

Sidney crosby essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Sidney Crosby The place was Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Day was Friday, August 7, 1987. On this day, a man, Troy, and a woman, Trina, rejoiced in the birth of their first born child, a son. A son that would soon choose to live, eat, and breathe hockey.

A child, unknown at the time, who would soon take the National Hockey League by storm. A child who would become the greatest, talented player of all the hockey world, and who would remarkably achieve this goal by the age of nineteen. This is Sidney Patrick Crosby and this is his story. It all started when Sidney's father, Troy, who played major junior hockey as a goalie, gave him a little hockey stick at the age of two! Sidney played around with the stick and practiced daily in the basement of their house. Although he was just two years old he already started to love playing with the little stick, a tennis ball, and the family dryer.

A year later when Sidney Crosby was just three years old he put on his first pair of skates and took to the ice. He than began playing for a hockey club and was the only child at age three who already had learned the " basics of stick handling. Sidney immediately became recognized for his exceptional skills. By age seven he was already known to local sports press for his hockey talent.

At age ten he scored an incredible 159 goals in 55 games playing hockey in his hometown of Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia. He had a season point total of 280 points (Sidney-Crosby. info). Sidney was so good at playing hockey he excelled against players up to three years older than him.

By age fourteen it was clear Sidney was well on his way to a great professional hockey career. Sidney and his family wanted him to play major junior hockey in his hometown but because of his young age the choice was made to play at a high school in the United States. Shattuck- Saint Mary's Prep School in Minnesota became Sidney Crosby's new home. Sidney set new scoring records by getting 72 goals and 110 assists for a total of 182 points in just 57 games. He also led his team to a national title (sidneycrosbyfans). On June 7, 2003 Sidney was drafted first overall in the major junior hockey league, QMJHL, by the Rimouski Oceanic.

He quickly went on to win the QMJHL scoring title. He was also the only player under the age of eighteen to play in the Canadian Junior Hockey tournament and the youngest to ever score a goal in the championship. By the 2004-2005 season, Sidney was considered the best hockey prospect in the world (Sidneycrosby. info). The chance to play in the National Hockey League was always Sidney's dream and that dream would soon become a reality.

On July 20, 2005 the NHL held its first ever league wide draft lottery. The Pittsburgh Penguins were the winners of that lottery and drafted Sidney Crosby as their first overall pick. Crosby entered the National Hockey League as an eighteen year old and was soon put under the wings of the great Mario Lemieux. Crosby had the opportunity to play along side the man he watched and admired while growing up (Taking the Game By Storm).

Sidney Crosby made his National Hockey League debut wearing a number 87 jersey. He chose this number to reflect his birthday- month (8), day (7), year

(87). Sidney played his first NHL game on October 5, 2005 against the New Jersey Devils where he registered an assist on a goal by Mark Recchi. His first career NHL goal came on October 8, 2005 at a game against the Carolina Hurricanes where he also scored two assists.

Sidney's first two goal game came against the New York Islanders in a 5-1 win on November 4. Sidney made it a three point night by adding an assist. This performance came just after receiving recognition as the October Rookie of the Month. November was a very exciting month for Sidney Crosby.

On November 10, he scored a shootout winning goal on home ice, against his favorite team growing up, the Montreal Canadiens. This eighteen year old sensation scored the deciding shootout goal on a backhand shot, roofing the puck past the opposing goaltender, sending the net minder's water bottle skyward and the Mellon Arena crowd into a frenzy (sidneycrosby. info). Only six days later, in Philadelphia, Sidney was high sticked by a Flyers player. His lip was cut and he chipped two front teeth. However, the cheap shot only ignited and inspired the talented youngster, as he went on to score the game winning goal in a sudden death overtime defeat against the Flyers.

When Mario Lemieux had to retire a few months into the season due to health concerns, Sidney really was hit emotionally. He knew the pain Lemieux was feeling because he was with him both on and off the ice. However, even though he understood Mario's decision, he was saddened that he only had a few short months to play on a team with him. With Mario in retirement, Crosby clearly took over the team as their best player on the

ice. He finished his rookie career with 102 points which included 39 goals and 63 assists.

