

STOPCONCUSSIONS

Winnipeg's own Kerry Goulet took his travelling hockey show to Australia again this summer and once again, the NHL and AHL players on the Tour drew huge crowds and were all big hits with the fans. Of course, the biggest cheer was reserved for the Great One. Wayne Gretzky tied on the blades and played the game he loves one more time.

By Scott Taylor
Photos by Getty Images
courtesy of the
Stop Concussions
Foundation



WINNIPEG'S KERRY GOULET
SPEAKS TO THE CROWD IN
SYDNEY

THE GREAT ONE
BACK ON THE
ICE FOR KERRY
GOULET'S STOP
CONCUSSIONS
FOUNDATION

Gretzky Wows the Crowds in Oz for Stop Concussions

For Winnipeg's Kerry Goulet, it was one of the greatest moments of his life. Not just his hockey-playing life, but his entire life.

Granted it took a trip to Australia to make it happen, but Goulet has never shied away from a little travel.

During the Stop Concussions Foundation's fourth tour of Australia, Goulet, a former European hockey star who grew up in Windsor Park, got to spend time on the ice playing hockey with the Great One. He will never forget it.

Sure, it was an exhibition four-on-four game for the hockey fans of Sydney, but it was still hockey and it was still Wayne Gretzky and it was still a wonderful experience.

"You could see the smile on his face get wider and wider as we played," said Goulet. "You could tell he was happy to be on the ice, even if he wasn't playing for the Stanley Cup."

For Goulet, the "Gretzky Game," was the culmination of years of work and while it started as a simple idea many hockey seasons ago, it wasn't so simple to make happen.



Still, with the help of his sponsors - title sponsor Scotiabank and presenting sponsor Hungry Jack's - along with a solid group of organizers, Goulet succeeded in bringing The Great One to Australia.

Founded by Goulet, the StopConcussions Foundation and Shoot For A Cure, the Ice Hockey Classic joined forces with Geoff Jones of TEG Live and Bart Campbell of TLA World Wide, to take the 2016 Tour to a whole new level of thrills and excitement.

After three outstanding previous tours, this year's extravaganza took one step into the stratosphere, and Gretzky threw his support behind the tour's incredible charitable organizations - Stop Concussions, Shoot for A Cure, Brain Injury Australia and Ice Hockey Australia.

Perhaps as important as the fund raising, however, was that Gretzky thrilled thousands of passionate Australian fans.

As Canadians know, the Gretzky name is globally recognized, not just within hockey mad Canada, but across the globe, wherever the sport has found an icy home.

In Australia, the game's passionate fans turned up early at Sydney's Qudos Arena, eager for the chance to see their hockey hero take the ice one more time.

They were not disappointed.

Proudly wearing the Stop Concussions and Ice Hockey Classic logos, Gretzky joined Goulet as well as numerous supporters in a lively 4-on-4 game, helping Canada to a decisive victory over their rivals from the USA.

The event itself was a celebration of the frozen game down under, as fans poured into the arena, not only sporting Canada and USA colours, but also wearing jerseys pledging their allegiance to hockey

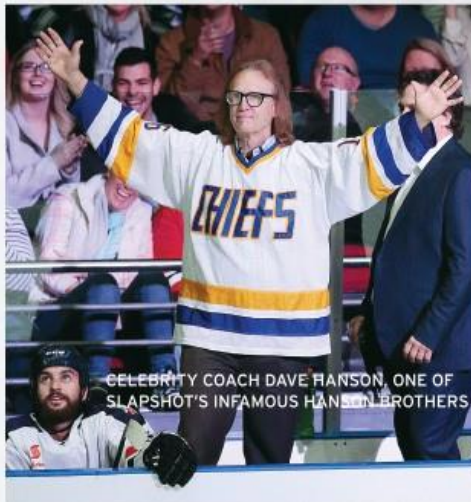
teams from the Great White North all the way to Australia's own Australian Ice Hockey League.

The players, a mixture of professionals from across the hockey globe included NHL goaltenders Ben Scrivens and Scott Darling, NHL's MVP All Star John Scott, Adam Cracknell, Brandon's Bryce Salvador, Scott Hannan and former Stanley Cup champion Brandon Bollig. In Sydney, they put on the best show of the tour, a frantic back-and-forth game with a third-period comeback, a chaotic overtime and a six-round shootout before Chad Nehring potted the winner for Canada.

StopConcussions and Shoot For A Cure continue to work all over the world to try and change the game for those affected by neurotrauma and along with Gretzky, they were joined in Sydney by Barry Munro, Shoot For A Cure co-founder and the Canadian and American Spinal Research Organization Director to drop the puck for the cause.

And guess what? Kerry Goulet got to take the faceoff with his hero, Wayne Gretzky.

It just doesn't get any better than that. ■



Stopconcussions.com, co-founded by Kerry Goulet and former NHL star Keith Primeau, is a concussion/neurotrauma educational and awareness platform for all sports, established to address the growing trend of concussions in sports. It is an educational portal that players, parents, coaches, and officials can visit to seek the most up-to-date information regarding concussions. The main goal of stopconcussions.com is to ensure a level of concussion awareness that ensures that all parties involved in sport can play it safe in their respective sport. Stopconcussions.com will have sport-specific programs to help "change the mindset, not the game." Stopconcussions.com Foundation is a not-for-profit organization consisting of employees and ambassadors.

CONCUSSIONS

"HAPPEN IN ALL SPORTS"



Keith Primeau
(Photo by Bruce Bennett Studios/Getty Images)

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