that very little has been done to make the game safer since Jacques Plante first wore a mask in 1959 even though masks and helmets are now worn by all players. Even with all the protective gear NHL players wear, hockey is a very dangerous game." (Thomas F.

Chambers, CM: Canadian Review of Materials)

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