Crosby became the youngest player in the National Hockey League to score 100 points in a single season. In fact he broke Mario Lemieux's record by two points, thus setting a new Pittsburgh Penguins rookie record. Crosby was also the first NHL rookie to record over 100 points and 100 penalty minutes in a season (wikipedia). He finished his rookie season sixth overall in the league scoring race and seventh in the NHL assists. His stellar rookie performance earned him a nomination for the Calder trophy, awarded to the league's best rookie.

However, he finished second in the voting for the trophy (sidneycrosby. info). Since the Pittsburgh Penguins failed to make the playoffs that season, Crosby was able to represent Team Canada on the international scene. He participated in World Champions where he became the youngest player ever to win a World Championship title. He recorded a tournament-best eight goals and eight assists in nine games. Also, Crosby was named the tournament's top forward.

He was also named to the competitions all-star team (sidneycrosby. info). Sidney adapted well to life in Pittsburgh. He found the people to be very welcoming and the city very exciting.

Since Sidney's family stayed in Nova Scotia to raise their other child, Taylor, who is nine years younger than Sidney, Mario Lemieux invited Sidney to live with him and his family in Pittsburgh. Sidney lives in a separate wing of the

house. He really enjoys life at the Lemieux's. They eat dinner together when there is not a game.

Sidney has fun with Mario's four children. In fact, after Sidney returns home from a road trip the children can not wait to see him (interview). Outside of hockey, Sidney likes to join his friends and teammates for a night of dinner and fun. His best friend, who also happens to be his "on the road" roommate, is his fellow teammate Colby Armstrong.

Sidney and Colby, along with the rest of the team, often enjoy playing pranks on each other. For example, they often steal each other's room keys and trash their rooms. They also do soccer drills prior to a game to get the energy pumping. Almost every player has a pre-game ritual. Sidney's includes a morning skate, eating a big bowl of pasta and taking a two hour nap before returning to the rink for the game. As much talent as Sidney has he still has his silly superstitions.

Crosby must always put on the right side of his equipment first. Once his stick is taped no one is permitted to touch it. He insists the team follow the exact same order when they enter the ice for the start of the game (Ice time). The team likes to listen to music by Metallica before a game but Crosby would rather listen to Three Days Grace or The Foo Fighters.

Now that Sidney lives in Pittsburgh and sees how popular football is, he never misses the Sunday afternoon football games unless he has a hockey game (interview). But the one definite thing Sidney Crosby loves doing is playing hockey. Even if the Penguins coach, Michel Therrien, does not call a practice, Crosby will still be at the rink shooting pucks and skating. Sidney

also does a lot of sprinting, agility drills and foot speed drills. These drills increase strength in his massive legs and improves the incredible speed he already possesses (jockbio).

Hockey is deep within Crosby's blood. In fact when the time comes for Sidney Crosby to retire from playing hockey he would like to remain on as an assistant coach so he can continue his love for the sport (interview). Enough of the future, back to the present. Sidney Crosby is a young sports phenomenon.

He plays with passion and drive. He has unbelievable ways of scoring. He has scored sliding on his side, controlling the puck while doing so. He has scored from his knees after slipping through sticks and skates of his opponents. He even scored while being pushed down on the ice from a rough hit from an opponent. Sidney has three gears- fast, faster, fastest.

What separates him from his peers, however, is that the details of the game are not diminished when he is at his maximum. When the play is wide open he is an alert, dangerous player. When the game is a physical, tight checking affair Sidney does not disappear. He is assertive and aggressive along the boards and in the open ice. Only a handful of National Hockey League stars can play both styles as effectively. Sidney reads the ice with great poise and intelligence.

He works with all players on the ice, often letting the flow of the play determine his next move. A skill that makes him very unpredictable. Sidney can leap on opportunities, but he is also patient enough to allow them to develop (jockbio). Sidney Crosby will scrap in the corners, trade elbows with

the grinders, then still beat them all to the net. Every once in a while, a young sports hero emerges with the talent and promise of a few before him.

Hockey has had its fair share of great up and coming players. Over the last quarter century, Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux were identified as future National Hockey League greats early on in their lives. Sidney Crosby is now this player. He is a player the world knows is destined for greatness in the National Hockey League.

Sidney has excelled at every level of organized hockey he has participated in. His hockey skills, physical stature, and commitment and respect for the game will definitely carry him on his path through the National Hockey League (sidneycrosbyfans). Sidney Crosby: The kid who walks softly but carries a big stick.